



SIR JOHN HOLMES, USG AND ERC, TO VISIT ETHIOPIA

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, will visit Ethiopia from 26 to 28 November. The mission aims to discuss the country's humanitarian needs and challenges and determine ways in which the United Nations system and its partners can continue to support the Government's efforts to address the needs. During his visit, the ERC will meet with the Prime Minister and other senior Government officials, the diplomatic community, donor mission, NGOs and the UN humanitarian team. The ERC will also travel to Jijiga and Kebridehar in the Somali Region, where the UN has recently established a field presence. During his trip, he will assess ongoing humanitarian operations in the region and discuss current humanitarian challenges with regional Government officials, and representatives of local communities. Meanwhile, emergency operations are ongoing in the region. As of 23 November, more than 7,000 tonnes of relief food has been dispatched. Restocking of medical supplies in ten health facilities by UNICEF has been completed. The Regional Health Bureau has drafted distribution plans to allocate the drugs. The initial five mobile health teams deployed to the region completed a two-week induction training and have now started operations in four woredas of Gode, Kelafo, Mustahil, Imi. An additional ten teams are awaiting clearance from Government before deployment. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

UN HEADS OF AGENCY MISSION TO GAMBELLA REGION

In light of the complex development challenges faced by Gambella Region, UN Country Team Heads of Agency visited the region during the week. The mission aimed to assess and plan, in collaboration with local authorities, on how best to design a joint interagency programme to address the priority social and developmental needs of the community. Among other issues, the team assessed ongoing UN activities in the region and attempted to identify possible pilot joint UN programme initiatives that bridges the transition from emergency to development based on a community based approach. Furthermore, the team reviewed UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Program in the regional context, including possible use of assets under the ongoing refugee operation. Since the start of the repatriation in March 2006, a total of 21,020 refugees have been assisted to return to Southern Sudan. For more information contact: rr.rc@undp.org

AWD UPDATE

Although new cases were reported from Oromiya, SNNP, Tigray, Afar, Amhara and Somali regions during last week, nationwide, Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases are decreasing. In Oromiya Region, a significant reduction was reported in the number of woredas reporting active cases. In addition, to replenish the regional stocks of Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, Somali, Beneshangul Gumuz and Afar, US\$15,000 worth of drugs and medical supplies are being procured. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

POSITIVE CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECT

WFP in its November Food security update indicated "an above average" *meher* production prospect across the country. The FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment missions are expected to verify the positive prospect. Some areas, however, will face poor harvest as a result of weather related hazards and locust infestations. The report also indicated water shortage in Mio, Moyale, Dhas, Dilo, Teltele and Arero woredas in Borena zone, Oromiya Region. Increased migration of people from some of these areas due to poor performance of the last *genna* and the current *hagaye* rains has also been reported. Meanwhile, Locust infestation on crops and pasture continued to be reported in Amhara, Tigray and Somali regions. According to the report, following the beginning of *meher* harvest, prices of grain have slightly declined in most markets, apart from Dire Dawa and Somali Region. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

TSF UPDATE

The multilateral funds of the Netherlands for the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme has confirmed contributions of 1,024 tonnes of vegetable oil in support of the Enhanced Outreach Strategy for Child Survival. The contribution is expected to arrive in Djibouti in January 2008. In the meantime, to meet identified needs for remaining distributions in 2007, WFP is finalizing preparations to borrow oil locally. Critical shortage of an estimated 12,580 tonnes of blended food and 1,437 tonnes of vegetable oil, valued US\$ 9.7 million, still stands for January 2008. This is required to provide supplementary food to 629,107 beneficiaries in six regions. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

CERF TRAINING

A half-day training on the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) took place on 23 November 2007. The training mainly focused on the overall objectives of CERF, funding criteria, its allocation process and reporting system. Specific agency proposal were also discussed, and best practices highlighted. Ethiopia is the 7th largest recipient in the world of CERF resources up-to-date, having received approximately US\$ 21 million. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org