



2005 HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

The launch of 2005 Humanitarian Appeal has been delayed from 15 December to the following week to allow time to verify with regional authorities beneficiary numbers in addition to those that make up the safety net beneficiaries. A minimum of carryover food is expected into 2005 and therefore early pledges are needed in order to utilize stocks in the Emergency Food Security Reserve. The detailed requirements for food and non food assistance will be available at the launch.

FAO/WFP CFSAM DEBRIEFS HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

The annual FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission teams debriefed UN agencies, donors, Government and NGOs on 6 and 7 December. The total cropping area cultivated has increased in nearly all parts of the country, except Tigray and parts of Wollo in Amhara Region and East and West Hararghe. While production is down in the latter areas and certain other lowland areas, yields have increased in other parts of the country. The rainfall pattern, while late in onset in some areas, was generally favorable for crop production. Agricultural inputs have increased, with significantly higher amounts of improved seed and fertilizer being purchased, especially in the areas that traditionally produce local surpluses. An FAO/WFP Special Report with total harvest estimates will be issued in January. The report will also incorporate findings of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) led multi-agency needs assessment which will be released on the launch of the Appeal. Food insecurity among vulnerable people in various parts of the country remains a serious concern. This includes some of the cropping areas covered by the FAO/WFP Mission and pastoral areas which were assessed in more depth under the DPPC-led assessment. For more information contact: fao-ethiopia@fao.org

LAUNCH OF THE STATE OF WORLD'S CHILDREN 2005

On 9 December UNICEF launched its flagship publication, *The State of the World's Children 2005*, an annual report reflecting the status of children around the World. This year's report, entitled "Childhood Under Threat", examines three of the most widespread and devastating factors threatening childhood today: HIV/AIDS, conflict, and poverty. Over half the children in the developing world live without basic goods and services, one in six children is severely hungry; one in seven has no health care at all; one in five has no safe water and one in three has no toilet or sanitation facilities at home, over 640 million children live in dwellings with mud floors or extreme overcrowding. The report stresses that the failure by governments to live up to the standards cited in the convention on the Rights of the Child causes permanent damage to children and in turn blocks progress toward achieving human rights and economic advancement. For more information contact: bkaranja@unicef.org

WORKSHOP ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A three-day workshop reviewing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Needs Assessment studies was conducted at the UNECA from the 29 November to 1 December 2004. Line ministers supported by a group of consultants prepared the Needs Assessment draft for six sectors namely, rural development, water and sanitation, health, education, private sector/trade and rural development as well as on three cross cutting issues; gender, population and HIV/AIDS. The Government in collaboration with the UN Country Team, the UN Millennium Project, and the World Bank Country office is working closely together in formulating and carrying out an in-depth, detailed MDGs Needs Assessment which is expected to map out the path for achieving the MDGs by 2015 and serve as an important input for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Programme (SDPRP) preparation.

CARE CONDUCTS NUTRITIONAL SURVEY IN EAST AND WEST HARARGHE

CARE Ethiopia, DPPC and Oromiya FSB/DPPC conducted nutritional surveys in three woredas of East Hararghe and four woredas of West Hararghe from 10 October to 4 November. According to the assessment the food security condition of the woredas indicates a threatening trend, even though there are improvements compared to the situation in June 2004. The malnutrition levels could be aggravated due to the cumulative effects of recurrent drought and disasters in the past five years, and the significant level of staple food crop production shortfall in 2004, particularly in the lowland kebeles of most woredas. More than 50% of household and community interview results indicate the 2004 production prospect to be worse than that of 2003. In addition, the absence of a food distribution plan in November/December could cause further deterioration. The full report is available at www.ocha-eth.org

RAPID ASSESSMENTS IN SOMALI REGION

Save the Children USA jointly with the Regional and Zonal Health Department and DPPB conducted rapid assessments on health, nutrition and food security in Gode and Afder zones in November 2004. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) also conducted emergency rapid assessments in Geladi and Boh districts of Warder Zone. The full reports can be found at www.ocha-eth.org