



UPDATE ON SEISMIC ACTIVITIES IN TERU WOREDAS, AFAR REGION

The Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (FDPPC) reported that up to 7,000 people have been displaced due to seismic activities in Teru woredas, Afar Region. On 24 September, a series of earthquakes measuring an average of 5.5 on the Richter scale caused the eruption of a long dormant volcano, Mount Erta Ale in the region. It is also reported that the eruption may have had a longer-term impact on livestock conditions and grazing areas as a wide area has been covered by volcanic debris. FDPPC has dispatched an assessment team to the affected areas to further investigate the damage and long-term impact of the eruption. The FDPPC supported by UNICEF has dispatched cooking and shelter materials, as well as seven tonnes of high energy biscuits (BP5) which will support 934 children for 30 days. A UN inter-agency team will leave this weekend to the area for further assessment and to determine possible further UN support. Contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org & igetachew@unicef.org

FIRST MOVEMENT OF IDPs FROM HARTISHEIK, SOMALI REGION

The United Nations Country Team Recovery Programme for Somali Region has completed the first movement of 129 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), who have been living in Hartisheik IDP camp, Jijiga zone for several years, to Dega-hamadow woreda in Deghabur zone. WFP and the FDPPC have allocated three months food rations for the returnees. UNICEF has allocated non-food items for the whole case load of the 6,000 people. The Recovery Programme aims at repatriating and reintegrating 6,000 IDPs from Hartisheik and Fafan to their place of origin. The next caseload of 262 families is planned to be moved within the coming week. Contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN DUBTI WOREDAS, AFAR

According to local government officials in zone one of Afar region, flooding that started in July when the Awash River burst its banks has covered a vast area affecting up to 25,000 people. Rumaitu and Galifagi villages have reportedly been worst affected. Some assistance has already been provided and the FDPPC has recently allocated food for 15,000 affected people in Dubti woredas, especially for those stranded due to the collapse of a bridge connecting Dubti and Bahri woredas. UNICEF has dispatched 3.1 tonnes of high energy biscuits (BP5) which will support 413 children for 30 days. A helicopter is being used to airlift food items to areas inaccessible by road. FDPPC is also continuing other relief food assistance under the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal to these districts. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org & igetachew@unicef.org

CONCERNS ABOUT PERFORMANCE OF MAIN RAINFALL SEASON IN PARTS OF AFAR

In zones two and four of Afar region, there are concerns about the below normal performance of the Karma rainfall season (end of June-mid September), which is the main season in this area. This year the rainfall has been irregular, and in all the woredas of zone two, it ceased at the end of August. The poor rainfall has raised concerns over deteriorating food security especially in zone two. Currently GOAL is carrying out nutrition surveys in all the areas of concern in zones two and four. The FDPPC has completed the July food distributions in zones one, two and four and the August allocation is ready to be distributed. In Yallo woreda of zone four, woreda officials have reported a grasshopper-like insect infestation that may impact on pasture and browse availability. The regional authority is closely monitoring the situation. For more information contact: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

DUTCH GOVERNMENT PLEDGES US\$ 2 MILLION FOR EPIDEMIC MALARIA CONTROL

The Federal Ministry of Health's Ethiopian Roll Back Malaria partnership has recently secured US\$ 2 million from the Dutch Government through UNICEF for the procurement of Artemether-Lumefantrine. More than 800,000 treatments are expected to arrive in the country within months to support the ongoing malaria control activities. USAID has also pledged US\$ 400,000 through UNICEF for the same purpose. From June to August 2005, 180 kebeles in 27 woredas in six regions were affected by malaria epidemics, with over 132 reported deaths. For more information contact: igetachew@unicef.org

UNICEF TRAINS 52 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN TIGRAY REGION

UNICEF held a workshop (21–29 September) in Tigray Region for 52 Health Professionals from the Health Professional Training Colleges (Axum and Mekele), the Regional Health Bureau (RHB), selected teaching hospitals and health centers in management of Severe Acute Malnutrition cases. The main objective of the workshop is to develop Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) from the two Nursing colleges in the region (Axum and Mekele) and to enhance the RHB's capacity by establishing an emergency response team for the management of acute malnutrition. In 2005, 653 health workers were trained from different regions of Ethiopia. Contact: igetachew@unicef.org