



GOAL CONDUCTS NUTRITIONAL SURVEY IN DARO LEBU, OROMIYA REGION.

GOAL conducted a nutritional survey in Daro Lebu woreda, West Hararghe zone in Oromiya Region from 21-25 August. The survey indicates a 6.5% Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and 0.7% Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with 0.29/10,000/day U5M. According to GOAL the nutritional levels do not significantly vary from the results of a survey conducted in December 2004 (8.3% GAM and 0.8% SAM). GOAL says although the malnutrition rates seem normal for a chronically food insecure population, the aggravating factors make it poor. The report also indicates a serious Vitamin A deficiency in the woreda. The survey recommends urgent supplementation with Vitamin A in the woreda health office and also recommends that the general food distribution should continue until harvest time in the extreme lowlands of the woreda. Contact: goal.ethio@ethionet.et

REFUGEE UPDATE: TIGRAY REGION, SOMALI REGION AND FOOD PIPELINE

In Tigray region, registrations of refugees from Eritrea have been increasing steadily at Shimelba refugee camp. Since January 2005 some 2,000 new refugees have arrived, most of them young men. The total population of the camp is now approaching 10,000 people. In Somali region, nutrition screening is underway for Somali refugees in Kebribayah camp to determine who will be admitted into the targeted supplementary feeding and therapeutic programmes. WFP says the pipeline for Ethiopia's refugee operation is sufficient until the end of 2005 but new contributions are still required to maintain a full ration size for the refugees as of the beginning of 2006. For further information: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

CARE SITUATION UPDATE IN EAST AND WEST HARARGHE

CARE in its monthly update reports a normal food security situation in most of its reporting woredas due to the ongoing food distribution through Safety Net and emergency programmes. However, the situation is still critical in Grawa and Bedeno woredas of East Hararghe zone. The Community based Therapeutic Centre in Grawa woreda has received 125 new admissions of severely malnourished children following a campaign by CARE and the woreda health office. According to the report pasture and water availability were reported to be good in all woredas. However, in Grawa and Bedeno woredas, outbreaks of black leg and anthrax have killed more than 200 cattle and control measures are underway in both areas by the woreda agriculture office. CARE also reports that it has completed the distribution of seed vouchers to about 16,000 families in three woredas of East Hararghe and 13,600 in three woredas of West Hararghe. In addition, CARE has received 250 tonnes of CSB as a loan from WFP to carry out targeted supplementary feeding for two months to 25,000 under five children in three woredas of East Hararghe in response to the poor food security situation. For more information contact: care.eth@ethionet.et

NUTRITION STATUS IN GAMBELLA REFUGEE CAMPS IMPROVING

WFP reports the high malnutrition rates recorded in May among the Sudanese refugee population in Fugnido and Bonga refugee camps in Gambella region has now improved as a result of joint interventions. By the end of August, the GAM in Fugnido camp was down to 11.6% from an earlier 20% rate, and the SAM is now 3.7%. While this is a significant improvement the situation still remains to be poor. In Bonga camp, SAM rates have dropped to 0.3% from an earlier 2%, and eight children are receiving therapeutic treatment in the camp health centre. The situation has improved as a result of supplementary feeding and the propositioning of three-month's food supply in order to avoid any delays in food distributions. In addition, UNHCR and ARRA have now ensured access to water in the Anuak part of Fugnido camp, and MSF-Switzerland has provided a provisional health and therapeutic feeding centre in the same location to treat the severely malnourished children. Food rations for October to December are now under dispatch to all refugee camps in Gambella Region. For further information: wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

POLIO IN ETHIOPIA

As of 31 August, two new polio cases were reported in the country, bringing the total number of cases to 15 for 2005. Both cases occurred in July, one in Oromiya Region, near the border with Somalia and the other in Amhara Region. The two cases occurred after Ethiopia's National Immunization Days (NIDs) in late May. WHO reported that the next NIDs will be in late October. Contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

TEENAGE GIRLS IN BENISHANGUL GUMUZ HARDEST HIT BY LACK OF LATRINES

Teenage girls in Benishangul Gumuz are dropping out of school because of appalling sanitation facilities, according to a study conducted by Water Aid Ethiopia (WAE), UNICEF and Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO). Only 4% of the population in the area has access to sanitation, the report found. Some schools had no toilets at all. And in many of those that did, more than 300 pupils often had to share one latrine. A number of the girls interviewed said that they could not bring themselves to go to a latrine in their school, especially during menstruation. Many said they went home instead. The report found that significant numbers did not return, choosing to drop out of school rather than face the facilities. UNICEF/Water Aid Ethiopia and the Government are trying to accelerate the school sanitation programme in these areas in order to improve health and enhance girls' education. Contact: igetachew@unicef.org

ETHIOPIA RANKS 170 IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

The Human Development Report 2005, entitled "International Cooperation at a Crossroads: Aid, Trade, and Security in an Unequal World," was launched in Ethiopia on Friday, 9 September. On the human development index, Ethiopia is ranked 170 of 177 countries. This is the same position it held last year, though its human development status has showed a steady improvement over the last decade. Special emphasis was placed on the gender-related development index, in which Ethiopia ranks 134 of 140 countries. The report can be accessed at <http://hdr.undp.org>.