



## **URGENT SUPPORT NEEDED TO STOP THE FURTHER SPREAD OF POLIO IN ETHIOPIA**

UNICEF and WHO issued a Special Alert to donors this week seeking US \$4.9 million to stop the spread of polio in Ethiopia. Last month two children, both in Tigray Region were found with the virus despite having previously received oral doses of the polio vaccine. Tests indicate that the two cases are linked to the strain in Sudan which has paralyzed 132 children since May 2004. In Ethiopia, UNICEF and WHO plan to immunise 14.7 million children under the age of five during April and May 2005. During two National Immunisation Days 100,000 volunteers and health workers will go door-to-door to administer the vaccine. The alert is available on: [www.ocha-eth.org](http://www.ocha-eth.org)

## **AFAR REGION UPDATE**

Following the request of the Afar regional government, the Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (FDPPC) has sent a team to do a reassessment of beneficiaries and needs in the region. NGOs are reporting that the *Belg* rain has started in some areas of zone 1, 4 & 5 of Afar, which is expected to replenish pasture and improve water availability, but the situation is still considered critical.

## **ENHANCED OUTREACH STRATEGY (EOS): PRELIMINARY SCREENING RESULTS**

The second round of the Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) has been completed by the Regional Health Bureau with UNICEF support in 54 woredas of SNNPR. The preliminary results from 46 woredas show that out of 1,273,201 targeted children under 5 years: 1,151,407 children were screened, 1,152,095 received Vitamin A supplementation and 1,127,229 got de-worming tablets. Out of the total number of children screened, 48,111 (4.2 percent) found moderately malnourished and 13,751 (1.2 percent) severely malnourished were referred to WFP/DPPB for Supplementary Feeding. Some 183,765 pregnant and nursing women have been screened as well during the exercise and 19 percent of them were referred for Supplementary Feeding within the criteria set by the national nutrition protocol. A re-screening has been recommended for some areas where the screening coverage has been too low. A UNICEF/DPPB team, with the participation of zonal line bureaus and WFP field monitors is currently assessing (8 – 21 March) the emerging critical spots in Boricha, Shebedino and Dale woredas of Sidama zone; Humbo, Damot Weyde and Ofa woredas of Wolayita zone; Kamba, Zale, Uba and Debretsehay of Gamo Gofa zone. For more information contact: [igetachew@unicef.org](mailto:igetachew@unicef.org)

## **GOAL CONDUCTS NUTRITIONAL SURVEY IN ABALA, AFAR REGION**

Preliminary findings from a recent Goal/DPPC nutritional survey in Abala woreda, Afar Region indicate serious malnutrition amongst children. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was 13.5 percent (confidence interval) with aggravating factors on children under the age of five. As a result the survey recommended the DPPC should undertake an assessment to revise the woreda's beneficiary numbers and the general ration distribution should continue. For more information contact: [goal.ethio@telecom.net.et](mailto:goal.ethio@telecom.net.et)

## **NUMBER OF IDPS IN WEST HARARGHE STILL UNCLEAR**

Confusion still persists on the number of IDPs in Doba woreda, West Hararghe with the district administration reporting 17,641 IDPs in the woreda. An OCHA mission accompanied by CARE field staff found no physical evidence of such massive displacements. More than 6,000 most affected IDPs have received food assistance and non-food items from the Government.

## **FOOD AID PIPELINE STATUS**

In line with the Humanitarian Appeal for 2005, overall emergency food requirement for March total 2.9 million beneficiaries, while 3.1 million are expected to need food assistance by April. To date only 27 percent of annual requirement have been met. Confirmed resources can only cover part of March but WFP intends to use its new loan facility to cover the remaining requirements based on forecast contributions and utilising the Ethiopian emergency food security reserve. For more information contact: [wfp.addisababa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.addisababa@wfp.org)

## **CONCERN CONDUCTS NUTRITIONAL SURVEYS IN AMHARA AND SNNPR REGIONS**

Findings from four separate nutritional surveys conducted by concern in Amhara and SNNPR regions are now available. In December 2004, Concern conducted two nutritional surveys in Kalu and Dessie Zuria woredas, South Wollo of Amhara Region. According to the reports the food security situation and nutritional status for both woredas has improved compared to the same time last year. However reports from Damot Woyde and Offa woredas of Wolayita Zone of SNNPR indicate deteriorating food security situations and increasing rate of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM). As a result the team recommended close monitoring of food security situation and follow-up nutritional survey for all the four woredas. For more information contact: [Ethiopia.cd@concern.net](mailto:Ethiopia.cd@concern.net)