



IDPs IN MEISSO REQUEST FOR FOOD AID

Following the recent referendum to determine the administrative status of contested kebeles in Oromiya and Somali Region, 2,600 victims of inter-ethnic conflict from Bike Town are currently living as IDPs in Meisso Town. CARE Ethiopia sent an assessment team to the area at the request of the Zonal Administration, which reported that the IDPs were living in deplorable conditions on the soccer field in the centre of town, 50 meters from the livestock market, with no food, water, shelter, blankets or latrines. No assistance had been given to them other than 39 ten person Red Cross tents which had been donated the week after their arrival, along with 2.5 MTs of wheat and a water trailer which is now empty. The site is on a flood plain and night-time temperatures have dropped as low as seven degrees. CARE in consultation with the Zonal and Woreda Administrators and USAID is addressing the immediate needs. The camp is being relocated, pit latrines dug, two roto tankers placed at the site are receiving water daily, and blankets, jerry cans, wood and charcoal, sleeping mats and soap have been purchased to meet their immediate needs for a month. OFDA has released 52 MTs of maize, oil, pulses and CSB to distribute to these IDPs in two half-monthly rounds of distribution in the next month. Concerns remain regarding shelter and the inadequate health clinic service. CARE, International Medical Corps (IMC), Federation of Red Cross Society (FRCS) and Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) are closely monitoring the situation in order to alleviate the problems and an OCHA field officer accompanied by Oromiya DPPB is also assessing the situation. ocha-eth@un.org

REGIONAL CLARIFICATION WORKSHOP ON MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN AGRICULTURE

FAO organized a regional clarification workshop on Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Agriculture to the member countries of Common Market for Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) from 13 to 16 December 2004 at the African Union. The focus was on national capacity building on World Trade Organizations (WTO) Agreements affecting food and agricultural trade. This activity is being organized as part of the FAO Umbrella II Programme of support to member countries for multilateral trade negotiations related to agriculture. For more information contact:

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JOINT ACTION PLANS LAUNCHED FOR CHILDREN

The Government of Ethiopia, together with key partners including UNICEF, launched the National Plan of Action for Children and Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children on 13 December 2004. Ethiopia has an estimated 4.6 million orphans, close to half a million of whom have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The Plan of Action carries forward the commitments made at the Special Session for Children in May 2002 as articulated in the document "A World Fit for Children." The Ethiopian Plan of Action for Children is designed to place the interests of children at the forefront of development policies and strategies. Promoting healthy lives, providing quality education, protecting children from abuse, exploitation and violence, and combating HIV/AIDS are the four major areas identified in the Action Plan. For more information contact: igetachew@unicef.org

USA ALLOCATES 20 MLN FOR PC3 PROGRAMME

Save the Children USA in collaboration with CARE, World Vision, World Learning, Family Health International and Hope for the Africa Child Initiative launched a new nationwide programme on 15 December 2004. Positive Change: Children, Communities and Care (PC3) is a five-year \$20 million project funded by the Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief designed to reach 500,000 children throughout Ethiopia. With capacity building as its foundation, PC3 will strengthen Ethiopian civil society to strengthen community capacity to respond to orphans and vulnerable children. For more information contact: ussave.children@savechildren.org.et

FHI LAUNCHES A DRY RATION SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME IN FAFEN IDP CAMPS

Food for the Hungry International (FHI) in cooperation with Mother Child Development Organization (MCDO) launched a dry ration supplementary feeding programme in the Fafen IDP camp in Somali Region in December 2004. With a \$ 34,000 donation from World Concern, FHI was able to purchase dry ration support including famix, sugar, and oil for 780 children under five as well as lactating mothers and pregnant women. Plastic shelters were also distributed to 500 households. For more information contact: fhi.eth@telecom.net.et