



## **SAFETY NET CONCERNS**

Safety Net transfers to beneficiaries have not yet started and this is raising serious concerns. The Productive Safety Nets Programme has officially started as of mid February 2005, to provide approximately 4 million chronically food insecure people with food or cash in Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya and SNNP Regions. Food and cash transfers are part of the programme. Government authorities, WFP and NGOs are finalising selection of districts for food assistance. Districts will use either food or cash or a combination of food and cash as transfers. Only completion of this will allow community works to start and accompanying food transfers. Donors and the government are to mobilise cash resources to enable transfer to the regions. Meanwhile there is growing frustration in Safety Net districts where emergency distributions are ongoing. There are some reports of Safety Net beneficiaries having moved from their woredas to areas where there are emergency distributions. Further delays are likely to result in critical food shortages in some chronically food insecure areas, an increase in malnutrition cases and further movement of people. The transfers must get underway quickly to avert these possible negative impacts. Donors and Government must mobilise resources to ensure that transfers can occur timely.

## **WFP PIPELINE CRITICAL**

The pipeline for emergency food assistance remains critical, with cereal resources running out by March. At this week's Food Aid Task Force meeting the DPPC reported that only 26 percent of January distributions of emergency food assistance were allocated. Only Afar and Oromiya Regions received food aid. It was anticipated that the remaining regions would distribute carryover stock. For February, 90% of requirements may be covered depending on indications of additional contributions, but only 11% of March requirements for emergency food have been provided by donors, leaving a shortfall of 39,000 MT of cereals. In February, 2.4 million people are in need of food aid, a figure that will rise to an estimated 2.9 million in March and 3.1 million in April. Only 22 percent of the total food requirements for the year are available and will remain largely uncovered unless new contributions are received.

## **NO RESPONSE TO NON FOOD NEEDS**

Non food needs also remain critical and there has been almost no response so far for the US\$112 million requested in the 2005 humanitarian Appeal to urgently cover emergency health, water and sanitation, and agriculture needs. The DPPC, UN agencies and donors will meet on 21 February to discuss the current humanitarian situation and the low funding of the appeal.

## **UPDATE ON IDPS IN EAST AND WEST HARARGHE**

The number of IDPs resulting from conflicts associated with the recent referendum between Oromiya and Somali regions continues to increase with more outbreaks of violence this week. Near Mieso town up to six people were killed and many more injured after renewed conflict on 15 February. Other incidences have been reported nearby in Bordede and Mulu, with the number of casualties and displaced unknown. According to the NGO CARE, there are now 2,557 IDPs registered in Mieso. A full month ration of food was distributed on February 12, while non-food items were distributed to the 425 new arrivals. CARE has sufficient resources to continue its support of food and non-food items until May 1. CARE conducted a Reintegration Survey of all IDP households between February 6 and 11, to ascertain whether they had any plans for reintegrating themselves into society and where, but the results were inconclusive.

In Doba, West Hararghe, the Zonal Health Office has prepared an emergency Health Intervention Plan for the 16,615 IDPs residing in five kebeles. The request for assistance to UNICEF, ICRC and the Oromiya Disaster Preparedness and Food Security Commission, includes food, health intervention, shelter, clothes and utensils needs for six months. The federal DPPC is providing emergency relief assistance to 5,000, which is the number believed to be displaced according to federal authorities.

There are also reports of new IDPs in Guradamole and Goro Baqaqsa districts in Afder, Somali Region. An estimated 5450 people moved to Harardubo in Guradamole after they were expelled from Bale Zone as a result of the referendum. Another group, numbers unknown, has moved to Goro Baqaqsa. OCHA, MSF-Belgium, ICRC and the DPPB are all following up on the situation.

## **UPDATE ON GASHAMO MALNUTRITION**

The Somali Regional Health Bureau and the Head of the DPPB have requested to the federal DPPC for an urgent allocation in Gashamo of 36 MT of supplementary food and 3.6 MT of oil from WFP for a Supplementary Feeding Centre. Last month Save the Children UK and the DPPB reported critical levels of malnutrition and mortality in children in Gashamo district. The Supplementary Feeding Centre, funded by UNICEF and implemented by local NGO, Mother and Child Development Organisation (MCDO) will provide assistance to 1,200 children for a three month period. This is in addition to the 35 percent blanket distribution of supplementary food for the region through WFP/DPPC. UNICEF hopes the programme will begin next week. UNICEF is also considering a water tankering proposal from the local NGO Hope for the Horn and the DPPB, to prevent the reported high prevalence of diarrhoeal diseases. Over the last three months UNICEF in conjunction with the Regional Health Bureau has conducted Emergency Mobile Clinics in 12 districts and is considering the extension of this service for a longer period.