



MALARIA CAMPAIGN BOOSTED BY SUPPORT FROM ECHO AND OTHER DONORS – EPIDEMIC FEARS REMAIN

Some of the localised malaria epidemics recently reported across Ethiopia are being brought under control using the new anti-malaria drug Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT) for uncomplicated falciparum malaria. Over 2.8 million treatments of ACT have arrived in Ethiopia, thanks to emergency support from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), Development Cooperation of Ireland and other donors through UNICEF and several NGOs. Assistance from ECHO has also provided support for management and coordination efforts, essential in correctly diagnosing malaria cases. Over 3 million additional ACT treatments are expected in October, funded by the GFATM. Over 3 million Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) will also be imported into Ethiopia this season, the largest consignment of ITNs in Ethiopia's history, although a further 14 million are required to protect all Ethiopian families from malaria. Plans are to have all the ITNs distributed to malaria affected households, some of which are in the epidemic affected areas. Meanwhile, Ethiopia's Federal Ministry of Health has reported new outbreaks in some additional districts. Should these isolated epidemics continue to expand in number and begin coalescing, there is a possibility of a major widespread epidemic during the September to December transmission season. Such an epidemic would also lead to rapid consumption of ACTs in 2005, unfortunately resulting in ACT shortages in 2006. For more information contact: igetachew@unicef.org & who-wro@et.afro.who.int

NEW DEVELOPMENTAL RELIEF INTERVENTION BY CCF / GAA IN FENTALE, EAST SHOA ZONE, OROMIYA REGION

Financed mainly by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation, Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is starting a new intervention in Fentale District of Oromiya Region. The targeted population of nearly 3,000 households will utilise Cash-for-Work allocations especially for the construction and for the improvement of their own water supply and other rural infrastructures. The intervention is being coordinated with the Safety Net Programme on district and community level. In addition side activities of the project involve the allocation of drought resistant seeds (esp. triticale and sorghum), promotion of agro-forestry (permaculture), capacity building and HIV/AIDS. The cash-for-work component assures an improved access of needy households to food as well as to productive assets and animals, which were partly lost during the last drought. The total volume of the intervention is US\$ 210,000, being the 3rd phase. The coordination on district level also involves the Kereyou-Interest-Group, which supports the predominant ethnic group. Contact: gaa.eth@ethionet.et

MR. AHTISAARI TO VISIT ADDIS ABABA

Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa, arrives in Addis Ababa on 25 August for a four-day visit. This is his fifth visit to the country since his designation in June 2003. During his visit, Mr. Ahtisaari will focus on advocacy related to humanitarian concerns and follow up on the recommendations of the joint Evaluation of the Response to the 2002-2003 Emergency in Ethiopia, which he launched during his last visit in October 2004. He will also advocate for longer term food security and livelihood issues. The Special Envoy will meet Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, government officials, humanitarian agencies and international donors' representatives. Before visiting Ethiopia Mr. Ahtisaari will visit Eritrea from 22-25 August 2005.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION WORKSHOP

OCHA and UNICEF are holding a three day inter-agency training for focal points on sexual exploitation and abuse, and their partners at the ILRI compound from the 22-24 August. The workshop will focus on the roles and responsibilities of focal points and provide an increased understanding of contributing factors and consequences of the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN and related personnel. It aims to ensure that focal points can confidently and proactively take measures to prevent and respond to the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse, including dealing with individual allegations from the moment of receiving a complaint to closure of a case. The training will also assist focal points to mobilise in-country networks and develop accompanying plans of action. A similar training will be held in Asmara. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

2005 POLIO ERADICATION GOAL MAY BE MISSED

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that it might not achieve its goal of eradicating polio around the world by the end of this year. The agency says the Horn of Africa is among its greatest concerns because polio has spread to Eritrea and fears are growing that the disease might re-invade war-torn Somalia, where there are some difficult situations in detecting new cases. The WHO's global polio eradication campaign is not going as well as it had hoped. Latest figures show that more than 1,000 children have been paralysed with polio since the beginning of 2005. This is double the number compared to the same period last year. Meanwhile a committee of experts that advises the polio eradication program will meet on 10 October to review the worldwide polio situation and will decide whether any modifications are needed. Polio exists in 24 countries, of which 18 are African countries that had been polio-free. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

JAPAN DONATES ADDITIONAL US\$ 3.6 ML TO FOOD

The Government of Japan donated US\$ 3.6 million to the Ethiopian Government for covering emergency food aid needs on 12 August. Last week the *belg* assessment reported that emergency food aid need, totaling 235,000 tonnes are fully covered for the remainder of the year. This amounts to an additional 165,000 tonnes to the 70,000 tonnes already considered for the August-December period in the Humanitarian Appeal.