



DPPC LED MULTI-AGENCY TEAMS IN THE REGIONS

The Multi-Agency teams led by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) are in the regions to re-assess requirements following the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the country. The assessment results will be compiled in a Flash Update of the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal, to be released by the Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners in early May.

REGIONAL RAINFALL UPDATE

Following the predominantly dry weather in most parts of the country in February, there was a significant improvement of rainfall in the first and second dekads of March in many areas. However, the performance of rain in the last two weeks of March and the beginning of April was not good. There has been a significant improvement in the performance of rain beginning the second week of April. Planting of *belg* crops (short season crops harvested in July) took place in some areas of the county with December, January and March rains, but in other *belg* producing areas this was interrupted by dry spells. The March/April dry spell lasted two-four weeks and depending on the locations had a negative impact on the growth and planting of *belg* crops. The *belg* season rains are very important for planting long-cycle crops which are harvested after the *meher* rain at the end of the year, and for replenishing pasture and water sources. In the pastoral areas, of southern zones of Somali Region there are signs of *gu* rain starting. The lack of rains in lowland areas of the country is also affecting water and pasture availability for livestock. The current rainfall improvement as of mid April is expected to have a positive impact on agricultural activities. But this improvement must continue through to the end of May. Afar Region received few days of rain in March and recent reports of rain are being checked. The rains received in March had a positive impact on browsing for camel and goats. In Tigray *belg* crops have been planted and the March rains have contributed for the recovery of stressed crops, as well as improving pasture and water availability for livestock. Despite this, a dry spell that lasted 3-4 weeks led to disruption of agricultural activities and moisture stress on earlier planted crops. The current improvement of rains is hoped to benefit growth of *belg* crops over mid and highland *belg* growing areas and beneficial for planting of long cycle crops. Some rains were received in Amhara Region in January and February and improved in March. January and March rains were used to plant *belg* crops in most *belg* growing areas of the region in spite of the February dry spell which did not allow farmers to cover all prepared land. In addition the dry spell (for 3-4 weeks) also led to moisture stress, on earlier planted crops particularly in some lowland areas, before recent April rain began. In Oromiya, although there was a good start of the season in most areas, agricultural activities were affected by dry spells in February, March and April. SNNPR also experienced a dry spell in February and a two-three week break in March and April. The current improvement in rainfall (April) in the regions (Oromiya, SNNPR and Amhara), if continued until May, is expected to have a positive impact on agriculture.

CARE VISITS BISIDIMO LEPROSY RELIEF CENTRE, EAST HARARGHE

CARE Ethiopia recently visited Bisidimo Leprosy Relief Centre in Babile woreda of East Hararghe Zone in Oromiya Regional State. The hospital is 45 years old and is being managed by a German NGO called German Leprosy Relief Association (GLRA). The hospital also treats malnourished children. According to the team there are 75 severely malnourished children that are being treated in the Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFC) and several others suffering from Kwashiorkor and other marasmus. Most of the children are from the neighbouring woredas of Fedis, and Alemaya. The zonal health office reported that it has compiled a report of the screening carried out by the Enhanced Outreach Strategy team in both woredas and will fax it to the regional office and Federal DPPC to seek support for the establishment of TFC in both sites. The team recommended an urgent dry supplementary feeding programme for moderately malnourished children under five and medical screening and treatment for the malnourished children in both woredas. Ministry of Health, CARE, UNICEF and GLRA are the only organisations that are presently involved in this hospital. For further information contact: laponitej@careet.org

GAA/ORDA STARTS NEW FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM IN AMHARA

German Agro Action and Organization for Relief and Rehabilitation in Amhara (GAA/ORDA) started a three year programme with European Union's US\$ 1 million support, in Tehuledere and Habru woredas in South and North Wello zones of Amhara Region. The programme aims at addressing the root causes of food insecurity in a new comprehensive approach oriented towards building and strengthening administrative and agro-technical capacities at district and community level. It also incorporates land certification, water-shed management and training in participatory planning and implementation processes. The intervention, which involves 21,000 beneficiaries, will be coordinated with safety net and/or relief allocations. For further information contact: gaa.bahr@ethionet.et

FOLLOW-UP HUMANITARIAN SITUATION ASSESSMENT IN DEGEHABUR ZONE, SOMALI REGION

Ogaden Welfare and Development Association (OWDA) which conducted an assessment in three woredas of Degehabur zone, Somali region in mid March, conducted a follow-up mission in the zone from 4-13 April. According to the team the humanitarian situation has worsened and requires immediate intervention by humanitarian partners. For further information contact: owda@telecom.net.et

WORLD VISION CONDUCTS DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM IN AMHARA REGION

World Vision, in collaboration with the rural development office of Amhara Region, is ready to launch its disaster response and preparedness and capacity building program in Libo Kemkem, Yilmana Densa, Tenta and Gera Keya districts of Amhara region. The program will focus on improving early warning capacity of the target areas through training and supply of equipment. It will also deal with the preparation of community level disaster preparedness planning and monitoring. The program is funded by World Vision/United Kingdom and will run till end of December 2005. For further information contact: wveth@telecom.net.et