



JOINT FLOOD ASSESSMENT TEAM IN SOMALI REGION

A joint Government and UN assessment team arrived in Gode on 25 May, to begin re-assessment of flood affected areas of Somali Region. The team will re-examine the damage and outstanding needs of flood affected areas in Gode, Jijiga, Kebridehar and Degehabur zones and make recommendations for appropriate interventions. Poor access and security issues are restricting the movement of the team. Meanwhile there are reports of new flooding causing new displacements in an area stretching from Kelafo to Mustahil town, where original flood waters had receded and people were returning to their homes. Recent flooding was also reported in Denan, in Gode zone and heavy rains have also caused damage in parts of Fik zone. Reports have been received from western parts of Somali Region that the Genale and Dawa rivers have also overflowed, causing serious problems in the Dolo Odo/Dolo Bay area, and interrupting communications within large parts of Afder and Liben zones. Road inaccessibility has prevented food aid from reaching the flood-affected areas, with the exception of Dire Dawa, Denan in Gode zone and some locations in eastern Degehabour. In addition, it has hampered UNICEF's relief convoys to reach Gode. Since 11 May, UNICEF in collaboration with DPPC has sent 17 trucks with relief items for flood affected populations, with seven trucks stuck on the Somali roads as of 29 May. UNICEF's Malaria Project Officer returned to Addis having successfully completed the training of mobile health teams and developing distribution plans of long lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs). Preparations for the distribution of soaps and jerricans through the Regional Water Bureau are being finalized. Meanwhile until the access problems ease, arrangements are being made by WFP to provide funds through DPPC to transport 870 tonnes of maize that are currently in stock in Gode.

FLOOD IN ARBA MINCH WOREDA, SNNPR

Heavy rains on the nights of 21-22 May caused the Sile and Sego rivers in SNNPR to burst their banks, displacing over 12,000 farmers in Arba Minch woreda of Gamo Gofa zone. An unknown number of livestock have been killed and an extensive area of crop fields destroyed. According to reports from the woreda the affected population has received some food and non-food assistance. Concerns have been raised about the possible outbreak of malaria and other epidemic diseases. According to reports there is an urgent need for health professionals to be deployed in the area and medicines to be mobilised.

UNICEF TO SUPPORT GLOBAL STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The United Nations is currently carrying out a global study, which aims to provide an in-depth picture of the prevalence, nature and causes of violence against children. The Global Study on Violence has prepared a questionnaire in order to evaluate the current situation. UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office has supported and funded the completion of questionnaires in the region. UNICEF Ethiopia is closely working with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) to accelerate the process. In addition, UNICEF will support a national workshop organised by the African Child Policy Forum and MoLSA from 21-22 June to share preliminary outcomes of the study with concerned stakeholders and partners. A regional consultation will follow in Johannesburg during the third week of July. For more information contact: igetachew@unicef.org

WORLD VISION PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN OROMIYA REGION

World Vision completed the construction of potable water supply structures in Hidhabu Abote District of Oromiya Region. The project is expected to benefit 5000 community members and up to 3000 livestock population. It will also enhance the health status of the beneficiary population, reduce time for fetching water and contribute to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The project has been implemented in collaboration with the zonal and woreda offices for water resource development and the community. In addition World Vision supported the productive capacity of farmers through the implementation of water development programme for agriculture in Boset in close collaboration with the local rural development office and the targeted households. Up to 190 selected farm households have benefited from the programme by irrigating 95 hectares of land for the production of cereal crops and vegetables. These projects are part of emergency and recovery programmes funded by World Vision Australia. Contact: wveth@telecom.net.et

EFSR STATUS

Emergency Food Security Reserve (EFSR) reports stocks on hand as of 27 May are 147,108 mts, 81,971 mts stock under withdrawal and 175,925 mts in outstanding loans.