



WORLD VISION CONDUCTS RELIEF IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN TANTA

World Vision has been undertaking relief food aid program in Tanta district of Amhara Region, as part of the 2004 emergency Appeal to respond to the food aid needs of the drought affected people. The mission contributed in linking relief and development through construction and maintenance of rural infrastructure and natural resources conservation via Employment Generation Schemes. The food security situation of the beneficiary population is better compared to the previous years of prevailing food stress according to a recent assessment. The program is funded by the European Union and has benefited a total of 114,772 drought-affected people. For more information contact wveth@telecom.net.et

MOH IN COLLABORATION WITH WHO AND UNICEF LAUNCH A RAPID ASSESSMENT ON DRINKING QUALITY WATER

The Ministry of Health supported by UNICEF and WHO has initiated a country wide assessment on the quality of drinking water this week. The provision of water was one of the eight components of Primary Health Care identified by the World Health Assembly in 1978 and reiterated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) resolution passed in 2000. The global community has committed itself to halving the proportion of the world population who are unable to reach safe drinking water by 2015. Reports on water quality mostly assume that the water from technologically improved sources is safe for drinking. However, this could be misleading as there are a number of possibilities that these sources can be chemically or bacteriologically polluted. The aim of the assessment is to have verifiable water quality data to support the Government and international community to achieve the internationally set targets.

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ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE

A joint Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and FAO team carried out a field trip from December 23 – January 2, 2004 to establish and/or strengthen the Regional emergency agriculture task forces in Oromiya and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples regions respectively. The team has assessed the regional needs to properly coordinate crop and livestock related emergency interventions in the two regions. The regions have shown a positive attitude to establish/strengthen regional task forces to facilitate ease of coordination with the Federal Agriculture task force. The bureaus have signed Memoranda of agreements and have officially assigned focal persons. The food and agriculture Organization has agreed to provide technical and logistics support to the regional task forces. This action is in response to recommendations made in the joint Evaluation of the Response to the 2002-2003 Emergency in Ethiopia. For more information contact: fao-ethiopia@fao.org

WORLD VISION ETHIOPIA AND UNICEF COMPLETE EMERGENCY PROJECTS IN AFAR REGION

The joint World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) and UNICEF Emergency Water and Sanitation Project in Zone 3 of Afar Region has been completed. The project was conceived in the framework of UNICEF's Girl's Education Initiative (GEI) in the country as part of its Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) towards achieving Education for All (EFA) goals, reducing gender gap in primary education enrollment (by 2005) and achieving Universal Primary Education (UPE) in the long run (by 2015). Three shallow wells, two water extension works with reservoirs and distribution points, and 11 Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines were constructed in four woredas (Awash Fentale, Amibara, Gewane and Dulecha) of Zone 3. The water and sanitation schemes which are expected to serve 3,548 beneficiaries in 15 schools are constructed at the cost of US\$ 94,217 with resources secured mainly from UNICEF. For more information contact: wveth@telecom.net.et