



FLOOD UPDATE, SOMALI REGION

The number of dead and missing in Somali Region continues to rise following the devastating floods on 23 April. However uncertainty remains on the exact number of dead and affected people. The government, UN agencies, ICRC and NGOs are continuing their efforts to respond to the flood emergency. So far, plastic plates, high energy biscuits, jerry cans, plastic jugs, plastic sheeting and blankets have been sent to affected areas. However, emergency needs are much higher than the current response and aid deliveries are being held back because of the difficulty in accessing the flood areas. DPPC chartered military helicopters that were delivering aid from Gode returned to Addis mid week and 60 percent of the non food items available remain in the Dire Dawa warehouse. The DPPC is currently conducting an assessment of the drought affected areas and results are expected early this week. UNICEF is ready to charter an Antonov aircraft with a capacity of 16 tonnes to assist in delivering the aid in Dire Dawa to Gode. The DPPB in Gode reports that there is no fuel for trucks to deliver emergency aid and problems of access to the affected areas prevails. Meanwhile WFP is providing some fuel for this purpose from its stock in Gode. WFP/DPPC supplementary food stocks (fortified corn soya blend) are being mobilised in Gode for the flood victims and will be distributed as soon as transportation problems ease. Serious damage, because of the heavy rains has also been reported in the camps of Hartishek and Fafen in Jijiga zone. A team from UNHCR, OCHA, WFP and OXFAM was in Hartishek town in late April to provide assistance upon the request of the local authorities. According to the team the camp was not accessible from one side because of overflowing water that was waist deep. Up to 155 shelters had completely collapsed or disintegrated. Those shelters still standing are wet from inadequate roofing. The team reported mud mixed with feces and large amounts of standing water throughout the camp. As a result, the physical condition of the IDPs was poor. Children were the most affected. WFP/DPPC is providing supplementary food for UNICEF's therapeutic feeding centre at these locations and in West Imi (in Afder zone, along the Wabe Shebelle River). More rain is expected in the highlands in the coming week. The DPPC will convene a Flood Coordination Meeting on 9 May. A **Somali Flood Matrix** is available at www.ocha-eth.org

FLASH UPDATE TO THE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

The Ethiopian Government and humanitarian partners issued a Flash Update to the 2005 Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia on 4 May. The Flash Update seeks a revised total of US\$320 million, of which 47 percent has been secured, to urgently address the deteriorating humanitarian conditions that are threatening the country. Through consultations with the regions, an additional 690,000 beneficiaries have been identified as in need of emergency food assistance, most of them requiring food aid for five or six months, and increasing the total emergency beneficiaries from 3.1 million to 3.8 million. A further 66,200 tonnes of food is required to cover the increased needs, with the total revised emergency food aid needs for 2005 now at 464,400 tonnes. Taking into account the newly identified requirements, a shortfall of approximately 165,510 tonnes of food, valued at US\$66.2 million remains to be secured. On the non-food side, only 22 percent of the total revised requirement of US\$ 135.6 million has been met, leaving a funding gap of US\$105 million. Critical gaps remain in all sectors with 'Health and Nutrition' and 'Water and Sanitation' both increasing their requirements by US\$12 million each. It is important to note that based on average needs over the last 3-4 years an additional 160,000 MT of food will likely be required for beneficiaries in Afar and Somali regions for the last six months of the year. This requirement was not factored into the Appeal and will be determined precisely after the regular *belgu* assessment in June.

FLOODS IN WOLIYA ZONE, SNNPR

Two kebeles in Humbo woreda of Wolayita zone, SNNPR were flooded after the Bilate River burst its banks between the 24 and 30 April. According to unconfirmed field reports the flood killed two people and displaced 6,755, out of which 965 people are from resettlement sites. It was also reported that the flood damaged 1,017 hectares of crop land and has killed many livestock. The displaced people are now sheltered in community service structures and temporary plastic shelters. Limited assistance was provided by the zonal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) that included a one month ration for 143 heads of households. However according to the reports, the magnitude of the damage and assistance required is beyond the capacity of the zone and immediate food and non-food assistance is required. The regional DPPB has sent a request to FDPPC asking for assistance that includes four months general ration for 5,790 beneficiaries and utensils for 1,351 households. Following this the FDPPC provided 59 tonnes food for one month ration and 2,700 blanket, 30 rolls of plastic sheet and 1,350 plastic caps.

FRENCH EMBASSY DONATES MONEY FOR POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVES

In response to the joint UNICEF/WHO Special Alert in March, the French Embassy signed a Memorandum of Understanding for €100,000 with WHO on 4 May. The donation is for the preparation and implementation of the 2nd round National Immunization Days that is scheduled from 23-27 May. The fund was raised locally and leaves a shortfall of US \$1.9 million. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int

WORLD VISION CONDUCTS NUTRITIONAL SURVEY

World Vision in collaboration with the woreda Health office conducted nutritional survey in Sodo Zuria woreda, Wolayita zone of SNNPR from 28 March-2 April. The nutritional status of children under five is categorised as poor with 9.3 percent Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and 1.3 percent Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). According to the survey the food security situation in the woreda, especially in the lowland kebeles has deteriorated due to failure of previous *belg* and sweet potato production during the season. The team recommended supervision of the targeting process and food distribution in the Productive Safety Nets Programme and close monitoring of the overall situation. Contact: wveth@telecom.net.et