



OCHA REPORTS ON SITUATIONS OF IDPS IN SOMALI REGION

UN OCHA-Ethiopia undertook a field mission to the Somali region to assess the situation of IDPs in Fafan, Hartishiek, Mieso and Bordode IDP shelters. The IDPs in Fafan and Hartishiek are mainly drought induced while the caseload of some 14,900 persons in Mieso/Bordode areas are displaced mainly because of conflict over land ownership between Oromo and Somali tribesmen in the Rift valley. Major conclusions and observations of the mission are: 1) IDPs in the region are in need of humanitarian assistance such as food, water, health, shelter materials and clothing. 2) Improved planning and delivery of humanitarian assistance is essential. 3) The IDPs in the areas visited have expressed their interest to return to their villages of origin. Funding of the UNDP/IOM project to return 6,000 of the IDPs needs to occur soon if a durable solution for the long standing problem of IDPs in the region is to be found. For details and recommendations see full report: www.ocha-eth.org or contact UN OCHA-Ethiopia at ocha-eth@un.org

RAINFALL UPDATE

Ministry of Agriculture reported improved rainfall in most areas of the country in April. However the rainfall pattern has been deteriorating beginning the third *dekad*. Rain that fell during the month is reported to have created favourable conditions particularly for long cycle crops. Moreover, April rains are found to be beneficial for growth and development of *belg*/long cycle crops, land preparation and sowing as well as pasture and water availability improvement. For further information contact Ministry of Agriculture, 62 69 72.

CCF-ETHIOPIA LAUNCHES REHABILITATION PROJECT IN EAST SHOA ZONE, OROMIA REGION

CCF (Christian Children Fund, Inc.)-Ethiopia has launched rehabilitation project in Oromia Region, East Shoa Zone, Fentale, Boset and Shashemene woredas allocating Ethiopian Birr 3.44 million. The over all objective of the project is to improve the capacity of 14,602 drought affected people (who have lost valuable assets including their livestock during the previous drought in the woredas) to enable them to rehabilitate their food security status through restocking/livestock recovery, women's support in agricultural activities and water development initiatives. The project is being implemented up to end of June 2004. The project is expected to provide over two thousand livestock; different vegetable seeds and drip irrigation equipment to destitute pastoralist and farming families and construct deep wells, cisterns and roof water catchments. For further information contact CCF, ccfethiopia@telecom.net.et

FAO CONDUCTS TRAINING ON BEST PRACTICES OF CROP PRODUCTION

Food insecurity in Ethiopia is due to the combination of the cyclic recurrence of drought and in part to the practices of farmers. Capacity building of farmers is a priority to support emergency as well as recovery/rehabilitation efforts. FAO in collaboration with the Woreda Rural Development/Agricultural Offices has conducted training to development agents and farmers on 'Best Practices of Crop Production' in nine woredas of Amhara and Tigray Regions in two rounds. The major training topic was "Seed Selection, Production and Management/Handling". In addition, a recent training needs assessment in selected woredas of Oromiya and SNNP regions, recommended a further round of training between May and July in 15 woredas. The training is expected to improve the skill and knowledge of the trainees on improved ways of agricultural practices. For further information contact FAO, fao-eth@field.fao.org

CHILD SURVIVAL NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE WORKS TO SCALE UP INTERVENTIONS

The Ministry of Health and the Child Survival Partnership held last week a three-day National Partnership Conference in Addis Ababa on scaling up child survival interventions in Ethiopia. The Child Survival Partnership is an alliance between WHO, The World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and UNICEF. Around the globe, approximately 10.8 million children die each year from easily preventable and treatable causes. Of those, 470,000 deaths occur in Ethiopia. Six countries, including Ethiopia, accounted for 50 percent of global under-five deaths in the year 2000. The most common causes of mortality and morbidity of under-five children are pneumonia, HIV/AIDS, diarrhea, malaria, measles, neonatal causes and malnutrition. For further information contact UNICEF, igetachew@unicef.org

Contributions are welcomed. Please submit to UN OCHA-Eth by COB Thursday, berhanem@un.org