



## **POLIO IN SUDAN THREATENS ETHIOPIA'S POLIO-FREE STATUS**

Following the Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) which started on 22 October to immunize 750,000 children under five years of age in 21 selected woredas in Oromia Region, the Ethiopian health authorities with support from UNICEF and WHO will conduct an emergency polio immunization campaign in six of the nine regions of the country bordering Sudan in December. The decision was taken by the Ministry of Health after reviewing with the Interagency Coordination Committee (ICC) the threat of the disease to Ethiopia. This followed reports by WHO that 19 people who had contracted polio had been identified in neighboring Sudan, of which one was only 70 km from the Ethiopian border. No case of wild poliovirus has been detected in Ethiopia since January 2001, therefore Ethiopia hopes to attain certification criteria targets in order to achieve polio free status. [bkaranja@unicef.org](mailto:bkaranja@unicef.org)

## **IMPROVING THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN ETHIOPIA**

The Government of Ethiopia through Disaster Prevention and Prevention Commission (DPPC) has initiated an improved needs assessment approach which is based on the analysis of livelihoods at the household level. The approach aims at effective resource allocation as well as facilitates prioritization and appropriate response to specific needs throughout the country. The new system which also focuses on protecting and supporting livelihoods basically necessitates changing the traditional approach which had a more exclusive supply-side orientation. The DPPC has piloted a household food economy based needs assessment methodology during late 2003 and in January 2004 in Somali and Amhara regions, respectively. This was part of an attempt to incorporate a consideration of local livelihoods into the needs assessment methodology and to create a greater consistency across regions. As a follow up to this process, the DPPC is currently undertaking a pilot livelihood based study in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR). The first step in this process requires establishing livelihood zones. The DPPC has drafted livelihood zones for the region and is currently being verified. The next step will be to collect the necessary livelihood based baseline information which will fit into the DPPC emergency needs assessment methodology. If SNNPR is successful in incorporating the livelihoods framework into the current needs assessment process, it is envisaged that the new method will be expanded to other regions.

## **RELIEF FOOD STATUS**

DPPC is currently allocating food rations for November to the local authorities. A total of 34,000 tonnes of cereals, oil and blended food have been allocated so far to the regions of Tigray, Afar, SNNP and Oromia regions. Additional allocations to Amhara, Oromia and Somali regions are underway. In December, a total amount of 57,000 tonnes of food is required to cover the needs of the beneficiary population covered through relief assistance. While commodities such as pulses, oil and blended food are fully covered for the rest of the year, a pipeline break of 9,000 tonnes of cereals will occur in December. Minor carryover contributions of pulses, oil and blended food are expected for 2005. Due to the lead-time necessary for the procurement and delivery of these commodities, pulses, oil and blended food have been scheduled ahead of time to avoid pipeline breaks early next year. [paul.turnbull@wfp.org](mailto:paul.turnbull@wfp.org)

## **UNICEF GOODWILL AMBASSADOR, DANNY GLOVER, VISITS ETHIOPIA**

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Danny Glover, is visiting Ethiopia, from 24-28 November to highlight the situation of landmines and to celebrate the recent ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty by the Ethiopian Government. This trip will be a prelude to a global conference to review the Ottawa Treaty being held in Nairobi, Kenya from 29 November – 3 December 2004. While in Ethiopia, Mr Glover will also join fellow UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors and Olympic Champions, Keninisa Bekele and Berhane Adere on a visit to The Ethiopian Children's Fund (ECF) Village in Aleltu. They will use this opportunity to call for global participation in the Lesson for Life campaign being held as part of World AIDS Day 2004. 150,000 Ethiopian children, including students from ECF will join millions worldwide in a Lesson for Life: a "lesson" on HIV/AIDS and the effect of the pandemic on children and their communities. [bkaranja@unicef.org](mailto:bkaranja@unicef.org)

## **WVE DONATES MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO ASSOSA HOSPITAL**

World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) donated medical equipment and supplies (GIK) to Assosa Hospital of Benishangul Gumuz Regional State last week. The consignment of the equipment consists several items including wind-up hospital beds and frames, bedside cabinets and over bed tables, image intensifier and birthing bed, optical equipments (with 2 cartons of spectacles), sterilizer units, walking frame, medical books and journals. The GIK which is secured from World Vision Australia, is believed to alleviate the shortage of medical equipment in the hospital. [wveth@telecom.net.et](mailto:wveth@telecom.net.et)