



MR. AHTISAARI LAUNCHES REPORT ON EVALUATION OF THE 2003 EMERGENCY IN ETHIOPIA

During his three day visit to Ethiopia, Mr Martti Ahtisaari, the UN Special Envoy for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa launched the 'Evaluation of the Response to the 2002 - 3 Emergency in Ethiopia', a joint analysis by government and the humanitarian community. The evaluation examined both the emergency relief system and root causes. Mr Ahtisaari called for the urgent attention of issues such as the Government's population policy; land-tenure certification program and environmental degradation in discussions with the Prime Minister, government officials, donor community and the media. Report is available at www.ocha-eth.org

MAIN PRE-HARVEST ASSESSMENTS START EARLY NOVEMBER

Two major assessments will take place in November examining the 2004 *Meher* crop production and food supply for 2005. The first assessment is the DPPC-led annual multi-agency pre harvest needs assessment from the 6th to the 26th of November. The second assessment is the annual FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission from the 8th November through to the 7th December. Emergency food needs in 2005 outside the Safety Net Programme will be based on the results of these assessments.

GAMBELLA HUMANITARIAN MISSION

A joint OCHA/UNICEF team has returned from a humanitarian exploration mission in Gambella Region, the first of its type since violence broke out in December 2003 and the UN withdrew its staff in January 2004. The mission raised concerns about the humanitarian needs of the returnees and the IDPs. OCHA/UNICEF and other UN agencies will assist in a comprehensive assessment to be undertaken during the DPPC led multi-agency needs assessment next month. WFP and UNHCR have also recently reopened their offices in the region. ocha-eth@un.org

POOR START TO THE DEYR RAINS

While some parts of the Somali Region received rain this week, the Regional Government/Save the Children UK Early Warning Program in the Somali Region has issued a food security flash alert that the *Deyr* rains, usually received in seven of the nine zones of the region starting in early October, are not performing well. Although the *Deyr* rains, which last until December, are normally less intense and less well distributed, compared to the *Gu* rains (March-May), they are very important as they occur just before the long dry *jilaal* season. The next two weeks will be crucial in determining how the food security and livelihood situation unfolds in the coming months. Due to the poor performance, the local population who are largely pastoral and agropastoral are beginning to panic, particularly because there has already been significant livestock deaths in the last *hagaa* season (July-September) in many districts and they are worried that a drought is in the making. scukethiopia@savethechildren.org.uk

NEW PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION FOR WFP

A new WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation for Ethiopia (PRRO), "Enabling livelihood protection and promotion", for the period 2005-2007, was approved by the WFP Executive Board on 13 October 2004. The three-year PRRO replaces the annual EMOPs that have been used to cover both predictable and unpredictable emergency needs. Under the PRRO, 3.8 million people will be assisted by WFP, 1.7 million under a relief component and 2.1 million under a recovery component. Activities under the recovery component include community works, on-farm improvement, and environmental protection, and will be part of the Government's new Productive Safety Net Programme. The total WFP food requirement for 2005-2007 under the PRRO is 1.4 million tonnes - 1.2 million tonnes plus a contingency of 165,300 tonnes. The total cost to WFP is US\$780 million. Of the total tonnage, approximately 494,000 tonnes are required in 2005. When possible, depending on donor funding modalities and available of stocks, local purchase of food commodities will be undertaken.

SUB NATIONAL IMMUNISATION DAYS (SNIDS) GET UNDERWAY

More than 750,000 children under the age of five were targeted this week in the latest round of Sub National Immunisation Days to rid Ethiopia from the scourge of polio. 60 Rotarians from USA traveled to Ethiopia to vaccinate children in 21 selected woredas in East, West and Southwest Shoa. Partners assisting the Ministry of Health included UNICEF, WHO, USAID, the Center for Disease Control and the Japanese and Swedish Governments. No case of wild poliovirus has been detected in Ethiopia since January 2001. Efforts are under way to attain certification criteria targets in order to achieve polio free status but the threat of importing wild poliovirus from countries still harboring the virus remains. awalker@unicef.org

FAO AND MORD CELEBRATE WORLD FOOD DAY

FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development (MoRD) celebrated World Food Day at one of FAO's development project sites, Kersa, located in Eastern Harerghe in Oromiya. This year's theme 'Biodiversity for Food Security' is aimed at highlighting the fundamental role of biological diversity to guarantee people's sustainable access to sufficient high-quality food. Representatives from UN agencies, Ambassadors, government officials and NGOs as well as around 10,000 farmers were present at the event. fao-ethiopia@fao.org