



AWD CONTINUES TO BE OF MAJOR CONCERN IN AFAR

Despite collaborative efforts by Government and Humanitarian Partners, the AWD outbreak continues to be of great concern in Afar Region. The outbreak reached its peak during the week with reports of over 1,000 new cases and a high Case Fatality Rate (CFR) - 2.6%. Two new woredas in Zone 3 reported an outbreak over the week bringing the total number of affected people in the region to approximately 4,200. This has inflated the nationwide caseload, which has reached 59,163 with 684 deaths - 1.2% CFR. The Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) has sent two teams to the region to facilitate response. UNICEF sent 70,000 sachets of PUR for water purification to the region along with other health supplies. CARE together with the Regional Health Bureau is coordinating distribution of supplies in the severely affected woredas of Zone 3. Other partners including OXFAM, PSI and APDA are actively engaged in AWD interventions including public awareness raising campaigns. High cases have also been reported in Bale zone, Oromiya Region with an average of 90-to-100 new cases per week. The disease is also of concern in Borena zone, where 78 new cases were reported this week. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

CERF ALLOCATES US\$ 6 MILLION TO ETHIOPIA

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) managed by the Emergency Relief Coordinator in New York has allocated US\$ 6 million for Ethiopia through its under-funded window. Technical experts from UN agencies, NGOs and DPPA met on 14 February to discuss the prioritization of allocations. Health and Nutrition; Water and Sanitation; and Refugees were identified to be given priority for this grant. In addition, a small allocation has been proposed to strengthen field security. Specific sectoral taskforces will decide on geographical prioritization. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

FIRST ETHIOPIAN PLUMPY'NUT FACTORY TO BE INAUGURATED

The first Plumpy'nut factory in Ethiopia will be inaugurated in Addis Ababa on 21 February. This is a joint venture between UNICEF Ethiopia, Hilina Enriched Food Plc., a local factory, and Ms. Amy Robbins, US-based private donor. The demand for Plumpy'nut or 'Ready to Use Therapeutic Food' (RUTF), has increased over the years due to the rapid expansion and success of therapeutic feeding services in the country. In 2006, UNICEF procured 637 tonnes of Plumpy'nut, with a total expenditure of US\$ 2.9 million. The supply of Plumpy'nut has, however, been hindered due to delays and large costs in importation. The first tubs of Ethiopian-made Plumpy'nut will roll off the production line in early 2007. At full capacity, the factory will be able to produce 12 tonnes of the paste a day - half in cups and half in sachets, which will be transported to therapeutic feeding centres and units in hospitals across the country. The Ethiopian Plumpy'nut factory is the fourth and largest plant to open in Africa and the first to package Plumpy'nut in sachets. For more information contact: aingabire@unicef.org

APDA UPDATE

Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) in its latest monthly update reported that pastoralists from Geega grazing areas have migrated to Dubti town due to shortage of pasture. Tree locust has destroyed the shrub forage in areas extending from Geega through Uwa, east Awra, parts of Mille and Zone 5. Furthermore, in Gawane and Buremedayetu woredas of Zone 3, there are reports that children and pregnant mothers are malnourished due to low milk production. According to APDA, this is caused by limited herd grazing due to the ongoing Afar/Issa conflict which has restricted normal herd movement. For more information contact: afarpastoral@telecom.net.et

UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO VISIT ETHIOPIA

UNICEF Executive Director, Ms. Ann Veneman will be visiting Ethiopia from 21-25 February to review breakthroughs made in fighting child hunger and progress made towards achieving child survival goals. During her visit, Ms. Veneman will inaugurate the Plumpy'nut (Ready to Use Therapeutic Food) factory. She will also travel to SNNPR, epicenter of the 2003 'green famine', to review present conditions on the ground including a visit to a therapeutic feeding center and an anti-AIDS club. In addition, Ms. Veneman will inaugurate a water supply scheme in a drought-prone woreda and meet with community members including coffee farmers who were adversely affected by the 2003 drought. For more information contact: aingabire@unicef.org