

Press Release

ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS APPEAL FOR 387,482 TONNES OF FOOD AND US \$112.74 MILLION IN NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR 2005

ADDIS ABABA, 23 December 2004 – The Ethiopian Government, the United Nations and other humanitarian partners today appealed for 387,482 tonnes of food approximately valued USD 159 million for the estimated 2.2 million needy people and US \$112.74 million of non-food assistance to meet emergency humanitarian needs in 2005.

For the first time in the history of Appeals in Ethiopia, an effort has been made to separately handle the chronic and acute caseloads. The 2005 Humanitarian Appeal is expected to attend to the acute needs of the unpredictable caseload while the Productive Safety Net Programme will tackle longer term food security needs. From January 2005, about 2.2 million people will be provided with emergency food assistance under the Appeal while over 5 million chronically food insecure people will be provided assistance in the form of cash or food for labour intensive public works

In addition to emergency food assistance, critical non-food interventions in Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation and in Agriculture should be given equal importance, especially in drought affected parts of the country. The Appeal also attempts to mainstream cross-sectoral elements such as Capacity Building, Coordination, Gender, Child Protection and HIV/AIDS in these sectors. Emergency needs in non-food sectors are now defined with the aim to save lives and protect livelihoods threatened by both acute and chronic emergency situations.

The Health and Nutrition response will be undertaken through among others, the Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS) that is going to take place twice a year targeting 6.8 million children aged 0 to 59 months with measles vaccinations and vitamin A supplements. Health and Nutrition requires US \$83.7 million for this programme and other interventions including malaria, meningitis, reproductive health, acute malnutrition, diarrhea and other communicable diseases.

The prime objective for Water and Sanitation is to provide access to improved water and sanitation services for an estimated 1.1 million people in Afar, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Harari, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali and Tigray Regions at a cost of US \$10.04 million.

In the Agricultural sector, US\$ 10.8 million is required to cover costs of emergency interventions in both crop and livestock sub sectors. The 2005 emergency requirement is 20 percent lower than that of last year.

US\$ 6.5 million is necessary to provide the means for improving the Government of Ethiopia's disaster response capacity and requirements for enhancing coordination and information flows are valued at US\$ 1.5 million. One of the priorities for humanitarian action in 2005 will be to address many of the recommendations laid out in the 'Evaluation of the Response to the 2002 – 2003 Emergency in Ethiopia'.

For further information, please contact:

DPPC

519914/158236/529262