

July 2005

Transparency & Accountability

While our individual roles and responsibilities may vary, our ultimate accountability as humanitarians is to the people we serve. And we must serve them as people, in a manner that affirms individual dignity. At the end of the day “accountability” must manifest itself in results on the ground that protect and improve the basic quality of life for those at risk from conflict or disasters. ▶

UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM ETHIOPIA

AN EFFORT AIMED TO REINTEGRATE THE NEGLECTED



Sadness is all you see in Fituma’s face as the two white UN Land Cruisers drive into the IDP camp in Hartishek, Somali Region. In the past six months United Nations missions have come to the camp many times to speak to Fituma, an elder representing the female IDPs. But so far all she has seen is talking. There has been no food distribution in eight months and little assistance after the floods in April that left them knee deep in mud. This visit, she was told, was a United Nations Country Team (UNCT) mission aimed at reintegrating her and the other IDPs to their areas of origin.

Fituma Mohammud came to the camp five years ago from Gobbo woreda of Fik zone with her husband and seven children after the 2000 drought killed her 80 goats, 30 cattle and four camels. “I lost everything, everything except one camel which I brought with me, but now that is gone too.” She now survives by selling milk that she buys from the distributors. “The profit depends” she says, “sometimes it is 10 cents and sometimes it sells for 20 cents for a cup.”

There are up to 73,000 internally displaced people in Jijiga, Degahabur, Fik, Korehay, Gode, Warder and Liban zones in the region. A large proportion of the population are pastoralists or agro-pastoralists, engaged in cyclical migrations. Pastoralists in the region experienced significant loss of livestock when sources of water and grazing became exhausted as a result of the drought in 2000, which affected more than half of the population. Families were separated and many were rendered completely destitute; coping mechanisms collapsed and people had little alternative but to leave and seek help elsewhere.

According to regional authorities there are an estimated 5,600 IDPs in Hartishek, a town located 75 km east of Jijiga. The town was previously a thriving business centre and home to the world’s largest refugee camp, hosting a quarter of a million Somalia refugees. The refugees began arriving after the collapse of the Siad Barre government

NEWS ▶

ENCU Report

The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) has produced an Update on the Humanitarian Situation in Ethiopia for June, which provides a regional summary as well as highlights ‘major areas of concern’ in regards to malnutrition, and provides an update on short term shocks such as safety nets and food security. ▶

Conflict Erupts in Mieso, West Hararghe

There are reports of new conflicts between the Oromos and Somalis in Mieso area of West Hararghe. NGOs working in the area report the conflict broke out in Mieso town on 14 July. Unconfirmed numbers have been displaced as a result. ▶

MERLIN conducts nutritional survey in Oromiya Region

MERLIN conducted a nutritional survey in Zeway Dugda and Dodota Sire woredas of Arsi zone, Oromiya Region from 21-27 June and 1-6 July respectively. ▶

German Government allocates € 2.16M to GAA and its Partner NGOs

The German Government has allocated €2.16 million to German Agro Action (GAA) and their Ethiopian partner NGOs (ORDA, OSHO, CCF and APDA).

2005 Food and Non-Food Contribution Update ▶

in 1988 and clan warfare in the early 1990s. The main reason drawing IDPs to Hartishek was a search for water and food, as UNHCR was providing emergency assistance to the refugees. However, UNHCR stopped this relief activity when the refugees were repatriated in 2004.

In Fafen, according to official figures the number of IDPs is 6,000. These IDPs came to Fafen as it was one of the few fertile places in the region where people could survive the 2000 drought. These people have been more or less dependent on the host community. Recently though, the community of Fafen has been expressing signs of fatigue with the IDPs, who are draining their increasingly depleted resources.

A joint UN Country Team mission is currently working towards the permanent reintegration of camp dwellers to their home communities. The principal partners in the UNDP led joint mission are IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA, FAO and WFP. The regional government is also actively supporting the reintegration efforts within the overall framework of the UNDP-sponsored Regional Recovery Programme and the Pastoralist Community Development Programme, funded by the World Bank. The DPPB and Food Security Coordination Bureau (FSCB) have also initiated processes of reintegration by selecting camps in Hartishek town and Fafen Valley, Jijiga zone, as pilot sites for the reintegration exercise. Subsequently, UNDP and IOM selected a 5,600 IDP caseload who will be moved from Hartishek and Fafen camps to Deghabur zone, as most of the IDPs are from the zone (Deghabur, Aware and Degahamadow woredas).

Prior to securing movements the UNCT tried to assess short to medium term needs of the returning population and their home communities. It also tried to link these needs with longer term recovery needs of developing sustainable livelihoods that effectively prevent further displacements. The communities in the return areas are increasingly turning to agro- pastoralism, and as such characterise a dramatic cultural shift amongst these people away from nomadism towards a more sedentary lifestyle. The IDPs do not want to return to pastoralism either. To this end, Ogaden Welfare Development Association (OWDA) and the Government Line Bureaus have conducted assessments in terms of social services and priority actions in the areas of return.

The socio-economic situation of the region is characterised by a low level of development, low income, high level of mortality, low level of nutritional status, limited access to health services, low rate of school participation and lack of clean drinking water. The integration program has been delayed for a number of reasons including lack of funds, severe drought in the areas of return and the recent floods. In addition, the IDPs status is also problematic: it has not been possible to easily determine those who are IDPs, that is, those who voluntarily moved due to drought, from voluntary migrants.

After the April flood waters subsided, the favourable *gu* rains improved the situation in the region, including areas of return, and using UNDP's allocated US\$ 400,000 and in-kind support from the region and the UNCT, it was agreed to kick start the project. Meanwhile, funds needed to cover additional requirements will be complemented by collaborating partners and a mobilisation of additional resources. However, since distinctions between IDPs and other vulnerable populations are difficult to produce and particularly problematic to apply, it is recommended to first urgently revalidate who are IDPs.

In March 2005 a joint DPPB/Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit and SC-UK survey indicated critical malnutrition rates, 24.2 percent GAM and 5.1 percent SAM in Hartishek and 15.5 percent GAM and

A joint UN Country Team mission is currently working towards the permanent reintegration of camp dwellers to their home communities. The principal partners in the UNDP led joint mission are IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA, FAO and WFP. The regional government is also actively supporting the reintegration efforts.

1.2 percent SAM in Fafen camp. Even though the situation in terms of water and medical access has improved, neither camp has received food since last 'Ramadan' eight months ago. "We need food" said Fituma. "We are so weak; we need to get our strength back before moving". Consequently, the team recommends general food rations for both camps urgently, before the reintegration operation begins. The April flood also worsened their situation as the rains damaged their temporary homes and left them in deplorable conditions. Malaria and diarrhoea are serious threats and there is immediate need for distribution of Insecticide-Treated Nets. In addition there is a need to establish sanitation facilities for both camps.

These factors and the fact that they are depending on the host community, who have little to share has made the IDPs desperate to return. Abdi Jebriil Mohammud, spokesman of the Fafen IDPs said "just put me in a truck and let me die in my birth place." According to reports, some households have already started to migrate from Hartishek, escaping the poor conditions there, to Togwajale in search of labour, since Hartishek is no longer active for trade due to the ban on contraband by the government.

In the past, the main food source for the IDP communities had been the exchange of labour, relief food and remittance. Currently, the communities in both camps rely on begging and small labour activities including shoe shining, herding and cleaning houses for the host communities. Three of Fituma's children are livestock herders for the host community pastoralists and each work for less than two birr per-day.

Humanitarian partners have been responding to the IDPs ongoing needs. UNICEF, for the past two years has spent 120,000 a month on therapeutic and supplementary feeding and water tankering that reaches to 7,000 camp residents. However the agency warns that this will not be sustainable unless additional funds are received. In June, WFP dispatched 10.8 tonnes of CSB and 1.1 tonnes of oil to the camps for supplementary feeding.

The Mother and Child Development Organisation (MCDO), an NGO operational in the camps for the last few years, report that they have reintegrated 300 households from Fafen IDP camp to Fik zone in November 2002. According to MCDO all reintegrated families have coped and now stay in their places of origin leading a normal life with their community. However the program is debated by others and there has not been an assessment exercise to confirm such a positive outcome.

While there is consensus that the IDPs should return to their original locations, the process should not be a desperate measure. There is need to sensitise the IDPs prior to movement and a revalidation exercise is needed in the camps, as previous experiences show that reintegrated camp dwellers often appear at a later date on food distribution lists in the camps. There is also need to mobilise resources to fill the 78 percent funding gap as the overall operation needs US\$ 3,710,000 to return the first caseload of 5,600 IDPs. As a result serious attention should be paid to the finalisation of the operation plan and necessary preparation should be done before the move of the first cluster of 950 IDPs selected as part of the first case load scheme.

For Fituma and her family, effective humanitarian assistance in Hartishek is essential while the conditions for their return are provided. A rushed integration, it is feared, will leave them in a much worse situation than at the time of the drought. "I want to go home" said Fituma "but only *Allah* knows what waits for me there."

While there is consensus that the IDPs should return to their original locations, the process should not be a desperate measure.

Transparency and Accountability

In last month's edition of *Focus*, the United Nation's Secretary General's report "*In larger Freedom*" and his proposed package of reforms were laid out. Humanitarian accountability and transparency were a key message and one that needs to be reinforced in Ethiopia in this critical period of need. The importance of transparency and accountability must not be overlooked while destitution and suffering continues.

Humanitarian Accountability: Putting Principles into Practice

By Jan Egeland, the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

In the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami crisis, one of the world's largest ever relief operations, the humanitarian community has come back full circle to the issue of accountability, this time with greater public interest - and scrutiny - than ever before. **Accountability**, along with its corollary, **transparency**, are two words very much in vogue at the moment, both within the humanitarian community and in the United Nations. But what do we mean by these terms, and to what ends are we applying them? And most importantly, how do they contribute to the health, safety and physical well-being of millions of people around the world who turn to humanitarian workers in times of crisis?

For accountability to have real meaning, it must be tied to a specific set of actors, audiences and objectives: one is held accountable to someone for something. Accountability also implies consequences - one is literally called to account. How do these concepts apply to the humanitarian community, where numerous interests and actors - beneficiaries, agency and NGO partners, donors, and host governments - converge?

While roles and responsibilities vary, at the end of the day, accountability is about strengthening our ability to save lives and alleviate suffering in a manner that affirms individual dignity. However we understand the term, accountability must manifest itself in results on the ground that protect and improve the basic quality of life for those at risk from conflict or disasters.

Any discussion of accountability must begin and end with this question: As a result of our actions/policies/decisions, have we improved our ability to provide aid - quickly, competently, equitably, and in a dignified manner - to those who most need it?

Strengthening Accountability through Improved Response

Today, the humanitarian community is being called up to respond to a wide range of oftentimes-simultaneous crises, from the Indian Ocean tsunami to the crisis in Darfur and the ongoing calamity in DRC. Overall, the UN system and its humanitarian partners in the Red Cross/Red Crescent and NGO community have responded reasonably well, given the circumstances. More aid gets delivered to more people more quickly than ever before thanks in part to improved technical and logistical capabilities and more effective coordination on the ground.

Our technical advances, however, have not been matched with a similar advance in human consciousness - in fact, if anything we have further distanced ourselves from the suffering of others. Despite the one-world mantra of globalization, we still turn a blind eye to the suffering of millions of people who remain outside the media spotlight or beyond

As a result of our actions/policies, have we improved our ability to provide aid - quickly, competently, equitably, and in a dignified manner - to those who most need it?

the narrow horizon of political interests. Accountability is thus a twin challenge: improving our ability to respond, and doing so in a manner that upholds the core values we espouse.

One of these core values, impartiality of assistance, requires us to provide aid to those who need it most, wherever they may live. In some crises, such as the tsunami disaster we have met this challenge, providing massive relief to 2 million people across 12 countries in a matter of weeks. In other crises, such as Darfur, we initially responded too slowly with too many gaps in assistance, while in DRC and many other countries outside the limelight, our efforts have been woefully under-funded proportionate to needs.

To be accountable to our beneficiaries, we must shorten the distance between what we practice and what we preach. We must improve both what we do, and how we do it. To that end, the United Nations Secretary-General has proposed a reform of the humanitarian system, which seeks to strengthen accountability by:

- **building a more predictable response capacity, and**
- **providing for more predictable and more flexible funding.**

This reform agenda, described in the Secretary-General's March 2005 Report, "In Larger Freedom," will be presented to UN Member States in September. If adopted and implemented faithfully by all parties – donor governments, the UN system and our humanitarian partners -- these reforms should improve our ability to respond effectively to future crises.

In addition to these reforms, which are largely quantitative in nature, we also need to focus attention on the qualitative aspects of accountability. As humanitarians accountable to those we serve, and those who help make such service possible, we need to:

- **operate transparently,**
- **keep our humanity at the center of humanitarian action, and**
- **confront our greatest challenge – public indifference– by focusing attention on the millions of people who suffer in 'forgotten crises'**

Transparency

Accountability is about more than getting programs funded and the trucks rolling. It's about means as well as ends. It's about transparency of intentions and operations, principles and practices. The UN humanitarian and development agencies have been successfully accounting for multi-million dollar programs for years. We are accountable to our donors, our partners, and the public at large -- all of whom have an indisputable right to know where and how their money is being used. Conscious of public demand for greater accountability, the UN recently welcomed a pro bono offer from PriceWaterhouseCoopers to enhance our accounting expertise as well as the UN's public Financial Tracking Service. As a result of our cooperation with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, we will be able to track incoming contributions to the UN pledged through the Tsunami Flash Appeal and provide the public with data on how these funds are used. This new system was launched on 25 May. Few public or private entities have this degree of transparency. But we believe that not only is this extra accountability the right thing to do, it's also the only way to operate.

Keep our humanity front and center

Humanitarianism is founded on the principle of humanity. How we provide aid often says more to beneficiaries about our motivation and

Accountability is about more than getting programs funded and the trucks rolling. It's about means as well as ends. It's about transparency of intentions and operations, principles and practices.

principles than what we provide. In our rush to provide aid quickly and efficiently, we must not neglect the power of presence – the act of human solidarity in the midst of suffering.

Accountability is about these intangible but essential qualities of humanitarianism. Our beneficiaries may well have lost everything in life. Plastic sheeting or a food package may address their physical needs, but suffering far transcends the physical. The first thing people in crisis need to know about humanitarianism is that we will treat them as human beings, with dignity and respect.

Focus on the Forgotten

This element of recognition, of remembering those whom the world has forgotten, is an essential component of accountability. To be accountable to the millions of people who suffer far beyond the media spotlight, we must confront our greatest challenge – public indifference. If nothing else, the tsunami crisis showed in a way few crises ever have, the extraordinary inter-connectedness of our global society. The world's generosity in the tsunami should be model for how we respond to all crises – this is the message we need to take to the public, the donors, and the media. The value of a human life is the same everywhere, in Bunia as it is in Banda Aceh.

Conclusion

While our individual roles and responsibilities may vary, our ultimate accountability as humanitarians is to the people we serve. And we must serve them as people, in a manner that affirms individual dignity. At the end of the day “accountability” must manifest itself in results on the ground that protect and improve the basic quality of life for those at risk from conflict or disasters. Principles into practice: as humanitarians, we are called to this challenge every day, in each and every crisis. As humanitarians, we can promise no more; as humanitarians, we must be accountable for no less.

An extract from the July issue of Humanitarian Exchange, published by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

News

ENCU REPORT

The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) has produced an **Update on the Humanitarian Situation in Ethiopia for June**, which provides a regional summary as well as highlights ‘major areas of concern’ in regards to malnutrition, and provides an update on short term shocks such as safety nets and food security. Overall the report says the nutritional situation is varied with some areas showing extremely high levels of malnutrition and others a more stable situation. The latter, it reports is largely due to scaled up humanitarian action. The ENCU is a department within the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC), partly funded by UNICEF. This report which can be found on the DPPC website at www.dppc.gov.et is an analysis of nutritional surveys undertaken in this year, compared to results from the same period last year and cross tabulated against the preliminary feedback from the *belg* Assessment.

Conflict Erupts in Mieso, West Hararghe

There are reports of new conflicts between the Oromos and Somalis in Mieso area of West Hararghe. NGOs working in the area report the conflict broke out in Mieso town on 14 July. Unconfirmed numbers have been displaced as a result. Since the conflict ICRC has provided medical assistance to the looted health post in Mieso. There are

There are reports of new conflicts between the Oromos and Somalis in Mieso area of West Hararghe.

July 2005

currently an estimated 2,500 IDPs living in Miesso that were displaced in December 2004 due to ethnic conflicts resulting from the referendum between the two regions. Assistance from NGOs to this group is expected to end soon and responsible authorities are encouraged to meet their responsibilities.

MERLIN conducts nutritional survey in Zeway Dugda and Dodota Sire woredas, Oromiya Region

MERLIN conducted a nutritional survey in Zeway Dugda and Dodota Sire woredas of Arsi zone, Oromiya Region from 21-27 June and 1-6 July respectively. In Zeway Dugda woreda a 7.2 percent GAM and 1.2 percent SAM was recorded with 0.78/10000/day U5MR. In Dodota Sire the nutritional status is classified as poor to serious with aggravating factors (GAM is 9.5 percent and 1.3 percent SAM with 0.62/10000/day U5MR). The team recommends effective implementation of the Safety Net Programme until the next harvest and immediate health interventions in both woredas.

German Government allocates € 2.16M to GAA and its Partner NGOs

The German Government has allocated €2.16 million to German Agro Action (GAA) and their Ethiopian partner NGOs (ORDA, OSHO, CCF and APDA). The allocation is part of a long-term commitment for the chronically food insecure woredas in Amhara, Oromiya and Afar regions. The majority of the allocations will be used for cash for work safety net activities in the improvement of natural resources for increased local food production. Other activities include new seeds, reforestation, water supply and irrigation.

2005 Food and Non-Food Contributions

Total food Requirements (464,385 tonnes)	US\$194,577,315
2004 carryover stocks and 2005 contributions:	
Grand Total (626,259 tonnes)	US\$262,269,717
Unresourced Amount (-161,874 tonnes) (-35%)	
Total non-food Requirements US\$ 115,077,911	
2005 contributions:	
Agriculture	4,364,406
Health and Nutrition	21,461,983
Water and Sanitation	7,815,957
Disaster Response / Capacity Strengthening	-
Overall Coordination	839,932
Grand Total	34,482,278
Shortfall (70%)	80,595,633