

August 30, 2006

CRDA, other NGOs Assist to Mitigate the Effects of Flood Disasters in Dire Dawa, South Omo

In response to the flood disaster that has struck the country, especially in Dire Dawa, South Gondar and South Omo, UN Agencies, Government, Non-Government Organizations, Communities and individuals are making contributions to rehabilitate the flood victims.

CRDA, in response to the flood disaster, has so far donated 300 quintals of food items worth Birr 205,000 and blankets and bed-sheets worth Birr 23,084.00 to people affected by the floods in Dire Dawa. It also donated 100 quintals of food items worth Birr 80,000 to people affected by the floods in South Omo. Furthermore, on August 25, 2006, while staff of CRDA Secretariat donated about 15,000 Birr from their monthly salary, CRDA members and other NGOs donated a total of Birr 357,800 in cash, food and materials.

In connection with this, CRDA, calling an extra-ordinary Membership Assembly Meeting on August 22, 2006, invited officials from the Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA), to brief CRDA member NGOs on the emergency situation and the role NGOs can play in the rehabilitation of the flood victims.

Considering the extent and urgency of the disaster, the Government, in collaboration with NGOs, UN organizations and other partners, has prepared an appeal, which seeks ETB 50.6 million for Dire Dawa and ETB 161,200,412 for South Omo to meet the relief and rehabilitation needs of those affected by the flood.

Currently, CRDA's Regional Liaison Offices are participating in different activities regarding the flood emergency. In line with this, CRDA's Eastern Regional Liaison Office organized a meeting on August 11, 2006 calling all non-governmental organizations operating in Dire Dawa, Somali, Harari, and Afar Regions. Regional Liaison Offices of Bahir Dar and Awassa have participated in assessing the situation and bringing information to the attention of relevant bodies.

In a related development, the CRDA Board visited Dire Dawa on August 11, 2006 to assess the situation and help mobilize resources.

While the flood disaster in Dire Dawa claimed the lives of more than 200 people and displaced an estimated 10,000 persons, the South Omo flood disaster killed 364 people and displaced 6000-10,000 people. In another development, due to floods that hit three woredas of South Gondar Zone, 12, 769 individuals have been displaced.

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