



# **SPECIAL** Alert

## **The United Nations Country Team Ethiopia**

18 March 2004

### **Situations of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Hartishek and Fafen Camps in Jijiga Zone, Somali Region, deteriorating as a result of difficulties in providing humanitarian assistance. Donor funding is needed to support return and reintegration initially of 6,000 IDPs.**

**The UN and Government Representatives in the Somali National Regional State (SNRS) wish to highlight the deteriorating situation of 15,000 IDPs living in Fafen and Hartishek camps in Jijiga Zone. There is a need to respond with timely assistance in order to prevent the situation from deteriorating further. It is necessary to speed up reintegration efforts from these areas and to secure the return of the IDPs to their areas of origin, for which US\$ 180,000 is needed immediately to begin the first phase of the process, for transportation, reintegration components and medical screening.**

In Fafen the regular food distribution was temporarily halted for 8000 IDPs. Food allocations to the camps are resented by the local population, who are no longer included in general food distribution. For some time the food allocations for IDPs in Fafen had remained in Jijiga. This week there was a spontaneous movement of IDPs towards Jijiga, where they hoped to receive assistance. The numbers of persons moving was not confirmed. However as of mid week some limited food distribution by the regional authorities had resumed and stimulated some return of IDPs to the camps.

In Hartishek different conditions combine to produce similar results. The town has suffered a serious economic decline that has seriously adversely affected the majority of the residents. This is further complicated by the presence of various categories of displaced persons. In the town there are deportees from Djibouti and Somaliland, unrecognised IDPs and refugees as well as officially recognised IDPs, who are living in camps. 7000 IDPs in one camp in the town have not received water for three months and are, therefore, placing an additional burden on the

limited existing sources. Possible conflict over resources is therefore concerning. Food aid is still reaching IDPs in Hartishek in limited quantities, but the conditions in the camp are deteriorating and Government counterparts report increased levels of infectious diseases in the camp.

In both these camps the only viable alternative is to move the IDPs back to their areas of origin where they can be incorporated within wider processes of regional development within their home communities. The current situation necessitates a timely and well-coordinated response from concerned partners. A UN joint agency mission has been working towards the reintegration of IDPs in the SNRS and has developed reintegration methodologies. The mission has also identified initial caseloads for return and reintegration from the camps in Fafen and Hartishek.

Under the coordination of UNDP, the present inter-agency mission is prepared to proceed with the return of IDPs from the camps, to be managed by IOM, and requests assistance from all concerned actors. UNDP has allocated \$150,000 from the economic recovery programme for this purpose. Mission partners WFP and UNICEF and the DPPC have pledged support with food and non-food items in the return sites. However, in order to satisfy the immediate needs for the first return movement of 6,000 IDPs to areas of origin in Degehabur, the mission requires an additional \$180,000 to be provided to UNDP. Further resources will be required to return the remaining IDPs from Fafen and Hartishek camps.

The UN Team will continue to work with the government towards the permanent reintegration of IDPs in their areas of origin or to sustainable livelihoods elsewhere in the Region.

---

**For more information Please Contact UNOCHA, UNDP, IOM**