



UNICEF EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES

ETHIOPIA

DONOR UPDATE 2 MAY 2000

1. EMERGENCY OVERVIEW AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Ethiopia is facing a major humanitarian crisis.

The effects of prolonged drought in southern and south-eastern parts of the country (Somali Region, Borena, Bale and South Omo zones) are being increasingly manifested in starvation, severe malnutrition and depletion of assets. In parts of Somali region, population migrations in search of food, potable water and basic health care are taking place; 10,000 people have reportedly moved into Gode town from outlying Denan and Fik areas. To the west, in Borena, Bale and South Omo zones, pastoral communities are facing similar problems including high loss of livestock and mounting food requirements. Earlier this year, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) estimated that **900,000 Mts. of food aid would be required for 8 million people country-wide in 2000 including 1.4 million children under age five.** This includes typically drought prone highland areas of central and northern Ethiopia, reeling from the effects of poor short rainy seasons since the mid-1990s. In areas hard hit by drought, basic services are severely stretched, malnutrition has become widespread and vulnerability to disease and mortality are on the increase. Child school enrolment is being affected, threatening to reverse notable gains of the last few years.

At the same time, in Tigray and Afar regions, some 340,000 people, mostly in Tigray region, have been displaced by the war with neighbouring Eritrea; many displaced for almost two years. In 1999 UNICEF programmed some 1.8 million dollars in non-food assistance for displaced and war affected populations including \$1.1 million from Netherlands and Danish governments. In Tigray, host communities providing support to the displaced are also increasingly affected by drought. Levels of destitution are increasing with some early migrations reported in search of food. In February and March meningitis outbreaks were reported in southern Tigray and north-eastern Amhara regions.

Increasing number of children suffering from malnutrition and disease.

Ethiopia is one of the world's poorest countries, ranked 172 out of 174 in the 1999 UNDP Development Index report. It has one of the world's highest levels of stunting among children due to under nutrition (64%), low net primary school enrolment (24.9%), poor access to safe drinking water and poor health care services. Ethiopia presently has an increasing rate of HIV/AIDS infection with over 3.2 million cases reported. In conditions of extreme stress exacerbated by the current food shortages--that exceed normal patterns of drought and hardship--traditional coping mechanisms and safety nets are being virtually wiped out. **In Yabello woreda, southern Oromiya, one of the worst drought affected areas, an NGO survey conducted in March reported that 24.5% of children under five years weighed below 80% (weight for height).** Malnutrition levels are believed to be even worse in Somali region and are indicative of the severity of the situation as cattle and sheep die, livestock prices plummet and reliance on relief food soars--where there is enough food. Though the overall government and donor response to food aid needs appears increasingly met, timely delivery to risked populations remains a major challenge, influenced by complicated logistics. Child mortality is believed to be extremely high in Gode and Fik zones; irregular access and poor monitoring systems make quantification of mortality data very difficult.

The present food security situation for women and children is at its worst state since the 1980s.

In the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of southern and eastern Ethiopia, the late arrival of the main *gu* rains resulted in high livestock losses and weakening of herds. In Gode zone, over 90% of the cattle have probably died since November. In Borena, over 50% of cattle have reportedly died. This situation is manifesting itself in high malnutrition, collapse of coping mechanisms and migration in search of relief. In central and northern parts of the country, many areas have been caught in the prolonged after-effects of the poor *belg* (short rains) season, which disrupted the normal farming cycle and resulted in delayed planting of main *meher* season crops. The possibility of a widening scale of suffering, weakened health and destitution remain an ominous scenario; the present epicentre of crisis, now in the south-east, may very well move north within the coming months.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND CONSTRAINTS

UNICEF provides: Essential drugs, ORS(Oral Rehydration Salt), high protein biscuits, water storage and field staff .

In response to the drought crisis, UNICEF's focus has been in providing ORS and essential drugs to treat basic child diseases including diarrhoea, respiratory infection and worms. A special measles/Vitamin A campaign will begin with a target of reaching some one

million children under five in Somali, southern Oromiya and South Omo zones of south-eastern Ethiopia. Water bladders, tanks and purification/testing equipment have been procured. Through recent donor contributions, UNICEF is initiating support to continuing primary school enrolment in drought affected areas; this is linked with WFP school feeding programmes. Through separate contributions, a total 80 Mts of BP-5 high protein biscuits that have been received, out of which 30 Mts was donated by USAID, are being distributed through wet supplementary feeding beneficiaries for some 2,000 children in collaboration with Save the Children US and the Ogaden Welfare Society. A further 144 Mts have been donated by the Norwegian Government. **Over 75,000 sachets of ORS have been delivered to Somali region with additional allocations scheduled for other drought affected areas from a total stock of half a million sachets recently airlifted from Copenhagen. Some 2,000 blankets, 4,000 jerrycans and 200 rolls of plastic sheeting have been sent to populations most at risk in Gode and Denan.** UNICEF has deployed technical personnel to support emergency health and wet feeding activities in Gode as well as to support overall non-food assistance coordination and planning with local counterparts for South Omo and Borena regions.

Continuing provision of assistance to the increasing IDPs.

During 1999, UNICEF Ethiopia provided emergency assistance for an estimated 315,000 displaced people in Tigray and 26,000 in Afar. In Tigray and Afar, UNICEF staff are monitoring additional needs for both war displaced and drought affected populations. Many displaced live in makeshift shelters or in overcrowded conditions among the host community. Although Tigray region, where most of the displacements have occurred, benefits from a well organised human infrastructure, shortfalls in relief supply assistance, the extended circumstances of displacement and the widening impact of drought necessitate an ongoing level of emergency assistance. Emergency assistance has intentionally covered critical needs of host communities with limited basic services. At present, UNICEF has developed contingency plans in the event of new displacements caused by the conflict. This week, the Netherlands Embassy informed UNICEF Ethiopia of a pledge for the equivalent of USD 850,000 for displaced in Tigray and Afar regions. These funds will be used for on-going UNICEF water project, emergency education and nutrition assistance.

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

In late January this year, within the framework of the UN Ethiopia Country Team Appeal, UNICEF requested a total of US\$ 7,719,900 to support emergency operations from February-December 2000. Given the developing situation the requirements have been revised to some US\$ 10,568,767. Following on-going assessments these figures may change.

Project	War displaced (\$)	Drought (\$)
Health/Nut	510,000	2,749,167
Water/Sanitation	591,000	2,450,000
Education	810,500	2,000,000
CWSPN*	68,800	100,000
Relief /Shelter	897,000	-
Land Mines Awareness	99,500	293,100
Total	2,976,800	7,592,267

*Children and Women with Special Protection Needs

UNICEF’s emergency response in these areas is based on its core commitment to project interventions intended to give greater overall cohesion and predictability. These include support to EPI and malaria control, supply of therapeutic foods and support to nutritional surveillance, the provision of shelter supplies and water storage and purification. In addition, UNICEF is committed in all emergency situations to continuous enrolment of children in school, rapid assessment and care of children and women in need of special protection.

Planned 2000 emergency interventions for displaced and drought affected populations:

Health: Child immunization (measles and vitamin A), support to control diarrhoeal disease including provision of ORS (Oral Rehydration Salt), antibiotics and IV fluids among drought affected population and, provision of treated bed nets to reduce transmission of malaria.

Nutrition: Targeted delivery of special therapeutic foods including high protein biscuits for drought affected populations, and monitoring and technical support to improve national and sub-national nutrition surveillance and response capacities.

Water and Environmental Sanitation: Support to water tankering, supply of jerry cans, construction of shallow wells, repair of hand pumps and non-functional water schemes, limited drilling of bore holes where necessary, support to community hygiene education and environmental sanitation—all for drought affected and displaced populations.

Education: Provision of construction materials, benches and desks for temporary classrooms, teacher training, supply of clothing and learning materials including exercise books, pencils, chalk and black boards--altogether to benefit 27,000 war displaced children. Basic support including data collection, provision of water tanks, education materials and teacher training benefiting over 120,000 children in schools in drought affected areas.

Children and Women in Need of Special Protection: Continuing technical support and guidance to community-based joint land mine awareness education project in Tigray, implemented with a local NGO, targeting displaced families in areas contaminated by land mines. Support for 14,700 Ethiopian returnees from Eritrea in the Desse, South Wollo area who are unable to re-assimilate among heavily drought affected local communities including families living in the streets and separated and unaccompanied children.

Relief and logistics, monitoring and co-ordination: Provision of shelter assistance including blankets and plastic sheeting for displaced populations, and support to airlift and road transport and communications. Deployment of field monitors to ensure effective targeting of non-food inputs, field co-ordination and overall monitoring of drought and displaced emergency interventions.

Constraints have included difficulties in working within an increasingly decentralised but still highly bureaucratic programme environment at national and sub-national levels. Weak information management and exchange on critical needs of women and children (especially in the drought areas) have been some major obstacles. Recently, UNICEF has undertaken a number of initiatives with government counterparts to bring greater efficiency and capacity in these critical areas.

APPEAL RESPONSE

a. Natural Disasters

Donor	Amount	Status	SECTORS					
			Health	WES	Educ	CWSPN	Shelter	Logistics
HQ loan ¹	\$460,000	Received	60,000	400,000				
Danish Gov't	\$468,140	Received	151,000	227,000				
HQ loan ²	\$1,000,000	Received	150,000	300,000	150,000		250,000	150,000
USAID	BP-5 36 Mts	Received	In-kind					
Finland N/COM	\$ 32,253	Received						
Norway Gov't	\$ 27,519	Received						27,519
Norway Gov't	BP-5 50 Mts & ITSH funds	Received	In-kind					26,000
Norway Gov't	BP-5 144 Mts & ITSH funds	Received	In-kind					68,000
Sub total	1,987,912	Received	361,000	927,000	150,000		250,000	244,000

UK N/COM	\$76,000	Pending			76,000			
Danish Gov't	\$ 463,320	Pending						
Canada Gov't	\$954,000	Pending	695,000	259,000				
German N/COM	\$480,000	Pending	230,000		150,000	100,000		
Danish N/COM	\$ 250,000	Pending						
Irish Gov't	\$171,000	Pending		171,000				
Sub total	\$2,394,320	Pending	925,000	430,000	226,000	100,000	0	0

Sub Total	\$4,382,232		1,286,000	1,357,000	376,000	100,000	250,000	271,519
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b. War Displaced

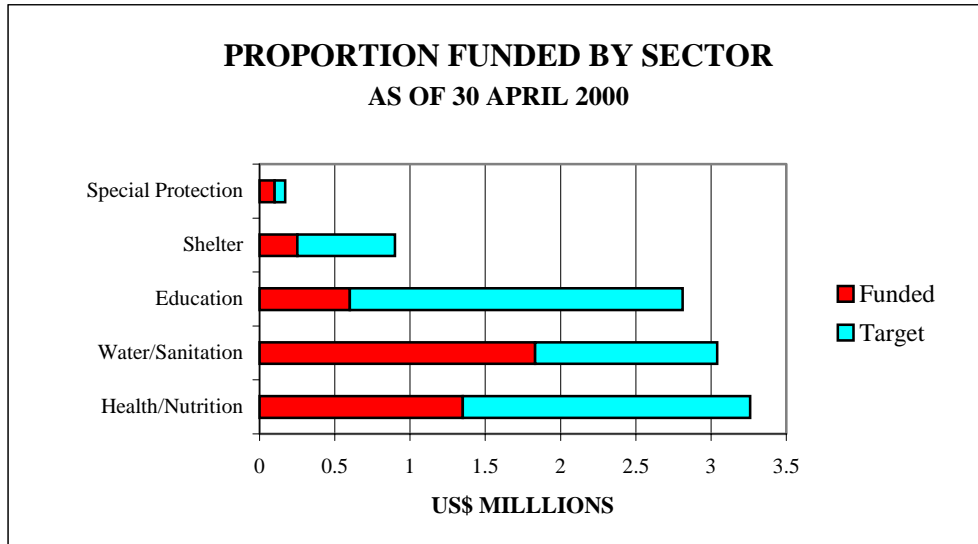
Netherlands	\$870,322	Pending	60,000	476,000	228,000	-	-	-
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c. Summary of Donor Contributions/Pledges for UNICEF Emergency Appeal as of 20 April 2000

Total	\$5,252,544		1,346,000	1,833,000	604,000	100,000	250,000	271,519
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¹ First headquarters emergency loan (March 2000)

² Second headquarters emergency loan (April 2000)



4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING

UNICEF Ethiopia is pleased to observe a major increase in donor funding over the last two weeks.

Recent funds have enabled UNICEF to carry out a major mobilisation in programme and operational response to the drought disaster in south-eastern Ethiopia and also to the increasingly unstable situation of war displaced in the north. However, a sizeable component of this increase in resources remains linked to headquarters loans, totalling over USD 1.5 million dollars. At the same time, UNICEF, in collaboration with the UN Country Team, has been conducting further assessments to determine a possible revised drought appeal. This is an outcome not only of the recent mission of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy, but a greater, more substantive commitment to meeting short and longer term needs linked to the drought crisis, the effects of which will endure well into 2001. Within the next few weeks, UNICEF expects to issue a revised emergency appeal for the remainder of 2000.