

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION ETHIOPIA

DONOR UPDATE 30 JULY 2003

URGENT NEEDS IN CHILD PROTECTION, EDUCATION AND WATER SUPPLY

- ◆ An estimated 60,000 children under 5 years are affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition
- ◆ Recent assessments put 4.2 million people in critical need of water – a sharp 55 % increment from previous estimates of 2.7 million
- ◆ A deep crisis in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region

1. EMERGENCY OVERVIEW AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

As a result of repeated crises, deepening rural poverty and protracted structural problems, the recent drought affected the lives of nearly 15 million people, more than one-fifth of the national population, with 12.6 million currently dependent of food aid. The most vulnerable are women and children, with an estimated 3 million under the age of five. The large majority (85%) of the Ethiopian population lives in rural areas and depend on small scale farming, with no alternative sources of livelihood. The current humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia is not simply a problem of food; it is compounded by many factors that need an integrated response. HIV/AIDS epidemic is an additional burden to livelihoods that has greatly increased the food insecurity of people, especially women and children, making them more vulnerable to other shocks.

Seasonal pattern

Erratic rains have negatively affected the growth of the 'belg' (short-term) crops in several areas, with reduced yield expectations; the 'meher' (long rainy season) had a late onset, but with a positive long-term forecast, normal or above average harvests in most of the farmland could follow. Livestock have recovered from peak crisis, thanks to the quick pasture regeneration brought by the on-going rains. However, the traditional nomadic pastorals areas (mainly Afar & Somali Regions) remain highly vulnerable to rain pattern and consequent rangeland depletion/regeneration. Constant monitoring is needed for early crisis detection.

Food aid

The food needs assessment carried out in April by the federal DPPC (Disaster Prevention & Preparedness Commission) has confirmed that 12.6 million people (i.e. an increment of 1.2 million people from the previous



[all boundaries are approximate and unofficial – graphics by UNICEF]

assessment) are currently in need of food relief until the end of the year, when the long-term crops will be harvested. Recent food aid pledges have fulfilled the expected needs for the increased load of beneficiaries for this year, allowing the reinstatement of the full 15kg cereal ration in all regions. However the supply of complementary items like pulses and blended food is still limited to priority areas. Targeted supplementary feeding is, therefore, urgently needed.

Non-food assessment

A rapid health and nutritional assessment kicked-off on July 16 as part of the non-food assessment coordinated jointly by the Ministry of Health, UN agencies and NGOs. The assessment was carried out in the drought-affected regions of Somali, Oromia, Amhara and SNNP. The one-week assessment aimed to collect relevant health and nutritional data and information to rapidly identify the magnitude of health and nutritional problems, to identify existing response capacities for these potential problems and to prioritize the basic needs requiring immediate response. The assessment consists of data gathering at regional, zonal, *woreda* and health facility levels, including focus group discussions with concerned groups such as community elders and women. The assessment is expected to provide useful information about the non-food situation in the worst-affected areas of Ethiopia and will, with important inputs from NGOs, update the joint UN/Government appeal from January 2003. UNICEF has been an active promoter of this exercise, and is currently developing a number of non-food indicators for future assessments, particularly to draw attention to the difficult situation of women and children in the current crisis.

Crisis in SNNP Region

Of the total 42 Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs) operational in the country, 22 are concentrated in the Southern Nations Nationalities Peoples Region alone, with a current load of about 1,400 severely malnourished children. NGOs and government health units are partnering with UNICEF to contain the current crisis, but the need is overwhelming the current capacities.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Coordination structure & field staff deployment

As part of its response to the current drought crisis, UNICEF has deployed/posted **43 staff** within the respective Government institutions in 6 drought-affected regions: Somali, SNNP, Oromia, Amhara, Afar, Tigray. These staff will especially support the Disaster Prevention & Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) and line departments at regional, zone and district levels to develop and implement each regional Emergency Plan of Action designed to cover the emergency needs of the drought-affected people in the next 6 months.

An increased field presence is an important UNICEF strategy to monitor the development of the situation in this phase of the crisis, and assure quick interventions in at-risk 'pockets'. This intensified presence is an opportunity to develop new partnerships with NGOs and government departments, and to co-ordinate joint efforts in nutrition, health and other crucial sectors for linking the on-going crisis with the recovery phase.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF has undertaken a large number of Health & Nutrition activities in drought-affected regions:

Malaria: Malaria affects 4 to 5 million Ethiopians every year and is prevalent in 75% of the country, putting over 40 million people at risk. The disease currently represents the largest single cause of morbidity. It is estimated that only 20% of children under five who experience malarial episodes visit existing clinics. The impact of malaria is exacerbated by the weakened conditions of the people, especially children, living in the hardest-hit areas. As part of the Roll Back Malaria Campaign, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, the Government and other partners are focusing on areas with high malaria incidence and targeting the most vulnerable such as pregnant women and under-five children. Measures to combat the disease include spraying of breeding sites and homesteads, health education, early diagnosis, mass treatment and distribution of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs). Since 2000, a total of **917,000 nets** have been procured and distributed by UNICEF, including 257,000 nets recently distributed to drought-affected populations. UNICEF has also procured emergency drug kits: 150 provided in early 2003, 647 in pipeline, each kit covering 10,000 people for three months.

On-going **Measles and Vitamin A Campaign**, which began last December and is planned for completion by November 2003, is targeting children between 6 months and 14 years of age. (Refer to the table below.)

| Period | Table 1: Coverage of Measles and Vitamin A Campaign | | Measles coverage % |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Zones | Target | |
| Nov-Dec 2002 | 5 zones in Afar, East & West Hararge (Oromia) | 2,316,214 | 98.3 % |
| March-April 2003 | Bale (Oromia, Gurage, Silte (SNNP), Shinile (Somali) | 1,857,431 | 93.8 % |
| May-June 2003 | N-S Wollo, Wag Hamra (Amhara), Arsi (Oromia), Wolayta, Sidama (SNNP) | 5,172,758 | 95.2 % |
| July 2003 (on going) | Fik (Somali), Kembatta/T, Alaba, Dawro, Hadya (SNNP), East Shoa (Oromia) | 2,150,188 | NA |
| Oct-Nov 2003 | 19 zones targeted in 5 drought affected regions, estimated targeted: | 10,779,081 | NA |
| | Total estimated target children, 2003 (including Dec 2002): | 22,275,672 | |

National Standards for the management of acute malnutrition were adopted by Ethiopia on 20 June, following a two-day National Consultation meeting by members of the Regional Health Bureaus, Ministry of Health, DPPC, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, GOAL, IMC and members of the medical faculty from Ethiopia's five universities. The adoption represents a significant step in better integrating nutrition into the primary health care system. UNICEF sponsored the development of National Standards in its effort to introduce such protocols to the operational 42 TFCs across the country—a measure which will directly reduce the child mortality rates and saving lives.

Therapeutic Feeding: UNICEF estimates that countrywide 60,000 children under 5 are affected by severe acute malnutrition. As of July 17, **42 TFCs** are operating (22 in SNNPR, 10 in Oromia, 6 in Somali, 3 in Amhara, and 1 in Harar), with approximately 2,110 children admitted. Additional **16 TFCs** are being opened (7 in Oromia, 3 in SNNPR, 2 in Somali and 4 in Afar). UNICEF support to 53 of the above TFCs includes technical assistance, equipment and supplies, training of health workers and provision of F75 and F100 therapeutic milk, a mix of mineral and vitamin enriched products to treat severe acute malnutrition. UNICEF has trained a total of **745** medical professionals, practitioners and health workers between February and July 2003. This figure includes 200 nursing students, who were deployed in therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres to help thousands of severely malnourished children in the worst affected areas of SNNPR.

Supplementary feeding: As part of its emergency nutritional intervention, UNICEF has purchased 1,000 MT of FAMIX locally and 4,000 MT of UNIMIX off-shore for immediate support to **146,661 children and pregnant and lactating mothers**. While UNICEF estimates that there is enough stock of therapeutic products for immediate use in the UNICEF supported TFCs, the challenge remains in targeting supplementary feeding. Partnerships have been developed with the DPPC and several NGOs for storage, transportation and final distribution. Targeted supplementary feeding is essential to prevent severe and moderate malnutrition. Increasing the number of supplementary screening sites will prevent moderately malnourished children from becoming severely malnourished. It will also make it possible to refer children to TFCs when needed. Targeted distribution of supplementary food will also ensure that children are able to recover after receiving treatment for severe malnutrition, reducing the chances of relapsing or re-admission to TFCs. In addition, the screening sites will also improve the surveillance capacity to identify pockets of acute malnutrition and monitor the nutritional status of children in drought-affected areas.

Water and Environment Sanitation (WES)

A recent emergency water needs assessment, conducted by UNICEF and the regional Water Resources Bureaus in the drought affected regions, has reported a much higher figure of people in critical need of water supply. The estimates have been revised from 2.7 million people to 4.2 million requiring emergency water supply, representing a sharp 55% increment. An emergency Plan of Action (PoA) for the period July-December 2003 is being finalized by the Water Resources Departments and UNICEF in each of the 6 most affected regions for immediate implementation.

Since the beginning of this year, UNICEF supported the **rehabilitation of 582 water schemes** and funded the drilling of **223 new shallow & deep wells** in the 6 most drought-affected regions. (See details in the table below).

| Affected region | People in critical need of water | People assisted by water tankering | Schemes rehabilitation | | New schemes | | Total beneficiaries of UNICEF intervention |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| | | | People assisted | No. of schemes rehabilitated | People assisted | No. of new schemes | |
| Afar | 232,000 | 30,000 | 28,500 | 19 | 45,000 | 15 | 103,500 |
| Somali | 419,708 | 34,000 | 37,000 | 5 | 40,000 | 4 | 111,000 |
| Oromiya | 1,306,343 | 56,979 | 784,000 | 336 | 96,000 | 56 | 936,979 |
| SNNPR | 515,978 | - | 79,000 | 116 | 55,900 | 64 | 134,900 |
| Amhara | 1,143,198 | - | 41,200 | 59 | 21,500 | 43 | 62,700 |
| Tigray | 624,220 | - | 58,000 | 47 | 33,840 | 41 | 91,840 |
| Total | 4,241,447 | 120,979 | 1,027,700 | 582 | 292,240 | 223 | 1,440,919 |
| | | | | | | | i.e. 34 % |

Emergency 'water tankering' activities have assisted a total of 120,979 people over the first 5 months of the year. Improved rainfall has now generally reduced the need for this kind of emergency assistance. Nevertheless the increased number of TFCs, where water supply is critical, will still demand tankering activities, until permanent solutions are in place, i.e. drilling of shallow/deep wells. The combined efforts in water tankering, rehabilitation of water points and drilling of new points have **assisted over 1,440,000 people, i.e. 34 %** of the 4.2 million people in critical need of water supply. Increased staff field deployment has strengthened the Water Bureaus capacity and improved the link between water supply activities and environment sanitation initiative, in collaboration with the Health Bureaus at regional and zone levels.

Education

Somali Region: Essential education supplies have been ordered for assisting pupils from two schools destroyed by floods in Wabe-Shabelle river basin and for establishing/strengthening two learning centres of eight classrooms for grades 1-4. The materials comprise of 8 tents and 8 sets of teachers' chairs, tables, blackboards and pupils' school supplies.

Tigray Region: A rapid assessment on the impact of the drought on education in the region was initiated by the Regional Education Bureau with UNICEF's financial assistance. The following activities were identified from the regional proposal submitted to UNICEF:

- provision of construction materials for additional classrooms in 30 primary schools in 15 drought affected *woredas*
- supply of educational materials for drought affected children to 2,438 most needy children in the above targeted *woredas*.

Afar Region: 28 schools are part of the school support project, which is being implemented with the WFP School Feeding Programme. UNICEF will specifically target school sanitation (with construction of separate latrines for girls) and water supply, in addition to procurement of school supplies. This project aims at higher enrolment rate as well as improving education access to girls. The experience gained from this project will allow immediate replication in Somali Region, another area where education access is quite poor, particularly for girls.

One **Emergency Education Officer** has recently been recruited to support complete assessment of educational situation/needs and to provide assistance to the Education Bureaus in Somali, Afar, SNNP, Oromia, Tigray, Harar and Amhara regions. UNICEF plans to recruit 4 more officers for regional support to education needs for a better coverage of large regions like SNNP, Somali, Afar and Oromia.

HIV/AIDS Prevention

UNICEF has been encouraging NGOs active role in addressing HIV/AIDS as part of their emergency activities. On June 16, UNICEF hosted a meeting in Addis Ababa with 10 organizations (DPPC, the government's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office, and a number of NGOs,) to share experience. Save the Children-US and -UK shared their experiences in providing HIV/AIDS prevention education at food and water distribution sites.

SNNPR is taking the lead at the regional level to foster the systematic integration of HIV/AIDS prevention and other health interventions within feeding sites in collaboration with the Regional Health Bureau, the Regional HIV/AIDS Council Secretariat and NGOs such as GOAL, Oxfam, IMC and others. A meeting was held in Awassa at the DPPB on July 1 that brought government officials, NGO representatives and donors together to formulate a specific action plan. UNICEF will provide technical and financial support to this effort.

Child Protection

Emergency assessments have been undertaken in Tigray and SNNP regions. As an immediate result, counselling of families and children, and family reunification activities and regular follow up will be implemented in Tigray. Proposals for similar activities in Amhara are being finalised. As the main constraint is the weak local capacity, training and appropriate orientation will, therefore, be provided. Funding has also been allocated as well to strengthen protection and monitoring mechanisms regarding the proper utilization of supplementary food given to pregnant & lactating women and children.

Following the recent government ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on the worst forms of child labour, UNICEF is working closely with ILO and the Government to promote the identification of child prostitution as one of the worst forms of child labour prevalent in Ethiopia. This builds upon UNICEF existing work on vulnerable children including street children and orphans.

Some specific problems were observed during recent assessments:

- Children being abandoned in feeding centres, conversely children who had been recovering in TFCs were removed by parents convinced that they will die anyway
- Increased incidence of child labour (some people were reportedly 'renting' their children to work for money or food), and of sexual exploitation of children in particular
- It was noted that the way children are perceived within the family, and the value accorded to them, dramatically affects children's prospects for survival

Priority action areas are currently the following:

- Provide institutional support for child protection for the DPPC, both at federal and regional level
- Develop child-focussed indicators in Early Warning systems and conduct regular assessments to better understand the situation of children, especially in emergency situations
- Document best practice on child issues and child protection in emergencies in Ethiopia
- Improve targeting of beneficiaries
- Work in close partnership with other bodies, i.e. UN, Government and NGOs, and adequately train staff involved in food distribution to more effectively target vulnerable beneficiaries

Emergency shelter

A total of **11,658 IDPs households** (or 53,329 people), migrating from East & West Hararge to Bale Zone in Oromia Region, have been assisted with 6,000 blankets, 3,400 plastic sheets, 8,000 soap bars, 5,100 treated mosquito nets and 9,950 jerry cans. Six emergency drug kits were also delivered to the local Health Bureau to care for 60,000 people for 3 months.

A total of **21,590 households** (or 107,950 people) were affected by river flood in Gode Zone, Somali Region, in May. UNICEF delivered 1,000 plastic sheets, 242 tarpaulin rolls, 4,510 blankets, 6,225 jerry cans, 10,000 plastic cups & plates, and 3,000 jugs. Additional 5 emergency drug kits were mobilized through the Regional Health Bureau to assist 50,000 people for 3 months.

Mine Risk Education (MRE)

Currently 20,000 people remain displaced in the northern region of Tigray, bordering Eritrea. The situation in the mine-affected region is further exacerbated by the current drought. Analysis of recent victim data shows that some of the people involved in incidents were newcomers to the areas with no knowledge of the threat of mines and UXO. Owing to the drought conditions in Tigray and Afar Regions, people are moving into affected areas to use the grazing land and water points, and to work as daily labourers, with no knowledge of the threats that exist.

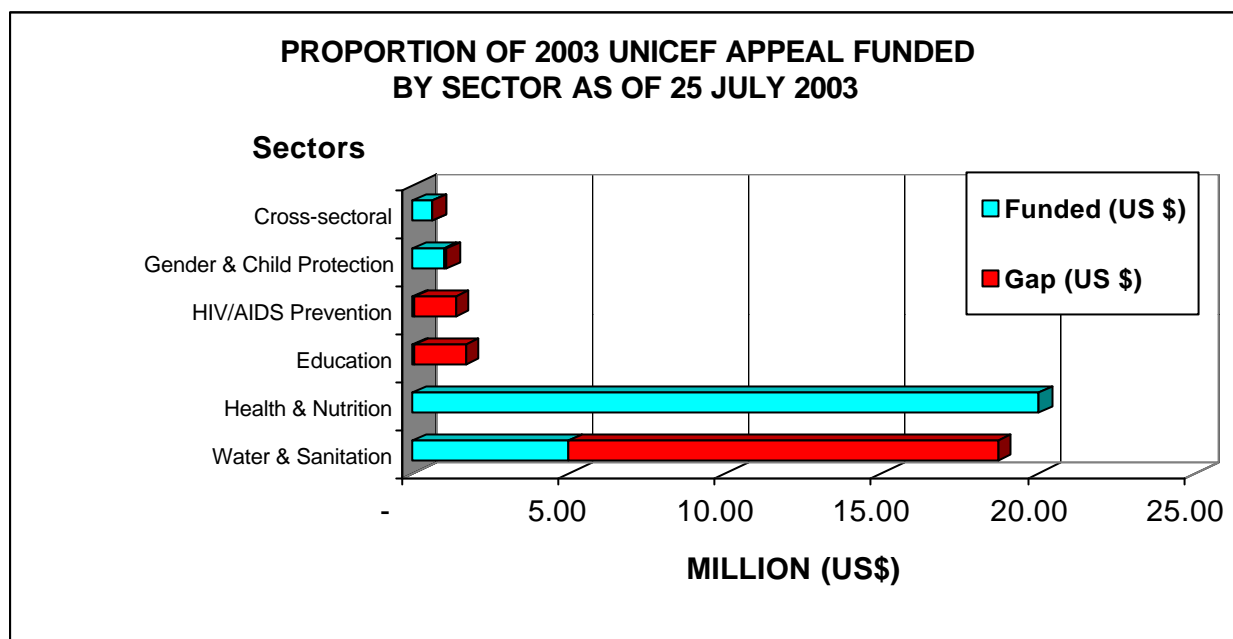
UNICEF, through its implementing partner, the Rehabilitation and Development Organisation (RaDO), has been working in the Tigray Region since 1999 and in Afar Region since 2001 to reduce the number of incidents. With previous funding, UNICEF, through RaDO, has disseminated mine risk messages to the affected population through training and developing a variety of community-based volunteer methodologies including child-to-child instructors, drama clubs in schools, community task force groups and the use of 'imams' in mosques in Afar.

The number of incidents has significantly dropped in both regions since the cessation of hostilities, but more work needs to be done. UNICEF believes that the future for MRE in Ethiopia lies with the communities, and the regional governments taking ownership of the project. In both regions the regional government and local authorities are keen to take ownership, however, UNICEF and RaDO need to build their capacities to achieve this aim. A two-year phase-out strategy has been developed for both regions, starting in August. UNICEF's main funding requirements during this phase-out period are for capacity building of both the communities and the government authorities. The continual presence of the RaDO agents in the field during this period is critical to this happening smoothly, while ensuring that the programme continues to offer protection to those living in the mine affected regions. UNICEF intends to continue its close working relationship with both RaDO and the national mine action authority, the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), providing technical support to ensure the project handed over is sustainable. UNICEF Ethiopia seeks US\$ 492,000 to fulfil its requirements for MRE this year.

3. 2003 REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

As part of the revised Joint Government/UN Emergency Appeal 2003, officially launched on 14 March 2003 ('Addendum'), UNICEF outlined a funding requirement of about **US\$ 40 million** to undertake emergency interventions in various sectors, especially for vulnerable children and women in Ethiopia. In addition, UNICEF also requires non-Appeal Emergency funds for Shelter and Mine Risk Education. The **table** and **chart** below show the current funding level and shortfalls of the **UNICEF 2003 Emergency Appeal, by sector**:

| Sectors | Target (US\$) | Funded (US\$) | % Funded | Unfunded |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Water & Sanitation | 18,717,045 | 4,994,777 | 26.69 | 13,722,268 |
| Health & Nutrition | 17,075,478 | 20,020,213 | 117.25 | (2,944,735) |
| Education | 1,702,000 | 78,748 | 4.63 | 1,623,252 |
| HIV/AIDS Prevention | 1,386,900 | 68,249 | 4.92 | 1,318,651 |
| Gender & Child Protection | 1,111,997 | 1,015,136 | 91.29 | 96,861 |
| Cross-sectoral | | 662,684 | | (662,684) |
| Un-earmarked | | 988,969 | | (988,969) |
| Total | 39,993,420 | 27,828,777 | 69.58 | 12,164,643 |



N.B. – un-allocated resources and in-kind donations **not** included in the above graph

The **table** below outlines UNICEF's additional emergency needs for supporting non-Appeal projects:

| Sector | Required (US \$) | Funded (US \$) | Donor | Gap (US \$) |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Shelter | 586,747 | 0 | | 586,747 |
| Mine Risk Education | 1,192,228 | 313,152 | Italian Government | 879,076 |

The **Table** below shows the funds received/pledged for the 2003 UNICEF Emergency Appeal, **by donor**:

| Donor | Total amount (US\$) | Sectors |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| UK (DFID) | 7,563,742 | health, nutrition, water |
| Sweden (SIDA) | 5,505,450 | health, nutrition, water |
| Canada (CIDA) | 4,765,094 | health, nutrition, water |
| US (USAID) | 5,050,000 | health & nutrition |
| Belgium | 950,018 | health & nutrition |
| Netherlands | 947,700 | mostly health, nutrition, water |
| French Natcom | 963,735 | health, nutrition, water, education |
| Denmark | 690,000 | un-earmarked |
| Finland | 322,929 | health & nutrition |
| US Natcom | 320,000 | cross-sectoral |
| UNDP | 285,000 | water & sanitation |
| New Zealand | 143,678 | un-earmarked |
| Netherlands Natcom | 131,041 | water & sanitation |
| Japan Natcom | 100,000 | cross-sectoral |
| German Natcom | 60,459 | cross-sectoral |
| Norway | 29,931 | cross-sectoral |
| Total | 27,828,777 | |

In addition to the above, in-kind donations have been received from the Norwegian Government: Water equipment, 118 MT of BP-5 biscuits, 100 MT of BP-100 enriched milk, and anti-malaria drugs.

In spite of the very generous contributions received, mostly during the months of April and May 2003, **UNICEF still needs additional contributions to cover the 30% unfunded gap.** This, to enable it to continue the ongoing emergency activities, and link them to the country recovery process, with durable solutions which will help prevent the recurrence of similar crisis.

The **table** below lists the current priority projects and related cash funding needs:

| Table 6: PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS AS OF JULY 2003 | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Project | Beneficiaries/coverage | Requirements (US\$) |
| 1. Child Protection | - Projected displacement of 200,000 people as result of drought resettlement. Emergency protection measures, including reunification, psychosocial counseling, provision of safe women & children centers | 400,000 |
| 2. Education | - Support to school feeding programmes through provision of emergency school supplies and essential materials for 32,000 drought affected pupils - construction of traditional shelter schools (<i>"dibora"</i>) for about 9,700 pupils | 389,000 |
| 3. Water supply | - Maintenance of water sources & drilling of new schemes: 4.2 million people are to be targeted for emergency and long-term water supply solutions | 5,000,000 |
| Total | | 5,789,000 |

Details of the Ethiopia Programme can be obtained from:

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