

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ETHIOPIA

DONOR UPDATE

16 MAY 2003

URGENT NEEDS IN HEALTH, NUTRITION, EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION

- **Over 100,000 displaced due to recent flooding in the Somali region**
- **Additional rehabilitation centres needed as number of children requiring therapeutic feeding increase**
- **The emergency measles/Vitamin A campaign, targeting 7.2 million children under 15 years needs further support**

1. EMERGENCY OVERVIEW AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Recent floods

While the vast majority of the country remains gripped by the consequences of three repeated rain failures, the recent erratic rains in the highlands of Ethiopia have caused major flooding in the south-eastern region. To date, 45 people have been confirmed dead and close to 110,000 people, including estimated 70-80 per cent children and women, have been displaced as a direct result of floods in the Somali state. The worst-affected *woredas* are Mustahil and Kalafo, both of which have suffered heavy damage to their public-service infrastructure such as schools, clinics and roads.

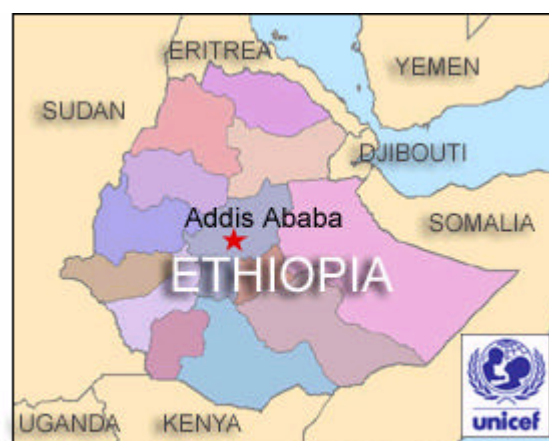
Tens of thousands of families have lost their homes, seasonal crops and livestock, further increasing food insecurity and economic hardship in a region already suffering the effects of the worst drought since 1990. Most of the affected population is stranded with little humanitarian relief due to the lack of access. Relief agencies, together with government counterparts, have therefore been using other means to reach the population in need, including by air and by boat. Kalafo is now accessible from Gode.

According to ICRC, there have been outbreaks of malaria, measles and diarrhoea cases in flooded areas. In addition, there are high risks of acute respiratory infections and cholera. With limited supply of potable water, many people are drinking from river, increasing the risks for the spread of water-borne diseases.

Prevailing drought

In other parts of the country, the severe drought conditions are taking heavy toll on the millions of Ethiopians whose capacities have been stretched to the limits in coping with the effects of drought as they run low on/out of water and food reserves.

The rangelands (pastoral areas) were temporarily relieved by the first rains, but the increased pressure due to the migration of large herds to the limited green areas has quickly depleted the available pasture. In several areas, the situation remains critical, with reports of more ponds and traditional 'berkas' drying-up, thus increasing the stress of lack of water on both humans as well as livestock.



Boundaries and names shown do not imply official UN endorsement or acceptance.

Camels are the only livestock which are surviving relatively well in the pastoral areas, compared to cattle and sheep which have sickened in large numbers or died. It is important to note that water stress among animals does cause an immediate drop in milk production, therefore reducing the main daily food source for most of the pastoralist communities, putting them at risk of malnutrition.

In the current circumstances when some parts of the country are experiencing flooding and the others are suffering from the effects of drought, the Ethiopian population is increasingly relying on the humanitarian community for their survival.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Response to floods

Since the onset of the crisis, UNICEF has assisted the regional as well as national authorities in carrying out a rapid assessment and delivering emergency relief supplies to the flood-affected areas. To date, emergency drug kits for some 30,000 have been supplied to prevent the outbreak of acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal disease and other water-borne illnesses. UNICEF also supplied 300 rolls of plastic sheeting for shelter, 5,000 jerry cans, 10,000 blankets and 3,000 jugs, which are being airlifted by the Ethiopian Airlines to the areas only accessible by air, reaching some 25,000 people in the worst-affected areas. In areas accessible by road, UNICEF delivered emergency supplies consisting of 1,000 blankets, 1,000 plastic sheets and 2,000 jerry cans to 3,000 households (20,000 people). In order to avoid outbreak of diseases, additional drug kits, tents and material will be provided to support the setting-up of makeshift camps. An emergency measles immunization and Vitamin A campaign is also planned.

The rest of the section describes UNICEF's activities over the past few months.

Health and Nutrition

In addition to the previously reported supply of 253,000 treated mosquito nets, UNICEF has begun procuring additional 68,000 Insecticide Treated Nets and malaria kits for malaria-prone *woredas*, with more planned after the 2003-2004 plans of actions are finalized.

Some **390 emergency drug kits**, to benefit 3.9 million people for 3 months, and **195 renewable supplies kits** have been ordered so far this year, in addition to the procurements in 2002. Depending on the availability of funds, more supplies will be procured as needed. The drought's adverse effects are expected to be highest in Ethiopia in the coming months, until the new harvest will hopefully ease the situation.

Thanks to recent generous donors' contributions, the **emergency measles & Vitamin A campaign** began in late March with micro-planning activities in four zones in three Regions most affected by the drought: Bale Woreda in Oromiya, Shinile zone in Somali and Gurage & Silti zones in SNNPR (Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region), targeting **close to 2 million children** between 6 months and 15 years of age. The campaign was completed between 17-23 April. The next round will target **3,275,250 children** in Southern Wollo, Waghimra, Arsi, Fick, Jijiga and Gode zones, followed by a third in Hadiya, Wollayta and East Shoa zones, targeting **some 2 million more children**. In total, the emergency campaign, co-sponsored by UNICEF and WHO and jointly implemented with the Ministry of Health through logistics support from NGOs in the field, will reach about **7.2 million children**, out of the total 16.2 targeted in 2003.

Two **training sessions on the management of severe malnutrition** have been organized in the SNNP Region in Butajira Hospital (4-6 April) for 34 health workers and in Awassa (17-19 April) for 37 health workers. The next session is tentatively planned for late May-June, during which 3 training workshops on management of severe malnutrition are planned for senior medical staff from the Government, NGOs and Universities

In addition, on 17 March UNICEF and WFP co-sponsored an **advocacy meeting on emergency nutrition** in Addis Ababa. The 40 participants were from the Government, NGOs, donors and UN agencies. Among other topics, the current food and nutrition interventions for the drought-affected population in Ethiopia discussed, and a technical working group with representatives from the Ministry of Health, DPPC (Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission), NGOs and UN agencies has been established to coordinate future emergency nutrition activities. This meeting was part of UNICEF's long-term strategy to coordinate activities of various stakeholders engaged in the nutrition sector in order to widen the consensus and the adoption of standard nutritional interventions countrywide. This action will not only benefit the thousands of malnourished children in this emergency crisis, but will help develop a long term response capacity to the chronic recurrence of nutritional problems in many Regions even in unaffected years.

Therapeutic feeding interventions by NGOs and Government units with UNICEF support have expanded considerably in the last few weeks to address the increasing needs of malnourished children in several Regions for **26 Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs)** already/soon to be operational: 6 TFCs in Somali, 1 in Harar, 4 in Oromiya, 9 in SNNPR, 4 in Afar and 2 in Amhara.

Procurement of therapeutic food has been stepped-up in preparation for the anticipated worsening of the nutritional situation nationwide. In spite of generous response by many donor countries, food aid has not been able to maintain a satisfactory nutritional level among the drought-affected population for various reasons:

- Inadequate quantity of food, 12.5 kg instead of the recommended 15 kg per person per month
- Inadequate quality; the food basket is often made up of cereals only, without any or little complementary food such as pulses and oil
- Inadequate targeting to priority areas and beneficiaries, especially for the limited supplementary food available
- Logistic difficulties; many areas cannot be easily reached and current rains will make it even more difficult
- Traditional food sharing; in many communities, available food is shared among everybody in the clan, thus diluting the impact upon the most needy members
- Late response, delayed shipment, borrowing from other sources, difficulties in compiling correct beneficiary lists, and inefficiency of distribution chain in some regions

Since the onset of the current drought crisis in late 2002, UNICEF procured hundreds of tons of therapeutic food: **31.25 MT F-75 milk, 232.9 MT of F-100 milk, 31.5 MT of BP-100 biscuits and 3.2 MT of Plumpy Nut**

In addition to the on-going procurement of **118 MT of BP-5 biscuits** (an in-kind donation by the Norwegian Government), and as a preventive measure to reduce the risk of severe malnutrition in critical zones, UNICEF is in the process of procuring an additional **5,000 MT of UNIMIX supplementary food**. These are now being distributed in targeted deficit areas through the Zonal Health Bureaux and NGOs. Main target of the distribution is **363,334 children under 5 years** of age, i.e. 20% of the total drought affected population in the following Regions: 67,430 in Somali, 44,125 in Afar, 37,722 in SNNP, 13,600 in Oromiya, 13,500 in Amhara, 10,000 in Tigray and 240 in Harar (Hiwot Fana Hospital).

Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES)

The most recent rains will hopefully **reduce the need of water tankering** in some of the drought-affected areas. This will give the opportunity to the WES operations to intensify efforts and resources to longer-term solutions to pervasive water scarcity.

UNICEF has deployed five WES staff in the field to support local Water Resources and Environmental Health Sections of the Health Bureaux in emergency water and sanitation needs assessments and to intensify maintenance training for the sustainable functioning of hand pumps and more complex water schemes. The emergency water and sanitation needs are presently being compiled in all drought-affected regions, completion of which is expected to allow better targeted response to the worst affected communities. The assessments are being conducted by the water bureaux and supported by short-term technical staff, supported by UNICEF. The results are now available. Also, a summary of all UNICEF-supported emergency water and sanitation activities in drought affected areas in the period January-March 2003 is being compiled. A large number of new boreholes are being completed in drought affected regions, and once completed, will give an additional permanent input to the water coverage in these Regions. As an illustration, in March a total of 22 new boreholes, fitted with hand pumps, were completed in Guraghe Zone and SNNP Region as well as 3 schemes totally rehabilitated in the same zone, indicating the accelerating pace to respond to the water scarcity crisis.

The recent emergency interventions have greatly helped in establishing good relationships with many village communities. The chance offered by this mutual-trust environment will now be used to **intensify the water supply recovery and sanitation & hygiene campaign**, including school sanitation and hygiene education.

The **International Water Day** was successfully celebrated in Ethiopia on Saturday 22 March, with a national event in Addis Ababa at the Ministry of Water Resources. The current UNICEF policy and emergency interventions in the water supply sector was presented to the public by UNICEF.

Education

UNICEF has completed a **rapid assessment on the educational and psychosocial needs** of children in drought-affected areas. The preliminary findings confirm that children are dropping out of school or not attending school regularly. Girls in particular are kept home to take care of domestic chores, as parents tend for cattle. Teachers feel very much marginalized and neglected. School materials and training to sustain the teachers and help them to cope are badly needed. The study strongly recommends that UNICEF and WFP work together to expand and strengthen the school feeding programme. About 150 combined desks were recently delivered to Afar region to target the schools where a UNICEF-WFP-WHO consortium will cooperate to improve water supply, environment, sanitation, nutrition and finally learning opportunities, on a pilot basis. The experience will then be replicated in other regions.

HIV/AIDS Prevention

UNICEF is working to ensure that HIV/AIDS education is provided as part of the overall emergency response to the drought. To intensify its response to HIV/AIDS prevention, UNICEF is in the process of hiring two consultants to be deployed in the drought-affected areas. With the UNICEF support, Save the Children UK has distributed communication materials and provided training on HIV/AIDS prevention for the food ration providers in

Shinile, Somali region. UNICEF also supported the religious leaders initiative to conduct a sensitisation workshop on HIV/AIDS for people living in Hartishek IDP camp and for leaders from the surrounding community in Somali region.

Child Protection

Following the successful training on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation in a humanitarian crisis held in Addis Ababa on 13-14 March, UNICEF plans to hold a training of trainers for both Government and NGO participants. It is anticipated that the training will then be rolled out to the affected regions and include officials involved in food and emergency supply distribution as well as representatives from affected communities, particularly women and children. A 'training of trainers' has also been scheduled for psychosocial assessment skills and interventions in Tigray targeted at refugee communities who are still struggling to reintegrate. An emergency Child Protection consultant is also in the process of being recruited and will specifically focus on displacement and issues related to the Ethiopia-Eritrea border demarcation process, as well as focus on emergency assessments.

Emergency shelter

About **7,000 people in Jarso**, Oromiya Region, displaced by the drought from the Somali Region, received 3,000 jerry cans and 1,400 plastic sheets from UNICEF in March. Some 6,000 blankets, 2,000 plastic sheets, 4,000 jerry cans and 8,000 soap bars were recently despatched from Addis Ababa and are being distributed to about **17,000 people relocated from Bale IDP Camp**, Oromiya region, although access is hampered by heavy rains. These people have moved under a national voluntary resettlement plan which aims at resettling about half a million people from drought-prone areas to more food-secure areas. UNICEF is committed to support the Government and NGOs in the provision of relief and longer-term interventions for children in new settlement areas as required.

The relocation of these people is generally not conducted under a coordinated plan, causing increased stress on the affected people who are not finding adequate services or support in the new locations. UNICEF will continue to provide support to drought- and conflict-displaced women and children to alleviate their stress and reduce the risk of exploitation. To this effect, UNICEF and the National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) whereby the two institutions aim at improving the preparedness level through the building-up, maintenance and efficient use of a pre-positioned contingency stock of essential relief non-food items. This MOU, which came into effect on April 9, allows UNICEF to pre-position supplies in its warehouse, making them readily available for rapid response at an immediate notification of a sudden crisis by regional or federal Disaster Prevention structures. In this agreement the Ethiopian Disaster Prevention & Preparedness Commission (DPPC) is the consignee for all emergency shipments, allowing the Ministries of Health and Water Resources to utilize their respective consignments with due notification of DPPC.

Mine Risk Education

The Mine Risk Education project is not part of the 2003 joint appeal launched by the Government and the UN on March 14. However, UNICEF as the UN focal agency for Mine Risk Education remains committed to support awareness and risk reduction programme that commenced in 1999. Despite the fact that hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea ceased in June 2000, many communities along the 1,000 km border still cannot access valuable land due to the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). Many of the affected communities are also suffering from the current drought, which may heighten the risk that people will enter contaminated areas to seek food, water and pasture.

While mine incidents have declined since the end of the hostilities, they continue to occur predominantly involving young children who are herding animals to make a living. One of the largest impacts of the presence of mines is the impediment to the socio-economic development of the land and inability to return to normal life for these rural communities that depend on agricultural activities for their survival.

Due to shortfall in funding, UNICEF is finding it difficult to continue supporting its main national partner, the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO), currently developing a national Mine Risk Education Department, with Community Liaison field staff recently trained by UNICEF to link the affected populations and the de-mining companies. There is an evident need to develop adequate monitoring, information and co-ordination systems to ensure that the data gathered in the field are effectively used to target 'risk taking' behaviour and to identify currently unknown dangerous areas. Risk taking behaviour can then be addressed through targeted education and identified dangerous areas can then be surveyed and marked for future clearance. UNICEF's support aims to develop the EMAO capacity to monitor the national NGO 'RaDO' (another UNICEF partner) addressing mine risk education needs at the community level in border areas, through message dissemination and public information campaigns.

Coordination structure and field staff deployment

Following consultations between the Government at both federal and regional levels, it was agreed that the size and the complex nature of the humanitarian crisis that Ethiopia faces called for an enhanced UNICEF support to the regional counterparts. In that respect, the deployment of UNICEF staff in the field within regional government structures to support government counterparts and NGO partners in the effective implementation and monitoring of emergency programmes is now in process. It does not require establishing a formal UNICEF office but uses

the existing government infrastructures and is of temporary nature. It emphasizes the importance of UNICEF staff working closely with their government counterparts, guiding and strengthening their capacity to implement, manage and monitor UNICEF-supported programmes. Six regions with the most affected population have been selected for special attention, which include Somali, Oromiya, Tigray, Afar, Amhara, and SNNP.

Area Programme Officers, whose role is to build the DPPC capacities as well as to facilitate the UNICEF emergency response, are being deployed within the regional structure of DPPC offices in Harar, Awassa and Bahr-Dar; UNICEF staff were already posted in Mekelle and Jijiga. They also provide support to UNICEF technical experts who themselves are attached to their respective line bureaux within the region. In addition to the 6 Area Programme Officers already deployed, to date 15 technical experts (8 for Health & Nutrition, 6 for Water & Sanitation, 1 for HIV/AIDS) have been posted in 5 regions (Oromiya, Somali, Afar, Benishangul and SNNP).

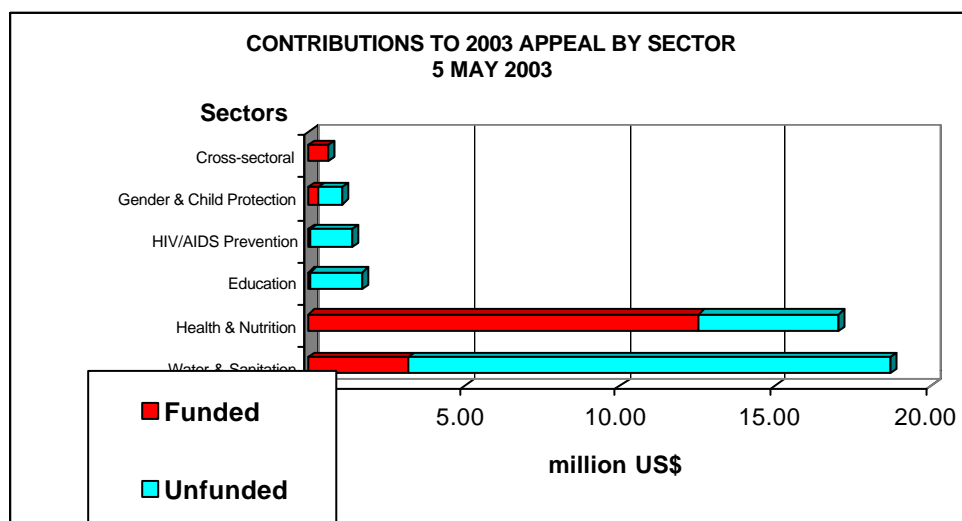
The UNICEF office in Addis Ababa will provide the needed backup to the staff deployed in the field in various ways:

- Quarterly planned regular field visits that can focus on emergency matters in specific sectors
- Possible temporary field assignments of Addis Ababa-based staff
- 'Emergency Support Teams' to respond to breaking crises. For this, two multi-sectoral standing teams within will be available for deployment at short notice to particular areas of crisis in close coordination with the technical counterparts of the government.

3. EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

As part of the revised Joint Government/UN Emergency Appeal 2003, officially launched on 14 March 2003, 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-Emergency Appeal 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**:

Table 1: PROPORTION OF 2003 UNICEF APPEAL FUNDED BY SECTOR AS OF 5 MAY 2003			
Sectors	Target (US\$)	Funded (US\$)	% Funded
Water & Sanitation	18,717,045	3,202,658	17.11
Health & Nutrition	17,075,478	12,571,095	73.62
Education	1,702,000	78,748	4.63
HIV/AIDS Prevention	1,386,900	68,249	4.92
Gender & Child Protection	1,111,997	288,744	25.97
Cross-sectoral		636,196	
Unallocated (Swedish contribution)		1,746,226	
Total	39,993,420	18,591,916	46.49

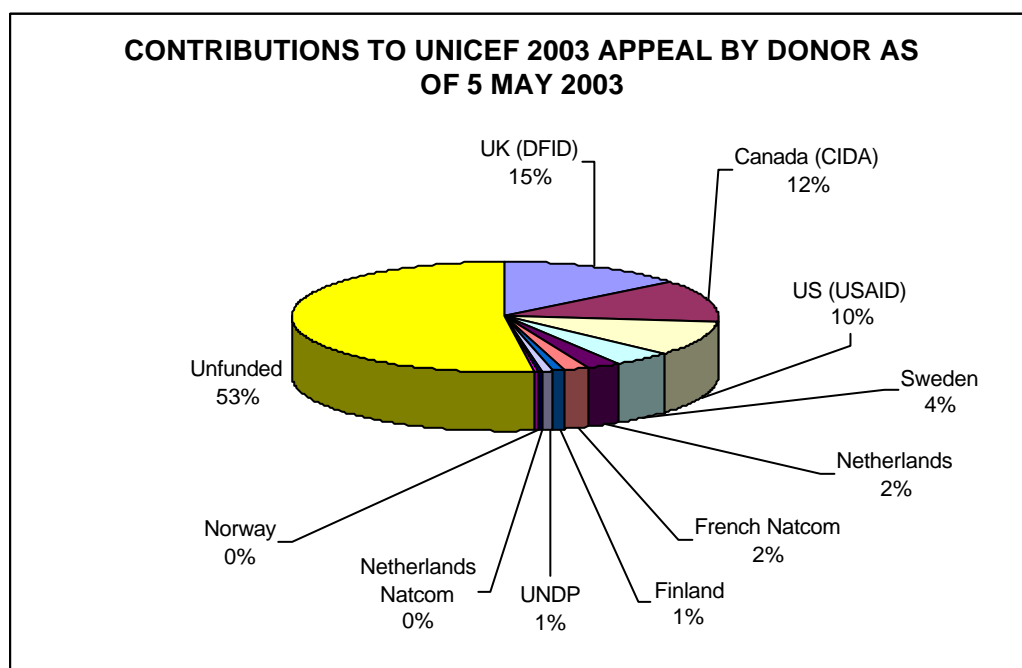


The **Table** below outlines UNICEF's additional emergency needs for supporting non-Appeal projects:

Table 2: NON-EMERGENCY APPEAL REQUIREMENTS				
Sector	Required (US \$)	Funded (US \$)	Donor	Gap (US \$)
Shelter	586,747	0	-	586,747
Mine Risk Education	1,192,228	331,320.00	Italian Government	860,908

The **Table** and **chart** below show the funds received for the 2003 UNICEF Emergency Appeal, **by donor**:

Table 3: FUNDS RECEIVED FOR 2003 UNICEF APPEAL BY DONOR AS OF 5 MAY 2003		
Donor	Total amount (US\$)	Sector/s
UK (DFID)	5,555,550	health, nutrition, water
Canada (CIDA)	4,765,094	health, nutrition, water
US (USAID)	4,000,000	health & nutrition
Sweden	1,746,226	unallocated
Netherlands	947,700	mostly health, nutrition, water
French Natcom	808,444	health, nutrition, water, education
Finland	322,929	unallocated
UNDP	285,000	water & sanitation
Netherlands Natcom	131,041	water & sanitation
Norway	29,931	programme support
Total	18,591,916	



* Contributions below US\$ 150,000 appear as 'o'

In addition, pledges have been received from the Belgian Government (US\$ 825,000) and the Norwegian Government (US\$ 750,000 in form of an in-kind donation).

4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

Just recently the donor response has significantly increased, thus allowing for a considerable implementation of projects in the Health and Nutrition sectors. Yet many projects remained crippled due to the lack of funds to develop them adequately. It is hoped that the current financing trend will continue, allowing the proper development especially for activities targeting the protection of women and children, and education

As mentioned earlier, the current focus is on raising levels of malnutrition in many pockets, requiring intensified efforts in training, coordination, feeding and supplies for therapeutic interventions.

The first Measles/Vitamin A campaign has been completed targeting about 2.2 million children in areas severely affected by the drought. However, more funds are required to undertake additional campaigns in areas in need to achieve the target of reaching 7.2 million children, along with emergency drug kits procurement and therapeutic/supplementary feeding activities

The **table 4** below lists the **priority** projects:

Table 4: PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS AS AT MAY 2003		
Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount required (US\$)/ Quantities required (MT)
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 sector	Emergency School supplies (basic furnishings & essential educational material)	300,000
3. Water supply: maintenance of water sources & drilling of new schemes	2.1 million people are to be targeted for emergency and durable water supply solutions	5,000,000
4. Measles & vitamin A campaign	2 new emergency campaigns will target respectively 3.2 million & 2 million children under 15 in drought affected areas	2,000,000
5. Therapeutic feeding	42,500 severely malnourished children	50 MT of F-100 375 MT of F-100 125 MT of BP 100

Details of the Ethiopia Programme can be obtained from:

Bjorn Ljungqvist
Representative
UNICEF Ethiopia

Tel: +251-51-51-55
Fax: +251-51-16-28

E-mail: bljungqvist@unicef.org

Olivier Degreef
UNICEF EMOPS
Geneva

Tel: + 41 22 909 5546
Fax: + 41 22 909 5902

E-mail: odegreef@unicef.org

Dan Rohrmann
UNICEF PFO
New York

Tel: + 1 212 326 7009
Fax: + 1 212 326 7165

E-mail: drohrmann@unicef.org