

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## ERITREA

# DONOR UPDATE

2 MAY 2007

- Around 50,000 under-nourished children and an additional 50,000 pregnant women need special feeding
- Emergency items and basic social services needed urgently for 10,000 returning IDPs
- 400,000 children targeted with Vitamin A supplement in national campaign planned for May
- UNICEF urgently requires US\$ 6 million to respond to immediate needs of children and women



All internal and external boundaries are approximations and do not reflect any legal or official representations.

## 1. EMERGENCY OVERVIEW – ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

As a result of cyclic droughts leading to periodic food shortages, child under-nutrition in Eritrea remains high. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates in children under five are over 10 per cent in all regions, with the GAM rate in Gash Barka region reaching over 20 per cent in certain areas. A recent national rapid assessment on the coverage and functionality of water supply in Eritrea indicates that only 58 per cent of the rural population has access to clean water. In addition, as little as 1.5 per cent of the rural population has access to sanitation. Taking into consideration that both diarrhoea and under-nutrition are among the leading causes of under-five mortality, urgent action is needed.

The routine immunization coverage is nationally 70 per cent with regional disparities. Gash Barka region is reaching 90 per cent of the children while not even one out of two children in Southern Red Sea is reached with full immunization. Since 2006 there are two rounds of vitamin A supplementation campaign per year in Eritrea. Over 95 per cent of children under five were reached with supplement boosting their immune system, which is especially important for children weakened by malnutrition. The high number of children that received Vitamin A during the campaign needs to be sustained.

Although around 20,000 of internally displaced persons were resettled in 2006, there are still 22,300 living in camps. An additional approximate 10,000 IDPs are living in host communities. Many of them are waiting to return to mine affected areas and appropriate mine-risk education before resettlement can save lives. Multiple displacements have resulted in the loss of livelihoods, which seriously compromises the coping strategies of resettled internally displaced families, especially the most vulnerable female and child headed households. Basic social services already stretched to their limit, are now overburdened and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) needs to be accompanied by the provision of basic services.

## 2. UNICEF RESPONSE – ACTION AND IMPACT

### Health and Nutrition

UNICEF aims at supporting the Ministry of Health in implementing an accelerated response to avert deaths due to child under nutrition. Community based Therapeutic Feeding (CBTF) was initiated in Eritrea at the end of 2006 to reach the most difficult to reach children. CBTF is based on the understanding that if under-nourished children access nutritional care early and can remain in a nutritional programme until they have recovered, the impact will be high. Children can be treated in their families and the chance of the children completing the treatment is higher when they can stay in their communities instead of health facilities.

By the end of 2006 four CBTF sites were operational in the country. The results from admissions and discharges between November 2006 and February 2007 show that the cure rate in admitted severely malnourished children improved from 79.3 % to 82.9 % according to MoH reports. The extension to another 6 sites was conducted at the beginning of 2007. In addition, support to the country's 53 therapeutic feeding centers targeting severely under-nourished children and supplementary feeding through health facilities for moderately under-nourished children and pregnant/lactating women continues.

Efforts are made by the Ministry of Health, supported by UNICEF, to ensure full immunization coverage, appropriate management of childhood illnesses and improved nutritional status in all the IDP resettlement locations. Five emergency health kits were provided to increase the capacity of health centres and health stations serving the IDP population in Debub and Gash Barka regions. Solar refrigerators for resumption of EPI services have been provided to Debub and Gash Barka with special attention to areas where services have been over stretched by the additional population returning home. UNICEF is procuring additional supplementary and therapeutic food to cover the needs of severely and moderately under-nourished children in the area.

As part of the planned Vitamin A supplementation campaign in May, catch up immunization activities will be conducted including the sub-regions where IDPs are settled. In addition, children under five receiving the Vitamin supplement in Anseba region will be screened for severe and moderate under-nutrition and if necessary referred to therapeutic or supplementary feeding. If this approach proves to be effective, it will then be expanded to other regions as part of the regular vitamin A campaigns.

Also with the objective to address child mortality, a national neonatal care workshop was conducted by the Ministry of Health supported by UNICEF and WHO. 50 % of all under five deaths occur when children are under one month, 70 % of those deaths occur during the first week after birth. The workshop participants agreed on an action plan to reduce deaths and also reached a consensus on technical details to include as part of neonatal care in community and facility based Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI). This will include training of health workers and community health workers to also improve home-based care.

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

In 2007, UNICEF aims at providing clean water to the population affected by drought and to resettling IDPs and host communities. Currently, UNICEF supports the Water Resource Department for WASH interventions to provide clean water in 39 drought affected communities. 6,500 drought affected people in Southern Red Sea region have access to water supply through maintenance/installation of 22 hand-pumps/solar pumps and the construction of 4 cisterns in 26 scattered communities. With funds advanced in 2006, water trucking support has been provided to 20 primary schools covering close to 2,500 students. Three boreholes were successfully drilled in Mehshal, an IDP resettlement village in Dehub region, and hand pumps will be installed providing water to 1,500 people. The rehabilitation of 14 boreholes with hand pumps was also completed in Afabet Sub-region in Northern Red Sea covering approximately 5,000 people. The water supply project in Eden in Anseba will soon provide 8,300 people with water. A total of 308 household latrines in Eden were also completed to the benefit of approximately 1,500 people.

## **Education**

To support resettled IDP children's return to school UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to create 48 learning spaces in 2006. Activities included the dismantling and reconstruction of 38 existing makeshift classroom structures and the construction of 10 additional classrooms. To complement this intervention, UNICEF procured 2,600 school benches for 3 children each to support education in IDP resettlement areas. UNICEF aims at providing quality education and a sense of normality in emergencies; this is part of integrated activities supporting early recovery of IDPs in Eritrea.

## **Child Protection and support to resettled IDPs**

To protect the most vulnerable, UNICEF focuses its emergency response on drought affected communities but also on resettling IDPs. In order to mitigate the vulnerability of IDP female/child headed households and to complement NFI distributions, support to emergency livelihood interventions through the provision of income generating assets were provided to 20 female and child-headed households. Two of the main activities undertaken by these beneficiaries are animal breeding and small scale businesses. In addition, an assessment mission was conducted to 10 "new" resettlement villages in Gash Barka region to plan for essential interventions needed to prepare for the return.

## **Mine Risk Education**

Mine Risk Education was supported through 10 Eritrean De-mining Authority (EDA) teams reaching totally 18,200 people (including 11,718 children) all over Eritrea (42 villages and 22 schools). The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance was celebrated in Eritrea on 4 April, gathering Government officials, the international community and children this was a day to boost all efforts aiming at making the communities, especially children, aware of the danger of mines but also to enable them to live more safely with the threat.

## **3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

To date, US\$ 3.89 million has been received against the overall funding requirements of US\$ 18,764,000 million. The tables below present UNICEF Eritrea current funding status by sector and by donor:

**Table 1. Funding Status of the 2007 CAP by Sector (In US Dollars)  
(as of 1 May 2007)**

Sector	Target	Funded	Percentage	Total Outstanding Funding Requirement
<b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>	5,000,000	2,391,568	40%	2,608,432
<b>Water &amp; Sanitation</b>	10,000,000	742,750	7%	9,257,250
<b>Education</b>	1,750,000	486,250	26%	1,263,750
<b>Child Protection</b>	1,800,000	245,250	13%	1,554,750
<b>Mine Risk Education</b>	214,000	-	-	214,000
<b>Total*</b>	<b>18,764,000</b>	<b>3,865,818</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>14,898,182</b>

\* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

Donor	Health/ Nutrition	Water /Environ. Sanitation	Education	Child Protection	Mine Action	Total
<b>Target</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>	<b>1,750,000</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>	<b>214,000</b>	<b>18,764,000</b>
<b>ECHO</b>	1,224,875					1,224,875
<b>Netherlands</b>	567,250	236,250	186,250	245,250		1,235,000
<b>UNOCHA</b>			300,000			300,000
<b>UNOCHA</b>	350,000					350,000
<b>UNOCHA</b>		506,500				506,500
<b>THEMATIC</b>	249,443					249,443
<b>Total funded</b>	2,391,568	742,750	486,250	245,250	0.00	3,865,818
<b>Unfunded</b>	<b>2,608,432</b>	<b>9,257,250</b>	<b>1,263,750</b>	<b>1,554,750</b>	<b>214,000</b>	<b>14,898,182</b>

**Table 3: Priority Requirements as of May 2007**

Project	Purpose	Requirements (USD)
<b>WASH</b>	Providing clean water and latrines to drought affected communities	3,000,000
<b>IDP response</b>	IDP multi sectoral response covering the return of the remaining 20,000 IDPs (Child protection, Health/Nutrition, Education, WASH)	2,500,000
<b>Nutrition</b>	Nutrition activities including facility and community based therapeutic feeding reaching the severely under nourished and supplementary feeding reaching undernourished children and pregnant/lactating women	500,000

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