

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ETHIOPIA

DONOR UPDATE 20 SEPTEMBER 2005

OVER 6 MILLION PEOPLE – MOSTLY CHILDREN – AT RISK OF LOOMING MALARIA EPIDEMIC

- While polio is continuing to spread, a UNICEF-supported nationwide vaccination campaign planned for October and November is badly under-funded.
- Emergency health and nutrition interventions are funded for 41%. Vital water and sanitation programmes only received 20% of their funding.
- UNICEF urgently needs US \$21.9 million to fight Ethiopia's looming malaria epidemic, fund a nationwide polio immunisation drive and reach 963,855 people in critical need of water

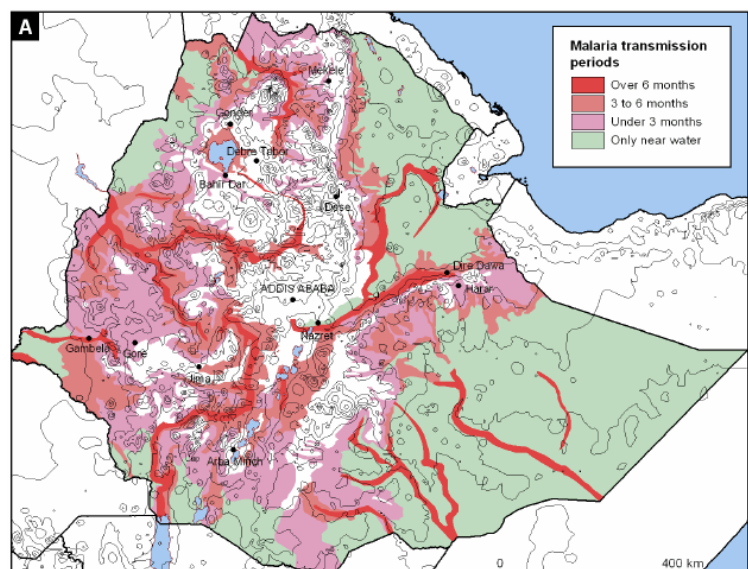
1. EMERGENCY OVERVIEW AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Ethiopia's looming malaria epidemic

A sharp rise in malaria cases and deaths from June to August, together with a widespread increase in malaria parasites and other worrying signs, are raising fears of a nationwide malaria epidemic that could affect more than 6 million Ethiopians – most of them children.

High rainfall and epidemiological trends are adding to concerns that an epidemic could occur during the "long" transmission season from October to December. Supplies of the new anti-malaria drug Artemether – Lumefantrine (brand name Coartem), have already been consumed in large quantities to control malaria earlier in the year.

In the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) alone, 59,332 malaria cases were recorded in 54 kebeles (districts) in June and July – a period that would only see a minimal number of cases in an average year. Full mortality figures for all regions are not yet available, but it is estimated that 6.1 million malaria cases occurred during the last major epidemic from April to December 2003. Between 45,000 and 114,000 people died from malaria during that period, according to a study published in the East African Medical Journal in April. Similar figures are expected if there is another full-blown malaria epidemic in 2005. These figures are over and above the 100,000 Ethiopians who die of endemic malaria in an "average" non-epidemic year – 80,000 of them children under the age of five.



Nutrition

Worrying rates of malnutrition are still being recorded in Ethiopia despite an overall improvement in the food security situation following good rains in many regions.

Areas of particular concern include the lowland of Wolaita and Sidama areas of SNNPR and the East and West Hararge zone of Oromiya region. Alarming rates of malnutrition also persist among the pastoralist populations of Afar and Somali regions. Field reports released by the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning System attributed the widespread malnutrition to continued inadequate access to food at the household level, inconsistent distribution of food rations, combined with high rates of diarrhoeal and infectious diseases.

In the most recent nutritional survey reported in West Haraghe, GOAL recorded 6.5% Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and 0.7% Sever Acute Malnutrition (SAM), compounded by serious Vitamin A deficiency. The mixed picture was confirmed in the most recent data from the UNICEF-backed Enhanced Outreach Strategy (EOS)¹ which has so far reached 8,516,562 children. According to a multi-agency Emergency Needs Assessment released in mid August, a total of 3.3 million people across the country will continue to need emergency relief assistance up until the end of December.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

HEALTH

Malaria

UNICEF is currently working within the Ethiopian Government's Roll Back Malaria (RBM) partnership on the largest rapid roll-out of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) in Ethiopia's history. The aim is to protect an extra 6 million people from malaria by the end of this year by distributing 3 million ITNs from September to December 2005. UNICEF will have distributed over 800,000 ITNs in 2005 using UN and donor funds and another 1.5 million ITNs using GFATM funds, on behalf of the government. One million of those ITNs will be imported within 3 months. Many of these ITNs will protect children and pregnant women in areas subject to epidemic malaria. However, for the long term Ethiopia still needs another 14 million ITNs over the next five years to reach 100% coverage of malaria-affected families.

UNICEF is also tackling the malaria parasite head-on by supporting the national malaria programme to improve diagnosis and treatment of malaria. So far in 2005, UNICEF has imported 2,815,800 Coartem treatments. As this is the first time that Ethiopia uses this effective but expensive drug UNICEF, WHO and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) have provided training for thousands of health workers on how to use diagnostic kits, Artemether-Lumefantrine and other anti-malaria drugs. UNICEF has also distributed quinine to treat infants and pregnant women infected with malaria and to reduce mortality among severe cases of malaria. Chloroquine has also been provided through emergency drug kits, IMCI (Integrated Management of Childhood Illness) drug supplies and routine malaria control programming. A monitoring and forecasting database is currently under expansion to track the distribution and proper utilization of all these supplies and activities.

Members of Ethiopia's RBM partnership plan to improve future performances within a rapidly expanding national malaria control programme. Priorities will now include developing stronger monitoring and evaluation, improving epidemic surveillance from district level upwards, and supporting capacity building to ensure the enormous increases in malaria control supplies are used correctly and efficiently.

There are signs that the initial surge of malaria from June to August has subsided due to epidemic prevention and control interventions by UNICEF, WHO and other members of the Roll Back Malaria partnership. However, the current rise in parasites and other worrying factors are adding to concerns that Ethiopia is merely experiencing a lull before the onset of a full blown epidemic – a common epidemiological pattern.

A full-blown epidemic this year would exhaust the country's stocks of Coartem and quinine. Ethiopia needs another two million doses of Coartem, costing US\$ 4.0 million, to ensure adequate stocks for this year and maintain overall emergency response capacity. An additional US\$ 125,000 is also requested for emergency quinine for the treatment of severe cases including infected infants and pregnant women.

UNICEF is also appealing for three million rapid diagnostic testing kits, cost US\$ 2 million, to accurately diagnose cases requiring Coartem, and ensure Coartem is not wasted on non-malaria fever cases. An additional US\$

¹ Full name - Enhanced Outreach Strategy / Targeted Supplementary Feeding for Child Survival Interventions. The largest ever partnership between UNICEF, the WFP and the Ethiopian government targets more than 7 million children under 5, as well as pregnant and lactating mothers, in 325 drought affected districts. It provides a child survival package twice a year of vitamin A supplementation, de-worming, measles catch-up, nutritional screening, referral to supplementary or therapeutic feeding programmes and, increasingly, malaria nets.

600,000 is needed to cover operational costs relating to the implementation of integrated vector management to prevent and control epidemics with insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), emergency indoor residual spraying (IRS), larviciding and environmental management, among other measures.

URGENT APPEAL: UNICEF needs US\$ 6.7 million to fight malaria in Ethiopia

Polio

Another three cases of polio have been reported in Ethiopia over the past four weeks, raising fears that the disease is continuing to spread. Two more suspected cases are being tested in the lab. There have now been 17 confirmed cases in Ethiopia since the disease reappeared after a long absence. Most worryingly, one of the new cases involves a 30-month-old girl in East Hararghe zone, in the eastern Oromiya region, hundreds of miles from the original outbreak (although lab tests are still ongoing to verify the source of the Hararghe case).

UNICEF and WHO backed this year's third round of nationwide house-to-house polio vaccinations in July. The National Immunisation Day, rolled out by the FMOH targeted 13.8 million children under the age of five. Preliminary results show that more than 95% of those children were reached. A fourth round targeting 15.9 million children under five is planned for October and November. Thus far, however, the round is badly under-funded. UNICEF's agreed US\$ 5.75 million contribution to the project is still short by US\$ 3.1 million or 54%.

URGENT APPEAL: UNICEF needs US\$ 3.1 million to help stop the spread of polio in Ethiopia

Measles

UNICEF is currently undertaking a major anti-measles campaign in the East and West Haraghe zones of Oromiya region, in partnership with WHO, targeting 749,978 children aged 6-59 months. UNICEF and WHO have recruited national consultants to help with the September intervention. More than 1.23 million children will be targeted with UNICEF-backed Special Immunisation Activities this year in Gambella, Afar and Oromiya.

NUTRITION

More than 7 million Ethiopian children will receive a life-saving package of health and nutrition interventions from the end of this month until December under the next rounds of the Enhanced Outreach Strategy. Vulnerable children in Oromiya will be the first to benefit from vitamin A supplementation, de-worming, measles catch-up, nutritional screening and referral to supplementary or therapeutic feeding programmes from the end of the month. All remaining regions should be covered by the end of December including, for the first time, Afar.

UNICEF has significantly boosted Ethiopia's facilities to treat severely malnourished children over the past two months. The country now has resources to treat 7,605 severely malnourished children at any one time up from 5,350 at the beginning of July. In total, UNICEF supports 25 therapeutic feeding programmes (Therapeutic Feeding Centres and Out-Patient Therapeutic Program) through NGOs and 41 therapeutic feeding units integrated in health facilities, providing the necessary drugs, equipment, technical assistance and therapeutic products.

WATER & SANITATION

In 2005, UNICEF's water and sanitation response focused mainly on Afar, Somali and Gambella regions and hotspot areas of Oromia, SNNPR, Amhara and Tigray regions. Emergency water tankering activities have assisted a total of 209,200 people over the first eight months of the year. Water tankering has also been critical for opening and running many of the therapeutic feeding centres in remote areas.

UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of 40 water schemes, benefiting about 25,000 people. More than 125,000 M³ of water was distributed through water tankering and emergency water purification in the drought and flood affected areas of the country and more than 186 new schemes were constructed.

UNICEF's emergency water and sanitation programmes remain badly under-funded. From the US\$ 15 million that UNICEF appealed for earlier this year, only US\$ 2.9 million or 19.6% has come in. That means there is currently a **US\$ 12.1 million** funding gap.

This is having a major impact on UNICEF's ability to provide life-saving emergency water tankering and other interventions to some of Ethiopia's worst-hit areas including Somali and Afar regions.

UNICEF originally hoped to reach 1.5 million Ethiopians in desperate need of fresh water through the rehabilitation of water points, drilling of new schemes and sanitation and hygiene interventions. To date we have

only been able to assist just over a third of that figure. The shortfall in funding leaves 963,855 people in critical need of water supply.

URGENT APPEAL: UNICEF needs US\$12.1 million to roll out life-saving water and sanitation programmes

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

UNICEF will take part in a UN Country Team operation to return 6,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their homes in Ethiopia's remote Somali region. The IDPs, who were displaced due to internal conflict and the 1999/2000 drought, have spent the past six years in appalling conditions in camps in Hartasheik and Fafan, near the Somali regional capital Jijiga. Following consultation with the IDPs, they will be returned to their homes further south in the region as of mid-September. UNICEF will dispatch non-food items including plastic sheeting, blankets, cooking sets, jerry cans, Insecticide Treated Nets and soap to the returning 6,000 IDPs, in cooperation with the Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission. Plans are also in place for UNICEF to be the main provider of services covering health, water, sanitation and education during and after the move.

UNICEF also supported 1,400 displaced families with shelter and blankets as they returned to their villages on the Eritrean border in Tigray after the area was cleared of landmines.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIGURES (As of 14 September)

INDICATORS	TARGET 2005	ACHIEVED	% Achieved
Enhanced Outreach Strategy – EOS			
No of children screened in 2005 (6-59 months)	6,827,389 (twice a year)	8,516,562	62.4%
No of children supplemented with Vitamin A in 2005 (6-59 months)	6,827,389 (twice a year)	8,912,869	65.3%
No of children given de-worming treatment in 2005 (12-59 mths)	5,973,965 (twice a year)	7,273,288	60.9%
Therapeutic Feeding Units			
No of Therapeutic Feeding Units supported	100	66	66%
Child treatment capacity in the available Therapeutic Feeding Units	19,400	7,605	39.2%
No. of people trained in the management of malnutrition	n.a.	533	n.a.
Measles 'plus' immunization			
SIA (Including East and West Harargue)	1,236,228	411,766*	33.4%
EOS - Missed Opportunities	n.a.	902,121	n.a.
Polio immunization			
Areas along borders (Sub-Nat. Immun. Days)	3,498,094	3,671,170	105%
Round 1 (National Immunization Days)	14,527,496	15,425,631	105%
Round 2 (National Immunization Days)	14,527,496	14,780,277	102%
Round 3 (National Immunization Days)	13,800,000	Info coming	>95% (prelim)
Malaria Control using UNICEF Funds			
ITNs distributed	820,000	611,218	74.5%
Net Re-treatment Kits distributed	200,000	199,439	99.7%
Test Kits distributed	1,000,000	752,900	75.2%
Co-Artem distributed	2,899,380	2,815,800	97.1%
Malaria Control using GFATM Funds (delivered with UNICEF's support)			
ITNs distributed	1,000,060	768,000	76.8%
Net Re-treatment Kits distributed	1,000,000	191,200	19.1%
Emergency Water and Sanitation activities			
Emergency water tankering	419,903	209,200	49.8%
New schemes	469,259	110,000	23.4%
Sanitation and water purification	131,870	191,945	145.5%
Rehabilitation	431,894	25,000	5.8%

* Coverage result from recent Measles vaccination in East and West Harargue is not included.

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

EMERGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS BY SECTOR AGAINST THE 2005 REVISED APPEAL AS AT 13 SEPTEMBER 2005				
Programme	UNICEF budget in Appeal 05 (US\$)	Received (US\$)	% Funded	Funding Gap
Health & Nutrition	39,691,401	16,362,898	41.2	23,328,503
Water & Sanitation	15,000,000	2,951,061	19.6	12,048,939
Sub-total for appeal needs	54,691,401	19,313,959	35.3	35,377,442
ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NON-APPEAL SECTORS AS AT 13 SEPTEMBER 2005				
US\$ 20,161 from the Canadian National Committee for UNICEF for education, US\$ 791,943 from SIDA for Youth & HIV/AIDS and Early Warning, US\$ 430,836 from the UK Natcom for general emergency programmes and US\$ 120,627 for education from Dutch Natcom			1,363,567	
Grand-total for all emergency needs			20,677,526	

TOTAL 2005 EMERGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONOR AS AT 13 SEPTEMBER 2005		
Donor	Total amount (US\$)	Sectors
ECHO	3,609,845	Emergency Epidemic Malaria Control and Water and Sanitation
Netherlands	3,515,000	Health, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation
UK/DFID	3,502,620	Health, Nutrition
Sweden SIDA	3,415,300	Health, Water, Sanitation & non-appeal sectors
USAID/OFDA	2,050,000	Health, Nutrition
DFID (United Kingdom)	1,886,790	Health, Nutrition (EOS)
Norway	1,111,111	Health, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation
UK Natcom	793,652	Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation & non-appeal sectors
CIDA/IHA	406,505	Health, Nutrition
Dutch Natcom	241,546	Health, Nutrition & non-appeal sectors
Belgian Natcom	64,683	Nutrition
Ireland/Ethiopia (DCI)	60,313	Water, Sanitation
Canada NatCom	20,161	Education
Total	20,677,526	

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