

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## Eritrea

### SUMMARY FOR 2005

#### Critical Issues for Children and Women

4 consecutive years of drought coupled with the border war with Ethiopia in 1999/2000 has gravely worsened the well-being and livelihood of children and women throughout the country, some being internally displaced. Recent surveys indicate that more than 300,000 children are acutely malnourished. Eritrea has the highest maternal malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa. The incidence of infections among young children is on the rise. Water shortages and lack of adequate sanitation facilities are being reported in most parts of the country, and it is estimated that 60-80% of the rural population will be adversely affected. Children and particularly girls are dropping out school.

#### Planned Humanitarian Action for 2005

UNICEF has developed under the CAP for Eritrea emergency activities linked with longer term strategies. While line ministries remain the key partners for UNICEF, programmes will also be conducted with UN agencies and NGO partners. Some 58% of the total population or 2 million people in Eritrea are children or youth under 19 years. Of these, almost 1.4 million of these children live in extreme poverty and will be targeted by UNICEF's humanitarian programme, including 525,000 children under the age of 5 years.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will supply therapeutic and supplementary food, and equipment and reinforce nutrition training and units. In addition, UNICEF will support nutrition surveillance and routine immunization services through provision of essential drugs, provide vaccines and supplies. It will also contribute to malaria control and reproductive health.

Water and Environmental Sanitation: UNICEF will support the construction of water supply systems, emergency water trucking activities, and community water management system within the most affected communities, including primary schools. UNICEF will also expand hygiene, sanitation promotion programme.

Education: UNICEF will conduct emergency education assessments particularly within the most drought-affected and IDPs communities, procure and distribute education and recreational materials, provide psychosocial support, and monitor access and quality of education in camps and resettlement areas.

Protection and IDP support: UNICEF will provide non-food items to disadvantaged children and support systematic identification of orphans and other vulnerable children. UNICEF will also conduct Emergency Preparedness and Response training to counterparts on appropriate management of vulnerable groups in time of emergencies.

Landmine Awareness: UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of national bodies in conducting MRE for IDPs, and at-risk communities. Psychosocial and recreation support will be provided and mass media awareness campaigns be implemented.

<b>Summary of UNICEF Financial Needs for 2005</b>	
<b>Sector</b>	<b>US\$</b>
Health and Nutrition	3,784,318
Water and Environmental Sanitation	4,956,000
Education	744,318
Child Protection and Non-Food Items	3,180,000
Land Mine Awareness	426,136
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>13,090,772</b>

<sup>1</sup> The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 12 per cent. The actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with the Executive Board Decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003.