Ethiopia

Some 8 million people in Ethiopia, including 4.24 million children, require food assistance; 7.2 million people lack access to safe drinking water; and over 503,000 children are severely malnourished and require treatment. In addition, 3.1 million people, including 1.6 million children, are displaced; and Ethiopia is hosting over 655,000 refugees, making it the second largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. In the context of the rapid social, economic and political transformation taking place in Ethiopia, children and women are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of inter-communal conflict, drought, flooding and disease outbreaks, including cholera. Food insecurity, lack of access to safe water, malnutrition and the high numbers of out-of-school children are expected to persist and compound existing needs. In addition, refugees and internally displaced people, particularly women and girls, require protection from gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse. Ethiopia's pivotal geographic position in the Horn of Africa and its established migration routes are amplifying the risk of disease outbreaks, including measles, cholera and Ebola. The current resources to respond to the humanitarian needs are inadequate across all sectors, particularly education; and the limited number of partners, challenging topography, pockets of insecurity and access constraints are hampering the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2020, UNICEF will deliver life-saving services for children and families displaced by conflict and affected by climatic shocks, disease outbreaks, natural hazards and malnutrition in Ethiopia. Given the chronic/protracted nature of the needs, UNICEF will apply multi-sectoral systems-building approaches and cash-based solutions using its extensive footprint in Ethiopia and its strong capacities for community outreach to build resilience and ensure durable solutions. Integrated services will be delivered through common platforms, cross-referrals and communication for development strategies, capitalizing on UNICEF’s field presence and leveraging its sector co-leadership roles in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, education and child protection. UNICEF will prioritize partner resources and target in an equitable manner. Resources will be invested in mitigating and preventing violence, including gender-based violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect; and all programmes will be delivered with consideration for gender. Protection will be mainstreamed across sectors to enhance systems for children and their families; and strengthen reporting mechanisms for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF will also establish mechanisms – including multi-agency community-based feedback and complaint mechanisms – to strengthen its accountability to affected populations. Efforts to meet the needs of people with disabilities in humanitarian action are currently limited.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US$52.8 million available against the US$143.5 million appeal (37 per cent funded). In line with the 2019 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF reached 2.1 million people, 53 per cent of them children, with life-saving interventions, focusing on those displaced by conflict or drought and those at risk of malnutrition, preventable diseases such as cholera, and violence, exploitation and abuse. Refugees from Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan also received essential support. Overall, the year’s results are on track, except in education – UNICEF-supported education services only reached 21 per cent of vulnerable children, mainly due to the 84 per cent funding gap. Lack of access to social services has also been a significant obstacle to child protection. UNICEF supported the treatment of nearly 182,000 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and ensured access to safe water for 1.3 million people. UNICEF support also helped avert a potentially catastrophic cholera outbreak in Addis Ababa. The child protection response contributed to strengthening case management systems and reunifying over 1,800 children. UNICEF also provided direct technical support to the National Disaster Risk Management Commission to conduct multi-agency seasonal assessments and prepare contingency and response plans.
NUTRITION

- Children under 5 years with SAM admitted for treatment to therapeutic care programmes: 487,696
- Children who received vitamin A supplementation: 178,211

HEALTH

- Medical consultations in priority locations (Afar and Somali regions): 1,029,497
- People affected by acute watery diarrhoea with access to life-saving curative interventions: 1,243,070
- Children immunized against measles: 760,270
- Insecticide-treated bed nets distributed in malaria-endemic areas: 320,000
- People with access to health care facilities stocked with emergency drugs and supplies for three months: 137,500

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- People accessing sufficient water of appropriate quality and quantity for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene (>1 million through permanent infrastructure): 5,500,000
- People reached with key messages on hygiene practices: 5,000,000
- People have access to emergency non-food items (including household water treatment chemicals): 5,000,000

EDUCATION

- School-aged children, including adolescents, accessing quality education: 2,346,922

CHILD PROTECTION

- Vulnerable children provided with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces with multi-sectoral programming interventions: 42,000
- Children and women provided with risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions to address gender-based violence: 52,000
- Unaccompanied and separated children reunited with their families and/or placed in appropriate alternative care: 5,000

Funding requirements

UNICEF is appealing for US$161.2 million to reach children in Ethiopia with humanitarian assistance in 2020. The cost per sector incorporates the needs on the ground, as well as the integration of gender-based violence in emergencies activities, and considers UNICEF and partner capacities to deliver. Cluster coordination costs for nutrition, WASH and education and the child protection area of responsibility are included in these calculations, in line with lessons learned and agency commitments to ensure sustained cluster leadership.

1 Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency needs and planning documents. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ‘Ethiopia: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview’ (draft), OCHA, October 2019.
4 Some 3.8 million people are likely to require food assistance due to below average seasonal rains (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ‘Ethiopia Situation Report No. 23’, OCHA, June 2019). Some 1.3 million people are also expected to be affected by floods and 335,000 people are expected to be displaced due to the 2019 Kiremt rainy season (Joint Government-Humanitarian Partners National Flood Contingency Plan for 2019 Kiremt Season, July 2019).
5 In addition, UNICEF will provide cash and/or voucher assistance to communities affected by crisis through its shock-responsive productive safety net programme.
6 This figure is calculated based on 53 per cent of 3 million as per the Government of Ethiopia, Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey, 2016. This also includes 238,500 children with disabilities included in these calculations, in line with lessons learned and agency commitments to ensure sustained cluster leadership.

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UNICEF 2019 targets: 18,049,395
UNICEF total results: 21,019,082