

Emergency Drought Appeal

Situation

Today, children and their families across four regions of Ethiopia, are struggling for survival as a severe drought takes hold following three consecutive failed rainy seasons. The most severely impacted areas are the lowlands of Afar, Somali, SNNPR¹ and southern and eastern Oromia Region². This has led to a devastating impact on livelihoods and livestock, with food security deteriorating rapidly. More than 70,000 livestock animals have died with the number increasing daily in all affected regions due to a lack of animal feed and water, leading to further negative impacts to livelihoods. Internal displacement has already begun with severe consequences to displaced people, livestock and the children and families left behind, as caregivers seek livelihood opportunities for their survival.



Regions Affected by Drought

The affected population is facing a critical lack of potable water, with 95 per cent of water sources running dry in some areas. Women are reported to be walking upwards of 15km in search of water. This is against a backdrop of skyrocketing food costs with an 80 per cent decrease in milk production and a failure of 70 per cent of crops. If the next rainy season (March – April 2022) is poor or fails, the situation could exacerbate leading to increased food insecurity and potentially famine. The drought is worsening an already fragile situation, with pre-drought Global Acute Malnutrition rates reported at 18 per cent which is higher than the emergency global threshold of 15 per cent.

According to Government data, it is estimated that **more than 6.8 million people** in drought impacted areas in Afar, SNNPR, Somali and Oromia lowland regions will need urgent humanitarian assistance by mid-2022.

The impact on children has been particularly severe with more than 156,000 children in Somali and southern Oromia out of school due to school closures and lack of school feeding programmes. The decrease in milk production directly manifests in child under nutrition with severe consequences on pregnant and lactating women. Immediate nutritional interventions are needed for malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Priority Response Needs

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

- Rehabilitation of boreholes and water schemes and attachments for people and animals
- Emergency water trucking
- Procurement and distribution of non-food items (NFI)
- Institutional WASH support to health and education facilities

Nutrition:

- Treatment of acute cases of malnutrition for children and Pregnant and Lactating Women
- Rehabilitation of nutrition facilities to cope with increased levels of malnutrition
- Procurement and distribution of ready to use therapeutic foods (RUTF), high energy biscuits, and Vitamin A for supplementary feeding
- Improvement of Infant and Young Child Feeding practices

¹ Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region

² Drought affected areas continue to emerge due to the dynamic nature of the emergency. UNICEF and partners are evaluating the situation in Afar and SNNPR and will provide further details when available

Health:

- Procurement and distribution of emergency drug kits
- Procurement and distribution of midwifery kits
- Maintain the existing maternal health and nutrition teams (MHNT) to provide critical lifesaving outreach support at the community and household levels
- Build health facility capacity including rehabilitation of Primary Health Care facilities to improve quality case management

Education:

- Support re-opening of schools for drought-impacted areas and emergency education support to keep children learning
- Provide scholastic materials, mental health and psychosocial training for affected teachers

Child Protection:

- Provide support to the overstretched social service work force
- Strengthening of case management for children, particularly migration or drought-impacted children
- Provision of lifesaving social protection schemes including cash transfers

Critical Funding Needs

UNICEF is appealing for US\$31.8 million to provide lifesaving support to more than 2 million high-risk people in Afar, Somali, SNNPR and Oromia regions, this includes more than 600,000 internally displaced people who have been affected by multiple emergencies. This support will provide lifesaving child protection, education, health, nutrition, social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene services for a period of six months. UNICEF received USD 3.5 million in CERF funding to support the drought response, particularly for WASH, in Oromia and Somali, leaving a USD 28,370,175 funding gap (89%) for the overall drought response.

Sector	Total Budget Required (\$)
Child Protection	5,505,236
Education	5,859,046
Health	3,153,240
Nutrition	6,545,590
WASH	10,807,063
Total	31,870,175

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