Drought in the Horn of Africa: Children in Crisis
A Proposal, August 2011
UNICEF is on the ground now saving children and preventing emergency escalation in the four countries that comprise the Horn of Africa: Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti. The area is experiencing the worst crisis in 60 years with a deadly combination of drought, escalating food prices and armed conflict. Thousands of families are living in dire conditions, and the United Nations has declared famine in two regions of Somalia. UNICEF has distributed the life-saving supplies it had on-hand in the region to children in remote drought-affected communities as well as children in camps for refugees and internally displaced people. During the month of July, UNICEF delivered 1,300 metric tons of supplies to some of the hardest hit areas of southern Somalia, including therapeutic food to treat over 66,000 malnourished children. UNICEF is airlifting more crucial supplies to the area, including insecticide-treated mosquito nets to prevent malaria along with vaccines to support massive vaccination campaigns that will prevent the outbreak of disease. To expand the provision of safe water and access to sanitation, UNICEF workers will drill and rehabilitate boreholes and expand water trucking and hygiene activities. Looking forward, UNICEF will implement viable longer-term strategies across the region to prevent further child suffering.

As you can see, the generosity of the international community is already making a difference. As of July 21, over $85.6 million was raised by UNICEF’s appeals for the Horn of Africa Crisis. However, a funding gap remains. UNICEF estimates a total need of $300 million through 2011. UNICEF’s work is a race against time. The United Nations has warned that if immediate action is not taken, famine could spread to all eight southern
regions of Somalia in two months. Across the Horn, the magnitude of the suffering and loss is tremendous in this “children’s famine.” Life-saving actions from UNICEF and its partners are urgently needed to prevent the deaths of an estimated 480,000 severely malnourished children and to help an additional 1,649,000 who are moderately malnourished. Over 10 million people are threatened by the drought and the resulting food insecurity as circumstances have triggered enormous refugee outflows to Kenya and Ethiopia, thus amplifying an already severe humanitarian crisis.

In order to reach the increasing numbers of children and women suffering in drought-affected areas of the Horn, UNICEF urgently requires increased donor support to scale-up life-saving interventions for the children and women in the region. The most urgent needs include funding for therapeutic feeding, vitamin supplementation, immunization, water and sanitation services, and child protection measures.

We hope you will be our partner in saving the lives of children in the Horn of Africa. UNICEF respectfully requests your consideration of a gift to support our humanitarian actions. This critical funding will allow UNICEF to ensure that the region’s most vulnerable women and children will:

- Receive treatment for malnutrition;
- Gain access to clean water and improved sanitation;
- Receive vital vaccines against measles, polio, and other deadly diseases; and
- Resume schooling by creating temporary learning spaces and distributing School-in-a-Box kits.

Below please find detailed updates on the situation in the countries of the Horn, and UNICEF’s plans to improve conditions at home and at swelling refugee camps. The multi-country efforts described are coordinated at UNICEF’s Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). In close coordination with UNICEF Headquarters, ESARO continues to strengthen systems to enhance capacities for response among its individual country offices. In this effort, there is a major focus on emergency information management, strategic humanitarian response planning, high level humanitarian advocacy, cross-border programmatic and operational coordination, resource mobilization, staff surge, and overall supplies and logistics management.

**Somalia**
Somalia has endured a complex socio-political environment for 20 years, alongside extreme poverty, food insecurity, conflict, and instability. The current crisis has left as many as 1.85 million children in need of humanitarian assistance. This represents an 85 percent increase since mid 2010, and an increase of over 35 percent, or one million people, since January 2011. The number of acutely malnourished children has risen from 476,000 in January to 780,000. A whole new generation of Somalis are now at risk having survived two decades of strife.

The drought’s epicenter in the south of Somalia has rendered this population most vulnerable, and access to them remains extremely challenging. Food
deliveries are urgently needed there to stabilize the condition of children and families on the move.

Due to the desperate situation in the south, people continue moving by the thousands, both internally and to neighboring countries, in search of assistance. Almost 1,000 Somali children arrive in Ethiopia and Kenya each day. Those who survive the long and exhausting journey arrive in appalling condition. A recent nutrition survey in Ethiopia’s camps revealed that over 47 percent of newly-arrived Somali children were acutely malnourished as a result of the extreme conditions they left behind in southern Somalia.

UNICEF is one of the largest service providers in Somalia. Humanitarian operations have been very difficult but not impossible, with increasing access to the south gradually being achieved. UNICEF will continue to work with governments, other UN agencies, international NGOs, and a network of national partners to meet the pressing needs of 1.85 million children.

The acute food security and nutrition crisis must be addressed through immediate access to food along with an integrated package of nutrition, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), health and livelihood interventions. The priority nutrition action is to save lives through treating and preventing malnutrition and addressing other causes of malnutrition, such as waterborne diseases and measles vaccination.

UNICEF is planning to more than double capacity for the treatment of severely malnourished children, scaling up coverage from the current 7,500 children per month to at least 17,000 per month, aiming at reaching 200,000 children (at least 100,000 over the next six months) through a network of over 200 outpatient therapeutic program facilities in the south.

Plans also include scaling up coverage of moderately malnourished children, from the current 11,500 per month to 16,500 per month, while aiming to reach 198,000 (at least 99,000 in the next six months) through more than 300 supplementary feeding program centers. To complement this, UNICEF will scale up its whole supplementary feeding program for 510,000 families (over 3 million people), including those who left their homes and are in transit. Up to 200 maternal and child-health clinics and 100 health posts—with combined capacity to reach an estimated 2.5 million women and children—will be provisioned with essential drugs, vaccines, and basic equipment, as well as staff training and stronger health-service outreach.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) related interventions will include massive scale-up and upgrading of water supply/sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion at the 500 supported nutrition centers, along with large-scale distributions of WASH items (non-food items, soap, and household water-treatment products) and water vouchers. The WASH plan calls for, using outpatient therapeutic feeding programs as community entry points, targeting 300,000 children and their families (1.8 million people). The plan also includes scaling up emergency water supply and sanitation for 50,000 people living in camps and transit sites, and 30,000 people in host communities. A strong component throughout will be the promotion of disease-preventing hygiene practices, with the aim to deliver hygiene messages in camps, host communities, child-friendly spaces, and schools.
Through its education program, UNICEF is currently supporting over 37,000 displaced children (49 percent girls) to attend primary schools at 155 sites in established camps or neighboring communities in the south. The Education and Child Protection sections are collaborating to establish 343 new child-friendly spaces (CFSs) targeting an additional 30,000 children over the coming weeks while schools remain closed for the holidays. All children in CFSs will benefit from safe and protective environments with psychosocial support, recreational materials, food vouchers, education activities, health-and-hygiene education, and such WASH interventions as 3 liters of water per child per day and gender-adapted sanitation. UNICEF’s support will increase to reach 300,000 (up from 197,000) primary school children at an estimated 500 schools or temporary learning spaces across the south.

**Kenya**

An estimated 3,500,000 people in Northern Kenya are affected by drought and in need of food assistance. The most severely affected regions are Turkana, Wajir, Mandera, Isiolo, Marsabit, and Moyale. A sharp rise in food prices has increased need among the poorest and most vulnerable populations, and acute malnutrition has significantly increased.

In 2011, admissions to therapeutic feeding programs are up 78 percent over 2010. The Nutrition sector estimates that 385,000 children under the age of five and 90,000 pregnant and lactating women are currently affected by acute malnutrition, with 65,000 such children suffering severe acute malnutrition.

Malnutrition and associated morbidity and mortality are expected to continue to increase if current trends are not immediately addressed. Meanwhile, in the drought-affected north and eastern districts, routine immunization coverage is approximately 60 percent, leaving 67,317 children under the age of 12 months unvaccinated, and 336,586 under the age of five susceptible to measles. In addition, counties in the Northeast Province, Turkana, and other areas are already reporting an increased case load of diarrheal diseases.

In response to the crisis, UNICEF has distributed contingency drug supplies to the northern arid areas of Kenya, provided financial support to the Northeast Province Health Management Office for surveillance strengthening and routine outreach service delivery, and continues to support the overall sector response with the Ministers of Health (MOH), World Health Organization (WHO), and other partners. WASH emergency supplies to assist over 75,000 people have been distributed to District Public Health Officers, Water Service Boards, and UNICEF field locations. Over 50 hand pump units are now being set up for installation in priority locations.

A combination of drought and ongoing armed conflict in neighboring Somalia has triggered the sharpest refugee inflow in a decade and led to a refugee emergency in the border areas. The refugee population in Dadaab is currently 378,855, with an estimated 1,300 new arrivals every day, the majority of whom are women and children, stretching the already crowded camps beyond their capacity. The levels of severe acute malnutrition and mortality in young children in the Dadaab camps are increasing at alarming rates in the face of limited resources. Admissions to therapeutic feeding
centers have increased by 200 percent, with 3,804 cases of severe acute malnutrition. Seventy-eight percent of the admissions are new arrivals from Somalia.

Compounded by malnutrition and poor sanitation, the risk of communicable diseases outbreaks—particularly measles, polio, and cholera—is high among the refugee population as well as their host communities. UNICEF is responding to the crisis by increasing access to life-saving nutrition interventions, and by managing acute malnutrition among people of all ages at community and health facilities while increasing access to preventive actions.

UNICEF is also strengthening immunization coverage, with emphasis on measles and polio, while supporting scale-up of high-impact maternal, newborn, and child health activities at all levels. Specific interventions for refugee and host communities include a measles and vitamin A campaign targeting 158,000 children in the camp and surrounding areas. In collaboration with the Kenya Provincial Health Authority in border areas, health stabilization support will be provided to refugees on arrival.

In WASH, UNICEF will promote dissemination of key health information targeting prevention and control of health emergencies and ensure access to adequate WASH services for refugees in Dadaab camps and in host communities. With partnering organizations, UNICEF will also enhance child protection interventions and preventive actions in Dadaab camps, at border reception centers, and in host communities.

To improve access to education, UNICEF will provide temporary learning spaces/classrooms, education kits, recreation kits, and Early Childhood Development kits to schools with a high influx of refugee children. Community mobilization for increased enrolment will be organized among new arrivals.

The cluster system in Kenya is integrated within existing sector coordination mechanisms jointly with government. To support coordination of the
humanitarian efforts, UNICEF co-chairs the WASH, Nutrition and Education sectors. In Dadaab, UNICEF is further strengthening its presence and support to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for a coordinated response with a total estimated target population of 350,000 children and adolescents under the age of 15 in the refugee camps and the host communities.

Ethiopia
Approximately 4.5 million people in Ethiopia will require food assistance from July to December 2011. This represents a 42 percent increase over April 2001. In addition, some 7.8 million people suffering chronic food insecurity continue to require assistance. In particular, support is urgently required for an estimated 159,220 children at risk of severe acute malnutrition, 2 million children at risk of contracting measles, 5 million people at risk of diarrhea, and 8.8 million at risk of malaria.

UNICEF is scaling up its drought response in health, nutrition, WASH, and education to meet the increased need in Ethiopia while continuing to support government’s close and ongoing monitoring of the population’s nutrition and health status. UNICEF is expanding its response to measles outbreaks in drought-affected community zones known as woredas, targeting 652,500 children under the age of five. Starting in late August in the Somali and Oromiya regions, water will be trucked in to benefit an additional 120,000 people.

The escalating humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia is compounded by an increasing number of refugees fleeing drought and conflict in Somalia. The number of refugees crossing into the Somali region of Ethiopia has steadily increased over the past two months, reaching a peak of 2,000 arrivals per day. The vast majority of the refugees are women and children. They are in a very poor state of health, dehydrated and severely undernourished. This increasing influx of refugees is placing a significant additional burden on already scarce resources.
In Djibouti, 120,000 people, including 17,000 refugees, require emergency assistance. Women and children are particularly affected by the lack of access to clean drinking water and increased levels of malnutrition. More than 49 percent of people in rural areas do not have access to a safe source of drinking water. The supply of potable water is one of the key risk factors for a child’s survival and well-being at any time, and particularly so during an emergency.

To date, UNICEF has been responding to meet urgent humanitarian needs with a particular focus on nutrition and WASH. Emergency supplies have been distributed to children being treated for malnutrition. Some 25,000 people in 20 locations have been provided access to safe drinking water thanks to efforts to truck in water.

UNICEF is currently scaling up its response with a focus on responding to the priority health, nutrition, and WASH needs for those children and women who are most vulnerable. An estimated 10,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition will be screened and managed at the community level through supplementation of ready-to-use therapeutic food as Plumpy’Nut. Children with complications will be supported through health centers.

UNICEF will expand water delivery systems to provide access to safe drinking water in 30 areas where water is scarce, targeting 25,000 people. An estimated 20,000 people will benefit from the maintenance and repair of 20 water pumping stations. Thirty existing wells will be deepened, sanitary sealed, and fitted with hand pumps to ensure access to drinking water for an additional 20,000 people. Plans are underway with the MOH for a vaccination campaign, including vitamin A supplementation and de-worming, to prevent outbreaks of killer diseases.

Photo
Kenya: Katherine Ondoga washes her hands at a tap outside newly built latrines at a school in Naros Village, near the town of Lodwar. Illustrations on walls at the latrines promote healthy hygiene behaviors. “I am part of the Water and Sanitation Committee for my community and school,” Katherine said. “We have a committee of schoolchildren [to] make sure that all of the children in our school are clean and keep certain hygiene rules. © UNICEF/Kate Holt
The Funding Requirements

In response to the drought emergency in Southern Somalia, UNICEF is dramatically scaling up its program to respond to the urgent and increasing needs of women and children. For 2011, UNICEF has therefore more than doubled its requirements for Somalia, seeking $136.2 million to scale up its emergency response and continue its work on improving the delivery, speed, and coordination of emergency services in a country characterized by increased frequency and intensity of natural and human-made disasters. The funding needs for Kenya have increased to $73.1 million and for Ethiopia to $76.6 million. Funding requirements for UNICEF Djibouti and the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) remain at $5.4 million and $7.5 million, respectively.

In summary, the overall 2011 funding needs for the current crisis in the Horn of Africa have now risen to nearly $300 million—more than $200 million of which remains unfunded.

UNICEF remains one of the largest service providers in this crisis with unrivalled access and influence. We are working with the international communities and donors to fully support the responses of governments in the region to stabilize the situation through timely and effective action.

Your support will allow UNICEF and its partners to carry out our lifesaving efforts for children and women throughout Somalia and the other areas in the Horn of Africa.

### Funding Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Funding Needs for 2011</th>
<th>Unmet Funding Needs as of July 21, 2011</th>
<th>% Unfunded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>136,172,005</td>
<td>92,460,454</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>73,120,000</td>
<td>60,728,824</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>76,628,028</td>
<td>47,974,810</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>5,405,000</td>
<td>4,630,561</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESARO</td>
<td>7,450,000</td>
<td>7,350,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>298,775,033</td>
<td>213,144,649</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In two decades, the number of children under age five dying each day has been cut by one-third. But still, 22,000 children die each day from preventable causes. Our mission is to do whatever it takes to make that number zero by giving children the essentials for a safe and healthy childhood. For more information, visit [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org).