

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

12 August 2011

- WFP is rapidly moving life-saving food and nutritional products by sea, air and road to hungry populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and Djibouti to address the needs of the most vulnerable – especially young children and their mothers.
- WFP is providing the right foods at the right time to prevent **malnutrition in the first two years of life, which can lead to irreversible damage to children's minds and bodies.**
- WFP is working to strengthen the resilience of communities that live in drought-prone areas, working with governments and other agencies, using food assistance to support smallholder farmers and helping people to adapt to changes in weather patterns.

FACTS ABOUT WFP'S OPERATIONS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA:

- More than 11 million people need WFP food assistance in five countries.
- In Somalia, WFP is planning to feed 1.5 million people, including 300,000 in and around Mogadishu;
- WFP is looking at ways to reach a further 2.2 million in areas of the south that have been inaccessible since January 2010;
- WFP is reaching 3.7 million people in Ethiopia (including 226,000 refugees);
- WFP is targeting 2.7 million people in Kenya (including 496,000 refugees);
- WFP is also working in the Karamoja region of Uganda reaching 700,000 and in Djibouti (109,000);
- The budget shortfall for WFP's Horn of Africa operation for the next six months, taking pledges and confirmed contributions into account, is US\$250million.

FOOD ON THE MOVE:

- WFP has begun nine airlifts to Mombasa carrying a total of 800 metric tons of High Energy Biscuits (HEBs), enough to feed 1.6 million people for a day. The biscuits are being positioned for onward delivery to vulnerable people in the Horn of Africa.

- A total 85 metric tons of Plumpy Sup is being flow in on commercial flights from France in the coming days for use in tackling malnutrition in children in the Dadaab refugee camp
- A total 47 metric tons of high-nutrient Plumpy Sup, enough to feed almost 16,500 malnourished children under age five for a month, arrived in Nairobi on Monday, 8 August, on a flight, donated by international mail and delivery company TNT.
- WFP is working to ensure that 2,000 metric tons of Plumpy Sup, 2,000 metric tons of HEBs and up to 10,000 metric tons of Super Cereal are moved by air and road to Somalia over the next two months, to help the hungry, especially vulnerable children under age five.
- In Ethiopia (Dolo Ado) WFP also plans to provide supplementary feeding for up to 42,000 children in August. WFP will also start the same programme for about 100,000 children in Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya from 15 August.
- In Ethiopia, food distributions began over the weekend for 3,000 refugees who have been transferred to the newly-opened camp in Haloweyn, the fourth and newest refugee camp which opened on Friday 5 August. The camp is expected to house about 15,000 people by the end of this month.

NB: 1 metric ton of Plumpy'Sup is enough to treat 350 children under 5 for one month.

SOMALIA:

Mogadishu

- Large numbers of Somali families fleeing drought and famine have been arriving in Mogadishu over the past weeks (27,000 in July alone say UNHCR). There are no formal IDP camps but rather informal settlements. Newly arrived IDPs are being registered by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG);
- WFP is providing a daily hot meal to an average of 92,000 people/day treating malnourished children, pregnant women and nursing mothers with specialized nutritional support through health clinics providing cooked meals in 6 hospitals;

- Between 27 July and 3 August, 86 metric tons of Plumpy Sup was airlifted to Mogadishu. This is enough to feed 30,000 malnourished children under the age of 5 for a month. This food boosted existing stocks that are being distributed by local NGO partners in 19 nutrition centers across the city.

Elsewhere

- In the Lower Juba Region in Dhoble WFP has been distributing just over 4 metric tons of high energy biscuits (HEBs), and 5.7 metric tons of Plumpy'Sup to children under the age of 5 among IDPs in transit. (began 5 August);
- In the Gedo region, WFP is distributing high energy biscuits and "Plumpy Sup" to children under 5 among IDPs in transit in Dolow (began on 30 July), El Waq (began on 2 August), Luq (began on 3 August);
- Supplementary feeding programmes in existing sites in the Central Region of Somalia have been expanded to take into account the regular seasonal spike in malnutrition rates, as well as some IDPs from the south and Central;
- WFP and its partners have established a network of permanent nutrition centres in most districts in Central region. The numbers in need have been growing, with new admissions of 2,000 malnourished children and women in May, 3,000 in June. Currently around 9,000 people are receiving supplementary feeding and their families receive take-home rations, reaching a total of 54,000 people.

Access to Southern Somalia

- WFP suspended operations in much of the South from January 2010 because of unacceptable demands from militia groups in this area: there were death threats made against staff; women were barred from working for WFP; unofficial taxes were demanded;
- WFP continues to appeal for urgent unimpeded access so that lives can be saved without further delay. WFP is ready to launch a massive operation to move vital food supplies into southern Somalia so that assistance can be delivered swiftly, efficiently and effectively to where it is needed most;
- Operations in Somalia are among the highest risk in the world, with the loss of the lives of 14 relief workers since 2008. WFP will pursue efforts to mitigate risk, including thorough, robust assessments and monitoring, but we are calling

on the international community to stand together in recognising the inevitable risks that will be present.

ETHIOPIA:

- Pastoralist areas in southern and southeastern Ethiopia are highly affected. According to a multi-agency assessment, 4.57 million people require emergency food assistance during the second half of 2011. WFP covers the needs of 3.5 million and the other million people in need receive food assistance from the NGO consortium, the Joint Emergency Operation Programme (JEOP).
- WFP is also providing emergency food assistance to 238,000 refugees, bringing the total number of people receiving food assistance in Ethiopia to 3.7 million.
- The refugee influx from Somalia into Ethiopia is decreasing. A few weeks ago there were 2000 daily arrivals, now between 50 and 200 refugees arrive per day.
- In the camps, the acute malnutrition rate is 50 percent among newly arrived children under five. WFP is operating a blanket supplementary and wet feeding programme at camps and at the transit centre in Dolo Ado, where children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women receive fortified blended food (CSB+).
- An outbreak of measles at the refugee camps in Dolo Ado has raised concerns about the potential impact on an already vulnerable refugee population. Vaccinations are underway to prevent people dying.
- WFP now has a permanent presence in Dolo Ado, near the border with Somalia and a dedicated fleet of thirty trucks carrying food from Nazareth to Dolo Ado. Plans are also underway to begin the transit of food and other supplies across the border into Dollow, Somalia using the same fleet of trucks.

KENYA:

- WFP is feeding 1.8 million people in Kenya (including 496,000 refugees). With additional resources and expected arrivals of commodities, Kenya CO will scale up to 2.7 million people in the coming weeks. The government of Kenya is feeding an additional 800,000.
- In Northern Kenya, WFP will provide school meals to all 589,000 school children in the arid northern districts during the August school holidays, in addition to regular meals during term time.

- WFP is implementing blanket supplementary feeding for all children below 3 years in six Kenyan districts where malnutrition rates have been found to be well above the emergency threshold.
- Existing food and cash-for-asset activities to help people to be more resilient to future droughts have been scaled up to reach 760,000 people in arid areas.

Refugees in Kenya

- WFP is providing food assistance to about 496,000 refugees in Kenya. Approximately 417,000 are in Dadaab, near the Somalia border and about 80,000 in Kakuma (which hosts refugees from Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia).
- An average of 1,500 refugees are crossing the border into the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya every day. WFP is giving a one-day ration of high energy biscuits to all newly arrived refugees in addition to a 21 day ration of food.
- Supplementary feeding programmes are being implemented for moderately malnourished children and pregnant and nursing mothers at health posts in camps.
- A specialised nutrition product, Nutributter, is being given to all newly arrived children between 6 and 23 months. Moderately malnourished children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating mothers are also given additional CSB+ and vegetable oil through supplementary feeding programmes

UGANDA:

- WFP reaches 700,000 people in Karamoja. We support 456,000 people under the Karamoja Productive Assets Programme, which provides food and cash in return for work on community projects which help improve livelihoods and boost nutrition. A Relief Programme provides assistance to 140,000 particularly vulnerable households. In addition, child safety net interventions cover 107,000 children with community-based supplementary feeding, mother and child health and nutrition activities, early childhood projects and school meals.

DJIBOUTI:

- WFP is scaling up general food distributions to around 100,000 people from this month, increasing to 109,000 in September when schools re-open.