

\*25 August 2011\*



## Food on the Move

With its focus on nutrition for young children, WFP has airlifted 130 metric tons of **Plumpy 'Sup**, a ready-to-eat specialized nutrition product, and 39 metric tons of High Energy Biscuits into Mogadishu, and the regions of Gedo, Lower Juba (Dhoble) and Bakool (El Barde). This has provided nutritional support to **30,000** people either just arriving in Mogadishu or crossing borders into Kenya and Ethiopia.

A cargo aircraft landed in Mombasa on 13 August, carrying **50 metric tons** of high-nutrient Plumpy 'Sup, enough to **feed almost 16,500 malnourished children** under age five for a month. Another flight delivered **47 metric tons** of the same commodity to Nairobi the week before.

# WFP AND THE HORN OF AFRICA CRISIS

## Overview

Drought conditions in the Horn of Africa coupled with the conflict in Somalia have affected **more than 13 million people** in the region. WFP has declared a corporate emergency, elevating the crisis to the highest level of action. **More than 11 million** people in five countries - **Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti** - need WFP food assistance. 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**.

In response, **the United Nations World Food Programme (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.

Additionally, WFP continues to work 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, which can affect harvests and overall food security.

## Scaling up in the Horn

Since the beginning of July, WFP has reached **over 8 million people** in the Horn of Africa with direct food assistance. Of those, in **Somalia**, WFP has so far assisted **1.5 million people** – including in Mogadishu, central and northern Somalia – and is ready to **reach an additional 850,000 people** in southern Somalia as food stocks arrive and new areas become accessible. In addition, refugee populations in **Kenya (530,000)** and **Ethiopia (240,000)**, the vast majority of whom are Somali people fleeing the famine, receive food assistance and life-saving nutritional support as soon as they arrive at camps. The influx of Somali refugees continues at an average daily rate of about **1,250 into Kenya** and **200–300 into Ethiopia**.





## ETHIOPIA

Pastoralist areas in southern and southeastern Ethiopia have been highly affected by the recent drought. WFP is currently **reaching 3.7 million people in Ethiopia with emergency food assistance**, including **120,000 Somali refugees in Dolo Ado**. Across the country, WFP is **aiming to feed 7.1 million people in total**.

**In the Dolo Ado camps, the acute malnutrition rate is 50 percent among newly arrived children under 5.**

WFP is working with the Government of Ethiopia, UNHCR and NGO partners to plan and implement refugee assistance. WFP provides refugees with monthly food rations, and supplementary food for malnourished children and other at-risk groups through a **blanket supplementary feeding programme**. Monthly food rations include cereal, pulses, sugar, vegetable oil, fortified blended food and salt. WFP is also providing high energy biscuits at the Dolo Ado transit centre.

## KENYA

WFP is **feeding over 530,000 refugees** – including approximately **448,000 in Dadaab and 82,000 in Kakuma**. In addition, WFP is feeding **1.3 million people** in the arid lands in Kenya. With additional resources, WFP will scale up assistance to **2.7 million people** in the drought-affected pastoral and marginal agricultural areas of the country.

WFP is boosting nutritional support for **more than 90,000 children** in Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya with a blanket supplementary feeding programme for all children under 5 which started last week.

WFP has also begun distributing food in **six drought-hit Kenyan districts** to boost nutrition in all children below three years of age, as well as in pregnant women and nursing mothers. The supplementary feeding programme covers **Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Mandera and Wajir**. In some districts, such as Turkana, where malnutrition rates are particularly high, nutritious food rations were already distributed last month as part of this programme.

## SOMALIA

**Large numbers of Somali families** fleeing drought and famine have been arriving in Mogadishu over the past weeks. WFP is **targeting food assistance for 1.5 million people, including 300,000** in and around Mogadishu. WFP is ready to **reach an additional 850,000 people** in southern Somalia as food stocks arrive and new areas become accessible.

In Mogadishu, WFP is providing a daily hot meal to an average of **92,000 people/day**, as well as treating malnourished children, pregnant women and nursing mothers with specialized nutrition products distributed at health centres, and providing cooked meals in 6 hospitals.

WFP and its partners have established a network of permanent nutrition centres in most districts in Central region. Currently **around 9,000 people** are receiving supplementary feeding and their families receive take-home rations, reaching **a total of 54,000 people**.

WFP is distributing **fortified biscuits and specialized nutritional food** for children among IDPs in the Gedo and Lower Juba regions, and is continuing to scale up food distributions in those newly accessible areas.

## 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.

**Media contact:**

**Challiss McDonough**

**Senior Spokeswoman for East, Central & Southern Africa**

**UN World Food Programme (WFP)**

**+254-733-528-911**

**Challiss.McDonough@wfp.org**

