

Donor Bulletin - September 2008

Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa

"The Horn of Africa is facing the worst humanitarian crisis since 1984 ...

Millions of people are in extreme distress and urgently need food and nutrition.

We know what needs to be done - we just need the funds to go out and do our job, protecting the hungry."

**WFP Executive Director,
Josette Sheeran**

DRAMATIC INCREASE IN NEEDS

- Further to our August call for immediate funding for the Horn of Africa, recent assessments confirm the growing extent and urgency of the crisis. Across the region, more than 17 million people now require humanitarian assistance and WFP's six-month shortfall, through to April 2009 is **US\$606 million**.
- Thanks to donor generosity, WFP's programmes in the Horn of Africa have received US\$235 million since the August appeal. US\$250 million is, however, still needed for the remainder of 2008 and a further US\$356 million is required from January to April 2009.
- To maintain a minimum food pipeline in the absence of adequate donor contributions, WFP allocated US\$60 million of the funds received in response to the High Food and Fuel Price Appeal to operations in Ethiopia and Somalia, and more than US\$100 million from internal advance financing mechanisms. These advances, which have nearly depleted WFP's internal reserves, must be repaid.
- Urgent and flexible funding is requested to help meet immediate needs and to avoid further ration cuts for those who can least afford them. The seriousness of the evolving situation cannot be overstated.

Ethiopia

- More than 12 million Ethiopians are seriously affected by the current drought, which is being compounded by high food and fuel prices. The results of the recently concluded multi-stakeholder Short Rains (Belg) Food Security Assessment indicate a grave and worsening food security situation. More than 6.4 million people are immediately threatened by the twin scourges of hunger and malnutrition and require emergency food relief. This is an increase of 1.8 million people since WFP's August appeal. Early warning information also indicates that some drought-affected areas in the southern part of the country, including Somali region, could well require relief assistance until July 2009.
- WFP is addressing immediate needs under PRRO 10665.0 through the following interventions:
 - i) 6.4 million people are receiving emergency relief assistance, a five-fold increase in WFP's originally planned relief caseload of 850,000 for 2008.
 - ii) 3.2 million beneficiaries are receiving food support from WFP, under the Government's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), as well as a targeted supplementary feeding programme aimed at moderately to severely malnourished children under 5 years of age.

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- In total, WFP is providing assistance in Ethiopia to over 9.6 million drought affected people through PRRO 10665.0 (others are receiving assistance through the Government and NGOs), and we require an additional US\$223 million through the end of 2008. A further US\$242 million is required for the period from January to April 2009, resulting in a total six month shortfall of approximately US\$465 million. In July and August, funding shortfalls have already forced a 30 percent reduction in the cereal ration of relief and safety net beneficiaries.
- As in all its operations, WFP enforces a strict policy of providing food only in areas where there is unrestricted access to monitor and report on distributions. This is particularly important in the Somali region where access is closely managed by the Government given the on-going conflict situation.
- The Post-Long Rains Assessment, released on August 22 by the inter-agency Food Security Analysis Unit, has confirmed a further deterioration of the food security situation. The assessment concludes that some 3.2 million people, nearly 40 percent of the population, are now in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.
- Somalia is in the throes of a complex humanitarian emergency. A further lack of adequate food assistance will mean movement of populations in search of food - possibly also across borders - heightening regional tension and likely leading to increased conflict over very scarce resources.
- While the security situation in Somalia remains challenging, WFP has a robust operational structure and security management system in place. WFP has been able to increase distributions over the past months to meet increased needs and, subject to the availability of adequate funding, is required to deliver an average of 34,000 metric tons per month through the end of 2008.
- As 90 percent of WFP's food arrives in Somalia by sea, a long term solution to piracy off the coast of Somalia is critical. Canada is currently providing naval escorts to prevent piracy of these supplies as they are shipped along the Somali coast. The threat is so grave that ship owners refused to allow their vessels into Somali waters once escorts provided by the Netherlands ceased at the end of June. As a result, rations had to be cut in August.

Somalia

- WFP is providing emergency support to 2.4 million people suffering from the combined effects of drought, high prices, currency devaluation and conflict. The level of human suffering has deepened in recent months. The operation now urgently requires US\$12 million in new funding to meet beneficiary needs through the end of 2008. A further US\$86 million is required for the period from January to April 2009, resulting in a total shortfall of US\$98 million over the next six months.

WFP FOOD ASSISTANCE SHORTFALLS FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA TO APRIL 2009

Updated September 2008

Country	Total Number of Drought-Affected People*	People provided assistance by WFP	Shortfall to January 2009 US\$ million	Shortfall to April 2009 US\$ million
Ethiopia	12 100 000	9 600 000	223	465
<i>Relief</i>	6 400 000	6 400 000	-	-
<i>PSNP/TSF</i>	5 700 000	3 200 000	-	-
Somalia	3 200 000	2 400 000	12	98
Kenya	1 382 000	1 382 000	12	27
Uganda	707 000	707 000	2	11
Djibouti	149 000	149 000	1	5
TOTAL	17 538 000	14 238 000	250	606

* Total number of people assessed to be affected by the drought and receiving assistance from WFP, Governments and other organizations.

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Kenya

- Following the recently-concluded Long Rains Food Security Assessment, WFP is increasing the number of people it assists through Emergency Operation 10745.0 from 1.2 million to 1.4 million. Increased malnutrition among children, due to the ongoing drought and high food prices, is becoming of grave concern to the humanitarian community. Recent nutritional surveys indicate up to 28 percent Global Acute Malnutrition among children in arid areas. Through the end of 2008, US\$12 million is urgently required to meet the needs of these drought-affected beneficiaries. A further US\$15 million is required for the period from January to April 2009, resulting in a total shortfall of US\$27 million over the next six months.

The caseload includes:

- i) 1.1 million drought-affected people living in arid and semi-arid areas whose progressive improvement towards food security has been reversed following compounding poor 2007 short rains and 2008 long rains seasons.
 - ii) 300,000 internally displaced people who, as a result of the post-election crisis, are living in camps, with host families, or are returning to their farms under the Government 'Rudi Nyumbani (Return Home) programme.
- In August, funding shortfalls led to reduced rations for pastoralists in the hardest hit areas. Cash contributions will be used immediately to purchase locally available blended foods and could start to meet requirements from October.

Uganda

- In Uganda, US\$2 million is urgently needed to assist 707,000 beneficiaries in the hard hit Karamoja region until the end of the year. A further US\$9 million is required for the period from January to April 2009, resulting in a total six month shortfall of US\$11 million¹.
- Poor performance of the April to September rains, the only agricultural season in the Karamoja region, continues to threaten food security. Prospects for the September/October harvest are weak with the possibility of complete crop failure. WFP intends to provide relief assistance to beneficiaries to ensure their survival until the next harvest. Recent deterioration in security conditions further compound the situation.

Djibouti

- In Djibouti, WFP is responding to a rapid deterioration in the food security and nutritional status of both pastoralist and urban populations as a result of the combined effects of severe drought and high food prices.
- In response to the recommendation of joint WFP-USAID Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) Assessments, WFP is scaling up operations in Djibouti in order to reach 149,000 beneficiaries, nearly three times the originally planned number of 55,000. US\$1 million is urgently needed for the rest of the year. A further US\$4 million is required for the period from January to April 2009, resulting in a total shortfall of approximately US\$5 million over the next six months.

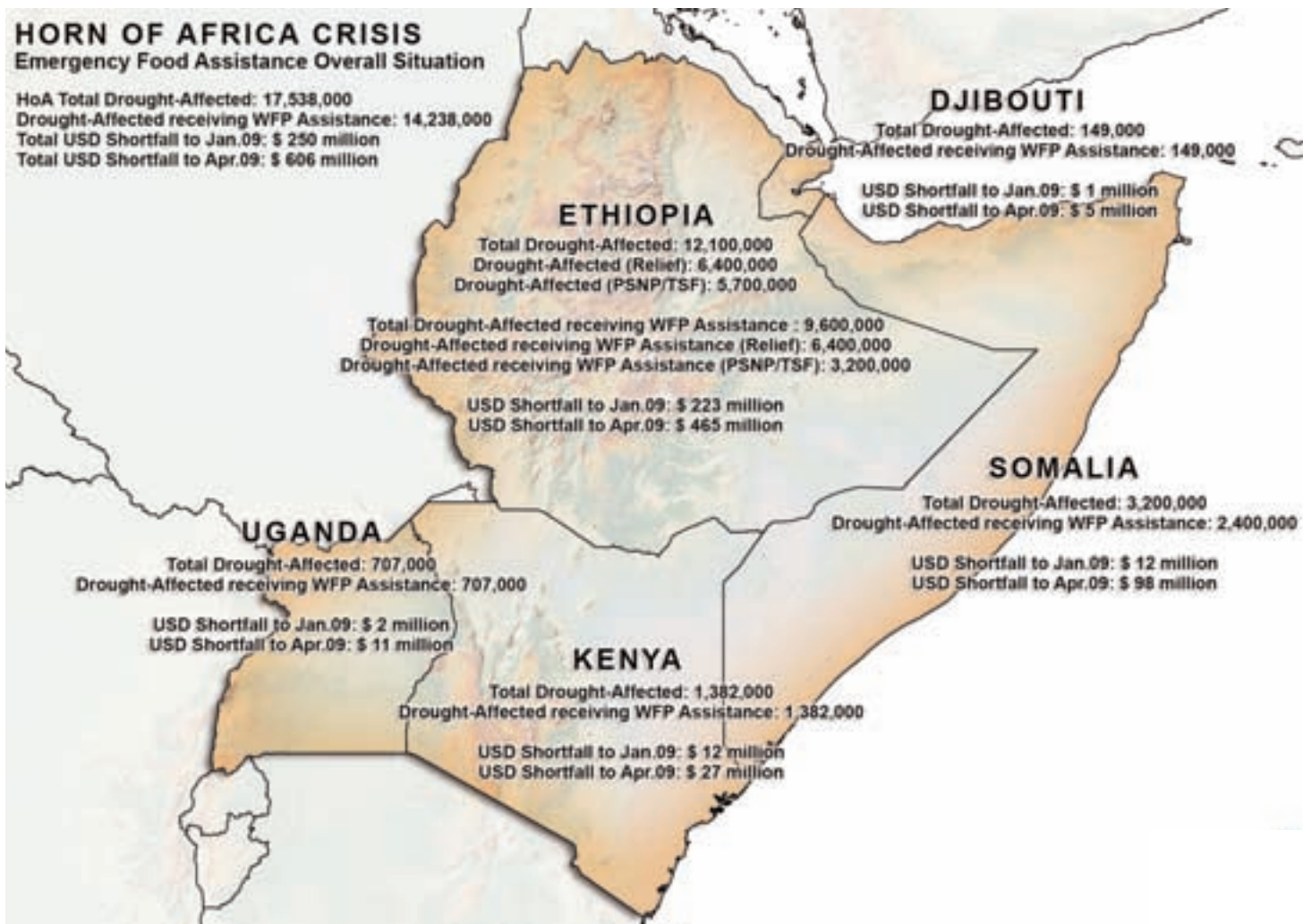
¹ Information provided is for the drought-affected Karamoja region. However, the total shortfall for Uganda PRRO 10121.2 up to April 2009 is US\$59 million - made up of US\$23 million (2008 shortfall) and US\$36 million (Jan - Apr 2009 shortfall).





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Top 10 contributors to the Horn of Africa crisis in 2008

Canada	Norway
European Commission	Spain
Germany	UK
Japan	UN CERF, Common Funds and Agencies
Netherlands	USA



World Food Programme

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