



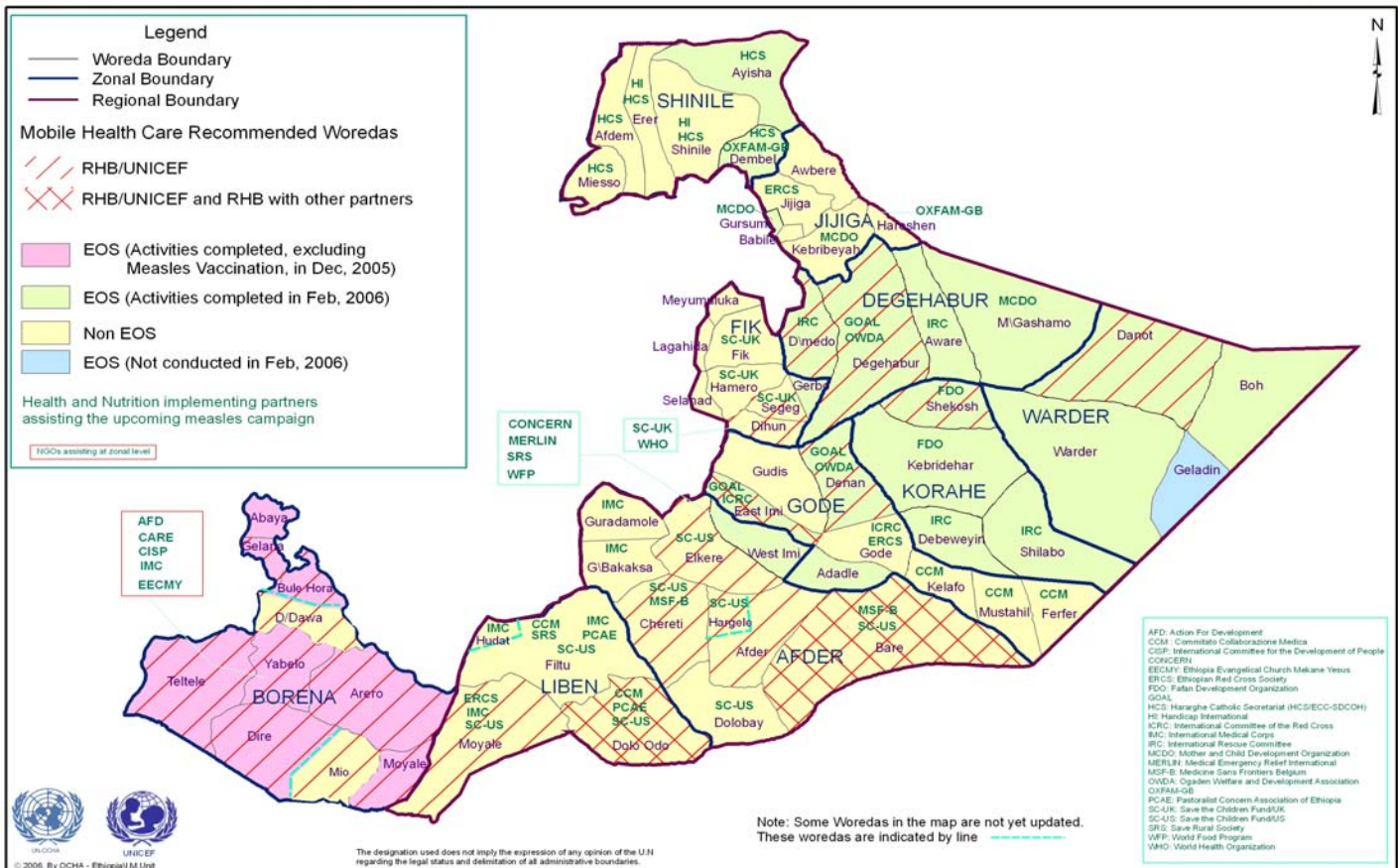
## SITUATION REPORT

### Drought Emergency in Somali and Oromiya Regions, Ethiopia 20 March, 2006

#### Highlights<sup>1</sup>

- 1.7 million emergency food beneficiaries in Somali Region and Borena zone, Oromiya. 614,000 people are under close monitoring in both areas.
- Re-assessment of beneficiary numbers and non-food needs for Borena is underway, and to start at the end of the week for Afder, Gode and Liben.
- More than 740,000 people urgently require emergency water - 640,000 people in Somali Region and 100,000 in Borena.
- Emergency measles campaign to reach 1.5 million drought-affected children from March 24.
- Measles outbreak in Bare, Afder zone (60 cases, 4 dead).
- Rains in Somali Region (Jijiga, Degehabur), and Borena zone.
- Water and Sanitation, Health and Livestock urgently require US\$13.9 million to carry out life-saving programmes in the next three months. To date, US\$2.1 million has been secured.
- NGO/UN Coordination Meeting in Addis Ababa – 23 March.
- Regional Appeal for the Horn of Africa to be launched 7 April.

#### EOS Interventions and Planned Mobile Health Teams in Somali Region and Borena Zone of Oromiya Region



<sup>1</sup> The information in this document is consolidated from reports and field information from a variety of sources including UN agencies, NGOs and government partners.

**Overall Summary:** The food security situation in **Somali Region** continues to be critical in Liben, Afder, Gode and parts of Fik zones, and below normal in the remaining parts of the region. The number of hotspot woredas is increasing with Degehabur and Warder now considered as seriously affected. Large numbers of livestock are still dying in Liben, Afder and Gode zones due to prolonged feed shortage, water stress and diseases. The situation in Liben is rising to a full-scale emergency, especially in Dolo Odo, Hudet and Moyale woredas. The absence of livestock markets, critical water and pasture scarcities continue to be major problems for pastoralists. Although there has been a considerable improvement over the last month, delayed delivery of food due to logistic-related problems is still a problem in the critically affected areas. The outbreak of measles in Bare woreda (60 cases confirmed according to the DPPFS and SC-UK report) and livestock diseases in Dolobay and Erer woredas are the major health concerns. Good rains have been received in Jijiga woreda since last week and there are unconfirmed reports of rain in northern parts of Degehabur. Although conflict has subsided, clan tensions in Geladi woreda of Warder zone are still limiting pastoral mobility and there is concern that similar resource-based clan conflicts could emerge if the situation does not improve soon. Tribal fighting between Marehan and Majerteen tribes has reportedly left just over 100 persons killed and hundreds wounded. There has been tension between the two tribes for some time and fighting started in late February. The Somali Regional Health Bureau and UNICEF have completed EOS activities in 20 woredas in Somali Region. Due to its low coverage (83 percent), the measles campaign must be re-conducted in EOS woredas in Somali Region to achieve the required 95 percent coverage. More than 1.5 million children across Somali Region and Oromiya's Borena, Guji and Bale zones will receive measles vaccinations in a campaign to be launched by UNICEF and regional health authorities from March 24.

The DPPA's Early Warning Department is leading a re-assessment of beneficiary numbers (155,000) with CARE, WFP, OCHA, FAO, UNICEF and USAID from the 16 – 26 March in Borena. The humanitarian situation in **Borena zone of Oromiya Region** remains critical with increasing livestock deaths and critical water shortage. In parts of Dire, Moyale and Teltele woredas, pastoralists have begun feeding their animals the thatch roofs of their huts. The influx of Kenyan pastoralists continues with 40 to 50 Isuzu trucks arriving daily from Kenya for the better pasture around Yabello. Potential conflict is increasing with cattle raids by the Gabra (Marsabet - North Kenya) against the Borena people. The zonal DPPC formulated a project proposal for all emergency needs, identifying water, animal feed and veterinary drugs as priorities; the plan is currently being reviewed by the region. Food from the Productive Safety Nets Programme has been dispatched to the zone but has still not been distributed to the beneficiaries. Generally, the overall humanitarian situation in the affected lowlands of Borena zone is rapidly deteriorating despite rains in the first week of March. The ongoing water tankering is far below the needs of the needy population mainly due to the lack of water trucks, water containers, and poor performance of the trucks due to maintenance and operation costs. Partners involved or interested in supporting these critical needs should respond immediately. Provision of additional water tankering trucks and water containers is needed as soon as possible by relevant partners based on the requested emergency needs of the zonal water office. Livestock are physically in a very poor condition and deaths are increasing in most of the affected woredas. Immediate actions should be taken by the local government officials regarding the money from the sale of animals by pastoralists otherwise it could potentially trigger serious misunderstandings between the local officials/regional government, and the pastoral community. In order to prevent further deterioration of malnutrition in the affected areas, provision of therapeutic products should be another priority.

**Coordination:** At the federal level the UN will hold its regular information sharing meeting with NGOs on 23 March to discuss drought response and gaps. The DPPA will hold a TIME meeting on 30 March. The first Government/multi-agency Oromiya Regional Coordination meeting was held on the 14 March in Addis Ababa and it was decided that an overall Regional Coordination Committee will be set up and chaired by the Head of FSDPPB, comprising 19 members including NGOs, donors and UN agencies. The next fortnightly meeting is scheduled for 4 April. The Oromiya Regional Bureaus are tasked to set-up regional **Sectoral Task Force** meetings (food security, water and sanitation, health and nutrition, agriculture and livestock) and to call for participation and support of UN partners and relevant NGOs. In Borena zone, a zonal coordination meeting is now being held fortnightly for all partners in Yabello, Borena Zone. The next meeting is scheduled for 28 March. In Somali Region, UNICEF has established an office in Gode to monitor the evolving humanitarian situation and coordinate response activities and will participate in the fortnightly coordination meeting. Similar coordination meetings are needed in Liben and Afder.

Partners are requested to provide regular weekly (Friday) updates to the sectoral emergency taskforces, which will be inputted to interventions matrices and maps. Reporting mechanisms are coordinated between the sectoral emergency taskforces, DPPA, and UN agencies in order to share updates on activities.

## SOMALI REGION

**Water and Sanitation:** There are currently 97 water tankers (38 of these by DPPB) operating in Somali Region but it still needs to be established as to how many more are needed to meet the needs. The Region believes 120 to 150 tankers are needed. In order to fill the gaps across the region there is a need to monitor and coordinate where water tankers are operating so urgent needs are met. There are reports of tankers not operating at their full capacity and there is a need for more coordinated inter-sectoral information exchange on water tankering between the Water Bureau and DPPB. Some government trucks have stopped delivering due to a lack of funds available for maintenance. The region has been redirected to reprogramme funds to address this. The price for water tankering has also risen in Somali Region because of the competition from different agencies. Higher capacity trucks are given to NGOs instead of the DPPB as NGOs are able to pay more. The generator for Filtu town (Liben) is not operational. Urgent action is needed to repair it and coordination is also required as a number of partners have been contacted to assist in repairing it.

**UNICEF** has provided five Water Purification Units which are being set up in Somali Region's Dolo Odo, Dolobay, Chereti and Gode woredas along the main perennial Shebele, Genale, Weyib and Dawa rivers. Together, they will process 200,000 litres of water a day, much of it for emergency water tankering schemes, benefiting 50,000 of the region's worst-hit people. These units are being erected and operated in partnership with three partners – **Inter Aid Services, Islamic Relief** and **ICRC**. **UNICEF** has also distributed 60 bladders in Afder, Liben and Gode zones. **Islamic Relief** has begun water tankering in four woredas of Somali region (Hargele, Charrati, Filtu and El Kere) with nine trucks. **IRC** has begun rehabilitation of existing schemes and environmental sanitation in Degehabur and Korahe zones of Somali region and has provided US \$1 million to Ogaden Welfare and Development Assoc (**OWDA**) and **Hope for the Horn** for water and sanitation interventions. **Merlin** has sent a proposal for rehabilitation of river based water schemes, rehabilitation/construction of shallow wells with handpumps, and hygiene and sanitation in West Imi. **Oromia Self Help Organization** has established a temporary office in Dire woreda. The area coordinator has been deployed and drilling of two deep wells has started. **ICRC** conducted a drought assessment in Liben zone on 19 February and concluded that 15 to 20 watertankers were needed as only 12 were operating; it has responded by providing additional tankers and repairing bore holes. **Coopi** is providing water tankering to 40,000 people across Liben and **LVIA** is conducting a maintenance and repair scheme as well as providing roto tankers at distribution points in Moyale, Liben. **SC-USA** is supplying roto tankers, water tankers and digging shallow wells along the Dawa River in Liben. **ACF** is conducting an emergency water tankering operation in Korahe zone using 16 trucks in 28 sites, covering 58 percent of the need. **ACF** is trying to increase the supply of water for the population but is constrained by the limited number of boreholes, especially in Kebridehar town where there is one borehole serving 12 trucks.

**Livestock:** Cattle and shoats deaths are reported to be intensifying, and camels are affected by a disease locally known as *kuududiye*. High rates of abortion of cattle are also observed. There are abnormal livestock migrations from Afder to the neighboring Gode and Fik zones. The livestock condition is also very poor in Miesso and Erer woredas of Shinile zone. An unknown camel disease is aggravating the situation. Most of the livestock is migrating from these areas to Oromiya woredas in search of pasture and water. There are also cross border migrations from Somalia to Aware woreda of Jijiga zone. The **Regional Livestock, Crops, and Natural Resource Development Bureau** sent 5 teams to Fik, Degehabur, Warder, Shinile and Gode zones. Since December, the regional bureau has treated 154,825 livestock and vaccinated 544,616. It is planning to vaccinate 540,000 more in the coming weeks. In collaboration with **FAO**, 2 more teams are in Liben and Afder zones. Around 800,000 livestock are targeted in this programme. Among the top animal diseases affecting animals in the region are CCPP, internal parasite, infectious diarrhea, trypanosomiasis, tick born diseases, pasteurellosis (bovine & ovine). The regional bureau has provided **SC-USA** with 200,000 doses of PPR vaccines and 100,000 doses of anthrax vaccines for Liben and Afder zones. **OXFAM GB** is working in Hareshin woredas in Jijiga. In Shinile zone, **SC-UK** is providing vaccination and treatment to 400,000 cattle, shoats and camels. In Fik zone it is conducting a vaccination campaign against anthrax for 100,000 animals each in Fik, Dihun, Segaga and Hamero zones. **ACF** operations are ongoing in Kebridehar (two sites) and shilabo (three sites) districts with animal health treatment against infectious diseases, internal and external parasites. The supply of grain continues to be very tight and prices continue to increase. Cereal prices, therefore, continue to be very high and increased during the first half of March.

**Health & Nutrition:** The Somali Regional Health Bureau and **UNICEF** have completed EOS activities in 20 woredas in Somali Region. Results are as follows: 159,533 children (6-59 months) supplemented with Vitamin A (83 percent of the target population); 137,000 children (1-5 years) de-wormed (81 percent); and 158,936 children vaccinated against measles (83 percent). In addition, 26 percent of the children (6-50 months) screened for malnutrition (185,558, or 97 percent), and 25 percent of the pregnant or lactating women (42,922, or 90 percent) were referred for DPPB/WFP targeted supplementary feeding. Due to its low coverage (83 percent), the measles campaign must be re-conducted in

EOS woredas in Somali Region to achieve the required 95 percent coverage. More than 540,000 children aged under-five will receive measles and polio vaccinations, together with Vitamin A supplementation and de-worming tablets beginning on 24 March, in a campaign across 30 woredas by UNICEF and regional health officials. Another 314,000 children who were targeted with measles vaccinations in 20 woredas through the Enhanced Outreach Strategy earlier this month will be covered again in the next two to three weeks. Discussions are on-going with NGOs interested in supporting the measles campaigns; other interested NGOs should contact UNICEF's Health Section at [vvansteirteghem@unicef.org](mailto:vvansteirteghem@unicef.org).

Despite numerous nutritional surveys revealing critical malnutrition, there are still few nutritional programmes underway providing therapeutic or supplementary feeding in the affected zones. **GOAL** has finalised preparations to start a SFC in East Imi and Denan woredas of Gode zone; while **MSF-B** is planning to open a TFC and SFC in Bare and Chereti woredas of Afder zone. They currently have a mobile TFC in Chereti town. The outbreak of measles in Bare woreda (60 cases confirmed according to the DPPFS and SC-UK report) has resulted in the death of 4 adults. There are reports of small-scale outbreaks of diarrhoea in Liben and Afder as well as reports of child deaths due to malnutrition in Bare (the woreda health officer reported the death of 5 children due to malnutrition in Bare town in February). Early indications of further deterioration include increased levels of malnutrition in clinics and increased therapeutic feeding programme admissions. Diarrhoeal diseases are becoming increasingly problematic as water becomes scarcer and the quality of water declines. There are reports of malaria and diarrhoea outbreaks in Kelafo and Mustahil woredas and of bloody diarrhea in Kebridehar woreda of Koraha zone.

Coordination in the health sector continues to need strengthening so as to avoid overlap of efforts with mobile health units and nutritional interventions. **UNICEF** is in the final stages of micro-planning and training for the deployment of mobile health teams across 16 of the worst-affected woredas. Regional health professionals are being trained for the interventions, which will include nutritional screening, provision of therapeutic service to malnourished children, and distribution of ITNs and Coartem. UNICEF will monitor the teams by providing technical assistance from Gode. Other partners have given the FMOH three vehicles to make stationary teams mobile in E. Imi, Dolo Odo, and Bare. As UNICEF has also assigned mobile health teams to these woredas it must be assessed how these teams should be coordinated. The **RHB** plans for an additional eight mobile health teams, although funds have not yet been secured. The **FMOH** has sent 27 health workers to the region for one month to Afder, Liben, and Gode zones, ensuring that nine health units are staffed. The situation will be assessed after one month. A total of 16 emergency drug kits have been pre-positioned at eight health centres by UNICEF; additional emergency drug kits are available in Addis Ababa, but further are required. Antibiotics have also been sent by the FMOH to cover 300,000 people as well as anti-malaria drugs for 120,000 people. UNICEF has distributed 40,000 Rapid Diagnostic Tests for malaria control and supplementary anti-malaria drugs; training and follow up distribution are required. **Islamic Relief** is in Hargelle, and Cherti woredas and plans to have community feeding centres in all kebeles not covered by MSF-B in Bare woreda.

**Food:** Abnormal human migrations from Bare, Dolo-Odo and Dollobay to Chereti and Gode towns are reported. An assessment on the extent of the displacements is vital as some rural food distribution centers are being abandoned as people move to urban areas where they can access water. For Somali Region, 90 percent of the 29,055 tonnes allocated for January has been distributed however only 2 percent of the 23,459 tonnes allocated for February has gone out. Food distributions have been confirmed by WFP field teams in Warder, Shinile and Jijiga zones, where most of the January allocation has been delivered and distributed. In addition, NGOs have allocated 5,295 tonnes of food to Dolo Odo and Filtu woredas of Liben zone and to Dolobay woreda of Afder zone in Somali Region. Meanwhile, using the recent EOS results, food dispatches to the 20 screened woredas in Somali Region are expected to start shortly. In order to speed up food aid dispatches and distributions, the **Regional Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Bureau** has temporarily waived the usual tender procedures for transportation. Nutrition screenings in the remaining four EOS woredas of the region will be carried out shortly. In order to improve information sharing and overview of the food relief response to the crisis in Somali region and Borena zone of Oromiya, **WFP** is sharing with NGOs regularly a dispatch report, detailing food dispatches by commodity, tonnage, final delivery point and details about the truck uplifting these relief items. This report is put together by WFP's logistics unit, which is closely following up on transport issues with the DPPA. Secondary transport of relief food is the responsibility of DPPA. The purpose of sharing this information is to improve WFP's joint monitoring capacity in these areas. Please contact WFP if you would like to receive this information.

## BORENA REGION

**Water & Sanitation:** The **Regional Water Resources Bureau (RWRB)** has started implementation of high priority maintenance activities, using supplies and equipment prepositioned in the region through UNICEF support and government funds. Without additional resources, however, it will not be possible to scale up and sustain the level of maintenance work required over the next three months. As part of the emergency response, the RWRB has started water tankering to selected hot spots in the affected areas of Borena. This activity needs to be expanded to other affected areas to ensure adequate coverage of the children and women who remained behind in the villages as well as school children and teachers. To prevent disease outbreaks among populations at high risk, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions will be scaled up and implementation capacity will be strengthened and expanded. Schools and locations near water points where there are large concentrations of people will receive priority attention for the proposed sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

OCHA's field officer in Borena reports that the ongoing water tankering activity is still inadequate and far below the required coverage and needs of the affected population in all the woredas. In Dugda Dawa woreda, there is no water tankering operations at all. Many of the water tankering trucks assigned to the woredas are not functioning due to poor maintenance and lack of fuel. The zonal authorities have agreed to look into the problems and take necessary action. **CARE** is undertaking water tankering with four trucks in Borena (Moyale, Tetele, Yabello) focusing on schools and health institutions. **Christian Aid** has just completed a rapid assessment in Borena and report the situation is critical - schools are non-functional due to lack of water. It has allocated ETB 1.2 million for water tankering and purchase of fodder. The NGO is trying to coordinate with local actors on implementation modalities and will share details once they decide the areas where they will intervene. **UNICEF** has distributed 70 bladders to Oromiya Region and stepped up its rehabilitation of water schemes in hotspot areas. **OXFAM US** is conducting water tankering activities in Moyale woreda of Oromiya Region. **Spanish/Ethiopian Red Cross** has one truck operating in Moyale. **LVIA** is also involved in scheme maintenance and water tankering.

**Livestock:** In the last month a destocking (animal off-take) intervention organized by the government has been ongoing in Borena zone. However, there are concerns with how the intervention has been implemented and with the delay in pastoralists receiving money for their livestock. This has caused tension between the pastoralists and the local officials. The physical condition of livestock, especially cattle, is very poor and deaths are increasing, particularly in Moyale, Mio, Dire and Teltele woredas. In response to the deteriorating physical condition of the animals **CARE** (Teltele and Dire) and **LVIA** (Moyale) have started distribution of feed to animals in their project sites. **CARE** has done an assessment of the emergency situation in Borena zone. They report that two weeks ago the price of livestock, particularly cattle, had dropped dramatically in all market centers. However, following the recent rain, prices of livestock rose in many market centers. This was especially the case where prices and demand for livestock has improved in Dubuluk of Dire and Bake of Yabello. But there was no significant change in grain prices. **FAO** in collaboration with government and NGOs (**CARE LVIA, SC-US**) is undertaking livestock vaccination programs in Moyale, Miyo, Dire and Arero districts. However, the program is only addressing 20 percent of the needs. In the expectation of the upcoming *gana* rains, agropastoralists need some support in crop seeds and hand tools. Hand tools are needed as most oxen have died or are in too poor a condition to be used for tillage. As the planting time is in two weeks equipment is needed now.

**Health & Nutrition:** Almost 700,000 children aged under-five in all woredas of Oromiya's Borena, Guji and Bale zones will be reached by a measles vaccination campaign organized by UNICEF and regional health officials. Children will also receive Vitamin A supplementation, polio vaccination and de-worming tablets. EOS activities were last conducted in the area in December 2005 but did not achieve a sufficient coverage. Two measles cases were reported in Bule Hora woreda but not confirmed; the disease has been reported in neighboring zones. Seven **UNICEF** mobile health teams are planned for Borena for training to commence in early April. There is strong fear of an outbreak of human diseases particularly water borne diseases and diseases caused due to poor sanitation related to the widespread dead animals. Based on the nutrition screening ongoing by **IMC** in Dire and Mio woredas, malnutrition has increased and there is an urgent need of therapeutic products. According to **IMC**, malnutrition, shortage of therapeutic products and drugs are rampant. About 655 under five, pregnant and lactating mothers are benefiting from the **IMC** therapeutic feed centre.

**Food:** Out of 6,037 tonnes allocated to Oromiya in January, 98 percent has been dispatched so far. In February, DPPA has allocated a further 5,186 tonnes to Oromiya and so far 60 percent has been dispatched to Oromiya with Moyale and Meyo woredas in Borena zone both receiving 90 and 50 percent respectively. In addition, NGOs have allocated 399

tonnes to Borena zone (Hagere Mariam and Gelana woredas). Of the Safety Net allocation for Borena for February, 89 percent of the 1,800 tonnes have been dispatched but there are delays in distribution.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The UN's newly established Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) that seeks to get rapid assistance to humanitarian crisis and respond to neglected emergencies has as its first allocation, provided US\$ 10 million to the Horn of Africa drought for immediate response. US\$ 1.8 million will go towards Ethiopia with the priority sectors being health and nutrition, water and sanitation and livestock interventions.

### Contributions Summary for the Drought Crisis

Funding Gaps by Sector	Somali Region & Borena Zone	Funds Received	Gaps
Water and Environmental Sanitation	US\$ 3,860,202	US\$ 850,946	US\$ 3,009,256
Health and Nutrition	US\$ 6,312,541	US\$ 875,000	US\$ 5,437,541
Livestock health	US\$ 255,761	US\$ 305,161	-US\$ 49,400
Destocking	US\$ 1,103,806	US\$ 90,000	US\$ 1,013,806
Emergency Feed	US\$ 1,806,229	-	US\$ 1,806,229
Non-Food Items	US\$ 323,250	-	US\$ 323,250
Logistics Support	US\$ 248,278	-	US\$ 248,278
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$ 13,910,067</b>	<b>US\$ 2,121,107</b>	<b>US\$ 11,788,960</b>

Non-food contributions so far have come from Belgium, Norway, Turkey and the UN's CERF. US\$ 2 million is secured for emergency destocking from the Pastoralist Livelihood Initiative (PLI is a USAID-funded two year project). This is not a comprehensive summary of all needs for the emergency; other needs remain for Government and partners.