



unicef 
for every child

REGIONAL CALL TO ACTION

HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT CRISIS:
CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE NOW

July 2022

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Key messages

UNICEF is appealing for **US\$ 986 million** to provide urgent life-saving and climate resilience support to **4.2 million people**, half of them children, in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea, and Djibouti. Right now, 2 million children across Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti are in need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

This is a humanitarian catastrophe. Children in the Horn of Africa (HoA) are experiencing the impacts of one of the worst climate-induced emergencies of the past 40 years, with the lowest levels of funding on record not allowing the humanitarian community to respond as needed. Urgent aid is needed to prevent parts of the region sliding into famine.

War in Ukraine is having dire and deadly implications for child malnutrition in the Horn of Africa (HoA), with supply lines and food production disrupted, exacerbating already soaring global food prices. This comes as the price of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic food – critical treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition - is set to increase by 17 per cent.

- Since our last Call to Action was released in February 2022, there has been a 38 per cent increase in families in need. In addition, household water insecurity has increased by 88 per cent and the cost of water and food has risen significantly. Cases of diseases like cholera, measles, and diarrhea are increasing too.
- Over 20 million people¹ and at least 10 million children are currently facing severe drought conditions due to the failure of four and possibly five consecutive dry seasons, with the 2022 March-May rainy season likely to be the driest on record, killing livestock and crops, displacing populations, increasing the risk of disease and malnutrition, and pushing children and families to the brink of death / destitution.
- Weather forecasts already suggest temperatures will climb higher than usual in the coming weeks. In addition, early forecasts suggest an increased probability of further below-average rainy season between October and December 2022.

The crisis in the HoA is depriving children and ado-

lescents from having a home, a meal, a classroom, and access to water and life-saving health and protection services.

- Communities are **taking extreme measures to survive**, with thousands of children and families leaving their homes in pure desperation in search of water, food, pasture, and treatment sick for children requiring a collective response by all humanitarian partners.
- **This is a water crisis** with more than 8.5 million people, including 4.2 million children, are facing dire water shortages across the region.
- The nutrition situation in the region is becoming catastrophic as **malnutrition rates are increasing**, particularly in Ethiopia, and in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya and Somalia with more than 1.8 million children expected to be wasted in 2022.
- **Drought-induced population movement** is further deepening the displacement crisis in the region with more than 7.5 million people displaced due to drought in 2022 in search of safety and assistance.
- **Children are at particular risk.** Drought is affecting school attendance for learners in the affected areas as families are forced to move in search of water and livelihoods. Overall, 15 million children are now out of school in the HoA and an additionally estimated 3.3 million children are at risk of dropping out due to drought.
- **Drought further exacerbates child protection risks**, and many families are forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms for survival, such as child marriage, particularly threatening adolescent girls. Drought also pushes more families to leave their communities in the hope of a better future, thus leading to risks of family separation and child labour.
- **Risks of gender-based violence (GBV) including sexual violence, exploitation and abuse and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) are becoming even more acute** due to drought, widespread food insecurity and displacement. Female-headed households, adolescent girls, older women and those with disabilities are facing heightened threats.
- **Drought conditions increase the risk of disease outbreaks** including water-borne diseases among the affected population.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/threat-starvation-looms-east-africa-after-four-failed-rainy-seasons>

Data Box

Within the past four months across the Horn of Africa:



38%

increase in people in need from **14.5 million to 20 million**.



88%

increase in household water insecurity from **5.6 million to 10.5 million**.



37%

increase in the number of severely wasted children admitted for treatment in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in the first quarter of 2022 compared to 2021.



More than 50%

increase in child marriage and female genital mutilation in many drought-affected regions compared to 2021.



15 million

of children out of school. **3.3 million of children** at risk of dropping out with devastating consequences for children.



40%

increase in IPC 3+ food insecurity, from **11.6 million to 16 million**.

UNICEF and partners are on the ground in the five affected countries and working to support children with life-saving services and resilience response.

- Over the past three months, UNICEF has provided essential life-saving health, nutrition, immunization, WASH, education, child protection and GBV services and cash transfers to 1.7 million people and 1.2 million children through life-saving interventions.²
- UNICEF is the leading UN agency to provide:
 - Access to clean water and reliable sanitation, and for promoting basic hygiene practices in rural and urban areas, including in emergency situations.
 - Nutrition response across the HoA countries, supporting a harmonized multi-agency response, including for the life-saving treatment of severe acute malnutrition.
- UNICEF is uniquely positioned to address the water crisis through both immediate interventions such as borehole repair and cleaning, and at the same time accelerate the drilling of deep ground water boreholes, to make communities more resilient and prevent further deterioration of the current drought and future droughts, given the climate change patterns that are predicted for this region. We are also making smart investments in the longer-term resilience of communities and their

children, through strengthening nutrition and health systems as well as government-led social protection systems.

- UNICEF is also frontloading its internal core resources in the drought response in the five countries on a no-regrets basis to scale up the response including new loan and grant financing as well as repurposed regular resources for procurement of life-saving supplies such as Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), and supporting enhanced community outreach, as well as make strategic, early investments in long-term resilience, particularly supporting communities with climate-resilient water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition interventions.

Early Action

The evidence in support of acting early in the face of drought is overwhelming. Children's lives are saved, the devastating and permanent damage of malnutrition on children's brains and bodies is prevented and in turn the destruction to countries' workforces and economies. But early action also enables donors to spend less in the long run and families themselves to avoid catastrophic losses. The World Bank found that a response that is even just one month quicker, results in a **0.8 per cent** boost in income per capita in the long run. In addition, research commissioned by the Start Network found at least half of all humanitarian crises are foreseeable and more than **20 per cent** are highly predictable. However, less than one per cent of humanitarian funding goes to anticipatory action.

2. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/horn-africa-drought-life-saving-response-may-20-2022>

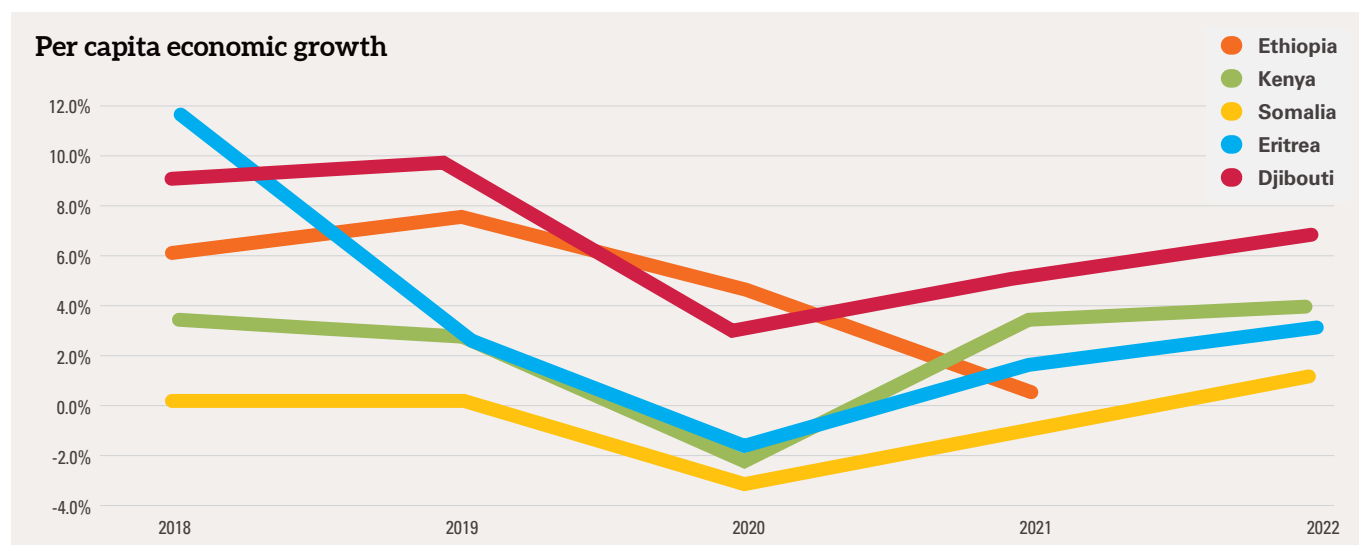
Regional drought situation and multiple threats to children's survival and development

The Horn of Africa is currently facing a fourth consecutive below-average rainfall season since late 2020 due to La Niña conditions, which is aggravating the current water crisis and ongoing drought in five countries. Up to **20 million people**³ in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia will need water and food assistance until the end of 2022 due to drought, insecurity, conflict, and economic challenges. Early climate forecasts suggest an increased probability of yet another below-average season between October and December 2022⁴.

Conflict risks remain high due to political fragility. Conflicts and social unrest in some of the drought-affected countries weigh heavily on the affected populations and further exacerbate their living conditions. The active conflict in northern Ethiopia, and the protracted insecurity crisis in Somalia, are still causing significant population displacements and humanitarian access restrictions. The recent elections in Somalia and upcoming elections in Kenya may create tensions that could add complexities in response to the current drought. Finally, the concentration of groups from different locations and competition over scarce water resources has historically generated tensions and conflicts.

The regional Macroeconomic situation is dire. Populations in all drought affected countries were already experiencing

extreme levels of poverty and vulnerability before the emergence of the drought. Their economies were hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks; between 2019 and 2020, per capita growth fell by 4 per cent, on average, and turned negative in Eritrea, Kenya and Somalia (see figure to the right). To survive, households are adopting coping strategies that have dangerous and often irreversible consequences for children, which range from reduced food intake and withdrawing children from school (to save money on school fees or to send children to work) to selling off productive assets (livestock, household items or land), sending children out to work and marrying girls early and migrating. In the short-term, cash transfers can help families avoid these negative coping behaviours by enabling basic needs to be met, keeping children alive and safe.



3 <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/fsnwg-drought-alert-april-2022>

4 <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/threat-starvation-looms-east-africa-after-four-failed-rainy-seasons>

Overview of the drought-affected zones



At least

4.1 million people
in Kenya

who are severely food insecure (including more than 800,000 children under the age of five)

Up to

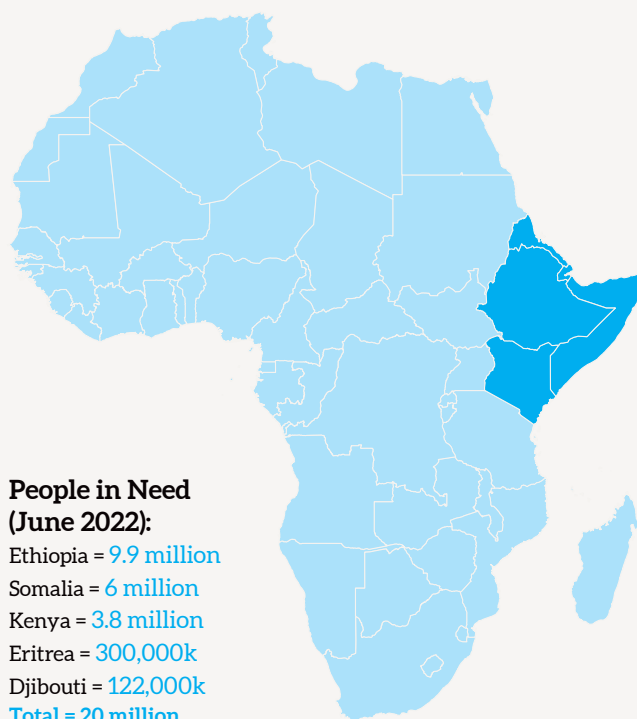
7.1 million people
in Somalia

facing food insecurity due to drought by June 2022 (including 1 million children under the age of five)

More than

8.1 million people
in Ethiopia

(3.5 million), Oromia (3.4 million), SNNP (1 million) and South-West (more than 15,000 people) regions are currently affected by the drought, of which more than 7.2 million people need food assistance and 4.4 million people need water assistance



The impact of the war in Ukraine is already tipping more families in the Horn of Africa over the edge with increasing fuel and food prices and reduced availability of wheat and cooking oil imports for affected countries. As a result of increasing global food prices, the cost of RUTF production in the region is also increasing and will put excessive pressure on the RUTF supplies needed. According to WFP's analysis⁵, wheat and wheat products account for one third of the average national cereal consumption in the Eastern Africa Region, with highest consumption per capita in Djibouti and Eritrea. As Ukraine and Russia are major exporters of fertilizer, the conflict is likely to impact on fertilizer for HoA countries during the upcoming planting season further compromising potential harvest. In addition, impact of increasing fuel prices coupled with significant inflation in HoA countries have meant that households are severely impacted in their ability to afford nutritious food and pay for transport to access health and nutrition services. Therefore, the war in Ukraine and the resulting domino effect has increased the vulnerability of households to malnutrition and death, impacted HoA countries when they are most vulnerable and hampered the ability of humanitarian responders through increased demand, increased cost of action and divided attention of key donors and partners.

Increasing risk of famine. Rising risks of famine in the region persist. In Somalia, worsening drought is putting over 213,000

(IPC Phase 5)⁶ through June 2022 if humanitarian assistance is not scaled up. Across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, the rapidly deteriorating malnutrition situation is resulting in admissions of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) to be higher in the last three months than in past years. More than 1.8 million children require urgent treatment for SAM right now – with the number likely to rise in the coming months. The admission trends indicate consistently elevated numbers of children receiving treatment for SAM with 37% and 48% increase in Ethiopia and Somalia respectively in Quarter One of 2022 compared to same period in 2021. In Djibouti, the admission trends of children admitted in clinics and receiving treatment for SAM indicate an increase in numbers up to approximately 26% following the drought. Kenya has recorded steeper increases in SAM admissions this year with first quarter admissions 68% higher in 2022 compared to last year. It is reasonable to assume that otherwise preventable child deaths are happening when children suffering from wasting are not identified and treated. The supply pipeline needed to treat severely and moderately malnourished children is not yet fully secured whilst we have not yet reached the peak of the crisis. Beyond treatment, which is the last line of defence, the most affected areas require urgent blanket supplementary feeding, and suitably scaled and general food assistance and WASH response, if we are to avoid the worst outcomes to women and children.

5 <https://reliefweb.int/report/burundi/implications-ukraine-conflict-food-access-and-availability-eastern-africa-region>

6 <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1155662/>



UNICEF's Regional Response Strategy

UNICEF has revised its emergency appeal from US\$ 119 million to US\$ 262 million for life-saving drought response activities in 2022 (a 109% increase) and US\$ 723 million for resilience support to reflect the growing needs across the region. The current life-saving drought response plan is only 41% funded.

UNICEF thanks its donors for their generous support which has allowed UNICEF to respond to the current situation. Considering the deteriorating context and the rising needs of the population, the international community needs to urgently come together to ensure the lives of children in the Horn of Africa do not come at the expense of aid resources being diverted to other crises. These are extraordinary times, with the impact of war in Ukraine further battering a world economy already devastated by COVID-19 and climate change. Extraordinary efforts are therefore required to ensure that additional resources are given to invest in communities' resilience and prevent needless deaths.

We cannot see a repeat of the 2011 and 2017 food crises where tens of thousands of children had to die before a response of an appropriate magnitude was achieved. Climate-induced emergencies are only set to increase in frequency; the significant step change needed to support families to overcome droughts and other climate-related emergencies will only be achieved if donors invest in resilience measures alongside life-saving aid. The time to act is now!

Intersectoral response strategy

UNICEF is responding to the life-saving needs of drought-affected children and their families in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, with multi-sector plans featured in each of the countries' 2022 humanitarian appeals.

Addressing household water insecurity is the core driver of the regional drought response in 2022. UNICEF is scaling up its WASH assistance for the most-at-risk water insecure households and their health care facilities and schools in collaboration with Health and Education programmes. Nutrition-sensitive WASH interventions are targeting severely food insecure areas and intersectoral WASH responses are helping to mitigate the outbreak of diseases, such as cholera (due to contaminated water) and skin diseases (due to lack of water for hygiene). GBV risks are also being reduced by shortening the walking distance to water sources. The intersectoral activities

are taking into account the special needs of people living with disabilities and are complemented by UNICEF's social and behavior change programmes to ensure that safe hygiene practices get promoted and that the allocation and rationing of water is being well communicated to the populations.

Basic services are delivered as a gender-inclusive, integrated core package of assistance. UNICEF is prioritizing an integrated WASH, health, nutrition, child protection, GBV in emergencies, and education response, supported by shock-responsive social protection, social and behavioral change communication activities and operational support interventions in drought-affected areas with a focus on providing life-saving services to avert a famine. This is being achieved with a rapid scale-up of the UNICEF response, through the procurement of life-saving supplies in the pipeline at scale, an increase in partnerships and the expansion of critical services in the most affected areas.

UNICEF prioritizes its response to women and children living in the most affected and hardest-to-reach areas. All country plans have expanded their coverage through partnerships with governments, international NGO partners, the private sector and civil society organisations to reach those in hard-to-reach locations. With an estimated 30 per cent increase in needs for therapeutic foods (RUTF) for under-five children, particular focus is being given to the fast procurement and distribution among families in the greatest need. Ethiopia and Somalia have specific access strategies in place, and immediate funding is required to ensure the life-saving food assistance needed to treat moderately and severely malnourished children is provided in time.

UNICEF's support to children, adolescents and their families includes both, immediate life-saving sectoral interventions, and core resilience and systems-strengthening programming, over a multi-year duration. Building individual youth and women's leadership capacities and connecting them to each other to enhance community engagement and build an enabling environment is critical. Past regional drought responses in the Horn of Africa have clearly shown the critical importance of

scaling up immediate life-saving and resilience interventions at the same time to achieve sustainable humanitarian impacts and durable outcomes that restore self-sufficiency and human dignity. Climate-resilient, basic services (including health, WASH and nutrition) delivered in or close to the worst drought-affected areas, have been particularly important to prevent non-reversible rural-to-urban migration, noting this is a documented long-term outcome from the last major drought in Somalia in 2017/18.

Child protection and GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response are principal cross-cutting components for all interventions based on local analysis. Evidence from the 2016/2017 drought in the Horn of Africa showed increased rates of GBV including sexual violence and child marriage as well as child protection concerns like child labour and family separation as communities struggled to survive. Recent data from the current crisis show that this one is no different with women and children bearing the brunt of the prolonged drought. Coverage of life-saving multi-sectoral health, GBV, Child Protection, mental health psychosocial support (MHPSS) and other services remain scarce across drought-affected

areas. Gaps in services mean that many cases go unreported, and women and children are unable to seek care and recover from violence and abuse.

Risk of sexual exploitation and abuse increases drastically during emergencies like this as resources become even more scarce and food insecurity worsens. Safeguarding and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)⁷ is at the core of all interventions notably through developing safe and accessible reporting channels and providing assistance for survivors of SEA.

UNICEF applies a 'Do no harm' approach in its programmes, particularly to avoid the aggravation of already existing tensions at community level. All response programmes account for the multiplicity of underlying risks, particularly the possibility that certain vulnerable or politically excluded groups can be marginalised from accessing assistance. These principles are important noting that affected communities have been subjected to multiple shocks and those in need are already displaced.

Key programme response priorities and life-saving actions (2022)



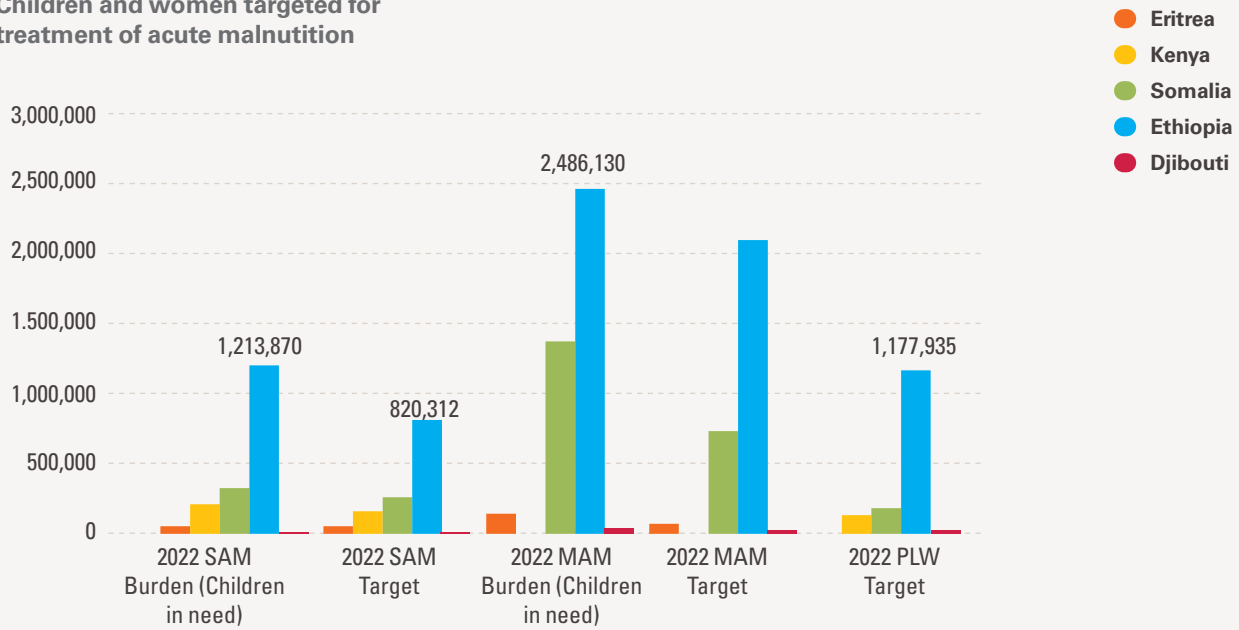
Nutrition

The impact of the drought on nutrition continues to aggravate pre-existing vulnerabilities across the countries. Currently, over 1.8 million children are projected to require urgent life-saving treatment services in 2022, the number is like to increase to 2 million in June should the drought conditions prevail. As the cluster lead agency and implementing partner, UNICEF continues to support the implementation of critical nutrition activities in all the drought-affected countries and regions, including procurement, prepositioning, and distribution of therapeutic supplies, support for prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, and promotion of appropriate maternal, infant, and young child nutritional support (including micronutrient supplementation in emergencies). UNICEF's response is aligned with the sectoral and interagency response plans and priorities. UNICEF is supporting nutrition coordination at cluster as well as agency level in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia at both national and sub-national levels including information analysis and identification of the additional needs, to ensure a timely response. UNICEF continues to support the government and partners in enhancing screening and early case identification of children and women with acute malnutrition via integrated outreach programmes, and the mobile health and nutrition teams that assist at the community level with family-level screenings. Ensuring uninterrupted therapeutic feeds pipeline including and specially RUTF has been a key priority as it is essential life-saving commodity.

In line with the Core Commitments for Children, UNICEF is also supporting interventions that benefit children in middle childhood and adolescents, through community and school-based packages including iron-folic acid supplementation, deworming, and nutrition education. Capacity building of the health workforce has also been prioritized to ensure the implementation of quality actions, with supportive supervision and end-user monitoring ongoing for enhanced programme quality assurance. To address the key drivers of malnutrition, UNICEF continues to strengthen government nutrition systems at national and sub-national levels as well as multi-sectoral engagements especially in the critical sectors of water and hygiene, cash transfers and intersectoral coordination on food response that impact on nutritional outcomes.

⁷ Risk of sexual exploitation and abuse increases drastically during emergencies like this as resources become even more scarce and food insecurity worsens. Safeguarding and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is at the core of all interventions notably through developing safe and accessible reporting channels and providing assistance for survivors of SEA.

Children and women targeted for treatment of acute malnutrition



WASH

Priorities for the WASH response are driven by the provision of life-saving clean water, measures and interventions for reducing the risks of diarrhea and skin diseases and continuous efforts to provide the goods and services that will support affected communities beyond the six months response period. The planned activities in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya and Somalia consist of resuming water services from existing water sources and systems. The provision of new boreholes in strategic locations in Somalia and Ethiopia is key for ensuring water availability and will help to reduce ongoing, costly water trucking. Hygiene promotion accompanying the targeted distribution of hygiene kits, water purification tablets and jerrycans displaced populations and the most at risk groups, is another key intervention to ensure clean water supply, including to health and education facilities.



Health

UNICEF is supporting preparedness and response activities to prevent, mitigate and give a timely response to public health emergencies, such as waterborne disease outbreaks. Priority is given to the continued provision of life-saving, essential health services for affected communities through context-sensitive approaches. UNICEF will assist in strengthening national and sub-national capacities for health emergency preparedness and response through continuous needs assessment and implementation monitoring, as well as via training and capacity-building activities for health workers and managers.



Child Protection and Gender Based Violence

UNICEF is scaling up Child Protection and GBV services to respond to the growing protection needs among women and children across the Horn of Africa. Child protection and GBV priorities will focus on improving access to, and availability of, life-saving, age-appropriate GBV and Child Protection services necessary for recovery and reducing the risks of violence. UNICEF will focus on (i) supporting the development and expansion of quality GBV and Child Protection case management and MHPSS to women and children (ii) implementing GBV risk mitigation measures to improve women and children's safety and access to humanitarian assistance (iii) enhancing community-based protection mechanisms (iv) supporting family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children and (iv) PSEA through setting up of community-based complaint mechanisms, improving access to survivor assistance, and capacity building of staff and partners. Overall, UNICEF will contribute to make child protection systems more shock responsive and make innovative use of data to inform anticipatory action.



Education

UNICEF supports children's continued access to inclusive quality education for those affected by the drought, including displaced children by providing teaching, learning and recreation materials in safe learning environments. In collaboration with WFP, UNICEF is providing school meals for drought-affected children to improve their nutritional status and encourage continued school attendance. In addition, UNICEF supports and helps strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Education in emergency preparedness and response. As the number of children not accessing learning or out of school is dramatically increasing, UNICEF needs to urgently scale up education related assistance.



Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers

Cash transfers are a lifeline for families facing unimaginable challenges, supporting families to purchase much needed food, pay for health and education services, and avoid selling off precious assets that will worsen their situation in the long-term. UNICEF provides support through (i) the administration of humanitarian cash transfers (HCT) to people in need; (ii) technical and financial support to governments to support the rapid expansion of national cash transfer programmes; (iii) improved coordination of response via Cash Working Groups; and (iv) monitoring cash administration and carry out post-distribution monitoring to identify key gaps.



HIV/AIDS

The relationship between drought and HIV is two-fold. Individuals, particularly adolescent girls and young women, are at increased risk of acquiring HIV during drought and people living with HIV may drop off of treatment due to hunger and income loss. Malnourished children with HIV are at particularly high risk of severe illness and death. UNICEF is making sure the drought response has a specific focus on ensuring continuity of treatment for children, adolescents and women living with HIV and promoting HIV prevention, especially among adolescent girls and young women.



Community for Development / social behaviour change (C4D/SBC)

Critical C4D/SBC programming will strengthen and intensify community engagement activities as well local media engagement to provide critical information to drought-affected populations. Given drought puts stress on existing vulnerabilities, maintaining hygiene, good nutrition and health is paramount.

Resilience Action (2022-2024)

The predicted increase in the severity and frequency of climatic shocks calls for an approach that increases the resilience of societies and empowers communities and future generations. While resilience-building efforts across the region have made some important progress, communities have been hit by increasingly frequent and severe climate shocks and droughts, making it harder and harder for families to recover between shocks. Scaling up investments in resilience activities now will prove beneficial over time. However, so far, the response has not been big enough to meet the magnitude of the climate crisis and its far-reaching impacts. Building the resilience of people is a sustainable return on investment. This should include solid gender and power analysis, and gender and age disaggregated data to enhance coordination and accountabilities. UNICEF is building resilience now and in parallel to the life-saving response in the core programme areas:



WASH, climate resilience and system strengthening activities

In addition to having impact on children's health and well-being, water insecurity also limits economic growth and forces people to migrate. As climate change leads to unpredictable and extreme weather patterns, and as population growth increases, stress on water resources due to increased demand and competition will only worsen.

This water and drought crisis is one of the worst climate-induced emergencies seen in the Horn of Africa, and UNICEF as lead agency in WASH is ramping up efforts in building climate resilience among affected communities while responding to their life-saving needs. Medium to long-term WASH strategies in the region are implemented to work towards water security and safety for all, at all times of the year. UNICEF is prioritizing the building of climate resilience among affected communities, through targeted WASH interventions, including (i) strategic support to governments for design, financing, implementation and the sustainable operation and maintenance of climate resilient water schemes, with service revenue for ensuring operation and maintenance; (ii) strengthening monitoring and early warning systems for timely information on climate and environmental risks and hazards; (iii) robust data-driven analysis for informed decision by all project stakeholders (primary and secondary stakeholders) (iv) risk assessment, prevention and risk reduction approaches; (v) meaningful engagement of adolescents and youth in climate action including innovative climate change mitigation, advocacy and empowerment for girls and young women – and leadership in climate justice.



Health

Horn of Africa countries need health systems that reliably deliver integrated service packages for children, adolescents and women, and vulnerable groups including those with disabilities. Strengthening health systems, including service delivery, is a critical element and requirement to ensure that vulnerable and at high-risk populations and communities are better protected and served before, during, and after emergency events. An effective and integrated health system helps to build community resilience through reducing exposure to diseases and health conditions. Key measures and interventions that support health system strengthening include access to safe and effective essential health services, capacity building of health workers, risk-informed programming including building capabilities around health emergency preparedness and responses for public health emergencies and health in emergencies and building effective partnerships for public health and service delivery including with communities. Together with the different integrated sectoral interventions, these elements are necessary to ensure optimal child and adolescent survival and development, as well as national socio-economic development.

The health-related, life-saving actions listed in this call to action overall contribute to health system strengthening. UNICEF intends to (i) advocate with policy makers for building strong health systems particularly in drought-affected areas; (ii) support enhancing emergency preparedness and response measures, including the procurement and pre-positioning of essential supplies and establishing community-based early warning systems; (iii) strengthen existing health facilities and context-relevant integrated delivery systems; (iv) build the capacities of health workers, volunteers, and communities



Nutrition

The nutrition resilience actions for the Horn of Africa drought include community, facility, and system-level interventions to enhance prevention of malnutrition in the first place, and when prevention fails ensure early treatment. Noting the impact and context differ across the affected drought countries, each country is undertaking context-specific actions to enhance nutrition resilience with links to health, food, and social protection systems.

The health system strengthening actions include bolstering the coordination and information system for early warning and early action, supporting early case identification, building the capacities of health workers for improved service delivery, and actions to improve supply chain maturity with a specific focus on Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). An innovative resilience approach, called Surge Approach, is used in Kenya to define a predictable system of setting thresholds for local action at facility and sub-county level to trigger matching actions for evolving nutrition situations through the use of remote sensing data as well as admission trends at the facility level. The community-level resilience actions focus on early case identification and link with prevention. The capacity for Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) programming, including IYCF in emergencies, is being strengthened with a focus on support for the adoption of the complementary feeding framework. The Global Action Plan (GAP) for prevention, early detection, and treatment of acute malnutrition provides the framework for multi-system actions in food, health, social protection and WASH systems to improve coordination and joint action for the prevention and timely treatment of wasting.

UNICEF will continue to work closely with governments and other key partners to accelerate resilience actions including empowering communities and institutions on risk assessment, identification, and prioritization of needs, with the overall implementation will be aligned to both global and regional frameworks



Child Protection and Gender Based Violence

Recurrent climatic shocks and the growing frequency of droughts in the region is increasing humanitarian needs and eroding resources with devastating consequences for the protection, well-being and development of women and children. Chronic food insecurity and displacement combined with pervasive gender inequalities and weakened community and family support networks are exacerbating protection risks. In parallel, geographical coverage and capacity of lifesaving GBV and child protection services are becoming even more scarce as services struggle to meet growing demands.

UNICEF's Child Protection and GBViE resilience actions for the Horn of African are designed to reduce risks and impacts of violence and strengthen capacities of women and children through age and gender specific interventions to better cope with their environment and to recover from shocks, including drought. UNICEF interventions are also meant to provide access to critical services that are more inclusive and prepared for disasters and climate impacts.

UNICEF's work will continue to strengthen formal and informal systems and community-based interventions for Child Protection and GBV prevention, response and risk mitigation in drought-affected countries. Emergency programming, preparedness and multi sectoral anticipatory actions can create entry points for improving national and local systems through strategic and dedicated engagement with communities, governments and local actors. Key resilience-building interventions that will be supported include:

- (i) Working with government and civil society partners to improve comprehensive GBV and child protection case management services in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia and strengthen social service workforce capacity to deliver quality care.
- (ii) Increasing child rights monitoring as well as integrated interventions to reduce risks and promote protective factors to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, their families and their communities.
- (iii) Scaling up gender transformative interventions to support positive parenting, violence prevention and address harmful gender and social norms, beliefs and drivers of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.
- (iv) Strengthening social and economic empowerment for women, youth, adolescents and children through life skills, skills training, school reintegration programmes and access to safe learning spaces.
- (v) Supporting the implementation of national strategies, policies and programming to address priority concerns including child marriage and FGM which increase dramatically during drought.



Social protection

The populations in the Horn of Africa were already experiencing extreme levels of poverty and vulnerability before the emergence of the drought. Over the past 18 months, most families have been additionally hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, job losses, locust invasions, conflicts, and now severe drought. More families are falling into poverty at an alarming rate, and those already in poverty are being pushed even further to the brink. To survive, households are using coping strategies that have dangerous consequences, which range from reducing food intake and withdrawing children from school to selling off productive assets and migrating.

Weathering the current drought is the immediate priority, but post-emergency recovery will be a long and arduous process for most poor and vulnerable families. When the drought is over and displaced families start returning to their homes, they will be starting from zero with no assets and no livelihood options. Expansion of social protection will be a crucial tool for families to both recover from this crisis but also build up their assets and resilience for the next shock, which are increasing in frequency and severity. National cash transfer programmes are already being utilized as an emergency response in Ethiopia and Kenya, where large-scale social protection systems are present, and the shock responsiveness of the social protection system is being tested. UNICEF is working with governments and partners in all countries to strengthen national social protection systems, enabling them to respond to the current drought while also striving to improve timely and adequate national responses for future shocks.

UNICEF is working to (i) ensure a period of recovery is built into Humanitarian Cash Transfers, extending the duration of support beyond the crisis to enable families not only to survive but to build back their assets and livelihoods; (ii) expand coverage of regular cash transfer programmes to all children in affected areas, enabling families to build resilience to future shocks; (iii) build and/or strengthen national social registries that contain key family information, especially in drought-affected areas, that enable quick expansion of national cash transfer programmes to new families in the future; (iv) link recipients of national cash transfer programmes to other key services that support their resilience; (v) support capacity building and training of governments to implement cash transfer programmes and manage rapid expansion; (vi) establish and strengthen the coordination of social protection and emergency response actors

UNICEF is working to

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Education

Education resilience actions for the Horn of Africa drought will focus on measures to strengthen shock responsive systems and the humanitarian-development nexus, building emergency response and DRR capacities, the preparedness and resilience of Ministries of Education (MoEs) at different levels and that of school communities; and addressing school reopening, enrolment, attendance and drop-out of girls and boys through critical education packages and services. To respond to country specific impacts of drought, each country is undertaking contextualized actions to enhance education resilience with integrated, intersectoral responses linking education with child protection, food, WASH, social protection systems and MHPSS.

UNICEF will support the development of Disaster Risk Management frameworks and support the capacities of MoEs - including at decentralized levels - in planning, management, monitoring and reporting on education programming in emergency and recovery contexts, to foster government ownership and leadership, to assist schools in drought affected regions to reopen, stay open, and to reduce dependence on external actors to respond to future shocks .

Drought affected, out of school and at-risk children will benefit from the provision of education packages, formal and alternative education pathways that integrate multiple intersectoral services. Accelerated- and catch-up learning and life-skills education will be delivered together with child protection/GBV risk mitigation/ response services and linked with (climate-smart) WASH in school, school feeding and MHPSS. Community resilience and capacities will be strengthened – including Parent, Teacher, and Student Associations and other school and community-based platforms – to help deliver equitable, inclusive and sustained access to education, effectively manage school resources, ensure linkages to child protection systems and engage in community mobilization efforts to promote greater enrolment, attendance and retention of at-risk-children, especially girls . With the increased number of children out of school and those likely to drop out due to the drought, UNICEF will support critical social protection interventions to offset the direct costs of schooling - including mandatory enrolment fees; student learning materials and end of primary year examination fees for vulnerable drought affected families - through school grant systems, so that families do not need to choose between education and meeting basic needs.

To foster capacities, ownership and sustainability of school-based programming, MoE efforts in expanding school gardens will be promoted to ensure availability of food for school feeding and reduce future reliance of school meals on external actors. UNICEF will also support MoEs to further develop alternative learning pathways and ensure the systematic integration of child protection and MHPSS in teacher training systems.

Results of UNICEF's actions until now

Thanks to the generous support of donors, UNICEF has been able to reach nearly 1.7 million people and 1.2 million children through life-saving interventions in the Horn of Africa.

Data Box

Results of UNICEF life-saving actions in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia



600,000 children and women

received access to essential life-saving health care services.



833,200 children

from 6 months to 15 years old were vaccinated against measles (Ethiopia and Somalia).



260,090 children

under 5 years old affected by SAM were admitted for treatment in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya (Jan-March 2022).



905,500 people

accessing the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.



1,364,000 children

from age 3 to 18 affected by crisis accessing education.



28,250 children

children provided with psychosocial support.



68,498 individuals

reached with emergency cash in drought affected Oromia, SNNPR and Somali regions of Ethiopia.



62,320 individuals

reached with emergency cash in conflict affected Afar and Amhara regions of Ethiopia.



309,462 individuals

reached with cash support through temporary expansion of the national social protection system in Kenya and Ethiopia (with direct financial support of UNICEF).

Climate-Resilient WASH in Ethiopia to Bridge Humanitarian-Development Programming

Ethiopia has endured multiple humanitarian crises since 2015, which have displaced almost three million individuals across the country. Water scarcity has been at the centre of natural disasters and is also a key driver of conflicts. The recurrent climate-related emergencies and increasing evidence base stimulated the WASH actors to look beyond trucking water towards building risk-informed and durable water systems. UNICEF as a key WASH partner to the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), led the conceptualization of climate resilient WASH programming, and introduced remote sensing technology to map groundwater and drill deep boreholes in areas previously

inconceivable to find water. UNICEF built Multi-Village Water Schemes (MVWS's) connecting these high-yield boreholes to reach more beneficiaries, which were managed by rural water utilities. These innovative technologies and approaches have demonstrated results on the ground and were endorsed by GoE and integrated into the national WASH programme. Going forward, UNICEF Ethiopia will leverage humanitarian funds to build sustainable water systems, and tap into development resources to invest in crisis-affected and chronically vulnerable areas.



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Funding Requirements

Funding requirements are set out below for each of the five focus countries and the regional office to support a scaled life-saving response until the end of the year and the resilience response for 3 years across the drought-affected countries.

Lifesaving response (12 months: Jan – Dec 2022)

UNICEF is appealing for US\$262 million to provide lifesaving support to 4.2 million high-risk people (of which 2.4 million children) in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia until the end of the year.

The drought appeals are part of the Humanitarian Action for Children Appeals of the respective countries, which are aligned with the interagency humanitarian response plans/flash appeals. HACs and HRP for 2022 country level may be revised upwards later, in agreement with Humanitarian Coordination and the country teams

Sector	Somalia	Ethiopia*	Kenya	Eritrea**	Djibouti	Total	Appeal increase since February 2022 appeal
Nutrition***	46.6m	18.2m	21.1m	4.7m	0.4m	91m	215%
WASH	33.2m	17.3m	14.2m	3.6m	0.9m	69.2m	71%
Health & HIV/AIDs	11.2m	8.9m	12.8m	2.6m	0.1m	35.6m	105%
Education	9.8m	7.5m	5.0m	0.9m	0.2m	23.4m	62%
Child Protection	8.0m	4.9m	4.2m	0.4m	0.1m	17.6m	51%
Social Protection	2.4m	8.4m	9.9m	1.4m	0.4m	22.5m	49%
Social Behavior Change	1.3m	-	0.4m	-	0.2m	1.9m	New
Gender/PSEA/disabilities	0.2m	0.2m	0.1m	0.1m	0.2m	0.8m	New
TOTAL	112.7m	65.4m	67.8m	13.8m	2.5m	262.2m	

* Ethiopia requirements above represent January - September 2022 and Kenya April - September 2022, in line with inter-agency appeal timeframe

** Eritrea is currently assessed as in a drought but that due to evidence of increased food insecurity and access to potable water, UNICEF is seeking to strengthen the resilience of affected communities together with its government counterparts, as part of the Regional Call to Action

*** Nutrition requirements have increased because of global supply price change for RUTF, and UNICEF increase support to hard-to-reach communities

**** US\$ 1.2 million not shown as a budget line is included for regional office emergency technical support

Funding Gap- life-saving support – funds received against the February 2022 appeal

Sectors	Eritrea		Ethiopia		Kenya		Somalia		Djibouti	
	Received	% gap	Received	% Gap	Received	% Gap	Received	% Gap	Received	% Gap
WASH	1,375,551.40	62%	3,812,537.79	78%	1,500,000	96%	13,988,365	0%	120,000	86%
Nutrition	1,531,000.93	67%	2,390,768	87%	1,963,351	98%	36,525,967.12	22%	125,000	69%
Health &HIV	150,000	94%	250,000	97%	500,000	96%	13,394,856.11	0%	80,000	20%
Education	-	100%	689,840	91%	900,000	0%	1,687,500	83%	33,520	37%
Child Protection	-	100%	2,515,413	51%	-	13%	1,126,034.88	86%	116,480	0%
Social Protection	60,000	96%	300,000	90%	300,000	84%	0	100%	0	100%
Social Behavior Change	-	0%	0	0%	0	100%	246,673	80%	25,000	86%
PSEA	30,000	0%	150,000	0%	100,000		150,000		100,000	
Gender and Disabilities	-	100%	0	0%		100%		0%	0	100%
TOTAL	3,116,552.33	68.8%	10,108,558.79	54.8%	5,263,351	65.2%	67,119,396.11	41.2%	600,000	55.3%

Resilience response (3 years)

UNICEF is appealing for **US\$724 million** to provide resilience support to people affected by climate-induced emergencies in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia for three years (2022 – 2024).

Resilience intervention	Somalia	Ethiopia	Kenya	Eritrea	Total
Climate resilient WASH	60,000,000	120,000,000	80,000,000	15,000,000	275,000,000
Social protection	12,000,000	15,000,000	5,000,000	1,500,000	33,500,000
Child Protection	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	2,100,000	47,100,000
Nutrition systems strengthening	41,300,862	96,935,376	25,031,326	8,529,480	171,797,044
Education systems strengthening	29,130,000	47,730,000	2,495,000		79,355,000
Health systems strengthening	30,000,000	36,200,000	43,783,029	7,000,000	116,983,029
TOTAL	187,430,862	330,865,376	171,309,305	34,129,480	723,735,073

* Djibouti is developing a resilience strategy which will be disseminated later

For every child
Whoever she is.
Wherever he lives.
Every child deserves a childhood.
A future.
A fair chance.
That's why UNICEF is there.
For each and every child.
Working day in and day out.
In 190 countries and territories.
Reaching the hardest to reach.
The furthest from help.
The most left behind.
The most excluded.
It's why we stay to the end.
And never give up.



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