Eritrea

Eritrea is a country that is arid and semi-arid. Eighty percent of the population depends on subsistence agriculture for its livelihoods. Rain-fed agriculture is the predominant economic activity, employing more than two thirds of the population. By virtue of its location in the Sahel, Eritrea is affected by periodic drought and food shortages. Even in times of good rainfall, domestic food production is estimated to meet between 60 to 70 percent of the population’s needs. Data from the Nutrition Sentinel Site Surveillance system indicates an increase in malnutrition rates over the past few years in four out of six regions of the country, with 22,700 children under five projected to be affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2017. National data also indicates half of Eritrean children are stunted. Vulnerabilities of children will need to be addressed through collective action.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF and partners will continue to mainstream humanitarian response within regular development programmes to contribute to the Government’s efforts to reach the most vulnerable children. This includes an integrated approach to life-saving interventions. In 2017, UNICEF will continue to support the Government to implement blanket supplementary feeding to prevent malnutrition of children under 5, pregnant women and lactating mothers. This will include procuring routine medicines for the management of SAM and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). UNICEF will support a multi-sectoral response in vulnerable communities facing heightened risk of diarrhea and high levels of malnutrition. Local capacities will be built in these communities through outreach and training programmes to support the provision of safe water and access to appropriate hygiene practices. In support of the Government Health Sector Strategic Plan, UNICEF will strengthen health systems for service delivery and will prioritize routine immunization coverage and community case management of childhood illnesses. Schools in vulnerable areas will offer programmes designed to raise children’s awareness of explosive remnants of war. UNICEF will also support the enrolment of 15,000 (currently out-of-school) nomadic children, working with the Ministry of Education, via advocacy campaigns, outreach and enrolment programmes. Communication for Development will be used to achieve programme results in all sectors.

Results from 2016

As of 31 October 2016, UNICEF had received US$7.8 million against the US$16 million requirement. Some 13,000 children under 5 with SAM and 34,000 children under 5 with MAM were treated and 376,000 children received vitamin A. In addition, 30,000 pregnant women and lactating mothers and children under 5 living in hard-to-reach areas benefited from blanket supplementary feeding. Approximately 97,000 children were immunized against measles, and 70,000 children affected by acute watery diarrhoea were treated.

2017 programme targets

Nutrition

- 15,000 children under 5 with SAM admitted into therapeutic feeding programmes
- 40,000 children under 5 with MAM benefiting from targeted supplementary feeding
- 450,000 children under 5 provided with vitamin A supplementation

Health

- 100,000 children immunized against measles
- 50,000 children affected by acute watery diarrhoea accessing life-saving curative interventions

WASH

- 45,000 people accessing 15 litres of water per person per day for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 45,000 people reached with appropriate hygiene messages

Child protection

- 30,000 children and young people in and out of school provided with integrated mine risk education programmes on injury prevention
- 15,000 vulnerable children reached and supported with basic social services during emergencies

Education

- 15,000 out-of-school children from nomadic communities provided with access to basic education
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UNICEF 2016 targets | UNICEF 2016 results
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NUTRITION
Children under 5 with SAM admitted into therapeutic feeding programmes | 15,000 | 12,995
Children under 5 receiving micronutrient (vitamin A) supplementation | 365,000 | 376,392
Children under 5 with MAM admitted into therapeutic feeding programmes | 35,000 | 33,996
Children aged 6 to 59 months, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers received supplementary feeding | 180,000 | 30,100

HEALTH
Children under 5 immunized against measles | 113,000 | 97,230
Children affected by acute watery diarrhoea having access to life-saving curative interventions | 32,000 | 70,314

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
People accessing 15 litres of water per person per day for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene | 60,000 | 31,000
Children and women receiving critical WASH-related information to prevent child illness | 60,000 | 18,000

CHILD PROTECTION
Children and young people in and out of school provided with integrated mine risk education programmes on injury prevention | 50,000 | 5,000

EDUCATION
Out-of-school nomadic children provided with access to basic education | 30,000 | 8,185

Funding requirements

UNICEF is requesting US$11 million to meet the needs of children in Eritrea in 2017. Without additional funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the health, child protection, WASH and education needs of the most vulnerable children and communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2017 requirements (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>7,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11,050,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Total people to be reached is calculated based on 450,000 children under 5 for nutrition and 45,000 people for WASH.
6 Available funds included funding received against the current appeal of US$6.8 million and US$1 million carried forward from the previous year.