



# AusAID Fact Sheet

## Australian Government Assistance to the Horn of Africa Crisis

September 2011

The Australian Government is extremely concerned about the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, especially the famine in parts of Somalia. More than 13 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are in need of live-saving humanitarian assistance because of consecutive droughts, following two poor rain seasons, and a lack of food.

The United Nations has a \$2.4 billion international emergency appeal in response to the crisis.

The Australian Government has responded rapidly to the crisis with funding for urgently needed food rations and shelter to help the most vulnerable people in the Horn of Africa affected by the crisis.

Australia is providing \$128 million in response to the Horn of Africa drought, including over \$98 million in humanitarian assistance and \$30 million for the region's long-term food security. According to the UN financial Tracking Service, Australia is currently the world's third largest country donor to the Horn of Africa humanitarian response. Australia's humanitarian assistance includes:

### **Emergency food rations and nutritional support through the World Food Programme (WFP) (\$57 million)**

- > WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. WFP operations in the Horn of Africa are targeting around 11 million drought affected people. Since the beginning of July, WFP has reached over 7.4 million people in the region. In Somalia, WFP has provided nearly 1 million people with life-saving food assistance and plans to reach a further 900,000 in coming months. WFP is also providing assistance to drought affected populations in Ethiopia and Kenya.

### **Emergency shelter and protection for women and children in refugee camps through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (\$15 million)**

- > The UNHCR has formulated an emergency response with the objective of providing immediate life-saving assistance and humanitarian aid in places where people have remained in their communities or where people have fled to seek help in other countries. This response aims to reach as many people as possible and reduce the need for cross-border movement.
- > UNHCR is distributing core relief items, such as jerry cans, buckets, pots, plates and other utensils which allow people to prepare and store safely water and food assistance. The packages also include high-energy biscuits, oral re-hydration salts and water purification tablets. In Somalia, UNHCR and its partners have distributed emergency assistance packages to over 280,000 people since July 2011.

### **Support for UNICEF's humanitarian relief work to help meet the urgent health and nutrition needs of women and children across Somalia (\$10 million)**

- > UNICEF is leading the humanitarian response for nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and is co-leading the response on education and child protection. Australian assistance through UNICEF will provide: treatment for severely malnourished children, supplementary feeding, immunisations for measles, and upgrading of water and sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion at IDP camps, transit sites, and host communities. Australia's assistance to UNICEF is also covering education and child protection activities, including establishing Child Friendly Spaces and primary schools in IDP camps and neighbouring communities.

### **Distribution of emergency food rations to south Somalia through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (\$5 million)**

- > This will support therapeutic feeding and primary health care centres and the distribution of seeds to boost food production.

## **Agricultural and livestock support through the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (\$2 million)**

- > \$1.2 million has been provided for livelihood support for agricultural and pastoral communities in humanitarian emergency and for the acute food and livelihood crisis in south central Somalia. \$800,000 has been provided to protect pastoral community livestock in south central Somalia and enhance the community's capacity to cope with shock.

## **Flexible funding where there are gaps in assistance, including food and nutrition services in Somalia, through a joint UN fund (\$3 million)**

### **Technical expertise through Red R deployments to help manage and coordinate the response to this crisis.**

- > Funded by AusAID, Red R (an Australian NGO that provides emergency assistance to communities devastated by conflict or major natural disasters) has deployed ten Australian specialists to the region to support the work of key UN humanitarian agencies (UNICEF, WFP, OCHA and UNHCR).

## **Food and nutrition assistance and water and sanitation services through Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) including CARE, Caritas, Oxfam, Plan, Save the Children and World Vision (\$6.2 million)**

AusAID has activated the Humanitarian Partnership Agreement (HPA), the formal mechanism for engagement between AusAID and six pre-qualified Australian NGOs (Caritas, CARE, Oxfam, PLAN International, Save the Children and World Vision) in humanitarian emergency responses. The mechanism provides fast funding to the NGOs best-placed to respond quickly and effectively. This assistance will be provided to people still struggling with the drought in their own communities. These NGOs have Australians on the ground in Ethiopia and Kenya and are being funded as follows:

Country	Total	NGOs and Programs
Somalia	\$2.3 million	Save the Children and Oxfam for water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency food and livelihood activities
Ethiopia	\$1.4 million	Plan and Care for nutrition, water and sanitation, protection and livelihood activities
Kenya	\$1.3 million	Care, World Vision and Caritas for nutrition, water and sanitation, and protection

- > Australia also provided \$1.2 Million to Save the Children in June 2010 to help communities in Somalia and Kenya to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters – such as drought, by implementing medium and long term activities to support livelihood adaption in arid zones and extending disaster risk reduction activities to schools and communities.

## **Building on long-term support**

Australia is also helping to build long-term food security in the region and is providing an additional \$30 million over three years to sustain rural livelihoods in countries affected by famine and food shortages in the Horn of Africa. Part of this support is building the livelihoods of drought affected communities in the arid and semi arid areas of northern Kenya through the UK's Hunger Safety Net Programme. Australia is also making a significant investment in improving the maize and legume crop productivity of up to 500,000 small farmers through the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR). In addition, through support to Australian NGOs, Australia is enhancing agricultural practices in communities in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

## **Managing risks**

Australians should have no illusions about the difficulty of delivering aid in disaster and conflict affected regions such as Southern Somalia. In the past few years 14 aid workers have lost their lives trying to deliver aid in this region. However the people most at need are also in these conflicted affected areas. The alternative is to sit on our hands and wait for the perfect conditions to arise and watch as literally hundreds of thousands of people die.