



Women access clean water from a rehabilitated borehole, Somali region ©UNICEF Ethiopia/2016/Ayene

ETHIOPIA Humanitarian Situation Report

SitRep # 2– Reporting Period February 2017

Highlights:

- A negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) resulted in below average rainfall over East Africa and led to drought situations in Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate and more than 4.2 million people in these regions are targeted to receive food aid in 2017 (out of a total of 5.6 million people estimated to require food assistance in Ethiopia in 2017). These people are also in critical need of emergency water, health and nutrition services.
- The Ministry of Health, with support from health partners and UNICEF, has started a regular national measles vaccination targeting 22.9 million children.
- The Government of Ethiopia, with support from WASH partners, including UNICEF, is providing water rations to an estimated 839,500 people in Afar, Oromia, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions.
- Child protection and education sectors remain largely underfunded, with no funds received for 2017 in either programme. Both programmes play a critical role in protecting emergency affected children and addressing children’s psychosocial needs.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

5.6 million people* require relief food assistance in 2017

303,000 children* are expected to require treatment for SAM in 2017

9.2 million people* require access to safe drinking water and sanitation services

2 million school-aged children* require emergency school feeding and learning materials assistance

There are **801,079** refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, January 2017)

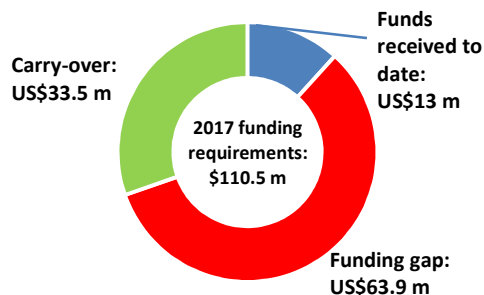
**HRD, January 2017.*

UNICEF’s Key Response with Partners in 2017

Indicators	UNICEF & Partners		Sector/Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
WASH: People accessing safe water	1,460,000	150,000	9,200,000	839,500
Nutrition: Children under 5 years with SAM admitted for treatment to therapeutic care programmes	304,300	No data yet	303,000	-
Health: People provided with access to essential and life-saving health care services	400,000	42,208		
Education: School-aged children with access to emergency education programmes	630,000	-	2,000,000	1,122,555
Child Protection: Vulnerable children receiving psychosocial support	30,000	5,377	22,500	5,361*

Nb. See Annex 1 for more information on programme results for 2017.

UNICEF Appeal** US\$110.5 million 2017 Funds available



***Funds available includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as carry-over from 2016.*

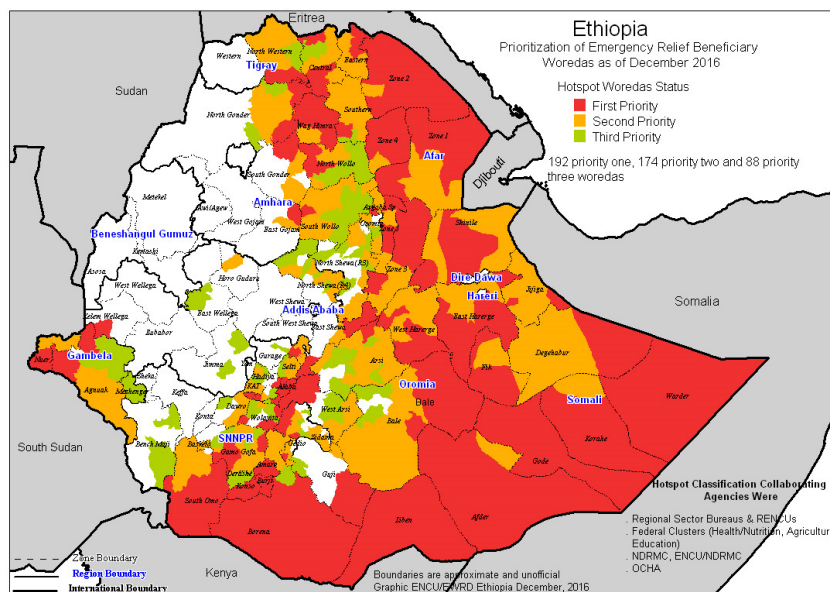
Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate in Somali, Oromia plus parts of SNNP regions. According to the 2017 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), 5.6 million people require relief food aid in Ethiopia, including more than 4.2 million people in the Horn of Africa (HoA) drought affected regions. However, as the drought situation is worsening, an increase in people requiring food aid is expected. Water shortage and depletion of pasture have resulted in the displacement of mainly pastoralist populations to neighbouring *woredas* and regions as well as the deaths of a large number of livestock. In addition, the displacement of families has further disrupted already limited education opportunities for children and significantly increased the risk for children's separation from families, abuse and exploitation. In Afar, failure of seasonal rains in December 2016 has resulted in critical water shortage.

In early February 2017, UNICEF has undertaken an assessment of the impact of the drought in the most affected zones of SNNP region (Gamo Gofa, Segen and South Omo). The assessment findings indicate that water, food and livestock feed are the most pressing needs in the affected areas.

The renewed influx of Somali and South Sudanese refugees into Somali and SNNP regions, respectively, has further stressed the already dire situation in these regions. In SNNP, a total of 4,800 families seeking asylum have fled South Sudan due to food insecurity and conflict and have reportedly settled in Ngangatom *woreda* of South Omo zone in January 2017. In Somali region, 4,106 asylum seekers from Somalia have arrived in Ethiopia between 1 January and 28 February 2017, fleeing from a conflict exacerbated by food insecurity.

Map 1: Hotspot *Woredas*, December 2016



Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

There are currently a number of UN agencies and NGOs that are supporting the Government-led humanitarian response. The GoE's NDRMC leads the overall humanitarian coordination through the federal and regional level Disaster Risk Management Technical Working Groups (DRMTWGs) and brings together various taskforces and sector cluster partners to coordinate emergency response efforts. Humanitarian partners will target priority hotspot *woredas*.

Together with the GoE, UNICEF continues to provide cluster leadership for WASH and Nutrition as well as co-leadership with Save the Children International for Education. In addition, UNICEF provides sub-cluster co-leadership with UNFPA for Child Protection and gender based violence (GBV) and plays a key role in the Health cluster coordination.

As a cross-cutting strategy, UNICEF continues to support Communication for Development (C4D) interventions, including strengthening communication coordination mechanisms, enhancing capacity of social mobilization networks, and dissemination of context specific key messages through multiple channels and platforms.



Humanitarian Strategy: Prepositioning and Partnerships

The 2017 humanitarian response is based on three strategic objectives which will inform sector specific operational plans. These strategic objectives are:

1. Save lives and reduce morbidity due to drought and acute food insecurity
2. Protect and restore livelihoods
3. Prepare for, and respond to other humanitarian shocks – natural disasters, conflict and displacement

In line with its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF is supporting the GoE to achieve objectives one and three. UNICEF is working with all partners to ensure children have access to health and nutrition care, education, protection and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services during emergencies.

To respond to any rapid onset crises in a timely manner, UNICEF prepositioned non-food item (NFI) stocks in Addis Ababa and at two regional hubs for 120,000 people.

In the refugee response context, UNICEF supports UNHCR and the GoE's Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) to spearhead emergency response coordination. The partnership is based on a new Memorandum of Understanding which was signed in 2016 between the two sister agencies and a tripartite agreement signed in 2007 with ARRA and UNHCR to establish a framework of collaboration for the delivery of services and assistance to refugees.



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

Field reports indicate that the number of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted in the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme continues to increase in the affected zones of Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions. However, the official data for January 2017 is currently being compiled and analysed.

UNICEF, in support of the Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs), continues to monitor and support active screening for early detection of malnutrition. Results of screening provide proxy global acute malnutrition (GAM) and SAM rates for each region, as per the table below. In the presence of aggravating factors, including acute water shortage and Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), the nutrition situation in Somali and Afar regions are found to be critical and serious, respectively.

Rates of SAM and proxy GAM in Drought-affected Regions January 2017

REGION	PROXY GAM %	SAM %
SOMALI	16.1	2.7
AFAR	12.5	0.8
OROMIA	5.4	0.3
SNNP	Not yet available	Not yet available

In order to strengthen the capacity of health workers, CMAM training was provided to 33 health professionals in Jarar zone as well as to 14 health workers in Sitti zone, Somali region. In SNNPR, UNICEF provided support for the training of 104 health workers on SAM management.

In Somali region, 68 existing mother-to-mother support groups were provided with messages on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and were encouraged to share messages with other mothers in their localities. An additional 307 mothers were counselled on a one-to-one basis on IYCF services. Save the Children International, with technical support from UNICEF, is constructing IYCF corners within health centres in eight *woredas*. These corners will provide an opportunity for pregnant and lactating women to be counselled on IYCF, share best practices with other mothers as well as provide a convenient environment for mothers to breastfeed their babies while utilizing other services at health centres.

In Somali region, ENCU has planned a semi-quantitative evaluation to assess access and coverage in Shinille and Gode zones in order to identify key barriers and boosters for service uptake. The evaluation will be undertaken in

collaboration with the Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau, RHB and UNICEF. Findings will help determine key access and coverage challenges that SAM-affected children are facing and will improve programme access and service uptake.

With refugees arriving on a daily basis in Somali region, UNICEF distributed high energy biscuits (BP5) to fill the gap in the absence of a therapeutic supplementary feeding programme (TSFP) in Mobile Health and Nutrition Team (MHNT) operational sites. So far, 800 cartons of BP5 were distributed to Gashamo, Marsin and Dollo zones, aiming to reach 1,920 under five children. In Somali region, UNICEF also procured 30 tents to be positioned in key locations to be utilized as temporary treatment sites. A total of 66 health workers were mobilized from Jijiga to support the temporary treatment sites across Dollo, Gashamo and Shilabo *woredas*. UNICEF is providing additional staff on-the-job training and operational cost for three months.

Health

AWD, malaria, measles, and scabies remain major public health threats in the drought-affected regions of Somali, Oromia and SNNP. Lack of access to safe water, poor hygiene and sanitation practices in addition to low awareness in communities poses a challenge to control AWD and scabies outbreaks. However, there is a slow but steady increase in AWD awareness and prevention. Treatment continues at health facilities and UNICEF is providing drugs, financial assistance and technical support.

The national measles vaccination campaign, led by the Ministry of Health, has started across Ethiopia at the end of February 2017 and will continue until March 2017, targeting 22.9 million children. The campaign is expected to address localized measles outbreaks across the country. UNICEF provided support to vaccine procurement and is providing technical support during the campaign.

Pastoralists in Afar and Somali regions continue to have access to life saving health services through 49 mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs). UNICEF provides drugs as well as nutrition and WASH supplies to MHNTs. In January 2017, 30,000 people were treated by these MHNTs. UNICEF has also provided 30 tents (56 square meters) for the establishment of temporary clinics to provide health and nutrition services at temporary settlement sites in Somali region.

In response to the AWD outbreak, UNICEF deployed AWD and C4D experts in Somali region to provide technical assistance to health staff in order to improve the overall AWD response with regard to treatment, community mobilization and prevention. In SNNPR, UNICEF supported the RHB through providing supplies and financial assistance. In addition, in 2017, UNICEF provided US\$132,113 for AWD related training as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

As part of its pre-positioning strategy and in order to enable a rapid emergency response, UNICEF dispatched 60 emergency drug kits to Somali region in mid-February 2017. Each drug kit allows for the treatment of 2,500 people for three months.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

As a 'last resort' life-saving intervention, the GoE, in coordination with international and local NGOs, is providing emergency water to benefit a total of 839,500 people in Afar, Oromia, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions. As part of this intervention, UNICEF has provided safe water to some 150,000 people in Oromia region through the deployment of 60 water trucks. Partners are planning to deploy additional water trucks as funding becomes available. Response plans, which are currently prepared by the regions, will provide more detail on existing gaps.

As part of the emergency WASH response in Somali region, UNICEF is rehabilitating boreholes and providing generators and pumps to Regional Water Bureaus (RWBs) to ensure they remain functional. UNICEF has supported the rehabilitation and maintenance of 50 water schemes in Oromia to benefit some 135,000 people. In Konso *woreda*, SNNPR, UNICEF is planning to rehabilitate two boreholes.

UNICEF continues to support long-term development as part of the drought emergency response. In Oromia, UNICEF is funding the drilling of two deep wells. In Somali region, UNICEF has completed the drilling of a new borehole in Shinille *woreda*. In Tigray, through UNICEF financial assistance, 42 shallow wells were completed in AWD-affected *woredas* and are benefitting 8,250 people plus nine schools.

In order to improve emergency response planning, the Somali RWB, with support from UNICEF and IRC, has started an inventory exercise of real time monitoring on functionality of existing water schemes and other critical WASH indicators through the use of mobile technology. This is expected to support the planning of the ongoing emergency response with a focus on borehole rehabilitation and maintenance interventions.

UNICEF recruited and deployed 13 WASH information management officers (IMO) in all regions of the country to support monitoring of water and sanitation situation and response. One IMO is deployed in each region except in Somali, where one regional and four zonal IMOs are deployed in consideration of the critical situation which requires additional support of real time monitoring and zonal level WASH coordination. In addition, a dedicated WASH Cluster Coordinator has been deployed in Somali region.

Education

Students' enrolment and attendance continue to be adversely affected by the current food and water shortage in drought-affected regions. Some schools have temporarily closed across drought affected regions, as pastoralist families migrate in search of water and pasture. In Somali region, 437 schools have closed since November 2016. The Oromia Regional Education Bureau (REB) declared that 141 schools in Bale, Borena, Guji and West Guji zones are closed due to food and drinking water shortages. Similarly, in affected areas in SNNPR, the majority of schools do not have water. For example, in the Benatsemay and Malle *woredas* of South Omo zone, water is not available in 78 per cent of regular schools and alternative basic education (ABE) centres. Due to the prolonged drought, many families do not have the financial capacity to buy educational materials for their children. Temporary learning spaces are also required so that some 163,000 children in temporary sites across Oromia and Somali regions can access education.

In January 2017, UNICEF undertook an assessment of the education situation in Somali region. Findings show that, while temporarily displaced families would like to send their children to school, their first concern is the provision of food and water.

In Somali region, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ogaden Welfare and Development Association (OWDA), is procuring 32 water storage tanks that will be distributed to drought-affected schools so children will have access to safe water on school premises. In Oromia region, UNICEF is providing 129 water tanks to schools in 29 affected *woredas*.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has started an emergency school feeding programme for 1,122,555 school children in drought-affected areas of the country. The programme will benefit 842,179 students in Somali, Oromia and SNNP (Somali: 126,904, Oromia: 404,969 and SNNP: 310,306) regions. In an effort to complement an integrated response in schools in Somali region, Oxfam GB, Islamic Relief and SCI are providing water to 102 schools to benefit more than 50,000 children.

The education cluster reports that it urgently needs US\$5.9 million to cover critical needs over the next three months for the provision of school feeding, water in schools and the establishment of temporary learning spaces.

Child Protection

Child protection issues, including child separation, abuse and exploitation, remain an area of great concern as the drought continues. The multi-sectoral assessment that took place in Gashamo, Somali region at the beginning of February 2017 found that separation issues and psychosocial distress were among the key protection risks for children.

To ensure children's safety and wellbeing, UNICEF continues to support the provision of the minimum package of child protection in emergency response in affected regions. The child protection package includes case management, psychosocial support, GBV awareness and prevention and strengthening community-based structures for prevention and response services. In February 2017, in Somali and Oromia regions, 3,072 (1,420 girls and 1,652 boys) children received psychosocial support in child friendly spaces (CFS) established with UNICEF support. In these CFS, children participate in storytelling, traditional dancing and in indoor and outdoor games.

With UNICEF support in Oromia and Somali regions, 4,556 adults and 4,221 children were provided with messages on child protection and GBV. The messages aim to prevent child abuse cases, giving information of what to do and where to report on suspected cases. In addition, to support parents and families to cope with the emergency situation, 1,011 parents (479 female) received parenting sessions on development of children, positive disciplining and identifying signs and symptoms of abuse.

In Oromia region, UNICEF supported the Regional Government to reunify 119 separated children with their families. As economic vulnerability is the major cause of separation, UNICEF provided families with a reunification grant. Similarly, 113 unaccompanied children were placed in community based care arrangements, including foster care arrangements.

Non-food items

UNICEF, through its partnership with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), continues to provide NFI kits to displaced people. In February 2017, 6,757 NFI kits were distributed to families displaced as a result of drought in Guji zone (Oromia region), zones 1 and 5 (Afar region) and Jarar and Dollo zones (Somali region). ERCS dispatched an additional 6,863 NFI kits to be distributed to beneficiaries during the first week of March 2017. This brings the total to 14,591 NFI kits distributed by ERCS since December 2016 to communities affected by drought, as well as conflict and, to a lesser extent, floods.

Social Protection

At the national level, some 7.9 million beneficiaries will receive cash and in-kind transfers under the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in 2017. The transfers are made against public works except for vulnerable groups, whom are supported directly. In the drought-affected regions, PSNP is forecasting to reach 1,673,009 beneficiaries in Somali region and 562,082 beneficiaries in Afar region.

Households that do not benefit from PSNP but have children with SAM or moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) are expected to be supported by the funds from the HRD or the contingency budget of the PSNP. In addition, pregnant and breastfeeding women under the PSNP are exempt from public works from their first antenatal care visit through to the first year postpartum. PSNP caretakers of malnourished children are also exempt from public works upon referral from the health sector for the duration of the treatment.

UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) will support GoE to monitor and track the inclusion of SAM and MAM children through PSNP and HRD funds in drought-affected areas.

From 21 to 24 February 2017, UNICEF and WFP undertook a joint mission to Somali region to assess whether SAM and MAM existing data collection tools could include households' PSNP and HRD status. Meetings with the RHB took place to discuss how to incorporate data of PSNP status into OTP cards. An action plan was developed and it was agreed that UNICEF Ethiopia will technically and financially support the Somali RHB and regional ENCU to collect information regarding the inclusion of SAM children in PSNP and HRD transfers.

Communication for Development

UNICEF continues to use C4D as a strategy to control the spread of AWD and scabies in affected regions. In Tigray region, 318 health staff were sensitized on improved sanitation and sanitation marketing in order to mobilize communities to use improved sanitation facilities. UNICEF provided financial assistance to RHB to implement the sensitization programme.

With UNICEF financial assistance, the Tigray RHB also broadcast key hygiene messages on AWD through local radio and reached 350,000 people in Mekelle, Tigray region.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF Ethiopia has highlighted the HoA drought emergency on media platforms through the use of human interest stories and photos. External media coverage is being monitored and media outlets have been approached to share stories.

UNICEF attends the Ethiopia humanitarian country team (EHCT) Emergency Communications working group to ensure streamlined messaging and advocacy efforts. In February 2017, the group advocated with GoE to allow international media visits to drought-affected areas at the end of March.

Donor field visits in February included visits with Canada and USAID to Gode, Somali region. In addition, the German Development Bank (KfW) visited Somali, Afar and Gambella regions. UNICEF also accompanied the Under Secretary General Stephen O' Brien's visit to Warder zone, Somali region in January.

Funding

The UNICEF 2017 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for Ethiopia, launched in January, amounts to US\$110.5 million. US\$93.1 million will be used to respond to the drought situation and remaining funds are allocated for the refugee response. The HAC appeal is currently 42 per cent funded while the drought response is 50 per cent funded.

No funds have been received in 2017 for education and child protection sectors, which remain largely underfunded. Both sectors play a critical role in protecting emergency affected children and addressing children's psychosocial needs.

In 2017, UNICEF Ethiopia received US\$2.5 million from the UN OCHA-managed Emergency Humanitarian Fund (EHF) as well as US\$10.5 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

The table below shows the funding status as of 28 February 2017:

Appeal Sector	Requirements* US\$	Funds available** US\$	Funding gap	
			US\$	per cent
Nutrition	41,600,000	8,809,732	32,790,268	79%
Health	13,200,000	9,681,539	3,518,461	27%
WASH	36,700,000	25,372,331	11,327,669	31%
Child Protection	3,900,000	293,422	3,606,578	92%
Education	11,600,000	2,432,643	9,167,357	79%
Cluster coordination	3,500,000	0	3,500,000	100%
Total	110,500,000	46,589,667	63,910,333	58%

*Requirements reflected in this table for the drought response were part of the HAC 2017.

**Funds available include funding received in 2017 (US\$13,025,030) against current appeal as well as carry-forward (US\$33.56 million). In addition, nutrition supplies valued at US\$9.4 million have also been moved to 2017.

***Carry forward figure is provisional and subject to change in case of adjustments following 2016 account closure.

Next SitRep: 20 March 2017



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2017 UNICEF results table

	Overall needs*	Cluster Response			UNICEF and IPs		
		2017 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲ ▼	2017 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
NUTRITION							
Children under 5 years with SAM admitted for treatment to therapeutic care programmes	303,000	303,000	-	-	304,300 ¹	-	-
Caregivers of children 0-23 months accessing infant and young child feeding counselling	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	-	-
HEALTH							
People provided with access to essential and life-saving health care services					400,000	42,208	42,208
People with access to treatment for diarrhoeal disease					35,000	2,305	2,075
South Sudanese refugees children aged 6 months to 14 years vaccinated against measles					36,000	7,321	767
South Sudanese refugee children vaccinated against polio					143,000	8,044	4,224
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE							
People accessing safe water	9,200,000	9,200,000	839,500	839,500	1,460,000	150,000	150,000
People reached with key messages on hygiene practices	4,800,000	4,800,000	783,000	783,000	1,600,000	350,000	350,000
CHILD PROTECTION							
Separated and unaccompanied children receiving appropriate care and protection services	25,000	25,000	392	392 ²	10,000	1,086 ³	1,086
Vulnerable children receiving psychosocial support	45,000	22,500	5,361 ⁴	5,361	30,000	5,377	5,377
EDUCATION							
School-aged children with access to emergency education programmes	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,122,555	1,122,555 ^{**}	630,000	-	-
OPERATIONAL PARTNERS							
Health	Regional Health Bureaus, Mercy Corps, SCI, ADRA, Ogaden Welfare and Development Association, Islamic Relief, MSF						
Nutrition	Ministry of Health, Regional Health Bureaus Federal and Regional, Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (under DRMFSS), Concern Worldwide, International Medical Corps, World Vision, Action Against Hunger (ACF), Islamic Relief, Mercy Corps, SCI, MSF, ADRA, GOAL Ethiopia and Plan International Ethiopia						
WASH	Federal and Regional Mines and Water Bureaus, Oxfam Intermon, Adhorn, Ogaden Welfare and Development Association, SCI						
Education	Federal and Regional Education Bureaus, SCI, PIE, Ogaden Welfare and Development Association						
Child Protection	Regional Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs, Regional Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, SCI, Plan International Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, GOAL Ethiopia						

*Nutrition target for UNICEF would be revised to 307,300 (303,000 for Ethiopia and 4,300 for refugees).

**The GoE has reached 1,122,555 children with school feeding programme. These same children are also targeted for the provision of school materials according to the HRD 2017.

¹ Nutrition target for UNICEF would be revised to 307,300 (303,000 for Ethiopia and 4,300 for refugees)

² This information captures data against CP Sub Cluster indicator "CP cases identified, referred and responded to" which includes separated and unaccompanied children

³ UNICEF data includes 'refugee population' as well.

⁴ This captures data against CP Sub Cluster indicator "children receiving skills and support (including PSS) to prevent, mitigate or respond to CP risks" which includes vulnerable children receiving psychosocial support.