

Ethiopia

September 2018

13,745 children under the age of five were admitted in supplementary (9,368) and therapeutic (4,377) feeding and treated for acute malnutrition with a recovery rate of **87.8%** and **90.0%** for severe and moderate cases respectively.

The average weight gain for severely malnourished children is **6.7 grammes per kilogram per day** (α/κα/d)

Prevalence of global acute malnutrition in **13 out of 18** camps surveyed to date (**72.2%**) is below the WHO emergency threshold of **15%**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Annual standardized nutrition surveys have been completed in refugee camps under the Melkadida, Gambella, Afar and Shire offices in 2018 and remain to be completed in camps near Assosa and Jijiga.
- The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) is below the emergency threshold of 15% in 72.2% (13 of 18 refugee camps surveyed). Prevalence of Anaemia for children aged 6-59 months is below the emergency threshold (<40%) in 55.6% (10 of 18 refugee camps surveyed), and prevalence of anaemia for reproductive women age group (15-49 years) in 94.4% (17 of 18 refugee camps surveyed) is below the emergency threshold (<40%).
- Challenges in addressing malnutrition remain with a need to strengthen preventive programmes through a multi-sectoral approach to support childcare. Improvements in the Melkadida camps in 2018 are partially attributed to the elevated cut off Middle Upper Arm Circumferences (MUAC) for community referrals to the facility for further weight-for-height screening. UNHCR started to roll-out the UNHCR infant and young child feeding framework to enhance engagement of other nutrition-sensitive sectors.
- All children aged 6 to 23 months in all camps continued to receive complementary food which is super cereal plus in order to complement the breast feeding and general food ration with high energy and nutrient dense foods appropriate for optimal growth and development.
- In Afar, where the GAM prevalence remains mostly above the emergency threshold of 15%, the blanket feeding programme is extended to children up to 59 months-old.
- Since December 2016, all children aged 3 to 5 years in the Melkadida camps were transferred from the blanket nutrition programme (take home dry ration) to the pre-primary schools (wet feeding) to improve uptake of the nutritious products.
- In June 2018, WFP announced that the general food ration for July to December 2018 would be increased to provide 2,050 Kcal per person per day in all camps.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- The Ethiopia Refugee Public Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014-2018, covering health (including HIV and reproductive health), nutrition and food security and WASH, forms the basis of programme planning and implementation in all regions where refugees are hosted.

- Key objectives of the nutrition response are the effective prevention of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies; effective and timely identification and treatment of acute malnutrition; provision of up-to-date food security and nutrition information and analysis, and effective food security and nutrition response in emergencies.
- Refugees in the Tigray, Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz regions as well as those in the Jijiga area of the Somali Region receive cash and food assistance, while the service is yet to be extended to those in Melkadida and Gambella camps.
- A comprehensive Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) strategy which accounts for nutrition sensitive sectors in the Gambella and Melkadida operations will be developed and implemented shortly. The strategy is expected to be rolled-out in other locations as well.
- The use of a new technology-the Last Mile Mobile Solution (LMMS) - is to be expanded to enhance efficiency of registration and reporting within the nutrition programmes.
- The regular annual standardized nutrition surveys, which assess the health and nutrition status of the refugees, have been planned for all camps except in Jijiga.
- UNHCR and WFP continue their joint advocacy for the reinstatement of the minimum requirement of general food rations to refugees (2,100 Kcal per person per day).

CHALLENGES



External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the direct contributions to the UNHCR Ethiopia Operation from:

USA| CERF| Netherlands| UK (DFID)| Denmark| IKEA Foundation | European Union (ECHO)| Japan| UN Children Fund| Germany| Educate A Child Programme-EAC/EEA| Sweden| Country-Based Pooled Funds| Ireland| "la Caixa" Banking Foundation| Canada |Republic of Korea| Private Don Spain| UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs| UN Program on HIV/AIDS

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds:

Sweden 98.2 M | Private donors Spain 52.8 M| Norway 42.5 M | Netherlands 39.1 M | United Kingdom 31.7 M | Denmark 25.5 M |Private donors Republic of Korea 25.4 M| Switzerland 15.2 M | France 14 M |Germany 13.7 M| Priv Don Italy 13.5 M| Priv Don Japan 13 M| Italy 11.2 M | Priv Don Sweden 10.2 M

CONTACT: DOROTHY GAZARWA, NUTRITION OFFICER, GAZARWA@UNHCR.ORG, +251 116170590