Background

In support of the Government of Ethiopia’s efforts to respond to food insecurity, WFP established the National Relief Programme, targeting households facing acute and transitory food insecurity.

The Relief Programme’s primary objective is to provide general food distributions, including fortified supplementary food, to the most vulnerable people in areas of high risk of acute malnutrition.

The Relief Programme consists of food assistance to people at risk resulting from an external ‘shock’. The most common shocks in Ethiopia include drought, floods and animal diseases. The programme is coordinated by the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) of the Ministry of Agriculture. Food accounts for 85 to 90 percent of resources requested by the Government to support emergency needs.

WFP supports the Government by:
- Providing logistical support;
- Participating in livelihoods-based needs assessments;
- Deploying rapid-assessment teams in disaster-affected areas;
- Monitoring distributions; and
- Providing assistance in identifying the needy people.

Given the ongoing challenges in the Somali region, WFP is providing additional support to the Government by managing food dispatch, delivery and ensuring close monitoring of the distributions in the region.

Overview and Implementation

Households receiving relief assistance are identified through seasonal assessments. At the local level, community representatives select households by following national targeting guidelines that recognize the special vulnerability of children, pregnant women, the elderly and the disabled. As food security improves, assistance is withdrawn.
**ETHIOPIA**

**National Relief Programme**

**Achievements**

In 2010, WFP provided food baskets to 5.2 million people for eight distributions. Everyone who received relief assistance got a full food basket containing 2100 calories a day. The rations included cereal, oil, pulses and corn-soy blend for the elderly, disabled, and others with additional nutritional needs.

**Looking Forward**

WFP will continue to focus on the Joint Government–WFP Food Management Improvement Project to strengthen overall food management and accountability.

Additionally, WFP will work with DRMSS to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the relief response system as part of the government’s new disaster risk management approach. This will include, among other things, a review of the current national targeting guidelines.

**Providing food, providing hope**

“Relief assistance from WFP helps a lot in filling gaps, especially during the hunger season,” Guluma Tola, a 45 year-old farmer, says. The hunger season usually occurs in the rainy season, from July to September, when no production occurs.

Guluma once produced barley, wheat, flax and pulses on his family’s half-hectare of land in Dawa Bersa Kebele in Oromiya Region. He supplemented his income with casual labor, often helping other farmers for pay.

But about four years ago, Guluma’s situation changed. He and his neighbours began experiencing excessive rainfall levels which decreased his crop production dramatically. Guluma began receiving relief assistance to cope with the reduced food yields.

Two years later, Guluma’s situation worsened. While working on road construction, he badly injured his foot. Now he walks with a cane and cannot work. He rents his land to sharecroppers, but only for a small fee. His wife engages in some small local trade and his 12 year-old son looks after a neighbour’s livestock for pay to make ends meet.

In 2009, Guluma received three rounds of assistance, including fortified food. This is given only to households with children under the age of five, pregnant and nursing women, and disabled people, like Guluma himself.

Although Guluma’s family is surviving, thanks to a combination of hard work and WFP relief assistance, he wants a better future for himself and his family. “I hope to work and improve my living condition,” he says.

For more information:
WFP-Ethiopia Public Information
addis.info@wfp.org