



Fast Facts

Country: Somalia

Duration: October 2003 to March 2005

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: International and local NGOs; local authorities; IFRC/ICRC

Budget: \$1,104,860.40

Key Words: IDPs; children; emergency relief; conflict-affected communities

BACKGROUND

With the collapse of the Siyad Barre regime in 1991, significant areas of Somalia came under the control of warlords and clan leaders. Engulfed in a state of protracted armed conflict, violence and lawlessness, Somalis were faced with a dramatic decline in their human security. According to UNICEF, by 2003, there was an estimated 375,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Somalia living in conditions of

enormous vulnerability with limited access to basic necessities and great risk of food insecurity, deprivation and human rights abuses. At the same time, the absence of health care and the lack of safe drinking water had resulted in extremely high rates of maternal and child mortality as well as malnutrition and diseases, including malaria, cholera and polio among IDP children and populations.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to provide IDPs with access to emergency food and health assistance. In particular, the project aimed to (i) provide children under five with vaccinations against communicable diseases; (ii) combat malaria through treated mosquito nets and anti-malarial drugs to be distributed through maternal

and child health kits; (iii) provide food and nutritional supplements to malnourished children; (iv) improve access to potable water and raise awareness on the importance of hygiene; and (v) facilitate a more effective and coordinated humanitarian response in the affected areas.

BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted IDP children and populations throughout Somalia who benefited from interventions such as immunizations, vitamin supplementation, nutritional screening, food rations and improved access to safe water. As a result, 137,267 children were immunized against tuberculosis and 79,937

against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. In addition, more than 11,000 malnourished children under five benefited from supplementary feeding programmes, vitamin supplements and de-worming. Lastly, to combat malaria, 25,000 families were subsidized with treated mosquito nets and anti-malarial drugs.