



Media Release

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\$21 million in aid urgently needed to help children in drought-stricken Ethiopia

RICHMOND, VA – A severe shortfall in aid funding is putting thousands of children at risk in Ethiopia as the country deals with its worst drought emergency in decades. The drought and resulting food shortage are expected to continue well into 2016. ChildFund International is in urgent need of millions of dollars in additional funding to provide emergency food rations for 300,000 people over the next six months.

Ethiopia has faced two consecutive seasons of failed rains. This El Niño-induced drought led the Ethiopian government to declare in December 2015 that 10.2 million people would require emergency humanitarian assistance in 2016¹. This includes 435,000 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition and 1 million children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition. Despite the concerted effort already underway by the government of Ethiopia, UN agencies and NGOs to mitigate the impact of the drought, the scale of the emergency exceeds resources currently available.

More than \$21 million is needed to provide a six-month supply of emergency food rations to 300,000 people in the eight districts in Ethiopia where ChildFund works. The funding will cover the purchase of grain, legumes and oils, and transport costs for those at risk. Of the \$21 million, \$5 million will provide supplementary food for the 100,000 who are the most vulnerable: children under the age of five, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly.

“The ongoing drought in Ethiopia is one of the greatest challenges we currently face,” said ChildFund International President Anne Lynam Goddard. “The government of Ethiopia has worked very hard to build the nation’s economy and infrastructure, but we must provide additional assistance now to ensure the drought does not reverse the efforts made to provide children in Ethiopia with the best possible start in life.”

Donations to support ChildFund International’s work in combatting the crisis in Ethiopia can be made by visiting www.childfund.org/ethiopiafoodshortage.

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ChildFund International is a global child development and protection organization serving 19.7 million children and family members in 30 countries. For more than 75 years, we have helped the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable children survive and thrive to reach their full potential and become leaders of enduring change. As a member of ChildFund Alliance, we create supportive environments in which children can flourish. For more information, visit www.ChildFund.org.

¹ Government of Ethiopia and Humanitarian Partners, “Humanitarian Requirements Document 2016” (December 2015).