13 November 2022 – Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. It is estimated that environmental factors take the lives of around 13 million people every year. Global warming is influencing weather patterns, causing heat waves, heavy rainfall and droughts.

The Greater Horn of Africa is facing an unprecedented, acute hunger and health crisis driven by climate change, and compounded by conflict and economic shocks. Forty-seven million people in that region are now experiencing high levels of malnutrition or worse – up from 31 million – and more will go hungry as the drought affecting parts of the Region is expected to continue. Malnourished people become more easily sick, and sick people become more easily malnourished.

Climate change is also a major aggravating factor for infectious diseases like cholera and dengue fever. Disease outbreaks are surging in the Greater Horn of Africa, escalating the health emergency. The impact of outbreaks of infectious diseases during emergencies is multiplied, especially when combined with low vaccination coverage and poor access to health services.

WHO and partners are on the ground, ensuring access to basic health services, providing treatment for severe malnutrition, and helping countries detect, prevent and respond to disease outbreaks.

Infographic

GREATER HORN OF AFRICA FOOD AND HEALTH EMERGENCE

Millions of people in the Greater Horn of Africa currently face food insecurity not seen in decades resconflict, more frequent and extreme weather events due to climate change, economic shocks, and



Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda





there are close to

300 million people living in this region

ACTING NOW CAN SAVE HUNI



47M People suffering high

levels of mainutrition

Acutely Malnourishe children under five



The World Health O urgent action to ens provide treatment for so and respo

HOW IS A FOOD CRISIS A HEALTH CRISIS?



Severe Acute
Mainutrition: a lifethreatening condition
requiring urgent
treatment

Decreased access to sanitation, shelter and health services as people move to find sustenance



Increased risk of waterborne diseases due to scarcity of safe drinking water



Mainourished people become more easily sick and sick people become more easily mainourished



increased crime and communal violence leading to traumatic injuries

Outbreaks of anthrax,

fever, chikungunya,

Infectious diseases

meningitis, and other

measles, cholera, yellow



Hampered surveillance for epidemic-prone diseases



Survival sex and child marriage leading to premature bables and high maternal and infant deaths



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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