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Photo credit: Gorta-SHA

CREDIT UNIONS PLEDGE €50,000 TO EAST AFRICA EMERGENCY

Credit unions across Ireland, in partnership with the Irish League of Credit Unions International Development Foundation (the “Foundation”), which is the charitable arm of the Irish credit union movement, have pledged €50,000 to help those affected by the severe drought in East Africa.

For many months now, the Foundation’s development partners that work with credit unions in East Africa have been crying out for help to fight the third year of drought in a row in the region.

The Foundation, through contributions from Irish credit unions, is providing humanitarian assistance to people who are in dire need. This is being carried out in cooperation with Gorta-Self Help Africa (Gorta-SHA) in Ethiopia, and, in Kenya, via Aidlink.

Right now, 12.8 million people in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia are suffering from extreme food shortages. According to the United Nations, **“multiple years of diminished food production has exhausted people’s capacity to cope with another shock.”**¹

¹ <http://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/horn-africa-call-action-february-2017-enar>

“Approximately 600,000 children aged 6 to 59 months in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia will be in need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition in 2017.”

Gorta-SHA will distribute emergency food and seed aid to households in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia, where several of the Foundation’s credit union projects are located.

Furthermore, with the Foundation’s financial assistance, Aidlink, by means of their Kenyan partner, Caritas Lodwar, will distribute prescription food to 3,000 severely malnourished children, with emphasis on those under 5 years of age.

The ILCU Foundation will update credit unions and their members with regard to its humanitarian response via its website, www.ilcufoundation.ie, or on Facebook – ILCU Foundation.

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