

## Czech support eases malnutrition among drought affected communities

**By Our Staff Writer**

ADDIS ABEBA -Czech Republic contribution has allowed World Food Programme (WFP) to provide specialized nutritious food to 8,000 children and mothers in drought-affected areas of Ethiopia for three months, according to the UN organ.

"With these funds, the Czech Republic is making an investment in Ethiopia's future, as it allows us to immediately purchase a nutritious fortified cereal blend which helps malnourished children recover," said

Samir Wanmali, Deputy Country Director for WFP in Ethiopia. "Undernutrition can have lifelong effects on a child, and assistance like this - especially in a time of crisis - is critical to helping Ethiopia's next generation grow up healthy."

The humanitarian agency said the contribution, two million USD, help WHO buy 140 metric tons of Super Cereal Plus, a fortified blended food that contains wheat flour, and more.

As a supplement to their existing diet, Super Cereal Plus helps to ensure that pregnant women, nursing

mothers, and young children get the nutrients, protein and energy that they need.

"We have been closely following the situation regarding the impact of this year's El Niño in Ethiopia, which is one of the priority countries of Czech development cooperation," said Czech Ambassador to Ethiopia Karel Hejč.

"We have managed to mobilize without unnecessary delay additional funds above our normal humanitarian budget before the end of 2015 to contribute to the common effort of Ethiopia and international partners in

response to this crisis."

Enrolment in WFP's nutrition programmes has tripled since the beginning of the year as a result of the drought in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian government recently announced that 10 million people will need emergency food assistance in the first half of 2016 because of the drought.

WFP, together with the government, is tasked with assisting around 7.6 million people, but WFP currently has only 3 percent of the necessary funding to meet that need.