Ethiopia: Initial Summary of Humanitarian Response Planning for 2017

While Ethiopia battles residual needs from the El Niño-induced drought, below average rains in the southern and eastern parts of the country caused by the negative Indian Ocean Dipole have led to new symptoms of drought. There are expectations of an overall strong harvest in northern and western parts of Ethiopia. Livestock deaths and water shortages are already reported from the primarily pastoral affected areas. In addition, disease outbreaks and food and nutritional insecurity persist in few other pocket areas.

This document summarizes the collective achievements of the El Niño response to date, sets out what is already known or anticipated about newly emerging humanitarian needs in 2017, and summarizes the joint Government and humanitarian partners’ response strategy for the coming year. It precedes the 2017 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), expected to be launched by the Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners in January 2017.

The joint Government and humanitarian partners’ meher (main crop season) assessment was launched on 19 November 2016. Some 23 multi-agency teams comprising 228 people deployed to 246 woredas (districts) in all regions of Ethiopia. The assessment will last three weeks, with conclusions expected in mid-December. The assessment will determine the impact of the kiremt (main rainy season) rains on food security and livelihoods, while also confirming emergency needs in health, education, nutrition, emergency shelter/non-food items (ES/NFI) and protection. Whilst the joint meher assessment is being conducted, the Government and humanitarian partners are already recalibrating the nationally-led response to address emerging and residual needs. Early warning data and sophisticated modelling by partners have allowed for some needs projections to be established already for 2017.

It is anticipated that some 5.6 million people will require emergency food assistance; some 1.2 million children and pregnant and lactating mothers will require supplementary feeding; some 9.2 million people will not have regular access to safe drinking water; and some 2.4 million households will need livestock support. Partners also estimate that 300,000 children will become severely acutely malnourished in 2017.

The 2015/2016 El Niño has left a negative legacy on many households, including those that lost livestock and other productive assets. This initial summary of humanitarian response planning for 2017 does not cover planned responses to these recovery needs, which are expected to be captured in a separate document.

Detailed sector response plans are being developed by humanitarian partners in collaboration with the concerned Government line ministries, which will be updated on the conclusion of the meher assessment. These plans – summarized later in this document – will be detailed in the 2017 HRD.

The total anticipated financial requirements for the 2017 HRD are US$1.1 billion.
OVERVIEW OF THE 2016 EL NIÑO DROUGHT RESPONSE

Since the projected scale of the El Niño drought became clear in the latter part of 2015, international donors contributed US$985 million to humanitarian response efforts, which includes US$894 million in 2016. Over the same period the Government of Ethiopia contributed ETB16.5 billion (US$735 million), including to response activities beyond the initial scope of the 2016 HRD. Taking into account Government funding specifically to the 2016 HRD, in particular its coverage of food assistance, has made it one of the best-funded humanitarian appeals worldwide.

The generous financial support from the Government of Ethiopia and international donors, combined with dedicated humanitarian partners working together with existing national basic services infrastructure, has allowed for the biggest drought response operation ever in history to be stood up in Ethiopia in 2016. Whilst the full impact of the drought is being further assessed, it seems apparent that the response has successfully prevented the worst potential impact on people. Countless lives have been saved and suffering reduced.

At the time of writing, some 9.7 million people are in the process of receiving an eighth round of relief food assistance, with nine rounds expected to have been completed for a majority by the end of the year.3

At the peak of the drought trucked water was being regularly provided for 2.7 million people. A further 2.6 million people received water treatment chemicals to ensure safe drinking water. Some 748 motorized boreholes were rehabilitated in 2016.

Some two million cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in children under-five and pregnant and lactating women had been treated with Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) as of October 2016.

To address cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) amongst children under-five and pregnant and lactating women, partners supported the Government in establish and managing 14,880 Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programme (OTP) sites across ‘hotspot priority’4 woredas, with a further 1,527 inpatient Stabilization Centers established for the treatment of complicated cases. More than 217,400 SAM cases had been treated by the end of August.5

In the agriculture sector, the biggest ever emergency seed response operation in Ethiopia saw 1.5 million households receive seeds for the meher harvest. In belg (short rainy season) rain receiving areas nearly 83,000 households were also provided with seeds in early 2016. Support was provided to over 15,000 households with emergency livestock health interventions, with more than 83,000 animals treated.

Some 34,500 internally displaced persons (IDP) households received emergency shelter and non-food items (NFI) kits by the time of writing. The majority, or some 19,320 households, was displaced due to conflict, while the remainder was displaced due to flooding and drought.

Some 3.15 million children were provided with school feeding in 2016. Of these, the majority were supported directly by the Ministry of Education.

The logistics capacity augmentation, to enable the response, included the establishment of 76 new temporary warehouses and the hiring of 829 additional logisticians across the country to oversee the dispatch and distribution operations for food and other relief items.

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2 As of 22 November 2016
3 Some 10.2m people were targeted for food assistance up until the mid-year review of the HRD.
4 The hotspot woreda classification is derived from expert judgment using six multi-sector indicators that are agreed upon at zonal, regional, federal levels.
5 There is typically a three-month delay in consolidating data on treated acute malnutrition cases.
OVERVIEW OF ASSESSED AND ANTICIPATED NEEDS FOR 2017

In advance of the meher assessment, affected woredas have already been reporting on the performance of the harvest. In conjunction with the Livelihood, Early Assessment and Protection (LEAP) data, population density and WFP household food security monitoring trends, this information provides the basis for a projection of needs in 2017. The following info graphics present a geographic and sectoral overview of these anticipated needs.

The first two info graphics are a timeline of the various rainy seasons in Ethiopia, with their geographic coverage, as well as a crisis timeline indicating which of these rainy seasons have been affected by weather phenomena in the past year, and the subsequent humanitarian caseloads. The negative Indian Ocean Dipole, that peaked in July is affecting water availability, livestock body condition and meher harvest performance in parts of southern and eastern Ethiopia.
The following National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration/Climate Prediction Center (NOAA/CPC) map shows that the current rainfall performance is 25 per cent or more below average in most of the southern and southeastern pastoral areas.

**CURRENT RAINFALL PERFORMANCE**

ARC2 Oct-Dec Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)

The consequence of the below-average rainfall performance is that some of the same areas in the South that were in need of water trucking earlier in the year, due to the *El-Niño* induced drought, and which were also affected by *La Niña* in 2011, are now already in need of water trucking.

**AREAS IN NEED OF WATER TRUCKING**

- Harerı
- Afar
- Amhara
- Beneshangul Gumuz
- Dire Dawa
- Gambelı
- Oromia
- SNNPR
- Somali
- Tigray

*2011 areas in need of water trucking*  
*2016 areas in need of water trucking*

source: WASH cluster and Regional Water Bureaus
During the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) - OCHA Humanitarian Response Monitoring exercise that took place in October 2016, woreda officials also reported widespread poor livestock body condition in the following areas.

**Woredas Reporting Widespread Poor Livestock Body Condition**

![Map showing woredas reporting widespread poor livestock body conditions](image)

Note: not all woredas in affected areas were surveyed.

The MAM projections for 2017 and the SAM past trends give an indication of what to expect in 2017, especially when looking at the peak in SAM cases in 2011, due to La Niña, which has historically given similar impact to negative IOD events.
PART I: 2017 RESPONSE STRATEGY OVERVIEW AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The 2017 HRD is being prepared around three Strategic Objectives:

• Save lives and reduce morbidity due to drought and acute food insecurity
• Protect and restore livelihoods
• Prepare for and respond to other humanitarian shocks – flooding, conflict and displacement.

In order to leave a lasting legacy, a cross-cutting theme for the 2017 HRD will be "strengthening of national basic service provision at point of delivery".

Whilst the overall Strategic Objectives are the same as in 2016, the geographical focus for the response is shifting. The response will primarily focus on southern and eastern parts of the country, with some other pockets of new or continuing acute humanitarian needs also already identified in other areas of the country.

The humanitarian response in 2017 will have to overcome three particular challenges:

i) A lack of local Government capacity in the newly impacted areas, requiring investment by the Government and partners;

ii) The large, sparsely populated geographic area to be covered;

iii) The lack of infrastructure to enable the response, including roads, warehousing and water schemes.

As in previous years, it is anticipated that a Mid-Year Review (MYR) of the 2017 HRD will be undertaken after the 2017 belg assessment has been completed, likely in June. In the southern and eastern areas of Ethiopia of particular concern in this response plan it is the ganna and gu rains (expected from March to May) that will determine whether respite will come to targeted communities. At this time climatological modelling is unable to predict the likely success of these rains.

The humanitarian response plan summarized in this document does not address the acute El Niño drought recovery needs of a significant number of Ethiopians, including many beneficiaries of both the 2016 HRD and 2016 Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). Many of those affected have been left destitute through lost productive assets.

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES – INCLUDING FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2016

In order to kick-start response to the new symptoms of drought in the primarily pastoral southern and eastern parts of Ethiopia, the Government and humanitarian partners are already mobilizing to ensure the following:

• A large-scale expansion of water trucking and emergency rehabilitation of non-functional boreholes that can be used for the refill of trucks;
• The provision of emergency livestock interventions, including commercial and slaughter destocking, fodder distribution and animal health services;
• The establishment and expansion of emergency nutrition services across the affected areas, requiring a geographic shift of the massive nutritional response already running in El Niño-impacted areas;

• Early procurement of relief food and supplementary food to enable a timely start to the response in 2017.

Regional Governments within Ethiopia have already begun allocating several million US dollars’ worth of resources to water trucking and fodder provision in affected areas.
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2017 SECTOR INTERVENTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE HRD STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Sector/cluster-specific plans, with greater detail on prioritized activities and targeting, are being developed for inclusion in the final 2017 HRD, to be completed on finalization of the meher assessment. The 2017 HRD is expected to be released in January.

**AGRICULTURE**

A detailed Livestock Contingency Plan was developed by Agriculture and Livestock Partners with Government with three distinct geographic areas anticipated to require support between January and June 2017: 1) Highland smallholder farming areas; 2) northern pastoral areas that are recovering from the El Niño-induced drought, 3) and southern pastoralist areas that received below-average deyr/hagaya rains in 2016. Planned interventions to support vulnerable households include animal health (US$5-10 per household), animal feed supplementation (US$30-40 per livestock head – enabling each household to feed 5 shoats or 2 cows), destocking (commercial and slaughter) and asset transfer. The commercial destocking aims to support some 50 traders to accelerate the normal market offtake.

**EDUCATION**

In 2016, lack of water and food in schools was identified as a major contributor to student absenteeism and dropouts, particularly for IDP children. Young girls were identified as particularly vulnerable to drop out as their domestic responsibilities increased due to the effects of the drought. To address these concerns, an estimated four million school-aged children will be targeted for school feeding in the first semester of the 2016/17 year. In addition, the Education Cluster aims to target 50 per cent of the 4,650 schools that do not have drinking water according to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster are currently identifying the locations of the priority schools for WASH interventions. In addition to this, an estimated 155,000 IDP children will need learning facilities and supplies.
EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Reports estimate that some 380,000 people are displaced in seven regions throughout the country (excluding Amhara region). An analysis of the 2016 displacement data shows that some 350,000 people (or 64,000 households) are expected to become displaced in 2017 due to floods, drought and/or conflict. The Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster aims to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the newly displaced people as well as to those in prolonged displacement that were not reached in 2016. Where possible, the partners will further expand the provision of cash and voucher-based response to address shelter and NFI needs. The Cluster will also target people who are seasonally displaced due to floods.

TARGET

64,000 households

ESTIMATED COST

$12.4M

FOOD

Given the below-average rainfall in southern and eastern pastoralist areas as well as residual needs from the El Niño drought response, 5.6 million people are estimated to be in need of emergency food assistance in 2017. While the meher assessment is being conducted, this estimate is based on early-warning data, household food security monitoring as well as modelling undertaken by food partners. For example, the LEAP estimates show that a reduction of crop yield for 20 per cent or more could be expected in pocket areas of eastern Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ (SNNP) regions, and North and South Wollo zones, Amhara region. It is also estimated, that for people in belg-dependent areas that experienced poor production in 2016, the hunger gap may start earlier than normal. At the same time, given the relatively successful harvest forecast in northern and western parts of Ethiopia, the Government and food partners will seek to increase cash transfers to food insecure households to meet their basic consumption needs, and also to support domestic farmers.

TARGET

5.6M

FOOD REQUIREMENT

838 metric tons/month

ESTIMATED COST

$713M

$71.3 million per month, assuming 10 rounds over the course of 2017
### NUTRITION

Over the past five years, the number of health facilities in Ethiopia has increased from 9,000 to 16,000, which has translated into increased outreach capacity to treat SAM. At the same time the number of trained health extension workers has increased. While these are important developments, nutrition continues to be of concern in several pocket areas throughout the country. The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) estimates that during a year without drought some 260,000 SAM cases are treated in health facilities. Taking this into account along with other analysis conducted by the Nutrition sector, it is estimated that in 2017 300,000 SAM cases will be treated with an anticipated peak in April. For MAM, 1.2 million cases in children under-five (U5) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) are estimated in highly vulnerable woredas. This represents a decrease from record high numbers in October 2016, when the number of MAM and PLW cases treated reached 2 million. These numbers are expected to reach at least 2.5 million by the end of 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>0.3 M</th>
<th>43.5 M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>projected SAM cases</td>
<td>ESTIMATED COST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 M</td>
<td>60.5 M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>projected U5 and PLW MAM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### HEALTH

In 2017 humanitarian health actors will continue and expand support to the Ministry of Health to prepare for and address epidemic-prone disease, including acute watery diarrhea (AWD), measles, dengue fever, skin diseases and meningitis. There are also concerns about possible zoonoses like Rift Valley Fever that may emerge, as in the past, in post-El Nino years. Health actors will work to strengthen national surveillance and response systems under the coordination of the Federal and Regional Health Bureaus. There are concerns that the AWD outbreak that started in late 2015 may not be completely contained by the time of the belg rains in spring, requiring redoubled multi-sector effort to address active cases and prepare for a new expansion of the outbreak. Given the symptoms of drought in southern and eastern parts of the country, specifically a lack of water, there are also concerns for a spread of skin diseases. Rather than focusing on individual diseases, humanitarian partners will work on multi-disease emergency surveillance and health response, ideally delivered in parallel with emergency nutrition support programming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>4.4 M</th>
<th>52.8 M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people</td>
<td>ESTIMATED COST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROTECTION

Although no comprehensive data exists, the depletion of household income and assets caused by the drought is reported to have exacerbated certain protection risks for children. Between April and October 2016, across 50 drought-affected kebeles, the Bureaus of Women and Children’s Affairs and Labour and Social Affairs identified 6,597 unaccompanied and separated children (59% boys, 41% boys). Such findings are often associated with migration of children or parents in search of livelihood and other opportunities. More than 8,800 cases of children (56% boys, 44% girls) are also estimated to be in need of child protection services or referrals. The belg assessments findings revealed behavioural changes in children due to the drought, and the Gender Analysis, conducted by Cluster partners, highlighted the psychosocial impacts of drought on male breadwinners, which can negatively impact the care of children. In addition to this, incidents of migration, child marriage and child labour continue to be reported in Ethiopia, highlighting the importance of increasing interlinkages between humanitarian and development actors and the need to build further capacities of formal and community based systems to prepare for, prevent and respond to future emergencies. This was further highlighted by a recently conducted child protection and Gender Based Violence rapid assessment that indicated absence of lifesaving critical services. For example in 81 per cent of the sites visited in Afar and 76 per cent of the sites visited in Oromia, absence of post rape treatment kits was reported.

WASH

According to the joint analysis by the Hydrogeological Department of Addis Ababa University and UNICEF, below-average rainfall is expected to reduce the ground water table and its recharge (particularly in lowland areas) in 2017. In the woredas prioritized by the WASH Cluster, accessing ground water is increasingly difficult while it remains the primary water source for 80 per cent of Ethiopians. In 2017, the WASH Cluster will target IDPs, vulnerable communities, and health and education facilities with a focus on activities that support increasing access to safe water in southern and eastern Ethiopia as well as WASH response to water- and vector-borne diseases. The WASH Cluster will also target women and girls to support meeting their unique needs. The targets for 2017 were established based on demonstrated WASH Cluster capacity and an increase in the number of partners. By October 2016, WASH Cluster partners had reached around 90 per cent of the people targeted in the 2016 HRD (or 9.6 million people).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector/Cluster</th>
<th>2017 people targeted (projection)</th>
<th>2017 requirements (projection)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>2.6 million (households)</td>
<td>$51.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4 million</td>
<td>$83m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter/non-Food Items</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>$12.4m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>5.6 million</td>
<td>$713m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1.5 million</td>
<td>$104m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>4.4 million</td>
<td>$52.8m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>2 million</td>
<td>$15.3m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
<td>9.2 million</td>
<td>$86.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1.118 billion</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a joint Government of Ethiopia and Humanitarian Partners’ document.

This document provides a shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian needs, and reflects the joint humanitarian response planning.