

El Niño: OVERVIEW OF IMPACT, PROJECTED HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

FOREWORD BY THE EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR



Stephen O'Brien
Under-Secretary-General and
Emergency Relief Coordinator

The longer we wait, the more people will suffer...

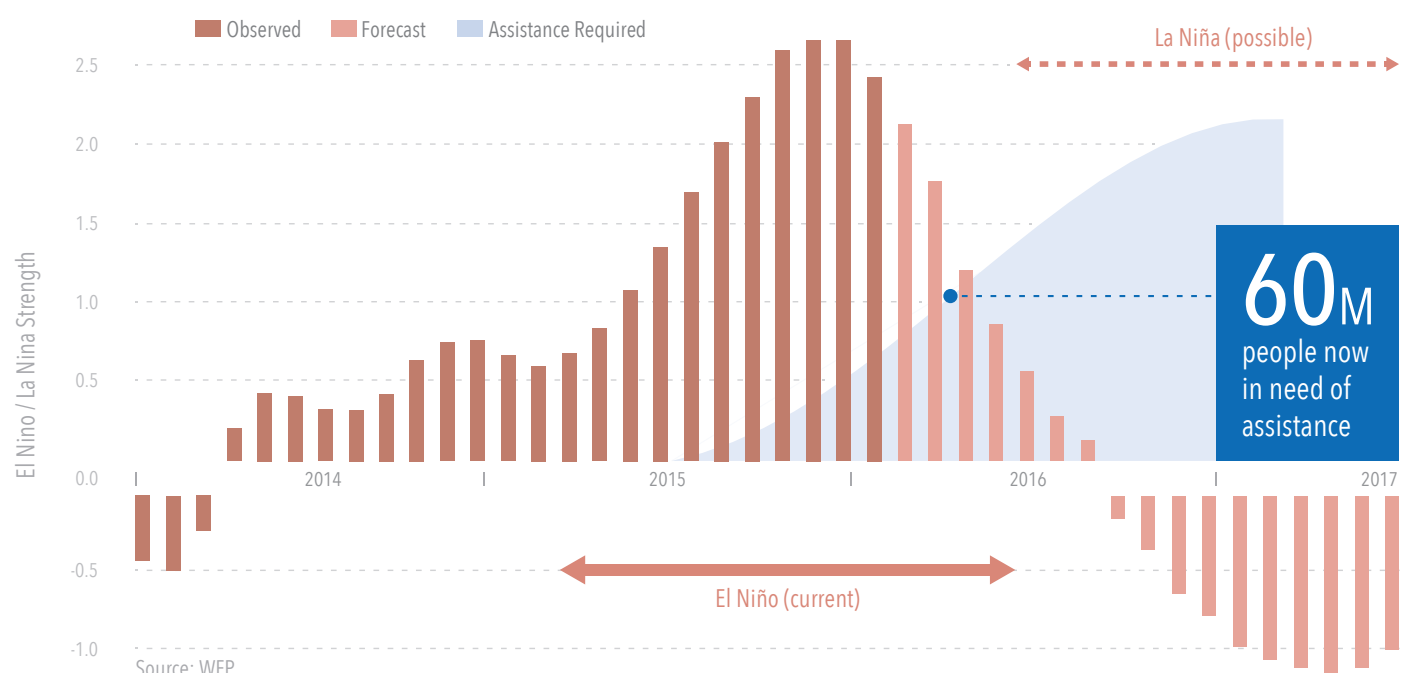
The humanitarian impact of the ongoing El Niño episode is deeply alarming, already affecting 60 million people. Projections indicate the situation in 2016 will not improve—hunger and suffering will increase for millions of vulnerable people, and food insecurity is projected to worsen through to at least the end of the year. In the face of such a critical threat to the lives and livelihoods of millions of people across the world, a concerted global effort is required to prevent an even more serious humanitarian disaster in the coming months.

The level of mobilization for this El Niño event has been unprecedented and has helped to mitigate some of its impact. However, the scale of the challenge and the effects of drought and flooding have been so severe that they have overwhelmed the capacity of many countries. Timely contributions from donors, including through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), have provided a good start, but they are nowhere near enough. Critical funding gaps are preventing scale-up and threatening to cut short life-saving programmes in affected countries, including the food pipeline in

Ethiopia. The international community must do more, collectively, to fund and execute a coordinated response to El Niño-related emergencies to save lives and reduce suffering.

Our response must be effective at two levels: we must respond quickly to critical food, water, nutrition and health needs, but also assist people to become self-reliant again as soon as possible, and build individual and community capacity to respond to future shocks. For this, we need an active partnership between humanitarian and development actors. Together, we can mitigate the impact of El Niño and the possible La Niña event that may materialize at the end of this year. The longer we wait, the more people will suffer, the costlier the response will be and the more development gains will be lost.

The challenge now is one of political will. The World Humanitarian Summit on 23 and 24 May in Istanbul presents a critical opportunity to determine how to respond more effectively to future El Niño and La Niña events. Until then, urgent action must be taken to assist affected communities.



Summary

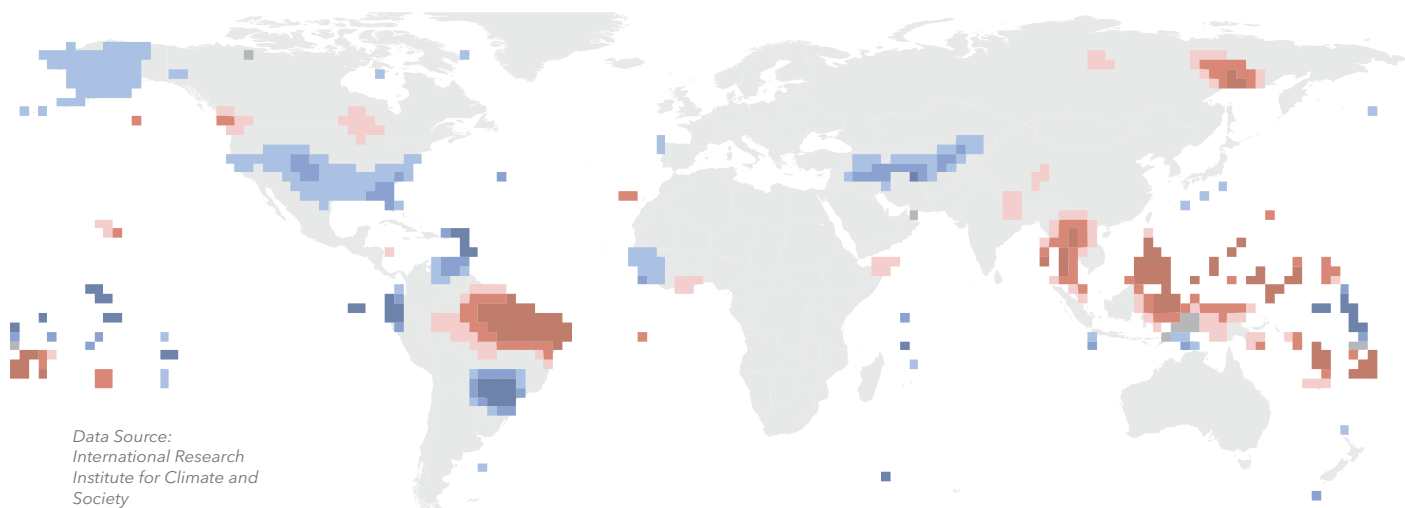
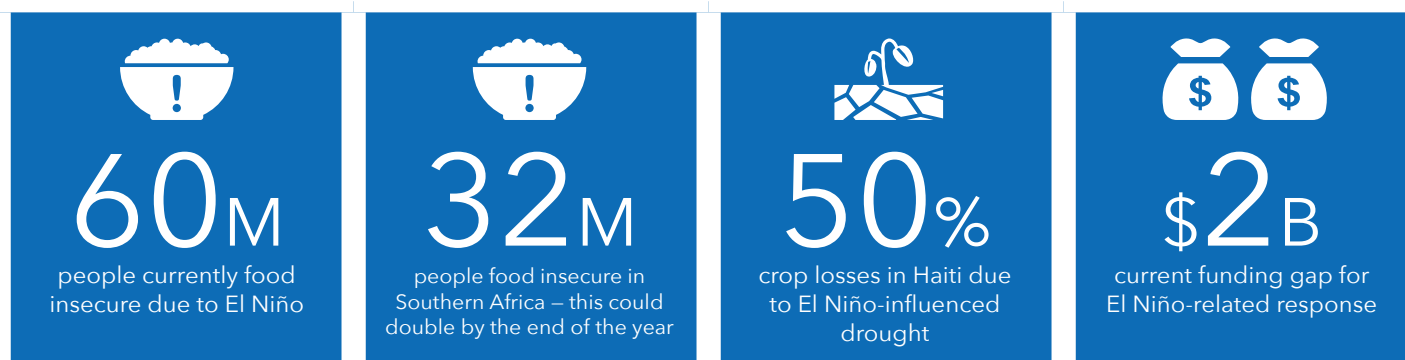
The humanitarian impact of El Niño-related drought, flooding and storms continues to increase dramatically. Drought and excessive rainfall are now affecting more than 60 million people, primarily in the most vulnerable regions of Southern Africa, East Africa, Central America and the Pacific Islands. Overall, eight countries have declared a national state of emergency: Guatemala, Honduras, Lesotho, the Marshall Islands, Malawi, Palau, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. On 17 March, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) declared a regional drought disaster, acknowledging the severe levels of hunger in the region. The impact of El Niño on nutrition and health is also severe: in East and Southern Africa, some 1 million children require treatment for severe acute malnutrition. The situation in Ethiopia remains dramatic, with 10.2 million people requiring food assistance and 5.8 million people in need of emergency water and sanitation.

New analysis from the World Food Programme (WFP) projects that food insecurity in the most affected regions will not peak before December 2016, underscoring that while the strength of the current El Niño episode is diminishing, its humanitarian impact will continue to grow. Over the coming months, the number of people affected in Southern Africa (currently 32 million) could rise to 49 million people. The situation could become even worse if a La Niña event strikes in

the third or fourth quarter of this year, which the World Meteorological Organization estimates has about a 50 per cent chance of occurring.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group announced on 1 April a relief package in support of 14 countries most affected by the ongoing drought in Eastern and Southern Africa. The package consists of \$5 million in emergency relief and \$361 million in short-to-long term support. Also, the AfDB will put in place a mechanism that would ensure faster disbursements of funds in ongoing projects, which were designed to build the affected countries' resilience to drought. This will make available an additional amount of US \$183 million in 2016.

Response plans have been completed by Governments and/or humanitarian partners in 13 countries, with several additional plans being finalized. These 13 countries have requested a total of almost US\$3 billion. The current funding gap stands at over \$2 billion, of which approximately one-third is for Ethiopia. Since mid-2015, CERF has allocated about \$102 million for life-saving activities in response to drought, floods and cyclones that can be linked to El Niño. This includes \$97 million disbursed and some additional \$5 million being processed.



FORECAST Percentage Chance:
(Apr-Jun 2016, issued Mar 2016)

Wet ≥55 45-50 35-40 35-40 45-50 ≥55 Dry

Table of Contents



How does El Niño affect people living with HIV? 04



East Africa 05



Southern Africa 08



Asia and the Pacific 12



Latin America and the Caribbean 14



Central and West Africa 16



Funding for Humanitarian Response 17



Guide to Giving 19



How does El Niño affect people living with HIV?

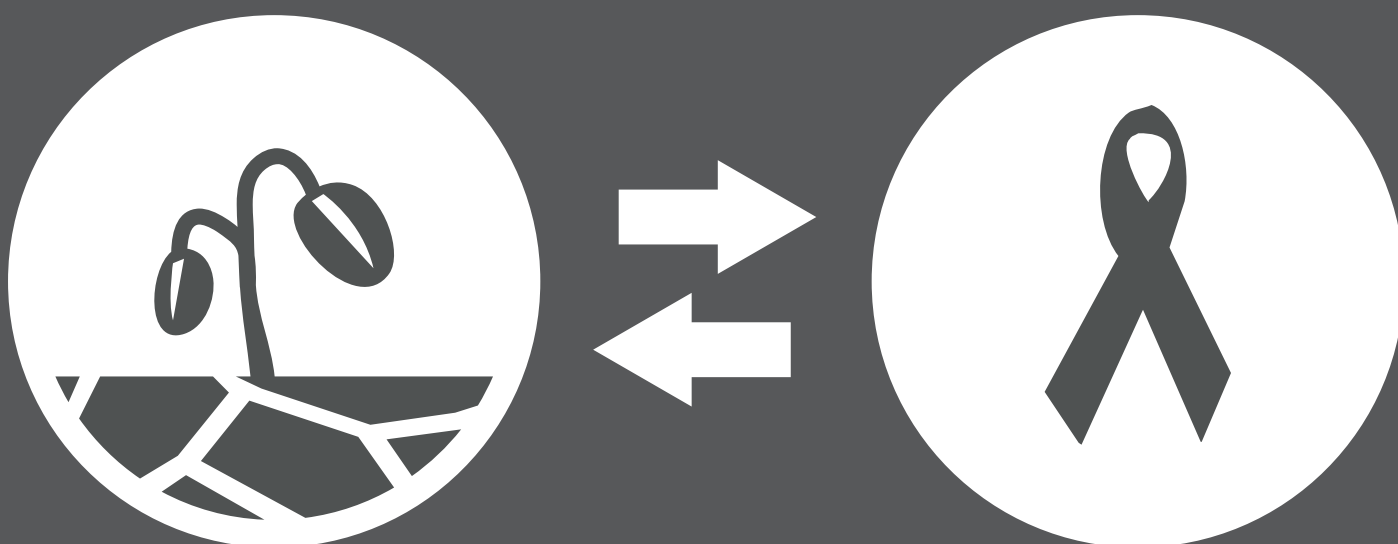
The impact of El Niño on people living with HIV is often overlooked. People living with HIV are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, their situation compounded by lack of access to treatment and other health services in many countries. There is a correlation between El Niño-induced drought and HIV prevalence, as infection rates in HIV-endemic rural areas increase by 11 per cent with every drought. Droughts also reduce employment and income opportunities, and income shocks explain up to 20 per cent of variation in HIV prevalence

across African countries.¹ People living with HIV have increased nutritional needs and reduced appetites. They are less able to absorb nutrients and often have reduced access to food due to morbidity. Malnourished people living with HIV are two to six times more likely to die in the first six months of treatment. Food insecurity pressures households into unsustainable coping strategies and can lead to HIV-risk behaviour (e.g., transactional sex), which drives new HIV infections.

Food insecurity and limited food consumption also reduce adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART), which can lead to drug resistance and increases in transmission. Uninterrupted access and adherence to treatment is crucial to prevent later multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (TB) and treatment failures that lead to expensive secondary treatment regimes. Poor nutrition may also

reduce immunity and increase risk co-infections and malnutrition in TB patients and HIV-positive children not on ART.

The Southern Africa region accounts for one third of all people living with HIV worldwide. Significant gaps in treatment and adherence, as well as the high rate of co-morbidity with TB, complicate the situation. At the SADC Consultative Meeting on El Niño, held in February,² members noted that El Niño posed a particular risk for women, children and HIV-affected people. The Southern Africa region generally suffers from unavailability of comprehensive HIV data and consistent analysis. Few countries have functional surveillance systems in place, and HIV-impact surveillance indicators are not being adequately linked to food and nutrition assessments.





East Africa

ETHIOPIA



In Ethiopia, El Niño-influenced drought continues to affect millions of people, deepening food insecurity, malnutrition and water shortages in affected areas. At least 10.2 million people need emergency food assistance and the situation continues to deteriorate. This is in addition to the 8 million chronically food insecure people receiving assistance through the national Productive Safety Net Programme.

It is projected that in 2016, 2.2 million children under age 5 and pregnant/breastfeeding mothers will be moderately malnourished and 450,000 children will be severely malnourished. The situation is further aggravated by an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in southern Ethiopia that has spread to the north, with more than 1,000 people affected. This is an increase from 400 cases in February.

Drinking water sources have dried up, which is already leading to displacement. The Ministry of Water and humanitarian partners estimate that 900,000 people need emergency water trucking, of whom just over one third (about 350,000 people) are being reached, receiving 5 litres per person per day. In parallel, the Government and partners are drilling new boreholes and rehabilitat-

ing dysfunctional water schemes.

Seventy-five per cent of all schools do not have access to clean water, a 10 per cent increase from pre-crisis levels, challenging efforts to keep students in school. The Government is rolling out school-feeding programmes in various drought-affected areas to reverse increasing drop-out and absenteeism rates.

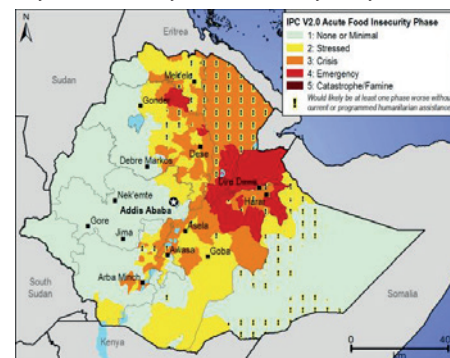
The number of drought-affected smallholder farmers requiring emergency seed support increased from 2.2 million to 3.3 million since early December 2015. Land preparation and planting of *belg* (short March-April rainy season) crops are under way. A total of 838,000 households urgently require seeds before the *belg* planting window closes.

The Agriculture and Livestock Task Force reports that only 20 per cent of the most urgent *belg* seed requirements have been met to date (this does not include Government responses). Of 1.7 million seed-insecure households for the *meher* (June-August rainy season), funds have not yet been secured to meet the needs of 1.2 million households. A total of \$60 million is urgently needed to meet the *meher* season seed requirements.³

The Ministry of Health has secured funds for a measles-vaccination campaign for children between 5 and 15 years, scheduled to launch in mid-April. It will target 25 million children in 505 drought-affected and at-risk *woredas* (districts).

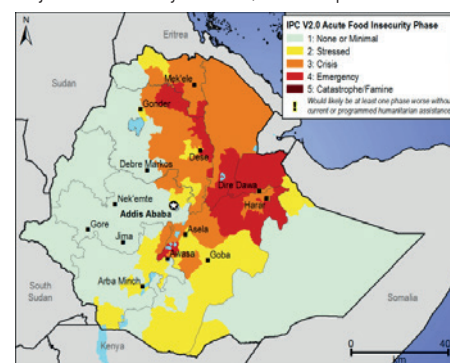
At least 10.2 million people need emergency food assistance

Projected food security outcomes, February to May 2016



Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, June to September 2016



Source: FEWS NET

* Mapped impacts of humanitarian assistance only reflect documented assistance delivery. As documentation of assistance delivery was not available for all areas where known assistance deliveries are ongoing, not all humanitarian assistance is captured in the above maps.

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity.

To speed up the distribution of assistance, the Government has allocated additional trucks to ease transportation bottlenecks, and it is taking measures to increase capacity at the various warehouses to expedite the offloading of trucks and minimize waiting times. The Logistics Cluster is now activated and is helping reduce bottlenecks and improve aid flows.

Ethiopia has received only about half of the total resource requirements for the current year. There is a high risk of pipeline breaks of relief commodities by the end of April if the financial gap is not filled. A total of \$761 million of \$1.4 billion funding requirements have been received. On 23 March, the Humanitarian Country Team started a 90-day advocacy campaign to raise additional resources.

SOMALIA



In Somalia, a severe drought exacerbated by El Niño conditions has hit parts of Puntland and Somaliland, affecting hundreds of thousands of people. Compounding an already challenging humanitarian situation in the area, this has brought the estimated number of people who face acute food insecurity in Somaliland and Puntland to 385,000 people. A further 1.3 million people risk slipping into acute food insecurity if they do not receive assistance. This brings the total number of people who need humanitarian assistance and livelihood support to 1.7 million, or 37 per cent of the 4.6 million people living in Puntland and Somaliland.

There is an increased likelihood of near-normal to below-normal rains during the *gu* (main rainy season from April to June) in Somaliland and northern parts of Puntland, which would further negatively affect the humanitarian situation in the region.

Currently, the drought is most severely and directly affecting pastoral and agropastoral communities—approximately three quarters of the population. Drought has severely reduced access to safe water and cereal production in Somaliland (87 per cent below the five-year average), and it has caused large-scale abnormal emigration of livestock (including 60-70 per cent of households from the main inland pastoral areas of Puntland). The acute water and pasture shortages have caused pastoralists to migrate to areas with better conditions, resulting in increased competition and tension over scarce resources, and overcrowding of animals that could increase the spread of contagious livestock diseases. Drought-affected pastoralists from Ethiopia and Djibouti have also sought relief in the few remaining pastures, particularly in the Awdal region of Somaliland, where rains were favourable in the last quarter of 2015.

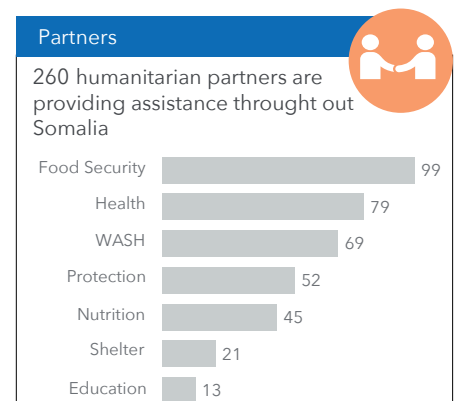
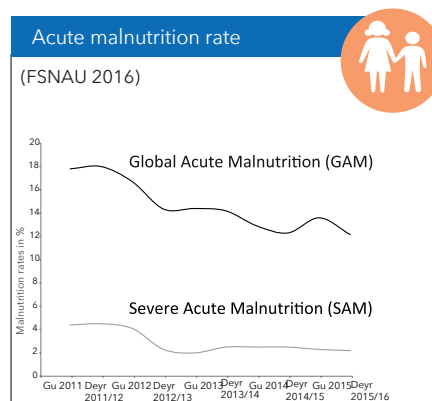
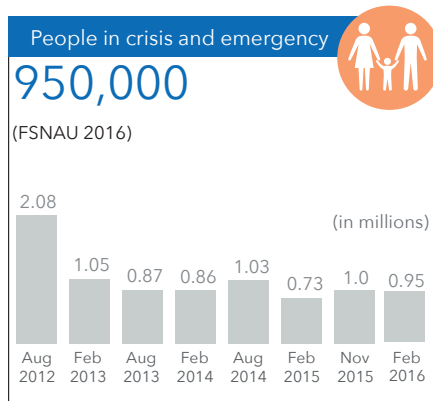
The most urgent needs include access to water, food, cash relief, emergency livelihood support, nutrition and health services to reduce morbidity and mortality. Education,

'Call for Aid' for \$105 million

protection and shelter are also required to ensure minimum standards of living among vulnerable people, and to prevent an exacerbation of existing vulnerabilities and exposure to protection risks.

Reprogramming of existing resources and additional funding have enabled partners to provide assistance to hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable people in Puntland and Somaliland. During the first two months of 2016 alone, partners assisted 41,000 people with seasonal livelihood inputs; 91,000 people received livelihood assets, such as conditional cash transfers, cash/food for work and training; and 183,000 people were reached with improved access to food and safety nets. Supplementary feeding programmes targeted about 4,000 malnourished

SOMALIA KEY FIGURES



* Partners are active in more than one cluster (Data: 3W)

SOMALIA FUNDING: HUMANITARIAN APPEAL 2016

\$ 885 million
HRP 2016 REQUEST (US\$)

12%
HRP FUNDED
FUNDING REPORTED TO FTS*

\$ 164 million
\$102.9 million (HRP funding) + \$61.5 million (other funding)

children and pregnant and lactating mothers. According to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, another 259,000 people were reached with bilateral food assistance in Somaliland. Nearly 41,000 people received primary and basic health services. An estimated 55,000 people also received access to safe water. CERF is processing an \$11 million rapid response grant for a food security, nutrition, health and WASH response.

Humanitarian partners launched a 'Call for Aid' on 31 March. They urgently require \$105 million to provide humanitarian assistance to over 1 million people in Puntland and Somaliland over the next six months.

SUDAN



In Sudan, El Niño has significantly affected the 2015 rainy season with delayed rains, below-average rainfall and intermittent dry spells. This has reduced water availability and cultivation areas, delayed planting and resulted in poor pastures. A total of 3.5 million people are affected in 82 localities across the country, including over 1.5 million women and over 680,000 children. Between March and September 2016, more than 4 million people will be in crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) of food insecurity or worse.⁴ El Niño-related dryness contributed to a reduced harvest, with cereal production 23 per cent below the five-year average for staple food. Pasture availability

is estimated to be 40 to 60 per cent below average nationally, and cash-crop production is also far below the five-year average. The nutrition status in affected communities may further deteriorate due to the early onset of the lean season, increased food insecurity, severe water shortages and potential increases of waterborne diseases.

A three-month multi-sectoral El Niño Mitigation Plan was released in March, seeking \$82 million. However, it has yet to receive funding. An urgent scale-up of the response is needed in key sectors, including livestock and agriculture, food assistance, water and sanitation, and health.

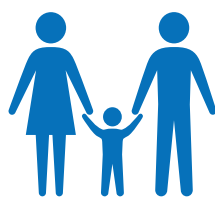
For the most updated information, please visit:
www.unocha.org/el-Niño-east-africa

Who is in need in Sudan?

Source: Sudan El Niño Mitigation and Preparedness Plan - 21 Feb 2016

TOTAL POPULATION IN NEED

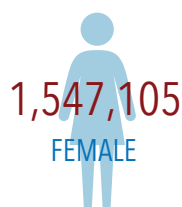
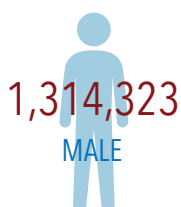
The current estimated total number of people in need of immediate support in Sudan is 3.5 million people.



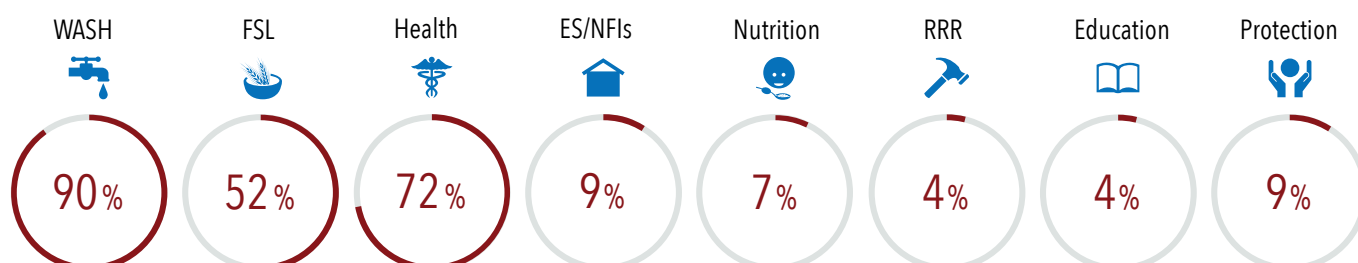
3,581,262

TOTAL POPULATION TARGETED

*The whole population in need is targeted for assistance



PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL TARGETED POPULATION by Sector



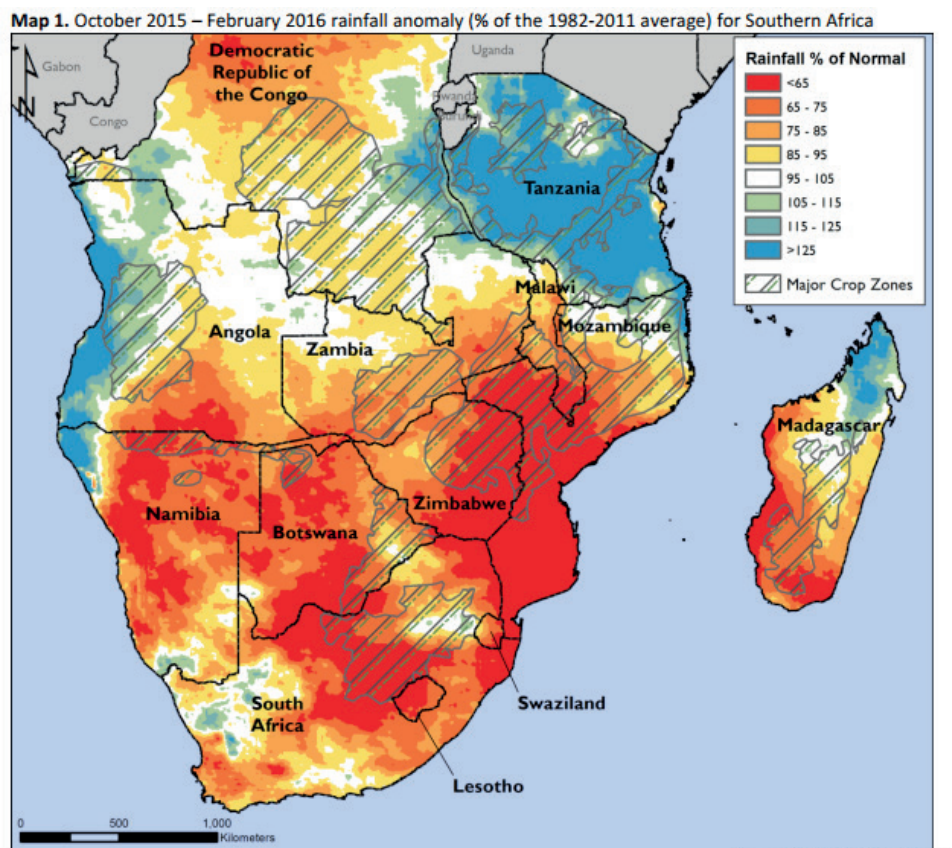


Southern Africa

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

El Niño continues to severely affect the Southern Africa region, which is suffering from the driest cropping season in at least 35 years. Currently, 31.6 million people are food insecure in the region, according to the Southern Africa Food and Nutrition Security Working Group. This figure represents the number of food insecure people at the peak of the current lean season, and it marks an increase from 29.9 million people in February.

Crop-production forecasts indicate that the number of people affected by food insecurity will increase over the coming months and in some areas well into 2017. As the lean season progresses, further increases in food prices are expected, instigated by low regional cereal stocks and speculation on the effects of El Niño-influenced weather on the regional cereal harvest. Needs are likely to peak between the end of 2016 and February/March 2017, and the food insecure population is likely to at least double compared with current levels.



Note: Major crop zones are defined as the main production areas for the country's primary crop. The identified areas are not necessarily surplus producing areas and are spatially generalized for presentation and calculation purposes.

Figure 2 This map illustrates how rainfall between October 2015 and February 2016 deviated from the 1982-2011 average across the Southern Africa Region. During this period, rainfall was less than 75 percent of average across most of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, and South Africa as well as significant portions of Zambia, Malawi, Angola, and Madagascar. The major agricultural season for Southern Africa runs from October/November through April and this abnormal dryness has occurred in many

FEWS NET⁵ has identified atypical levels of acute food insecurity across Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It estimates that nearly 4 million people currently face crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) of food insecurity or worse across the region. This total includes nearly 1 million people in Malawi, and at least half a million people each in Madagascar, Mozambique

and Zimbabwe. June to September is usually the region's most food secure period of the year. However, beyond September, the combination of reduced income, limited food stocks, limited water availability and sharp increases in staple food prices is likely to drive a major food security crisis in Southern Africa.

On 16 March, SADC declared a regional drought disaster. The SADC council of ministers approved the declaration and will likely issue a regional appeal for assistance. The council approved the establishment of a regional logistics and coordination centre to accelerate the regional response. South Africa will relax some of its tough rules on genetically modified crops so it can ramp up maize imports from the United States and Mexico to avert a potential food crisis amid the severe drought.

The food insecure population is likely to at least double compared with current levels

ANGOLA



In Angola, an estimated 1.25 million people are currently food insecure, especially in the southern provinces of Cunene, Huila and Namibe. The National Civil Protection Department in Cunene Province estimates that over 700,000 people are at risk of food insecurity (72 per cent of the population), up from 500,000 last year. In Huila, approximately 460,000 people are at risk of food insecurity. Crop losses are expected to be as high as 75 per cent in some areas, according to FAO.

Since December 2015, Angola has been grappling with a yellow fever

outbreak potentially made worse by El Niño, which has infected more than 490 people and killed 198 in 18 provinces. Concerted efforts are being made to stop the outbreak, and the case trend has begun to decrease since a mass vaccination campaign was initiated on 2 February. However, there is a global vaccine shortage, with the emergency stockpile depleted.

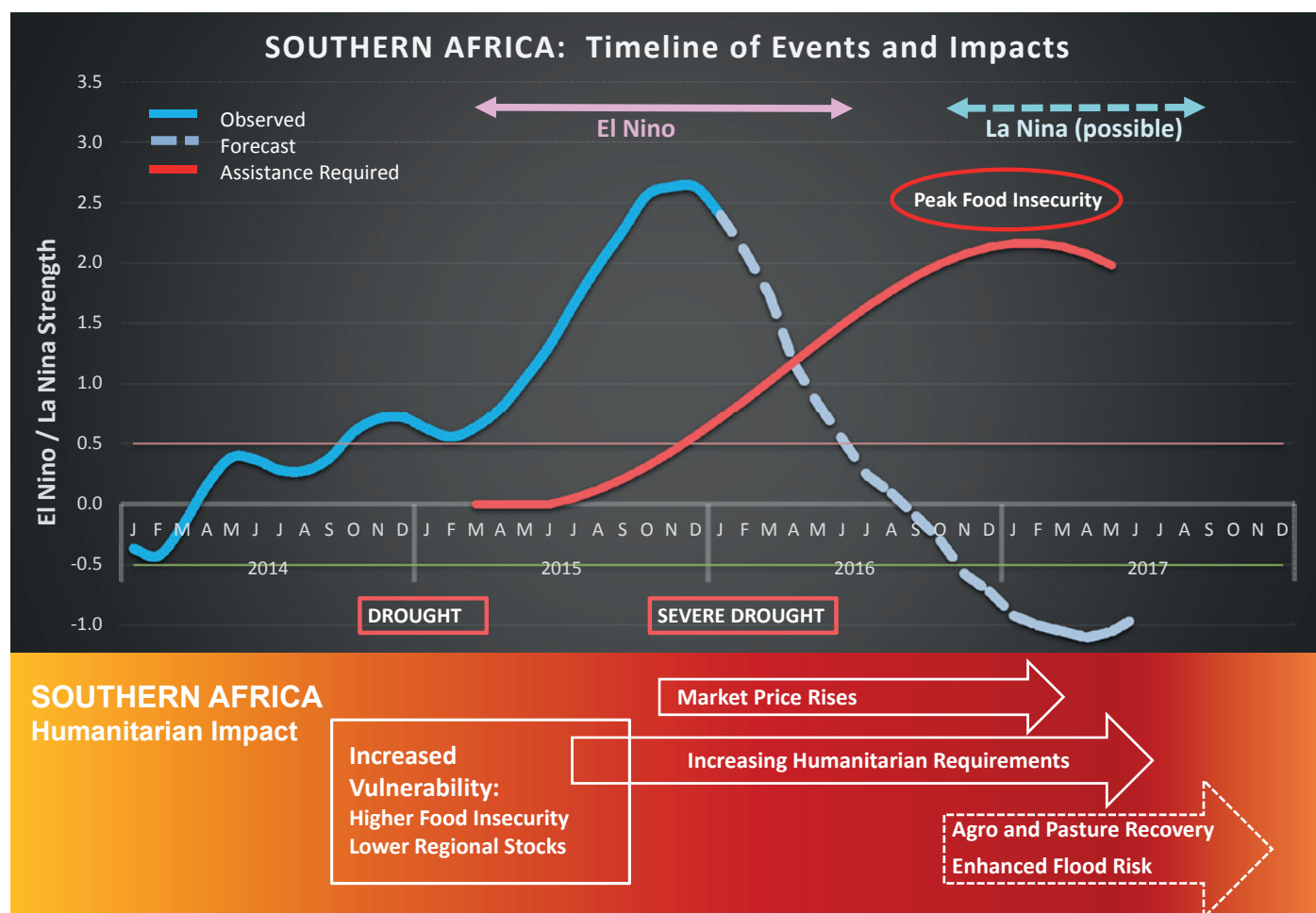
LESOTHO



In Lesotho, a rapid drought-impact assessment has confirmed a serious crisis due to the ongoing El Niño-exacerbated drought. The assessment

found that 534,500 people, more than 25 per cent of the population, are at risk of food insecurity until June 2016, with poor and very poor households experiencing a 44 per cent decline in their food and cash income compared with normal conditions.⁶ WFP has launched an immediate emergency operation targeting 20,920 people on top of its existing programmes.⁷ The Government Response Plan launched late in 2015 has not yet been updated since the assessment. However, financial requirements are likely to increase. CERF is processing a \$4.7 million grant for the response.

Source: WFP/FAO





Newly constructed Bailey Bridge over Msuwazi River in Thyolo District, Malawi. Source: WFP

icantly above the five-year average (> 30 per cent) in 30 of 39 markets.¹⁰ Most monitored maize markets are in alert or crisis stage.¹¹

In drought-affected areas, FAO has been providing livelihood support to about 42,000 households. In flooded zones in the north, WFP is constructing three bridges—the first of which opened in mid-March on the Msuwazi River—to reopen critical routes for communities, guarantee access to vulnerable areas and facilitate market access. Food assistance remains underfunded. If no additional funding is provided, aid will be interrupted in mid-April.¹² Malawi's joint Food Insecurity Response Plan, which seeks \$146 million, is currently 49 per cent funded.

On 12 April, the President of Malawi declared a State of National Disaster, citing a projected maize deficit of over 1 million metric tonnes.

MADAGASCAR



In Madagascar, almost 2 million people are food insecure,⁸ and households in the worst-affected areas are expected to be unable to meet basic food consumption requirements until the maize harvest starts in April. Poor households are engaging in negative coping strategies, such as selling small animals and migrating. Increased consumption of cactus leaves and unripe fruits has been reported among poor households.⁹ Southern provinces are most affected as El Niño peaked during a critical time of their agricultural calendar, leaving about 1.1 million people food insecure, of whom 665,000 are facing severe food insecurity. In these areas, access to food is declining at an alarming rate. Household food stocks have been exhausted, and the majority of households were already almost exclusively using the little means they have on food. Reductions in consumption are already occurring.

Between May and September, food security is expected to improve for most households due to small food stocks from their own production and declining food prices in local markets. The April and August main season harvests will slightly improve food insecurity in the south, although many households will still face stressed outcomes (IPC Phase 2) as below-average harvests are expected.

MALAWI



Malawi has been hit by the combined effects of flooding and drought, leading to the most severe food crisis in a decade. A total of 2.8 million people are food insecure, and almost 1 million people are in crisis (IPC Phase 3). Over 47 per cent of children under age 5 are malnourished.

Maize prices have increased by more than 75 per cent compared with last year. Prices are also signif-

MOZAMBIQUE



In southern Mozambique, the river basins are recording lower water levels compared with last year, and compared to the 1997–1998 El Niño, with less than 75 per cent of rainfall across most of the country.¹³ The most affected dams are Corrumana (22 per cent of capacity) and Massingir (50 per cent). Both supply water for irrigation, and it is expected that the Corrumana dam will not be able to supply from April to September 2016, which is when the second planting season falls. A total of 600,000 people are in crisis food security (IPC Phase 3), while another 600,000 are stressed (IPC Phase 2).¹⁴ This month, CERF has disbursed \$4.6 million to the health, nutrition, WASH and food security/agriculture sectors.

SWAZILAND



In Swaziland, which faces a projected 64 per cent decrease in maize production, some 300,000 people require food assistance (a quarter of the population). Water scarcity is widespread, affecting health facilities and education (almost 80 per cent of all education institutions).¹⁵ The water situation is already critical, but the situation is likely to deteriorate further during the dry season (April to October).

A humanitarian needs overview and humanitarian response plan are being finalized. Support for short-term interventions in the National Emergency Response, Mitigation and Adaptation Plan stands at 12 per cent, with a gap of \$35 million.¹⁶

ZAMBIA



In Zambia, almost 800,000 people are food insecure,¹⁷ and over 4 million people are at risk of El Niño-induced drought effects, with the south of the country worst affected. Maize prices remain high due to atypically high market demand, an extension of the lean period, a depreciation of the local currency and below-average production prospects for the 2015/16 season.

ZIMBABWE

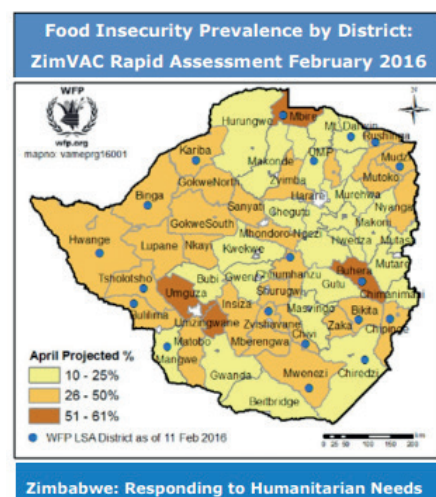


In Zimbabwe, about 95 per cent of the country has received below-normal rainfall. Over 2.8 million people are food insecure.¹⁸ Recent improvements in rainfall in Mashonaland East, Midlands and Matabeleland North will hopefully result in

UNICEF borehole in Zimbabwe to prevent the spread of typhoid. Source: UNICEF



(Using ZIMVAC projections and historical analysis, WFP estimates the prevalence of food insecurity in the rural population to fluctuate from 30% in April and 49% (approximately 4.4 million people) during the peak of the lean season from January to March 2017. Source: WFP Zimbabwe Situation Report #5)



improved crop conditions. In February, some 1 million people received food assistance from WFP and partners. WFP has extended its lean season assistance until the end of the year. The Humanitarian Country Team has developed a Humanitarian Needs Overview, indicating 2.8 million people affected by food insecurity, and subsequently revised the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan. In line with the national drought

response plan, the HRP will run until March 2017, with financial requirements around 350 million to reach the most vulnerable people. The plan will be finalized in mid-April.

For the most updated information, please visit:
www.unocha.org/el-Niño-south-ern-africa



Asia and the Pacific

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

El Niño is affecting Asia and the Pacific in different ways and with varying impact.

In **Mongolia**, the *dzud* (harsh dry winter) is strong this year. On 10 March, the National Emergency Management Agency asked UN agencies and partners for assistance in procuring an additional 1 million vaccine doses to contain a sheep pox outbreak associated with the *dzud*. A \$2.4 million CERF allocation was released on 16 March to support affected households. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched an emergency appeal for \$835,000 in February.¹⁹ In **Vietnam**, severe drought has affected all provinces in the Mekong Delta, southern-central and central highland regions. Thirty-nine out of 63 provinces have requested support from the central Government to cope with the most severe El Niño drought in 90 years. Ten provinces have declared drought emergencies.²⁰ In **Indonesia**, 2.6 million hectares of forest and agricultural land have been burnt by fires.²¹

In **Timor-Leste**, up to 50 per cent of the country could potentially

become food and water insecure by the second quarter of 2016 due to the drought effects of El Niño. An estimated 400,000 people are already severely affected. Coastal areas are worst affected, with delayed or stressed crop planting, reduced water access and lack of food.²² In the **Federated States of Micronesia**, drought assessments are under way in Yap and Chuuk states, where states of emergency have been declared. Both regions are using internal funding allocations to meet their most urgently identified priorities. On 22 March, **Palau** declared a state of emergency in relation to the El Niño drought, with the country's two most-populous states enduring water shutdowns for 14 hours a day to conserve water supplies. On the outlying islands, rainfall will likely continue to be below normal over the next two to three months, and drought conditions will worsen for all islands and atolls. Damage to food crops is likely on the smaller islands and atolls of Palau.²³

FIJI

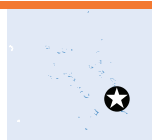


In Fiji, the Government has extended the state of natural disaster in the areas severely affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston until 19 April. The Government has revised the number of cyclone-damaged houses to 32,000, and the estimated number of people who need shelter assistance to 150,000. Over 1,400 people remain in 87 evacuation centres in the Western and Eastern Divisions. The cyclone damaged at least 88 health facilities, and it disrupted access to safe drinking water, sanitation and/or hygiene services for up to 250,000 people. Almost 45,000 farmers have been affected by the cyclone, and emergency food assistance is expected to be required for another two months. Approximately 500 schools (55 per cent of total) have been damaged or destroyed, affecting over 85,900 students.

As of 22 March, partners had distributed some 10,000 shelter items. Nearly 57,000 people across the affected areas have received sanitation or hygiene kits, and access to safe water has been restored for almost 150,000 people. Livelihood support is being distributed, and more than 370,000 people have received emergency food distributions.

As of 23 March, the Flash Appeal was 29 per cent funded. Significant gaps remain in the provision of emergency shelter supplies. Access to safe water remains to be restored to over 100,000 people, and 193,000 people still have not received required WASH supplies. Debris-clearing for agricultural land is urgently required, there is a shortage of seeds, and gaps remain in support for cattle and pigs.²⁴ This month, CERF has disbursed \$8 million to support the shelter and NFIs, logistics/telecom, food security, nutrition, WASH, health, protection and education sectors.

MARSHALL ISLANDS



A state of natural disaster continues in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in response to the El Niño-induced drought. Assessments estimate that more than 50,000 people are now affected, with the worst impact on the outer islands (population: 15,000). Priority needs include access to clean drinking water and basic hygiene to reduce disease outbreaks, procurement of supplemental food assistance to replace damaged crops in the near future, and preventative health-care measures to reduce the risk of disease outbreak. According to NOAA/NCEI,²⁵ all islands/atolls are now considered to be in severe or extreme drought. RMI is forecast to stay in drought conditions at least until July 2016. On the outer islands, there has been little to no rainfall,

and the salinity of water in underground wells has risen to unsafe levels. Food crops are being affected and are nearing critical levels. Twenty-seven portable reverse osmosis (RO) machines have been deployed to affected areas. If the situation persists, Majuro (population: 27,000) may require a large RO unit to meet community needs.

The Government has released an updated nine-month drought response plan for almost \$9 million, targeting 58 communities and approximately 1,831 households in the outer islands. This plan includes \$3 million for food distributions and access to clean water.

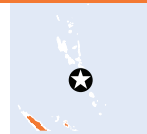
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



In Papua New Guinea, the Government estimates that more than 2.7 million people are affected by drought and over 700,000 people live in areas classified as Category 4 and 5, where food production has been severely affected.²⁶ Approximately 480,000 of these people

are in Category 5 areas and facing critical food shortages. According to Oxfam, the water and food security situation is worsening in the Schouten Islands. Unless action is taken, the situation will likely reach drought severity category 5.²⁷ Humanitarian partners are providing relief food assistance to 700,000 people in Western Province, highlands areas and small islands in Milne Bay. Access and high transportation costs, especially airlifting, remain a challenge.

VANUATU



Vanuatu continues to grapple with El Niño-influenced drought, with many of the most affected areas the same as those which were hit by Category 5 Cyclone Pam last March. Recent rains have eased water concerns across most of the country but food security remains a significant concern. The country's Climate Change Department continues to forecast below-average rainfall over the next few months, after which Vanuatu will move into its traditional dry season.

There are concerns that food gardens may not be able to supply sufficient produce to keep all areas and populations appropriately fed in the coming months. The National Disaster Management Office and various provincial governments have distributed food to some of the most severely affected locations including the Shepard Islands and western Santo. Shipments of food have also been sent to schools in Shefa and Tafea Province to encourage attendance. All sectors are working on improving monitoring and early warning systems and the newly elected Government has recently provided \$480,000 in emergency El Niño funding for water, sanitation, hygiene, food security and logistics needs. This emergency funding is also being used to procure and transport additional water tanks to identified hot spots.

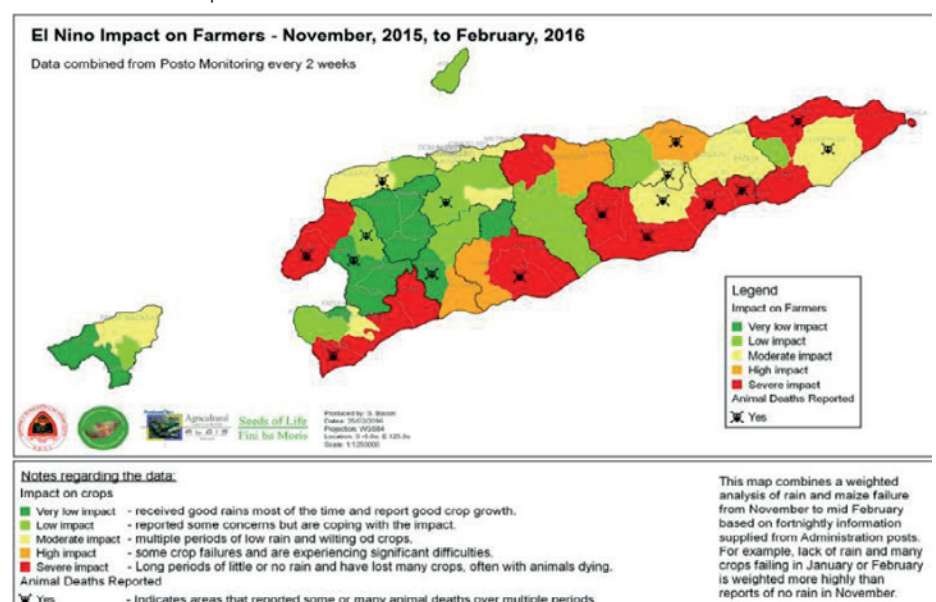
For the most updated information, please visit:

www.unocha.org/el-Niño-pacific
www.unocha.org/el-Niño-asia-pacific

Spring located at 200m elevation on a steep sided mountain south of Baijor, Vokeo Island, PNG. Approx 2m from the spring is a cliff. Access is difficult. This is the primary and most reliable freshwater source for the island. Source: Oxfam



Timor-Leste: El Niño Impact. Source: UNRCO





Latin America and the Caribbean

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

El Niño is still affecting the weather conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean, with persisting drought in Central America and parts of South America, and wetter-than-normal conditions and flooding in Argentina, southern Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

According to FEWS NET and WFP, the number of people in crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) of food insecurity in Central America and the Caribbean is expected to increase until the beginning of the *primera* harvests in August 2016.

Central America's dry corridor, which includes parts of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, still faces one of the worst droughts in decades, with 50 to 90 per cent failed maize-and-bean harvests, and an estimated 3.5 million people who have serious difficulties accessing food.²⁸

In the Caribbean, the drought has

affected over 6.2 million people. The most affected countries are Cuba (1 million people), the Dominican Republic (1.6 million) and Haiti (3.6 million). Insufficient and/or erratic rainfall has led to loss of staple grain crops and the death of thousands of cattle in these countries. This is the third consecutive year that people in these areas are facing drought, which destroys livelihoods and erodes their resilience.

In **Bolivia**, El Niño has affected some 317,000 people, along with 33,000 hectares of crops and 16,000 heads of cattle. Four departments have issued a state of emergency (Chuquisaca, Oruro, Cochabamba and Potosí). The most affected people are small-scale farmers and llama breeders.

EL SALVADOR



In El Salvador, households of small farmers who are suffering from recurring crop losses, lack of reserves and reduced employment opportunities in the coffee industry will be in stress (IPC Phase 2) from March to May 2016, potentially mitigated by food assistance interventions. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has delivered livelihood support to small producers across the country.

A \$44m response plan has been concluded jointly by the government and humanitarian actors, and extends over a three year period.

GUATEMALA



In Guatemala, households most affected by the drought have already spent about a year in crisis conditions (IPC Phase 3). This will continue at least until September

2016 if there is insufficient emergency assistance.³⁰ Concerns over acute food insecurity are greatest for poor households of the Western Highlands along with those of the dry corridor. In the east, after a *postrera* production of virtually zero, households are classified in crisis (IPC Phase 3). Some municipalities in the Baja, Chiquimula, Jutiapa and Verapaz departments received cash assistance and food from WFP and the Government. The Humanitarian Response Plan is 23 per cent funded, with a gap of \$43.8 million.

HAITI



Haiti has suffered crop losses of over 50 per cent due to El Niño-influenced drought. A total of 3.6 million people are food insecure (one third of the population), and 40 districts are currently in crisis (IPC Phase 3). Of these people, 1.5 million are severely food insecure and need immediate food assistance, while over 130,000 children are suffering from acute malnutrition.

Dry conditions have prevailed since the main crop season started in February. This means there will not be a good harvest by July, and the food security situation could deteriorate further.

Recent rains have caused flooding, and on 3 March, damaged more than 10,000 homes in the north and west, as well as schools and agricultural land. In Limonade and Cap-Haitien, the two most flood-affected communes, more than 10,000 families need food and other items, such as blankets and mattresses.

The Haiti 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan was launched on 7 April and seeks \$105.5 million to provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by El Niño (out of total requirement of \$193.8 million).

HONDURAS

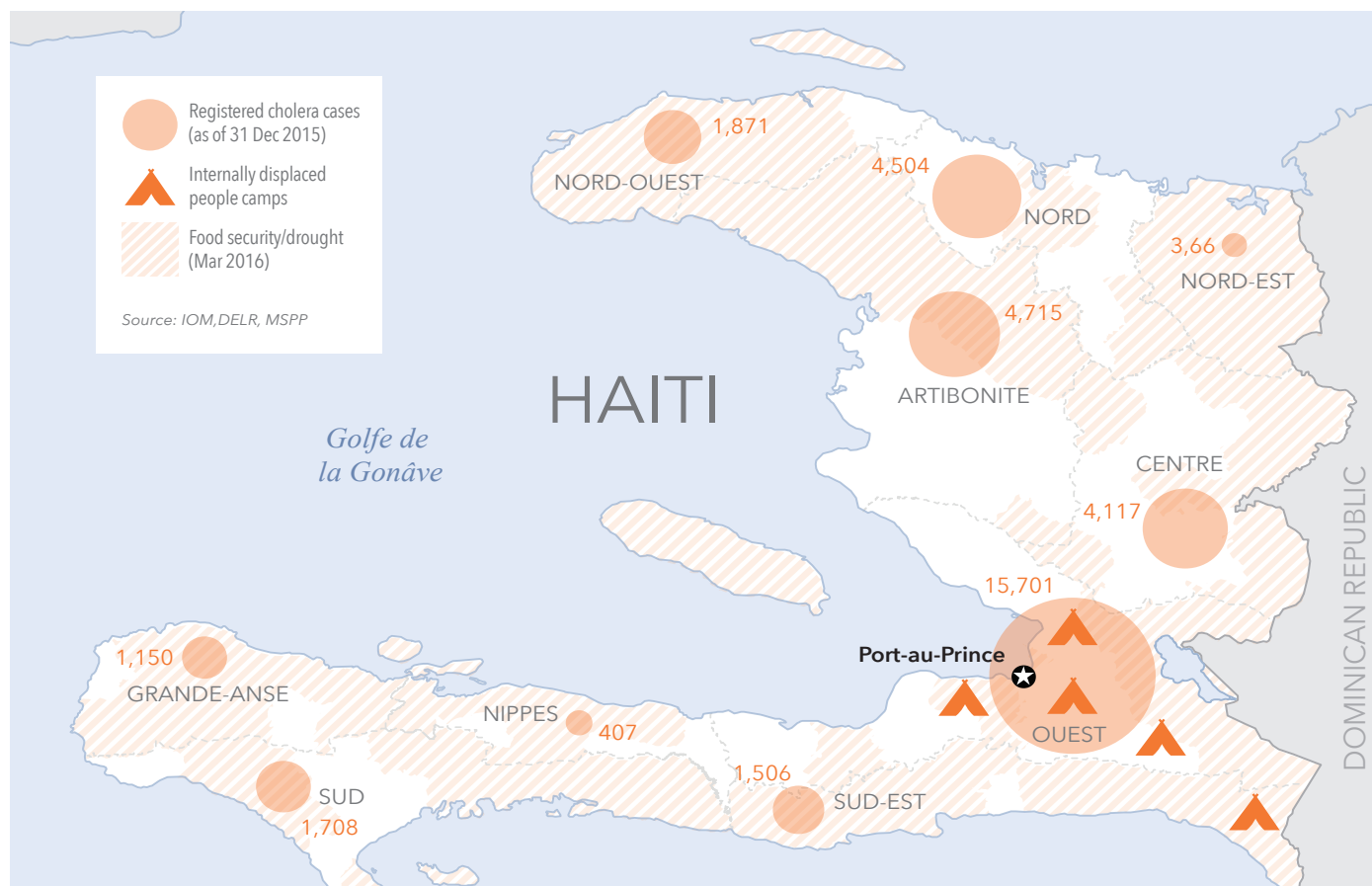


South-western Honduras will remain in crisis (IPC Phase 3) from March to August 2016. According to a recent assessment by the Humanitarian Network, chaired by the Government, more than 2 million people have been severely affected and close to half a million people require emergency assistance. The Government will allocate about \$27 million to address the effects of El Niño-induced drought. With these funds, actions will be implemented to ensure water supply for human consumption and agricultural and livestock activities. The Humanitarian Response Plan is 13 per cent funded, with a gap of \$38.3 million.



A flooded street in Cap-Haitien. Photo: DPC

For the most updated information, please visit:
www.unocha.org/el-Niño-latin-america-caribbean



Source: Haiti HRP 2016 (Apr 2015)



Central and West Africa

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

El Niño continues to have limited negative effects on temperatures and rainfall in West and Central Africa. Western parts of West Africa experienced moderately higher-than-normal temperatures in the first trimester of 2016. In the Gulf of Guinea, rainfall has been below average and is likely to remain low into April 2016 along the West African coast. Communities that are already in crisis, or still recovering from previous crises, will remain highly vulnerable to new climate-related shocks.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the region's most-affected country. It has been affected by a mix of flooding, drought and the suspension of crop imports from

affected neighbouring countries. Since November 2015, floods in 13 out of 26 provinces have affected over 700,000 people, killing 91 people, destroying close to 40,000 shelters and inundating over 5,500 hectares of cropland. The most flood-affected areas are situated along the Congo River. The rainy season is due to end in mid-May, but the consequences will be felt for many more months. Outbreaks of waterborne diseases, particularly cholera, have been reported in five provinces, with 30,000 people at risk over the past three months and a projected 60,000 people in the coming three months. There has been a 16 per cent increase in cholera cases in the first quarter of 2016 compared with the same period last

year. Malaria is expected to increase once the waters recede, as inundated areas provide a fertile ground for mosquitoes. The loss of food and livelihoods is expected to affect all the areas until September 2016.

Three provinces bordering the Southern Africa region (Haut Katanga, Eastern and Western Kasai) are suffering from the decline of access to maize due to the drought-induced domestic decline in production and the tightened importation from maize-producing countries in Southern Africa. In the most-affected province, Haut Lomami, almost 50,000 people are food insecure, with needs expected to extend at least until September 2016.

Funding for Humanitarian Response to El Niño: Status of Plans

Funding figures are based on OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS) where available and on information provided by partners, governments and donors for plans that are not reflected in FTS.

Southern Africa - Government Plans

COUNTRY	REQUIREMENTS	% FUNDING	FUNDING	GAP
 MOZAMBIQUE	\$265M ³¹ 	7% 	\$18.1M	\$246.9M
 ZIMBABWE	\$175M ³² 	0% 	\$0	\$175M
 MALAWI	\$146M 	49% 	\$71M	\$75M
 SWAZILAND	\$45M ³³ 	21% 	\$9.7M	\$35.3M
 LESOTHO	\$36M 	28% 	\$10M	\$26M
TOTAL	\$667M		\$108.8M	\$558.2M

Southern Africa - HCT Plans

COUNTRY	REQUIREMENTS	% FUNDING	FUNDING	GAP
 ZIMBABWE	\$359M 	16% 	\$59M	\$300M
 MOZAMBIQUE	\$60M ³⁴ 	0% 	\$0	\$60M
 LESOTHO ³⁵	\$59M 	20% 	\$11.8M	\$47.2M
TOTAL	\$478M		\$70.8M	\$407.2M

Horn of Africa - Joint Government and HCT Plans

COUNTRY	REQUIREMENTS	% FUNDING	FUNDING	GAP
 ETHIOPIA	\$1,400M 	50% 	\$761M	\$639M
 SUDAN	\$82M 	0% 	\$0	\$82M
TOTAL	\$1,482M		\$761M	\$721M

Horn of Africa - HCT Plan

COUNTRY	REQUIREMENTS	% FUNDING	FUNDING	GAP
 SOMALIA	\$105m 	10% 	\$11m	\$94m
TOTAL	\$105m		\$11m	\$94m

Latin America and Caribbean - HCT Plans

COUNTRY	REQUIREMENTS	% FUNDING	FUNDING	GAP
 GUATEMALA	\$57m 	23% 	\$13.2m	\$43.8m
 HAITI	\$105.5m 	10% 	\$10.1m	\$95.4m
 HONDURAS	\$44.2m 	13% 	\$5.8m	\$38.3m
TOTAL	\$206.7m		\$29.15m	\$177.5m

Latin America and Caribbean - Joint Government and HCT Plans

COUNTRY	REQUIREMENTS	% FUNDING	FUNDING	GAP
 EL SALVADOR ³⁶	\$44.6m 	9% 	\$4.2m	\$40.4m
TOTAL	\$44.6m		\$4.2m	\$40.4m

Asia Pacific - Government Plans

COUNTRY	REQUIREMENTS	% FUNDING	FUNDING	GAP
 MARSHALL ISLANDS	\$9m 	0% 	\$0	\$9m
TOTAL	\$9m		\$0	\$9m

GLOBAL TOTAL	\$2,992m	33% 	\$985m	\$2,007m
---------------------	-----------------	-------------------------------	---------------	-----------------

CONTRIBUTING THROUGH THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF)



Since mid-2015, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated about \$102 million for life-saving activities in response to drought, floods and cyclones that can be linked to El Niño. This includes \$97 million disbursed and some additional \$5 million being processed. To date, funds have been provided to Angola (\$5 million), El Salvador (\$2.7 million), Eritrea (\$2.5 million), Ethiopia (\$25.5 million), Fiji (\$8 million), Guatemala (\$4.8 million), Haiti (\$3 million), Honduras (\$2.2 million), Malawi (\$9.9 million), Mozambique (\$4.7 million), Somalia (\$4.9 million), Swaziland (\$3.1 million) and Zimbabwe (\$8.1 million). Funds are being processed for Djibouti (\$2 million earmarked for Ethiopians and Somalis fleeing drought), Lesotho (\$4.8 million) and Somalia (\$11 million). http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CERF_el-ni%C3%B1o_20160204.pdf

CERF funds used to distribute food/cash or repair water sources not only provide direct life-saving assistance to people and their livestock but ensures that their stretched financial resources do not go towards purchasing these basic items. When CERF allocates funds to an emergency, donors should take it as an indication that the severity of a crisis has moved beyond the local/regional donor response and merits international attention from the capitols. Details on CERF's El Niño-related allocations are available here: http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CERF_el-niño_20160401.pdf

CONTRIBUTING TO EL NIÑO RESPONSE EFFORTS



To find out about existing HCT El Niño-related preparedness and response plans, please visit the following links:

- Ethiopia 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document, <http://tinyurl.com/ethiopia-hrd-2016-pdf>
- Revised Zimbabwe HRP due shortly
- Somalia Call for Action Document, <http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-call-aid-drought-and-el-ni-o-march-2016>
- Honduras and Guatemala 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, <http://tinyurl.com/hrp-ca-final-web-2016>
- Sudan El Niño Mitigation and Preparedness Plan, <http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-el-ni-o-mitigation-and-preparedness-plan>

Additional country and regional plans are being finalized.

DONATING THROUGH COUNTRY-BASED POOLED FUNDS



Country-based pooled funds (CBPFs) are multi-donor humanitarian financing instruments. Donor contributions to each CBPF are un-earmarked and allocated by the Humanitarian Coordinator through an in-country consultative process. Allocations are channeled through OCHA to UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations and Red Cross/Red Crescent organizations. As of 2015, CBPFs operate in 18 countries: Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Myanmar, occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen. Find out more about CBPFs and how to donate at: www.unocha.org/what-we-do/humanitarian-financing/how-to-give

IN-KIND RELIEF AID



The United Nations urges donors to make cash rather than in-kind donations, for maximum speed and flexibility, and to ensure the aid materials that are most needed are the ones delivered. If you can make only in-kind contributions in response to disasters and emergencies, please contact: logik@un.org

REGISTERING AND RECOGNIZING YOUR CONTRIBUTION



OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. Its purpose is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity and to show the total amount of funding and expose gaps in humanitarian plans. Please report yours to FTS, either by email to fts@un.org or through the online contribution report form at <http://fts.unocha.org>

- ¹ [HTTP://WEB.STANFORD.EDU/~MBURKE/PAPERS/INCOME_HIV_EJ_FINAL.PDF](http://web.stanford.edu/~mburke/papers/income_hiv_ej_final.pdf)
- ² SADC MEETING STATEMENT: [HTTPS://WWW.SADC.INT/FILES/6014/5672/6442/SADC_STATEMENT_ON_PREPAREDNESS_AND_RESPONSE_TO_IMPACT_OF_EL_NIÑO.PDF](https://www.sadc.int/files/6014/5672/6442/SADC_STATEMENT_ON_PREPAREDNESS_AND_RESPONSE_TO_IMPACT_OF_EL_NIÑO.PDF)
- ³ GIEWS COUNTRY BRIEF - ETHIOPIA - 09-MARCH-2016
- ⁴ FEWSNET SUDAN FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK FEBRUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2016
- ⁵ FEWSNET - SOUTHERN AFRICA SPECIAL REPORT MARCH 18, 2016
- ⁶ LESOTHO - RAPID DROUGHT IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT - JANUARY 2016 -MULTI-AGENCY DROUGHT ASSESSMENT TEAM (MDAT)
- ⁷ WFP OPERATIONS - EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED BY EL NIÑO DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN LESOTHO - [HTTPS://WWW.WFP.ORG/OPERATIONS/200939-EMERGENCY-ASSISTANCE-VULNERABLE-HOUSEHOLDS-AFFECTED-EL-NI%C3%B1O-DROUGHT-CONDITIONS-LESOTHO](https://www.wfp.org/operations/200939-emergency-assistance-vulnerable-households-affected-el-ni%C3%B1o-drought-conditions-lesotho)
- ⁸ EL NIÑO: UNDERMINING RESILIENCE: IMPLICATIONS OF EL NIÑO IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FROM A FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PERSPECTIVE - WFP FEBRUARY 2016
- ⁹ FEWSNET - MADAGASCAR FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK FEBRUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2016
- ¹⁰ FEWSNET -SOUTHERN AFRICA SPECIAL REPORT MARCH 18, 2016
- ¹¹ WFP - SOUTHERN AFRICA MONTHLY FOOD PRICE UPDATE FEBRUARY 2016
- ¹² (ECHO 04/03/2016).
- ¹³ FEWSNET - SOUTHERN AFRICA SPECIAL REPORT MARCH 18, 2016
- ¹⁴ FEWSNET - MOZAMBIQUE FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK FEBRUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2016
- ¹⁵ OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR SITUATION REPORT NO. 2 (AS OF 14 MAR 2016)
- ¹⁶ NDMA - NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE, MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (NERMAP) JANUARY 2016 – MARCH 2022
- ¹⁷ EL NIÑO: UNDERMINING RESILIENCE: IMPLICATIONS OF EL NIÑO IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FROM A FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PERSPECTIVE - WFP FEBRUARY 2016
- ¹⁸ EL NIÑO: UNDERMINING RESILIENCE: IMPLICATIONS OF EL NIÑO IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FROM A FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PERSPECTIVE - WFP FEBRUARY 2016
- ¹⁹ EMERGENCY APPEAL - MONGOLIA: EXTREME WINTER CONDITION - EMERGENCY APPEAL N° MDRMN005
- ²⁰ VIETNAM CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON DROUGHT AND SALTWATER INTRUSION REPORTING PERIOD: OCT 2015 - MAR 2016
- ²¹ FAO - El Niño: Preparedness and Response SITUATION REPORT – March 2016
- ²² TIMOR-LESTE: EL NIÑO IMPACT UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR'S OFFICE SITUATION REPORT NO. 1- AS OF 18 MARCH 2016
- ²³ NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) - [HTTP://WWW.PRH.NOAA.GOV/DATA/GUM/DGTGUM](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/data/gum/dgtgum)
- ²⁴ FIJI: SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE WINSTON - SITUATION REPORT NO. 19 (AS OF 23 MARCH 2016)
- ²⁵ NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) - [HTTP://WWW.PRH.NOAA.GOV/DATA/GUM/DGTGUM](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/data/gum/dgtgum)
- ²⁶ Food Security Cluster - PAPUA NEW GUINEA EL-NIÑO RESPONSE BULLETIN #1 FEBRUARY 2016
- ²⁷ OXFAM REPORT ON DROUGHT IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHOUTEN ISLANDS, EAST SEPIK PROVINCE, PNG 15 – 19 FEB 2016
- ²⁸ FAO - EL NIÑO: PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SITUATION REPORT – MARCH 2016)
- ³⁰ FEWSNET Guatemala Perspectiva de Seguridad Alimentaria - febrero a septiembre 2016
- ^{31,34,35} TBC as plan is being finalized
- ³² for immediate response (total \$1.6 billion) based on Government breakdown of emergency priority assistance required for first three months
- ³³ \$45m for immediate response (total \$80m for 15 months)
- ³⁶ Plan is over a 3 year period