



IN NUMBERS



5.6 million

People food insecure
(2017 Humanitarian
Requirements Document)



1.9 million

Households require emergency
livestock support in 2017



USD 42 million

Required for humanitarian
response in Ethiopia's
agriculture sector in 2017



USD 20 million

Needed by FAO to assist
1 million farming, agropastoral
and pastoral households in 2017

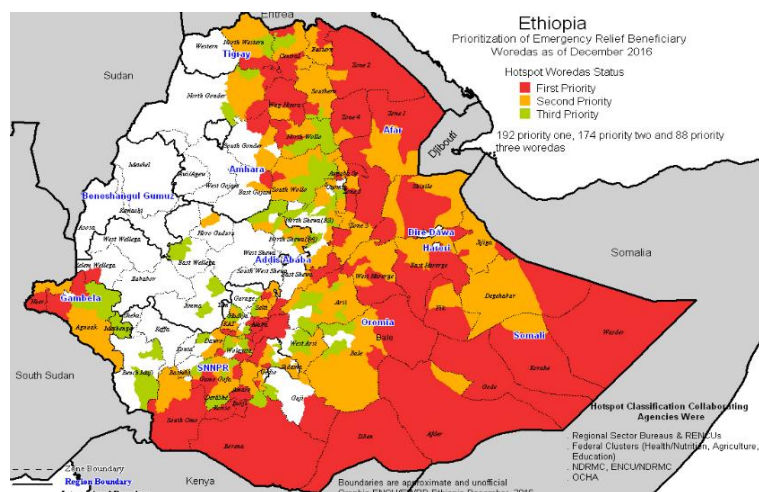
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Humanitarian needs in Ethiopia have halved** since last year owing to generally average crop production, wide-scale humanitarian coverage and proactive Government response in 2016.
- **Food insecurity levels remain alarming** despite improving national food availability. Since July, the number of priority hotspots has increased by 15 percent – largely owing to slow livelihoods recovery and emergence of new drought in southern and southeastern pastoral areas.
- **FAO requires USD 12.5 million to address needs of pastoralists affected by new drought in southern and southeastern Ethiopia.** The failure of a critical rainfall season across the Horn of Africa has caused critical shortages of pasture and water, resulting in extreme emaciation, disease outbreaks and the deaths of tens of thousands of livestock in affected areas of Ethiopia.

MAP

HOTSPOT CLASSIFICATION

(Source: Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners, December 2016)



Hotspot *woreda* classification has been derived using six multisector indicators, including agriculture and nutrition, agreed at zonal, regional and federal levels. A hotspot matrix is often used as a proxy for the Integrated Phase Food Security Classification (IPC).

BACKGROUND

El Niño-induced drought in 2015 caused humanitarian needs to soar in 2016; the failure of two consecutive rainfall seasons devastated the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists, with crop failure between 50 and 90 percent, hundreds of thousands of livestock dead owing to pasture and water shortages and very limited alternatives for income generation. At the start of 2016, more than 10.2 million people were in need of emergency food aid, 1.7 million households seed insecure and 2.4 million households in need of livestock support. By August, food insecurity decreased only slightly, to 9.7 million people. The *belg* season harvest was slightly below average in 2016, but nearly double the previous year's *belg* cereal output of a mere 760 000 tonnes. *Meher* season production is expected to be 20 percent higher than last year – an achievement that can partly be attributed to the largest emergency seed distribution in Ethiopia's history, led by FAO and other humanitarian actors in 2016. Despite humanitarian needs having nearly halved since last year, food insecurity – especially in areas worst-affected by the drought – remains high, with 5.6 million Ethiopians requiring food aid in 2017. From July to December, the total number of hotspot *woredas* increased by 15 percent – Priority 1 hotspot areas decreased only slightly, 217 *woredas* remained the same despite increasing national food availability and the status of 120 *woredas* has worsened – mainly in southern and southeastern pastoral areas where new drought is emerging. Alarming, 86 *woredas* have remained in Priority 1 since December 2015. In northern and eastern highland areas where crop production was poor and in newly drought-affected areas of Oromia, SNNP and Somali Regions, households are likely to continue facing high levels of food insecurity well into 2017.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The failure of the October–December rains – one of two main rainfall seasons in southern and southeastern Ethiopia, accounting for 35 percent of annual rainfall – has resulted in significant pasture and water deficits, severely affecting livestock-dependent households in Oromia, SNNP and Somali Regions. Influenced by the strongest negative Indian Ocean Dipole in 50 years, the drought is regional in scale and affecting neighbouring livestock-holding communities in Kenya and Somalia. A large influx of livestock from those areas to Oromia and Somali Regions has already been observed. Abnormal migrations, high livestock mortality rates, outbreaks of opportunistic diseases and extreme emaciation have been reported – thousands of livestock are unable to stand without assistance. Demands remain high for water trucking and pasture across affected communities, and hundreds of thousands of livestock require survival and supplementary feed. Since October, household terms of trade have fallen, disfavours livestock sellers who have had to increasingly sell their animals to afford basic commodities, exposing them to greater food and nutrition insecurity. Impacts will continue to be felt until the spring rains, expected in March or early April. In Gambella Region, increasing pressure on limited resources is straining the food security of refugees and their host communities. More than 322 000 South Sudanese refugees now live in the region, where livelihood options are extremely limited. In 2017, enabling households to produce their own food will be a humanitarian priority.

FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2016

- ✓ Provided crop and vegetable seed in the most nutritionally vulnerable districts, benefiting 168 000 households.
- ✓ Distributed survival and supplementary livestock feed to more than 10 000 households.
- ✓ Improving access to water for livestock through the rehabilitation of 18 water points, benefiting 125 480 livestock owned by 12 783 households.
- ✓ Supported fodder production through the provision of forage seed to 1 600 households.
- ✓ Destocked 4 381 livestock, enhancing the income of 3 214 livestock sellers and improving the nutritional intake of 4 354 displaced households.
- ✓ Treated and/or vaccinated nearly 1.4 million animals belonging to 77 118 households.
- ✓ Created and leads two emergency working groups (focusing on seed crops and livestock) to harmonize response to the crisis with Government, NGOs and resource partners.
- ✓ Established a Strategic Advisory Group with partners to provide technical advice to the chairs of the Disaster Risk Management Agriculture Task Force.

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES IN 2017

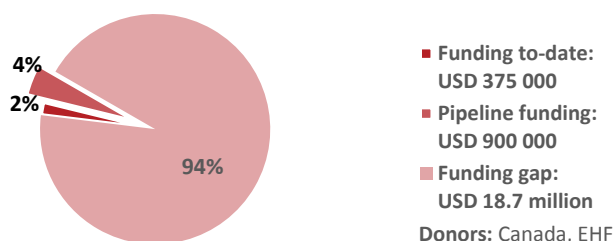
- Supplementary feed for core breeding stock
- Vaccination and treatment interventions
- Capacity building of community-based animal health workers
- Support fodder production and conservation
- Rehabilitation of water points
- Support animal destocking (commercial and slaughter)
- Agricultural inputs for the *belg* and *meher* seasons
- Pest and disease surveillance and control
- Promotion of climate-smart and conservation agriculture techniques
- Small-scale irrigation and water harvesting
- Community and school gardens
- Alternative livelihood support
- Animal health interventions
- Backyard gardens
- Energy-saving interventions
- Support to national- and regional-level coordination
- Food security, livelihood, seed, crop and livestock assessments



FUNDING

In 2016, FAO Ethiopia's El Niño drought response plan called for USD 50 million to reach 1.8 million people – despite FAO's appeal being just 28 percent funded, FAO succeeded in reaching 1.3 million drought-affected people last year. The main donors to FAO's response were Belgium, the European Union, FAO, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, OCHA, Spain, UNICEF and the United States of America.

In 2017, FAO is appealing for USD 20 million to assist 1 million households.



SEED SYSTEMS SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Preliminary findings of the Seed Systems Security Assessment indicate that about 8 in 10 households will have enough seed to plant their fields in 2017. It was also determined that the majority of farming households would have sufficient access to quality and preferred types of seed and planting materials. This is extremely positive given mass seed insecurity in 2016 as a result of the drought, likely partly a result of the largest humanitarian seed distribution in the country's history. The assessment also found that seed sources were largely diverse, with about two-thirds of *belg* seed and three-fourths of *meher* seed sourced from the informal market. Local traders further speculated a reduction in prices, which will increase seed accessibility for vulnerable households.

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