



World Food Programme



WFP El Niño 2015-2016 Preparedness and Response Situation Report #2

28 January 2016

In Numbers

10.2 million people in need of food assistance in Ethiopia.

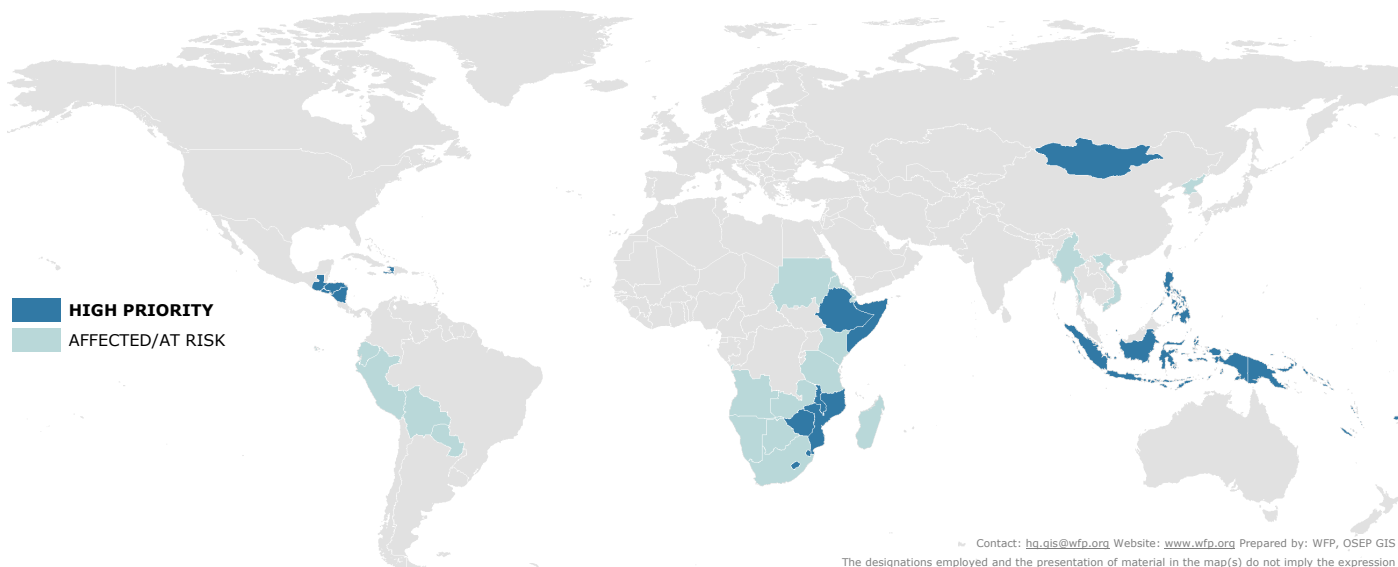
1.5 million potentially food insecure in Haiti by March 2016.

650,000 estimated food insecure in Lesotho.

Highlights

- As the impact of El Niño translates into increased food assistance needs across most areas of WFP's operations, WFP could be stretched operationally and financially during 2016.
- Urgent action is needed to enable WFP to sustain its food and nutrition assistance to affected populations and to help reduce their vulnerability to further shocks.
- The negative impact of El Niño on food security also highlights the necessity of increased investment in disaster-risk reduction, early warning, climate-change adaptation and resilience building.

WFP-FAO 2015-2016 El Niño Monitoring Countries



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Situation Update

- In **Eastern Africa**, Ethiopia is now facing a major emergency related to what could be the worst drought in 50 years. El Niño has caused drought in north-western Somalia, while also causing floods in the southern and central areas since October 2015.
- Widespread drought-induced crop failures have hit several countries in **Southern Africa**. Most of the region is still in the early stages of the 2015-2016 crop season. WFP is facing numerous funding challenges in all of the affected countries.
- In **Central America**, the Dry Corridor – a drought-prone area shared by Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua – suffered significant crop losses in both 2014 and again in 2015. Exacerbated by El Niño, the 2015 drought caused major losses for small producers during the Primera (first) season.
- Severe drought in **Haiti** has caused many farmers to lose a significant part of the harvest they depend on to feed their families. According to FEWS Net projections, the number of Haitians facing a crisis level of food insecurity could rise to 1.5 million by March 2016.
- A Food Security Monitoring Bulletin produced jointly by WFP and the Government of **Indonesia** found that almost one-third of all provinces and 70 percent of all rice fields were affected by drought which is forecast to continue through January 2016.
- In the **Philippines**, drought conditions are expected to remain a problem through the first three months of 2016.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, the Government estimates that more than 2.7 million people are affected by prolonged drought and severe frost (FAO).

WFP Preparedness and Response

Globally, WFP is working closely with host governments and partners to respond to, or to prepare for, the impacts of the current record-strong El Niño event.

Eastern Africa

Ethiopia



Ethiopia is dealing with what could be the worst drought in 50 years. Climatic shocks have greatly affected successive harvests. Under the current El Niño, crop production in Ethiopia has dropped by 50 to 90 percent in some regions and failed completely in the eastern part of the country.

According to recent assessments, access to pasture and water will continue to deteriorate until the start of the next rainy season in March. The lack of rainfall and subsequent drought have led to the inflation of food prices. Combined, these factors are causing major spikes in food insecurity, with soaring malnutrition rates.

The Ethiopian Government recently announced that 10.2 million people will need emergency food assistance in the first half of 2016 because of the ongoing drought. In December, the Government of Ethiopia launched the Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) for 2016, making an appeal for US\$1.4 billion, of which \$1.1 billion is required for emergency food assistance.

WFP, together with the Government, is tasked with assisting approximately 7.6 million people, but WFP currently only has three percent of the necessary funding required for the ongoing response.

WFP ETHIOPIA RESPONSE

Estimated number of food insecure	10.2m people
Planned WFP and Government response beneficiaries:	7.6m
WFP faces a funding gap for the next six months of:	US\$672m

Kenya



Flooding has caused localised population displacements, deaths, inaccessible roads and crop damage. The rainfall season is forecast to continue through January for the rest of the country. At present, the impact of El Niño in Kenya has not escalated to the same degree as the El Niño-induced floods of 1997.

The Government of Kenya took a lead in El Niño contingency planning through the National Disaster Operations Centre.

WFP is responding to 11,000 flood-affected households in Garissa and Tana River counties identified to be in need of emergency food assistance. WFP is also supporting five counties with additional logistics capacity.

WFP KENYA RESPONSE

Estimated potential WFP beneficiaries:	411,000
WFP funding shortfall for the next six months :	US\$19.7m

Somalia



In Somalia, El Niño conditions led to drought in Somaliland and heavy rains in other parts of the country.

In the southern and central parts of the country, rivers overflowed in December, forcing people to leave their homes.

WFP has provided emergency relief to more than 28,000 people affected by flooding in Middle Shabelle, Hiran and Lower Juba. WFP is using prepositioned logistical assets, including boats and helicopters, to assist people in areas where road access is compromised. WFP has provided 12,000 people in Beletweyne with emergency rations.

WFP SOMALIA RESPONSE

Existing WFP beneficiaries:	1.9m
Estimated additional WFP assisted relief beneficiaries:	260,000
WFP faces a funding gap for the next six months of:	US\$85m

Southern Africa

In Southern Africa, the early stages of the rainfall season have already been characterized by severe rainfall deficits. The region is experiencing widespread delays in the start of the season, especially in **South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe**. Seasonal forecasts for the next stages of the growing season remain very pessimistic, with massive and widespread crop losses across the region becoming the most likely scenario.

The focus is now on **Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho and Malawi** but other countries are also being affected. **Lesotho** declared a state of emergency for El Niño related drought in late December 2015. In **Madagascar**, nearly 1.9 million people are food insecure due to drought, with 450,000 facing severe food shortages.

- For more information, see the latest WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) [Seasonal Monitor covering Southern Africa](#), released on 22 January 2016.

Malawi



Following a year marked by the worst floods disaster in a half-century, and subsequent droughts, Malawi suffered a notably poor 2014/15 growing season resulting in its first maize deficit in a decade. The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) found that more than 2.83 million people in 25 of Malawi's 28 districts would experience food insecurity from October 2015 to March 2016.

In Malawi, the WFP response to increased food insecurity due to crop failures, and an intensified lean season is underway. Despite limited resources and a restricted pipeline, WFP reached 1.6 million people with life-saving food and cash assistance by the end of 2015.

WFP is currently scaling up the response, targeting 2.4 million people over the peak of the 2015/2016 lean season between January and March.

WFP's rollout of the innovative mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) monitoring system in Malawi has also allowed for real-time price and food security information to ensure the most appropriate response, as the lean season continues. The roll-out of mVAM began in November and was scaled up in December to collect real time price information in 15 targeted districts and household coping strategies in all 28 districts of the country.

WFP's response is ongoing, but immediate funds are needed for WFP to be able to meet the increased requirements through the current lean season.

- For more information, see the latest [WFP Malawi External Situation Report](#), dated 19 January 2016.

WFP MALAWI RESPONSE

Estimated number of food insecure people:	2.8m people
WFP beneficiaries:	2.4m
WFP faces a funding gap for the next six months of:	US\$59.3m

Zimbabwe



The full impact of El Niño continues to be experienced across the country, including delays of 20 to 30 days in the onset of rains in eastern parts of the country. Due to significant crop failures, Zimbabwe continues to face the largest national cereal deficit in the region.

Around 280,000 people received WFP lean season assistance in December. WFP, with government, plans to assist approximately 820,000 people in 38 districts through the peak of the lean season between January and March, and distributions are ongoing.

WFP has fast tracked the implementation of the Food Security Climate Resilience Facility, or *FoodSECuRE*, recently launched at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21), with Zimbabwe as one of the pilot countries.

Through enhanced efficiency measures, WFP has reduced the cost of delivering assistance, bringing down the total cost of its lean season response. Confirmed contributions to the lean season response will cover the needs of some 430,000 food insecure people through March 2016, but WFP still requires US\$19.3 million to meet the remaining food and nutritional needs of some 390,000 drought affected people in 22 districts.

- For more information, see the latest [WFP Zimbabwe External Situation Report](#), dated 10 January 2016.

WFP ZIMBABWE RESPONSE

Estimated number of food insecure:	1.5m people
WFP lean season response beneficiaries:	820,000
WFP faces an overall funding gap for the next six months of:	USD 58m

Central America and the Caribbean



In 2015, the first growing season (Primera) in Central America (April to August) was affected by a delayed start and severe rainfall deficits throughout its duration. This resulted in very poor overall performance, with expected crop production impacts in **Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua** (possibly a drop of over 20 percent below the 5 year average). Haiti endured an even worse seasonal development. In Central America, the second growing season (Postrera) is ending. Although it developed under a strong El Niño, it was a more favourable season than the Primera season. WFP is responding to significant crop failures in the previous growing season through both food and cash distributions.

Asia and the Pacific

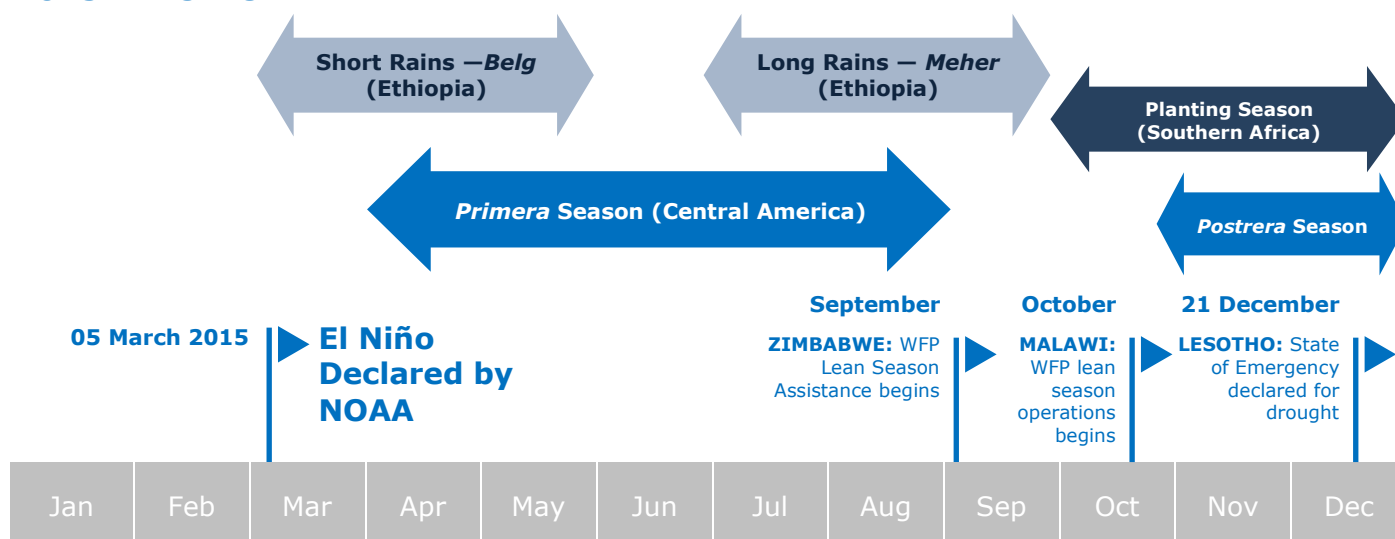


In Asia and the Pacific, the current El Niño event has generally led to drier than average conditions, with localized impacts on crop production and food security. In Southern Asia, an unfavourable monsoon season in India and most of South-East Asia means drier than average conditions through January 2016. Improvements in the seasonal rainfall deficits are very unlikely.

Papua New Guinea is facing its worst ever drought, accompanied by widespread night frosts in the highlands due to the reduced rainfall typical of El Niño conditions. WFP is monitoring the situation in cooperation with the Government, working to assess the food security impacts of the current drought.

For the **Philippines**, much drier than average conditions are still forecast to remain throughout the first quarter of 2016. WFP, together with FAO, are continuing to closely monitor the food security situation due to the delayed rainy season and a likely extended lean season.

2015 Timeline:



WHAT IS WFP DOING GLOBALLY TO RESPOND TO EL NIÑO?

DEFENSIVE PROCUREMENT. WFP has put in place a process of making procurement decisions taking into account which markets might be affected by production shortfalls and which countries might face higher requirements for assistance because of El Niño.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION TO AT-RISK COUNTRIES. At the same time, WFP has used its El Niño analysis to allocate resources to countries where there is a high risk of El Niño impacts. This way, those countries will be better resourced and better able to respond if a climate shock does occur.

GLOBAL PREPAREDNESS PROCESS AND TASKFORCE. WFP has put in place a global preparedness process, supporting high-risk countries to develop robust preparedness plans.

FAST-TRACK IMPLEMENTATION OF FOODSECURE. Finally, WFP has fast-tracked the implementation of the Food Security Climate Resilience Facility (FoodSECuRE) that WFP recently launched at COP21. FoodSECuRE uses climate forecasts to trigger funding for community-level action to help communities anticipate climate shocks. In Zimbabwe and Guatemala, funds have been released to help farmers switch to drought tolerant seeds, aid irrigation and soil conservation structures, and maximise their harvests despite the potential for poor rains.

WHAT IS STILL NEEDED?

In addition to these important actions, humanitarian response systems need to have the capacity to respond flexibly to changing conditions informed by weather and climate forecasts. This means:

INCREASED INVESTMENT IN RESILIENCE BUILDING. WFP is working to reduce the risks that communities face and improve their capacity to deal with these risks. WFP and its partners implement many programmes aimed at building different capacities to minimize exposure to drought-related shocks such as investment in water management and irrigation infrastructure through food-for-assets programmes, enhancing food storage and preservation and tools to diversify food and income sources outside agriculture.

SIGNIFICANTLY SCALE UP PREDICTABLE FINANCE FOR CLIMATE SHOCKS. This includes developing more predictable financing mechanisms for responding to climate disasters. Efforts like the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) are excellent examples of this kind of tool. ARC is an African Union sovereign-level risk pool that provides drought insurance to its member states. At the household level, this kind of predictability may be even more important to help food insecure people build resilient livelihoods.

Contacts

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Background - What is the El Niño phenomenon?

During El Niño events, sea temperatures at the surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean become substantially higher than normal. In contrast, during La Niña events, the sea surface temperatures in these regions become lower than normal. These temperature changes are strongly linked to major climate fluctuations around the globe and, once initiated, such events can last for 12 months or more. The strong El Niño event of 1997-1998 was followed by a prolonged La Niña phase that extended from mid-1998 to early 2001. El Niño/La Niña events change the likelihood of particular climate patterns around the globe, but the outcomes of each event are never exactly the same. Furthermore, while there is generally a relationship between the global impacts of an El Niño/La Niña event and its intensity, there is always potential for an event to generate serious impacts in some regions irrespective of its intensity. The current El Niño, which began in early 2015, is one of the strongest on record and is now affecting the food security of a vast number of vulnerable people.