



Workers load bags of maize from a WFP warehouse into a truck in Ethiopia's Somali region.

Photo: © WFP/Olivier Flament



World Food Programme



ONE FUTURE
#ZEROHUNGER



WFP El Niño 2015-2016 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Situation Report #3, 04 March 2016

IN NUMBERS

2.8 MILLION people in need of food assistance in **Zimbabwe**.

3.6 MILLION food insecure in **Haiti**.

44 PERCENT decline in food and cash income for poor households in **Lesotho**.

30 PERCENT of the population food insecure in **Swaziland**.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Although the current El Niño is now slowly easing, the humanitarian impacts will continue to be felt for several months ahead, and in many areas, well into 2017.
- The impact of El Niño is leading to increased food assistance needs across most areas of WFP's operations, especially in Ethiopia, southern Africa, Central America, the Caribbean, and south-east Asia.
- 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.

SITUATION UPDATE

- WFP is rapidly scaling up its relief operations to assist the most vulnerable, in the face of the intense El Niño which has brought devastating drought to **southern Africa**. Dry conditions remain concentrated over southern Zambia, central and western Mozambique, southern Malawi, and large portions of Zimbabwe.
- The number of food insecure people in **Zimbabwe** has almost doubled in less than a year, and WFP is extending its Lean Season Assistance in **Malawi** due to the drought-delayed harvests.
- **Ethiopia** is facing a major emergency related to what could be the worst drought in 50 years. Humanitarian needs have tripled since early 2015, as severe drought in some regions, has caused successive harvest failures and widespread livestock deaths. The window for timely action is closing, and WFP urgently needs additional contributions to prevent a food pipeline break in May and June.
- According to FEWS NET, the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in **Central America** and **the Caribbean** is expected to increase until August 2016.
- In **Haiti**, 3.6 million people currently face food insecurity. Of these, 1.5 million are severely food insecure, double the figure of six months ago.

WFP-FAO 2015-2016 EL NIÑO MONITORING COUNTRIES

Monitoring Country list compiled jointly by WFP and FAO.



HIGH PRIORITY

MONITORING



WFP 2015-2016 EL NIÑO RESPONSE OPERATION

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory, city or sea, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. © World Food Programme

WFP 2015-2016 EL NIÑO RESPONSE OPERATIONS:

BENEFICIARIES			BENEFICIARIES			BENEFICIARIES		
		WFP FUNDING GAP FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS			WFP FUNDING GAP FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS			WFP FUNDING GAP FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS
ETHIOPIA	7.6 MILLION (WFP/GOVERNMENT RESPONSE)	US\$623 MILLION	MALAWI	2.5 MILLION	US\$38 MILLION	CENTRAL AMERICA	1.9 MILLION	US\$34 MILLION
SOMALIA	260,000 (EST. AFFECTED)	US\$100 MILLION	ZIMBABWE	850,000 (LEAN SEASON ASSISTANCE)	US\$39 MILLION	HAITI	150,000 (DROUGHT RESPONSE)	US\$52 MILLION
KENYA	400,000 (EST. AFFECTED)	US\$28 MILLION	MADAGASCAR	140,000 (DROUGHT AFFECTED)	US\$2 MILLION	PARAGUAY	33,000	3-MONTH IMMEDIATE RESPONSE OPERATION BUDGET: US\$1.5 MILLION
SUDAN	400,000 (LEAN SEASON ASSISTANCE)	US\$23 MILLION	LESOTHO	20,000	3-MONTH IMMEDIATE RESPONSE OPERATION BUDGET: US\$1 MILLION			

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.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Intense El Niño-related conditions, coupled with multi-year drought, have exacerbated an already deteriorating food and nutrition security situation in many parts of Southern Africa. El Niño continues to severely affect the region, suffering the driest cropping season in 35 years. The latest data shows that the number of people facing hunger is increasing due to last year's bad harvest, and forecasts predict another poor harvest in April. WFP and partners are closely monitoring the effects of El Niño on the region, and rapidly scaling up relief operations to assist the most vulnerable. WFP estimates that as many as 50 million people are exposed to the impacts. Crop production forecasts indicate the number of those already affected by food insecurity will increase over coming months and in some areas well into 2017.

For more information:

Read the

[WFP Southern Africa El Niño Situation Report #1](#)

Released 05 February 2016



Read the WFP report

[El Niño: Undermining Resilience - Implications of El Niño in Southern Africa from a Food and Nutrition Security Perspective](#)

Released 29 February 2016



reported that annual harvests will be delayed by El Niño-related drought.

The rollout of the innovative mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) monitoring system allows WFP to collect real-time information on food prices and on measures that people are taking to cope with the situation. The roll-out of mVAM began in November and was scaled up in December.

"New contributions are urgently needed to ensure people get the assistance they need to make it through this period."

- WFP Malawi Country Representative Coco Ushiyama

Faced with increased needs, WFP – which is funded entirely by voluntary contributions – urgently requires US\$38 million to help the most vulnerable during this extended lean season. Without additional contributions, cash distributions will be suspended in March, while food distributions will be drastically reduced or even discontinued by mid-April.

For more information on mVAM in Malawi, see the

[WFP Malawi mVAM Report #3](#)

Released 25 February 2016



MALAWI

Following a year of the worst floods in 50 years and subsequent droughts, Malawi suffered a notably poor 2014/15 growing season resulting in its first maize deficit in ten years. According to FEWS NET, the delay of the 2015/2016 rainy season will likely extend the lean season due to continued high prices and a late harvest.

WFP RESPONSE IN MALAWI

WFP has scaled up its response, targeting 2.4 million people over the peak of the 2015/2016 lean season between January and March. WFP has extended its relief operation in Malawi by an additional month, through April, after the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC)

2.8
MILLION
Food insecure in
Zimbabwe
(as of February 2016)

ZIMBABWE

The number of food insecure people in Zimbabwe has almost doubled in less than a year. The final results of a WFP-supported Rapid Assessment conducted by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) estimates that at least 1 in 3 people in rural areas will be food insecure by March 2016, representing more than 2.8 million people. The assessment updates the ZimVAC assessment results from May 2015, which estimated the food insecure population to be 1.5 million. Global Acute Malnutrition levels are close to 7 percent, the highest level recorded in 15 years.

On 04 February, President Mugabe declared a state of disaster in most rural areas severely hit by the ongoing El Niño-related drought. The Government on 09 February issued an appeal for US\$1.5 billion for February to December 2016 to implement a response.

WFP RESPONSE IN ZIMBABWE

Funds permitting, WFP will scale up from its initial planned assistance to some 820,000 food-insecure people through March. WFP is preparing a response plan to reflect the additional needs identified by the rapid assessment. Total contributions to WFPs lean season response is currently US\$40.5 million, leaving a funding gap of US\$6.1 million. Some 200,000 people continue to be at risk of starvation if additional funds towards the response are not received.

Under the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Disaster Risk Management Task Force sub-committee, WFP continues to lead efforts to develop inter-agency contingency plans for El Niño.

For more information, see the
WFP Zimbabwe Situation Report #4
Released 10 February 2016



LESOTHO

The preliminary findings of a recent multi-stakeholder Rapid Drought Impact Assessment confirm that Lesotho is facing a serious food security crisis due to the ongoing El Niño-exacerbated drought. The assessment found that more than 530,000 people, more than a quarter of the total population, are at risk of food insecurity until June 2016, with poor and very poor households experiencing a 44 percent decline in their food and cash income compared to normal conditions.

WFP PREPAREDNESS IN LESOTHO

WFP has been providing technical assistance to the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) for a Rapid Drought Assessment that was completed in January, and is closely monitoring the situation and the developing humanitarian needs. WFP in February started a 3-month immediate response emergency operation in Lesotho, targeting some 20,000 drought affected people.

SWAZILAND

El Niño conditions have led to extensive crop losses and cattle deaths in southern and eastern parts of the country. On 18 February, a state of emergency was declared by the Prime. The statement noted that 300,000 people are in a state of food and water vulnerability, approximately a quarter of the population. With the declaration, the 2016-2017 National Drought Mitigation and Adaptation Plan was also officially launched, estimating that 300,000-350,000 people will need assistance, almost a third of the total population.

WFP PREPAREDNESS IN SWAZILAND

WFP has provided inputs to the National Drought Mitigation and Adaption Plan, and has supported the Government with technical assistance and response planning. WFP continues to monitor the situation, and is stepping up in-country preparedness measures.



Photo: © WFP/Alberto Coriera Mendes

Hawane Dam, the major water source in northeast Swaziland, is currently at 9 percent capacity due to the intense drought.

EASTERN AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is in the grip of its worst drought in recent history, and humanitarian needs have tripled since early 2015. Severe drought in some regions, exacerbated by the strongest El Niño event in decades, has caused successive harvest failures and widespread livestock deaths. As no improvement in household food availability and access is expected in central and eastern Ethiopia this consumption year, poor households in affected areas in southern Afar and Sitti Zone in Somali Region, and in the agricultural lowlands of East and West Hararghe Zones in Oromia are expected to remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity through at least March. Peak assistance needs are expected between July and September 2016.

Over the course of 2016, WFP and UNICEF predict that 2.2 million children under 5 years, pregnant women and nursing mothers will need to be treated for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) – more than double the number in 2015. Of the US\$1.4 billion required for humanitarian interventions in 2016, 48 percent was funded as of mid-February.

WFP RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WFP is responding to the crisis through three interventions: food and cash assistance, treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, and predictable food transfers through the seasonal Productive Safety Net Programme.

In the area of food and cash assistance, WFP is supporting the government in meeting the needs of 7.6 million people in 2016. As of mid-February, WFP has received only 26 percent of the necessary funds to reach all 7.6 million people during the first six months of the year. Contributions are urgently needed now to avoid food distributions coming to a halt at the end of April, which would cause a sharp spike in malnutrition rates.

"We have an opportunity to provide help but we do not have the resources."

- WFP's Executive Director Ertharin Cousin on the situation in Ethiopia

The current funding available for food assistance will be exhausted by 01 May. Given the 120 days procurement and transportation lead time required, the funding gap should ideally have been covered by the end of February. The window for timely and cost-effective action is closing rapidly.

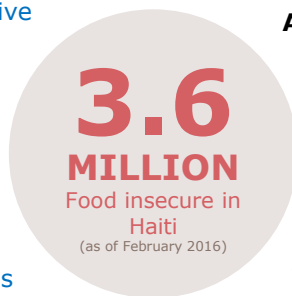
SOMALIA

A joint countrywide seasonal assessment by FAO and FEWS NET indicate that 931,000 people will be in Crisis levels of food insecurity and 22,000 more people in Emergency levels of food security across Somalia through June 2016, as a result of poor rainfall and drought conditions in several areas, trade disruption, and a combination of protracted and new population displacement.

On 08 February, the Somaliland Authorities issued an urgent appeal for humanitarian assistance for an estimated 480,000 people in drought-affected areas. The new estimate doubles the previously reported figure of 240,000.

WFP RESPONSE IN SOMALIA

WFP has been providing relief assistance to 63,000 people in drought-affected regions in Somaliland through a combination of in-kind and cash-based transfers. The drought relief assistance will continue through March 2016.



CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

According to FEWS NET, the number of people in Crisis levels of food insecurity in Central America and the Caribbean is expected to increase until the beginning of the Primera harvests in August 2016, particularly in southern Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and north-western Nicaragua.

WFP is responding to significant crop failures in Central America during the previous growing season through both food and cash based transfers. Drought alerts for a period lasting until March have been issued by the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) for several countries including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, northern Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, northern Suriname, Grenada and Haiti.



Photo: © WFP/Olivier Flament

Commodities are loaded in WFP warehouse in Cap Haïtien, Haiti ahead of food distributions.

HAITI

The food security situation in Haiti has deteriorated drastically, and the number of food insecure people has doubled in the last six months as a result of a third consecutive year of drought. According to results of a recent Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted by WFP and the National Food Security Coordination office (CNSA), 3.6 million people are currently food insecure (one third of the population), with 1.5 million of these severely food insecure.

WFP RESPONSE IN HAITI

In coordination with the Government, WFP has already been distributing food to about 120,000 Haitians since November 2015 in areas worst affected by the drought. WFP also implemented Cash for Assets projects for 30,000 Haitians in the worst affected areas. In response to the new data and the deteriorating food security situation, WFP is preparing to scale up operations in Haiti in the months ahead. WFP is currently working with the Government, other UN agencies and NGOs to ensure a consistent and coordinated response. WFP's intervention would target approximately one million people at an estimated cost of US\$80 million.

700,000

In need of food assistance in
Papua New Guinea
(OCHA, as of February 2016)

For more information:

Read the
[**WFP/Government of Haiti Emergency Food Security Assessment Report**](#)
Released 17 February 2016



Read the WFP report
[**Drought in Haiti: The impact on food security and WFP's response scenario**](#)
Released 17 February 2016



PARAGUAY

El Niño-induced flooding in Paraguay has affected seven out of the country's 17 Departments, causing the displacement of some 130,000 people. As of 11 January, floods have caused extensive losses and destroyed the main food and income sources of approximately 166,000 people.

WFP RESPONSE IN PARAGUAY

WFP is responding to the ongoing floods, and 1,274 families have so far received WFP assistance in 13 shelters. WFP is planning to reach more than 33,000 people through April. WFP is currently evaluating options for an expanded presence in the country.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

El Niño-induced drought has hit much of the region, with Indonesia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea being of particular concern. Many Pacific Island nations have also been affected; on 02 February, the President of the Marshall Islands, Hilda Heine, declared a state of emergency in response to ongoing El Niño-related drought.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Much of Papua New Guinea is facing a severe drought due to El Niño, and WFP is concerned about the impacts on remote, mainly rural communities.

WFP PREPAREDNESS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WFP has a team on the ground assisting the Government by gathering data to better understand the scale of the drought and food needs in the worst-hit areas. The team also supports the Government and others, in particular the private sector, in food transport and distribution. Deployment of the mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) monitoring system has allowed WFP to collect real-time information from more than 2,500 people in drought-affected areas to learn about the situation of their family and community.



Photo: © WFP/Olivier Flament

WHAT IS WFP DOING GLOBALLY TO RESPOND TO EL NIÑO?



SCALING UP OPERATIONS. WFP is working to rapidly scale up its responses in the worst hit areas, targeting the most vulnerable. The success of these efforts depends on continued donor support.



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



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.



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.



FAST-TRACK IMPLEMENTATION OF FoodSECURE. WFP has fast-tracked the implementation of the Food Security Climate Resilience Facility (FoodSECuRE) that WFP launched at COP21. FoodSECuRE uses climate forecasts to trigger funding for community-level action to help communities anticipate climate shocks.

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 SCALED UP AND PREDICTABLE FINANCE FOR CLIMATE SHOCKS.

This includes developing more predictable financing mechanisms for responding to climate disasters. At the household level, this kind of predictability may be even more important to help food insecure people build resilient livelihoods.



Photo: © WFP/Olivier Flament



CONTACTS:

Frances Kennedy, Communications Officer: frances.kennedy@wfp.org

WFP Operations Centre: wfp.opscen@wfp.org

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.