



# El Niño Resourcing Update

## September 2016





# El Niño 2015 –2016 Response

The effects of the 2015–2016 El Niño event, one of the strongest on record, continue to severely impact the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, Asia and the Pacific, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean regions. Humanitarian needs are expected to persist into 2017 across all these regions.

In addition, La Niña, the weather phenomenon which is generally associated with above average rainfall, may occur by December 2016. Recent predictions indicate borderline to neutral La Niña conditions. Although La Niña could help reduce water shortages, it could also inundate flood-prone areas, forcing displacement and driving up humanitarian needs.

WFP has net funding requirements of USD 944 million for the El Niño response in the countries included in this update which have been identified as high priority by WFP and FAO. In Papua New Guinea, WFP intends to complete all distributions by the end of September or early October, and therefore seeks no additional funds.

## **Southern Africa Drought Response**

On 26 July 2016, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) declared a regional emergency in response to the El Niño-induced droughts that have left 40 million people food insecure across Southern Africa, 18 million of whom require immediate emergency food assistance.

WFP classified the drought response in Southern Africa as a L3 level emergency in June 2016. Across the entire region, WFP is ramping up its appeal to assist the affected population, aiming to reach 13.2 million people through various assistance programmes by the peak of the lean season — in January 2017.

In late July, WFP's Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin, travelled to Malawi to discuss deepening food insecurity and malnutrition with the government and affected communities. The Government of Malawi has stated that the drought in Malawi will result in almost 40 percent of the population requiring emergency

assistance. WFP continues to conduct mVAM assessments in Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, in order to monitor and direct assistance appropriately and effectively.

As of 5th August the net funding requirement through April 2017 was USD 525 million. However, since then, WFP has received about USD 113 million in contributions.

## **Horn of Africa Drought**

Ethiopia and Somalia have been severely affected by El Niño-induced climatic changes. In Ethiopia, an estimated 9.7 million people still require food and non-food assistance for the remainder of 2016. Whilst in Somalia, 4.7 million people are food insecure. If La Niña occurs, conditions may negatively impact the October to December Deyr rains, further increasing food insecurity across the region.

## **Latin America and the Caribbean Drought**

The latest Urban Food Security Assessment, released in August, indicates 30 percent of urban households are food insecure. In rural areas, this figure is expected to be higher. The prolonged drought, worsened by El Niño, and ongoing political tensions, have increased prices of food and other goods, resulting in most households being reduced to negative coping strategies in order to obtain food.

In the Central American Dry Corridor, above-normal rainfall from June to August, associated with La Niña, could benefit the seeds being planted in drought conditions. However, excessive rainfall, coupled with a more active Atlantic hurricane season in the region, could have serious consequences for the agriculture sector.

## Southern Africa

### Lesotho

According to the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) results, 709,000 people are affected by drought across the country and are in need of food assistance. Since March 2016, WFP has provided CBT to over 20,000 people in Mafteng and Mophale's Hoek districts. WFP requires USD 27 million to assist 263,225 people until December 2017. Only a quarter of these funds have been mobilized so far, limiting WFP's capacity to provide timely assistance, particularly during the lean season (extending into March 2017). Without assistance, the vulnerable will be forced to engage in negative coping mechanisms to survive. Furthermore, the already high HIV/AIDS prevalence rate (the 2nd highest in the world at 25 percent of the population), may worsen.

CP 200369: currently only able to implement nutrition and Early Childhood Care and Development feeding programmes. In view of the food insecurity caused by the El Niño drought, WFP is intensifying its fundraising activities to continue contributing to the CP's long-term objectives.

PRRO 200980: the CBT transfer value has been revised to USD 35 per month based on the latest LVAC results and taking into account the government subsidy on food commodities.

### Madagascar

PRRO 200735: The southern regions of Madagascar are affected by recurrent droughts aggravated by the impacts of El Niño. In the seven most affected districts, 665,000 people are in severe food insecurity. The June global acute malnutrition screening in six districts reveals a decrease in the GAM rate since April 2016 with the exception of Tsihombe (where GAM is 13 percent).

Due to limited funding, not all severely food insecure people are assisted. WFP estimates that between 250,000-350,000 people per month will not receive life-saving food assistance if the funding gap is not met. Inadequate assistance to people in need leads to migration to other areas where they collect wild foods. People living in rural areas migrate to cities to find small jobs or small-scale income-generating activities so they can buy food. Communities also adopt coping mechanisms such as the sale of assets (including productive assets) which make them even more exposed to future shocks.

DEV 200733: In drought areas in the south, the School Feeding Programme acts as a safety net for communities. WFP, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, provides daily hot meals for 300,000 primary school children in 11 priority districts. An additional USD 4.6 million is required for 150,000 children for the 2016/2017 school year. In a region where the educational system is already weak, any reduction of the programme will increase absence and dropout rates and lower school performance. A disruption of the programme also means a loss of revenues (in the form of rations) for the communities as well as increasing the burden on parents.

For nutrition, WFP needs USD 2.8 million for moderate acute malnutrition prevention and treatment for 68,000 people until March 2016. Inadequate assistance will result in increased malnutrition as well as diseases such as diarrhea.

In addition, nutritional support to tuberculosis (TB) patients is not funded at all. Reduced support may decrease adherence to treatment and consequently treatment success rates; this in turn will spread the disease and raise the mortality rate.

Country	Project	Total Beneficiaries	Net Funding Requirements* (USD millions)	% Net Funding Requirements
Lesotho	CP 200369	79,250	3.6	61
Lesotho	PRRO 200980	201,016	15.9	92
Madagascar	PRRO 200735	450,000	15.9	81
Madagascar	CP 200733	418,663	2.9	33

\*All EMOP/PRRO net funding requirements are for the period Aug 2016–April 2017.

## Southern Africa

### Malawi

PRRO 200692: Due to the lack of resources and limited confirmed funding, WFP was forced to reduce rations for July and August, providing half rations of cereals, pulses and Super Cereal. No funds have been secured for Super Cereal Plus and an in-kind consignment of vegetable oil has not yet arrived in country. Reduced rations are decreasing the daily calorie intake of the affected population at a time when they are already struggling to access food. Meanwhile, real-time monitoring through mVAM is finding that food security is worsening in most of southern Malawi, with 96 percent of households in the southern and central regions engaging in at least one negative coping strategy.

Given higher risks associated with cash-based transfers due to the food deficit, WFP is devising a voucher scheme that works alongside the private sector to ensure availability of maize for the affected population receiving cash-based transfers.

Confirmed contributions are needed immediately to scale up and sustain full food rations, to purchase additional food (much of which needs to be imported) and to enable prepositioning of some 70,000 mt of mixed commodities by November.

DEV 200287: Funding will soon be needed for the school meals and nutrition programmes which face pipeline challenges from January. With limited resources, school meals and nutrition support will be reduced, with the likely result of increased malnutrition among women and children, poor educational performance and increased dropouts as children are often pulled out of school to help earn household income. Currently, the number of monthly new admissions for moderate acute malnutrition among children and severe acute malnutrition for adults on anti-retroviral therapy (ART) are almost double the admissions during the same time last year.

### Mozambique

WFP supports the government drought response, aiming to reach 851,300 people by the next harvest season through conditional and unconditional household food distributions, emergency school feeding, and MAM treatment.

During the peak of the lean season, numbers of people in need of assistance are expected to increase from 1.5 to 2 million. The ongoing food security and nutrition assessment will incorporate the IPC methodology and results will be key in confirming projected needs and informing adjustments to WFP's operations.

From November to February 2017, 30-45 percent of households are expected to be in IPC Phase 3 or 4. As households will have no food reserve, and no or limited access to other sources of income, it is projected that 5 to 10 percent of households will be in IPC Phase 4.

Breaks in assistance will aggravate the situation, leading to an increase in the adoption of coping mechanisms typical of crisis such as selling of household goods, school drop-out, child labour, inadequate diet, and non-sustainable agricultural techniques.

CP 200286: focuses on improving basic nutrition, scaling up social protection and transitioning towards a home-grown school meals programme, with an emphasis on improving capacity at the national and local levels, as well as enhancing risk and vulnerability analysis.

PRRO 200355: allows the provision of food assistance to populations that become temporarily food-insecure as a result of recurrent seasonal shocks. A budget revision was approved on 5<sup>th</sup> September to incorporate emergency school feeding activities and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to children and pregnant and nursing mothers to the project throughout the El Nino response.

Country	Project	Total Beneficiaries	Net Funding Requirements* (USD millions)	% Net Funding Requirements
Malawi	PRRO 200692	5,930,119	235.5	82
Malawi	CP 200287	1,270,203	14.6	68
Mozambique	PRRO 200355	851,300	68.5	79
Mozambique	CP 200286	45,000	3.5	33

\*All EMOP/PRRO net funding requirements are for the period Aug 2016—April 2017.



## Southern Africa

### Swaziland

EMOP 200974: The impact of the El Niño phenomenon resulted in a major food crisis in Swaziland, one of the countries in the region hardest hit by two years of successive drought. Extremely low agricultural production, a rise in food prices and water shortage have contributed to an increasingly vulnerable situation, with food insecurity affecting over 30 percent of the Swazi population (some 350,000 people are in need of emergency food assistance, with 640,000 potentially affected by some degree of food insecurity at the peak of the lean season (Nov 2016/March 2017). In support of, and to complement Swaziland's national response, WFP has developed an Emergency Operation aiming to assist 150,000 drought affected people through food distributions and cash-based transfers.

To date WFP has secured USD 3.6 million for the EMOP, covering 28 percent of the total requirements. High forecasts from USAID (USD 2 million) and ECHO (USD 1.5 million) were pledged and allocated to the EMOP (advances financing have been submitted and received). Funding gaps remain: the current resources will only allow WFP to assist the affected population until November, at the peak of the lean season when the drought-affected people will be most in need. The total requirements to cover the needs of the most vulnerable people throughout the lean season (March 2017) amount to USD 6 million.

DEV 200353: HIV-affected people in Swaziland are hard hit by the El Niño-related drought. A comprehensive joint health and nutrition assessment revealed a deterioration in the health status of PLHIV, poor adherence to HIV and TB treatment, increased ART defaulters by 12 percent from 2014 to 2015. Food insecurity is leading to unsustainable coping strategies including increasing cases of HIV risk behaviours among adolescent girls (transactional sex as negative coping mechanism). The El Niño-induced drought has the potential to reverse development gains made. To mitigate the effects of the drought, WFP, under the Food by Prescription programme (DEV200353), assists 13,584 PLHIV and TB through nutrition

assessment, education, counselling, and targeted nutrition support services in 12 major hospitals and health centres throughout the country. The project has been extended until June 2017 increasing the operational funding requirements by USD 1.4 million from USD 9.2 million to USD10.7 million. Limited funding under DEV200353 in 2016, forced WFP to reduce rations and will strain support to PLHIV. The funding situation, as of now, covers 64 percent of 2016 requirements.

DEV 200422: Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Swaziland are particularly exposed to the negative effects of the El Niño-related drought. Under DEV200353, WFP aims to provide a social safety net (including two daily school meals) for 52,000 OVC under eight years of age who attend community-run/neighbourhood care points (NCPs). DEV200422, has run out of stock and is temporarily halted due to lack of resources (just 4 percent of 2016 needs are covered). Shortfalls in distributions for the project have negative effects on the functioning of the NCPs/OVC feeding and their access to essential services increasing their exposure to malnutrition and food insecurity. USD 2 million are urgently required to mitigate the effects of El- Niño on young OVC over the next six months.



Country	Project	Total Beneficiaries	Net Funding Requirements* (USD millions)	% Net Funding Requirements
Swaziland	EMOP 200974	150,000	8.0	72
Swaziland	DEV 200353	13,584	0.2	28
Swaziland	DEV 200422	52,000	2.7	97

\*All EMOP/PRRO net funding requirements are for the period Aug 2016—April 2017.

## Southern Africa

### Zambia

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) has committed to assist 975,000 people affected by food insecurity due to El Niño with 43,133 mt of maize (10,729 mt between August and December 2016, and 32,404 mt between January and April 2017).

To support the government's goals, WFP, in liaison with the GRZ's Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit (DMMU), has developed and submitted to international donors based in Lusaka, a proposal for USD 19.3 million which includes the following components:

- transport
- logistics management and capacity development (LMCD)
- local procurement and distribution
- emergency school feeding

The LMCD component, which is most suited to WFP's expertise, aims to strengthen GRZ's response coordination capacity at national, provincial, districts and sub district levels, through the development of an Information Management (IM) beneficiary registration tool to strengthen the



logistics capacity to better manage relief distributions (costed at USD 1.9m).

### Zimbabwe

The El Niño impact in Zimbabwe resulted in below normal, poor and erratic rains for the whole of the 2015/16 rainy season. The country has faced widespread crop failure, livestock death, and dwindling livelihood and income-earning options. According to ZimVAC's findings, currently there are 2.2 million food insecure people in Zimbabwe (up to the month of September). This number is expected to increase to 4.1 million during the peak of the lean season (January-March). Households that harvested some cereals have started exhausting their own production whilst those that failed to harvest are increasingly food insecure. Food security monitoring showed that even though maize grain prices have remained stable, areas in the Southern parts of the country continue to record the highest maize grain prices of USD 0.57 per kg - almost twice the national cereal average price.

In August, the Country Office plans to reach 344,874 people through its Lean Season Assistance (LSA), whilst an additional 94,990 people will be reached through the Productive Asset Creation Programme (PAC). Due to supply constraints, pulses will only be distributed in two of the 12 LSA districts in August. WFP Zimbabwe has failed to scale up its El Niño response to the planned 1.28 million people per month in the July-September quarter as a result of resource constraints. Funding challenges will affect WFP's plans to reach 1.98 million people per month from October to December. Available resources allow WFP to reach 887,000 people from October, leaving a gap of 1.1 million people uncovered. WFP Zimbabwe requires USD 85.2 million to implement its activities up to January 2017. Without these additional resources, the food insecure population could resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as selling of productive assets and reducing their daily food intake.

Country	Project	Total Beneficiaries	Net Funding Requirements* (USD millions)	% Net Funding Requirements
Zambia	CP 200891	975,000	6.5	87
Zimbabwe	PRRO 200944	2,314,000	143.7	82
Zimbabwe	DEV 200945	N/A	1.1	100
Zimbabwe	DEV 200946	N/A	1.1	100

\*All EMOP/PRRO net funding requirements are for the period Aug 2016—April 2017.



## Horn of Africa

### Ethiopia

While there has been an improvement in food consumption in some locations, the July Emergency Household Food Security Monitoring Bulletin, shows that 80 percent of affected households still cannot access their minimum daily food needs through their own means. The situation for the poorest 20 percent of the affected population has improved slightly since March 2016, but remains worryingly low. On average, this group can only meet 25 percent of their daily food requirements independently. Some 37 percent of non-targeted households report inadequate food consumption as access to food is still severely limited.

The Food Security Monitoring Bulletin shows that while food assistance and the Belg rain have improved food consumption somewhat, any significant decrease in the level of needs will only be realized after the Meher harvest in October/November.

The Government of Ethiopia and WFP have done a great deal to avert a major catastrophe in Ethiopia, but it is important that support continues to forestall a major spike in malnutrition during the second half of the year.

### Somalia

Due to the poor Gu rainfall, an increasing number of vulnerable households are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in southern, central, and northeastern regions through September. Seasonal forecasts of a La Niña event occurring throughout the Deyr season also suggest that October to December rainfall will be below average leading to below-average Deyr production and failing to adequately restore pasture and water resources. Food security is expected to further deteriorate from October to January.

WFP is facing challenges, including major pipeline breaks in October, and urgently needs funding to continue its activities. Due to resource constraints, WFP has already significantly scaled back activities, prioritizing the provision of emergency relief assistance to drought-affected and IDPs as well as TSF programmes for children under five and PLW.

This means that WFP has greatly reduced programming for seasonal safety net programmes including prevention of malnutrition through seasonal blanket supplementary feeding, school meals and livelihood activities – all of which are important for building resilience among vulnerable populations. This could lead to a significant increase in the number of people classified in IPC Phases 2, 3 and 4 (Stressed, Crisis and Emergency), and subsequently, WFP would need additional funding to meet the increased needs.

### Sudan

In 2016, WFP Sudan is responding to the El Niño weather pattern. Following the disbursement of funds towards this response in June 2016, WFP began to reach 385,800 beneficiaries in seven locations (Kassala, Central Darfur; East Darfur; North Darfur; Red Sea; South Darfur and West Kordofan) from July – November 2016. In July 2016, WFP reached 154,247 beneficiaries with a total of 1,381 mt of food assistance. Currently, WFP requires an additional USD 565,000 to provide assistance to the remaining El Niño affected people until November 2016. However, WFP is able to cover the shortfall through existing funds in order to provide rations for all targeted beneficiaries until the end of November.



Country	Project	Total Beneficiaries	Net Funding Requirements* (USD millions)	% Net Funding Requirements
Ethiopia	PRRO 200712	7,600,000	235	89
Somalia	PRRO 200844	415,000	82.3	71
Sudan	PRRO 200808	98 000	70.6	50

\*All EMOP/PRRO net funding requirements are for the period Sept 2016–Feb 2017.

## Latin America and Caribbean

### Central America Regional

WFP has been closely monitoring the situation in Central America with its Country Offices and partners. Even though rains have improved in general, in many parts of the Dry Corridor, rains have been insufficient. August/September harvests are expected to be within the "normal" parameters at the national level, but crops in the Dry Corridor are expected to be below normal. There are initial reports of losses between 30-60 percent which is particularly worrying taking into account that for many, this is the third consecutive year of irregular rains and many of the affected households only have access to one harvest per year. The Regional Office, VAM Unit in coordination with El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala Country Offices will carry out Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSAs) in August and September. WFP has been responding to the drought by providing food assistance to some 550,000 severely food insecure people, through a combination of cash-based transfers and in-kind food.

### Haiti

In the midst of the current political instability and with the approaching hurricane season, Haiti continues to experience one of the worst droughts in recent decades exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon that has caused several successive poor agricultural seasons. The drought has contributed to the worst food insecurity situation since data collection began in 2001 with one-third of Haiti's population food insecure. WFP launched an Emergency Operation in April using cash transfers through mobile phone technology to meet the immediate needs of 1 million drought affected persons.

Although the El Niño influence is waning, its impact will continue to be felt for months to come especially as people have adopted negative survival strategies such as selling their assets or even their homes or land. Therefore livelihood recovery, which WFP will implement through Cash for Assets, is critical to households' ability to move beyond depending on food assistance.



Country	Project	Total Beneficiaries	Net Funding Requirements* (USD millions)	% Net Funding Requirements
Central American Regional	PRRO 200490	550,000	18.2	92
Haiti	EMOP 200949	1,000,000	13.1	96

*\*All EMOP/PRRO net funding requirements are for the period Sept 2016–Feb 2017.*



## Acronyms

ART	anti-retroviral treatment
CBT	cash-based transfers
CP	Country Programme
DEV	development project
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EFSA	emergency food security assessments
EMOP	emergency operations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAM	Global acute malnutrition
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immune deficiency syndrome
IDPs	internally displaced person
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
LMCD	logistics management and capacity development
LSA	lean season assistance
LVAC	Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee
MAM	moderate acute malnutrition
NCP	neighbourhood care point
OVC	orphans and other vulnerable children
PAC	productive asset creation programme
PLHIV	people living with human immunodeficiency virus
PLW	pregnant and lactating women
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TB	Tuberculosis
TSF	targeted supplementary feeding
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAM	vulnerability analysis and mapping
WFP	World Food Programme

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## 2015–2016 WFP El Niño Donors (listed alphabetically)



### El Niño Global Requirements

- WFP's El Niño Response has net funding requirements of USD 944 million.

Of this, the Southern Africa region requires USD 525 million for the period August 2016 to April 2017; the Horn of Africa region requires USD 388 million for the next six months, and; the Latin America and Caribbean region requires USD 31.3 million for the next six months.