

Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners' Document

SYNOPSIS

Ethiopia: Humanitarian Overview 2016

Photo credit: Zelalem Letybelu



TOTAL POPULATION OF ETHIOPIA

92.3* M



PEOPLE TARGETED

10.1M



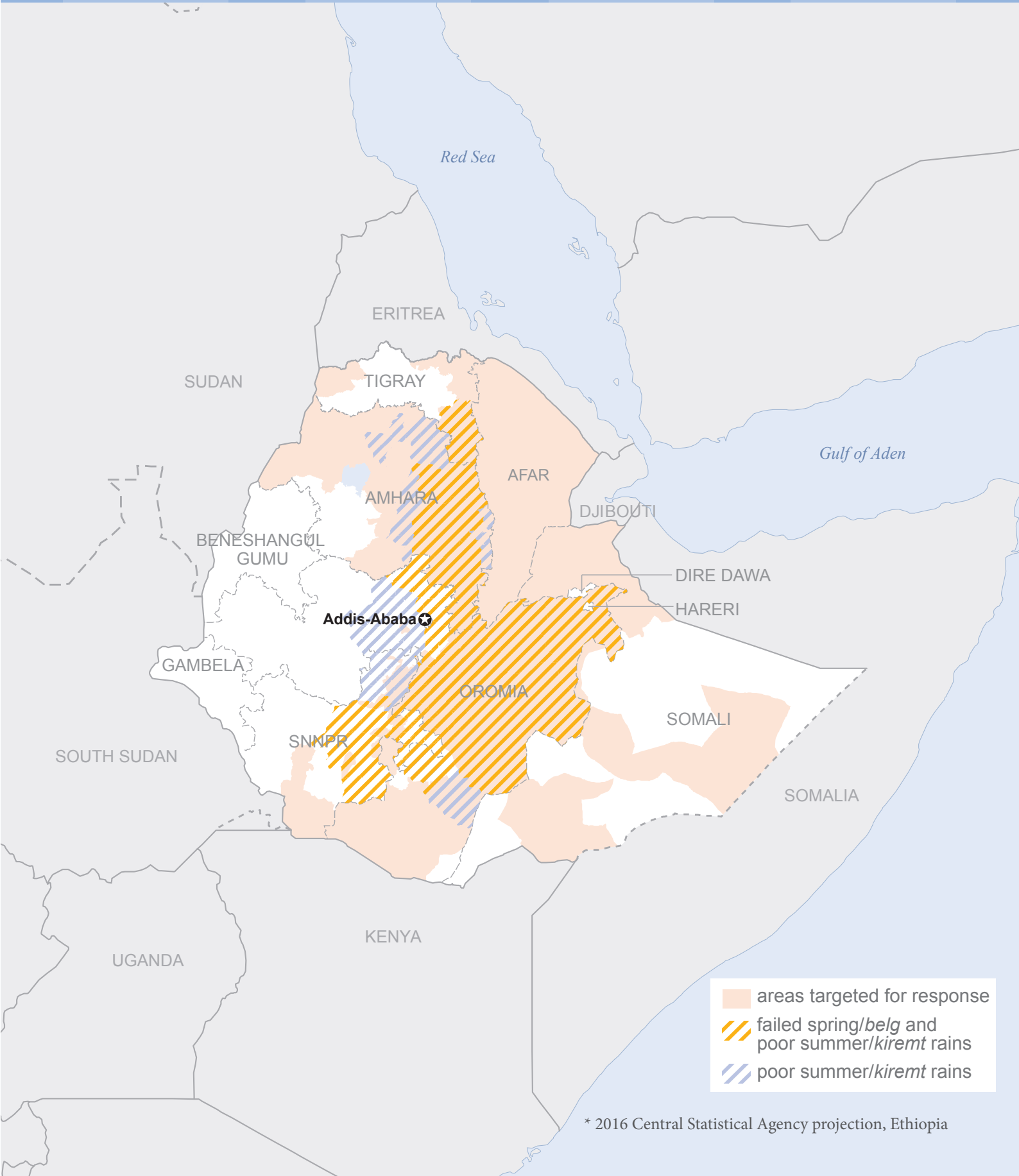
REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

1.4Billion



HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

66



* 2016 Central Statistical Agency projection, Ethiopia

INTRODUCTION

This document is presented jointly by the Government of Ethiopia and the Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team. It presents the key findings of the Government-led post-harvest assessment of autumn 2015. It includes the outline of the Government and UN Humanitarian Country Team response plan to address assessed and projected humanitarian needs in 2016.

The full Ethiopia Humanitarian Requirements Document will be launched in Addis Ababa on Wednesday 9 December 2015.

10.1 million Ethiopians will be assisted through this plan. The overall requirements come to US\$1.409 billion of which US\$1.1 billion is food assistance. The HRD will also support emergency nutrition, water, sanitation, health, education and agricultural needs. Already in 2015, the Government had allocated over US\$200 million of its own resources. For 2016, a further US\$97 million have been committed. Using these funds, the Government will ensure the provision of 516,000 Metric Tons of food for the first rounds of humanitarian assistance next year.

Government and donor pipeline pledges and carry-over as of 7 December mean that net food requirements are US\$945,141 million. This brings HRD net overall requirements to US\$1.250 billion.

The international community is called upon to stand with the people of Ethiopia at their time of need and help fund the HRD.

National Disaster Risk Management Coordination Commission and
the Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team

7 December 2015

THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

AT A GLANCE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1



Save lives and reduce morbidity related to drought

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2



Protect and restore livelihoods

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3



Prepare for and respond to other humanitarian shocks, including natural disasters, conflict and displacement

PEOPLE TARGETED (HRD)



10.1M

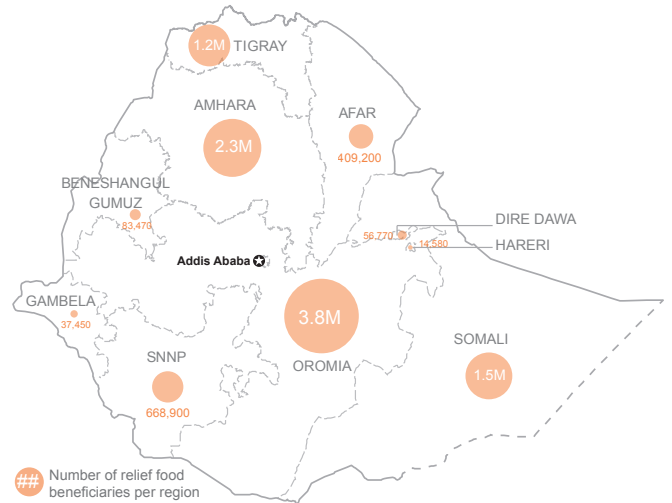
REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



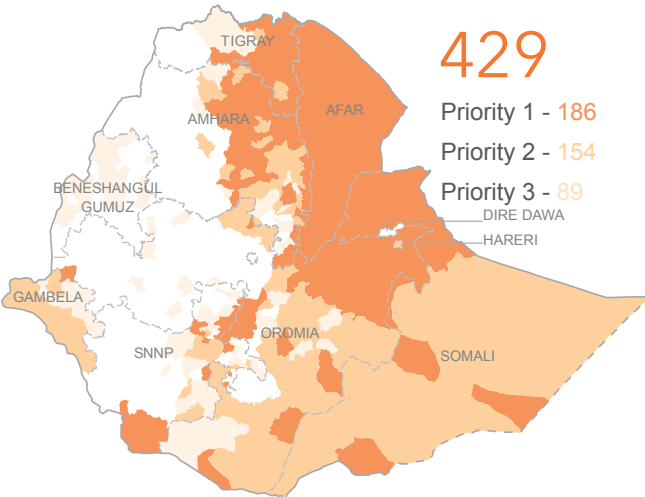
\$1.4 Billion

PEOPLE WHO NEED HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE

10.1M



HOTSPOT PRIORITY WOREDAS (AS OF DECEMBER 2015)



The *meher*/ post-summer assessment and 2016 projections indicate the following priority needs:

- 0.4M Severely Acute Malnourished
- 1.7M Moderately Acute Malnourished
- 2.0M Without safe drinking Water
- 0.8M Displaced due to shocks

SECTOR SUMMARIES

SECTOR	# PEOPLE TARGETED	REQUIREMENTS US\$
Food	10.1M*	1.1Billion*
Nutrition	2.1M	115.4M
Agriculture	2M (HH)	46.3M
WASH	5.8M	73.5M
Health	3.6M	33.6M
Education	1.3M	16.8M
Emergency shelter	0.8M	8.3M
Protection	2.5M	11.9M
TOTAL	10.1M	1.409Billion

Key Humanitarian Issues

- Lives are at risk due to a lack of food and water, and the risk of disease outbreaks;
- Livelihoods have been destroyed due to livestock death or poor health, or remain precarious due to limited access to seeds and other agricultural inputs for the coming year;
- Flooding and other drought or conflict-related displacement will lead to critical needs for food, shelter and non-food items.

* Government and donor carry-over and pipeline pledges to 2016 are US\$ 158M. Therefore, net food requirements are US\$945, 141M. This brings HRD net overall requirements to US\$1.250 Billion as of 7 December 2015.

OVERVIEW OF

THE CRISIS

Ethiopia is experiencing one of the worst droughts in decades. The two main rainy seasons – that supply over 80 per cent of Ethiopia’s agricultural yield and employ 85 per cent of the workforce – were not successful in 2015.

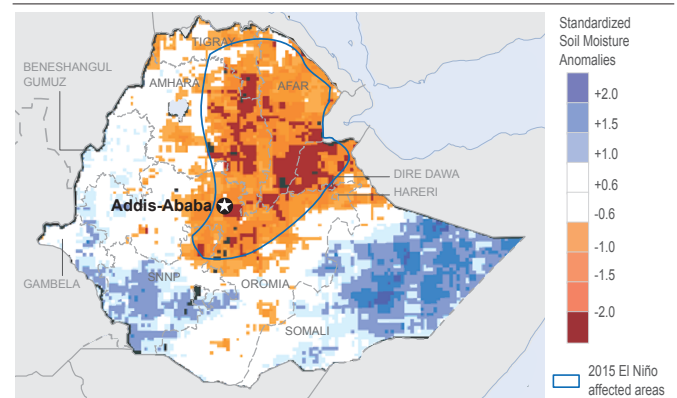
In June, the Government declared the failure of the spring *belg* rains. This affected smallholder farmers and pastoralists in the north eastern rangelands of Afar and the northern Somali regions. A Government-led inter-agency assessment on the impact on agricultural yield and livestock concluded that 4.5 million people were in need of emergency food assistance in August. Subsequently, the summer rains were weak and erratic due to El Niño, which negatively affected *meher* dependent farmers and tipped pastoralists into severe food insecurity in late July. The Government led a pre-harvest, rapid inter-agency assessment in early October that concluded the number of people requiring emergency food assistance had increased to 8.2 million, following which an addendum to the 2015 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) was released.

The bulk of the needs presented in this HRD for 2016 were established through a subsequent robust, Government-led inter-agency *meher* assessment, which took place over three weeks in November. Close to 200 Government, UN, NGO and donor representatives visited affected communities across Ethiopia’s nine regions. The assessment teams met and interviewed local authorities, community leaders, and men and women affected by the crisis.

The *meher* assessment concluded that the expected harvest was far below expectations, with some regions experiencing between 50 to 90 per cent crop loss. The lack of rainfall and subsequent drought have caused a massive spike in humanitarian needs, which are expected to continue through much of 2016.

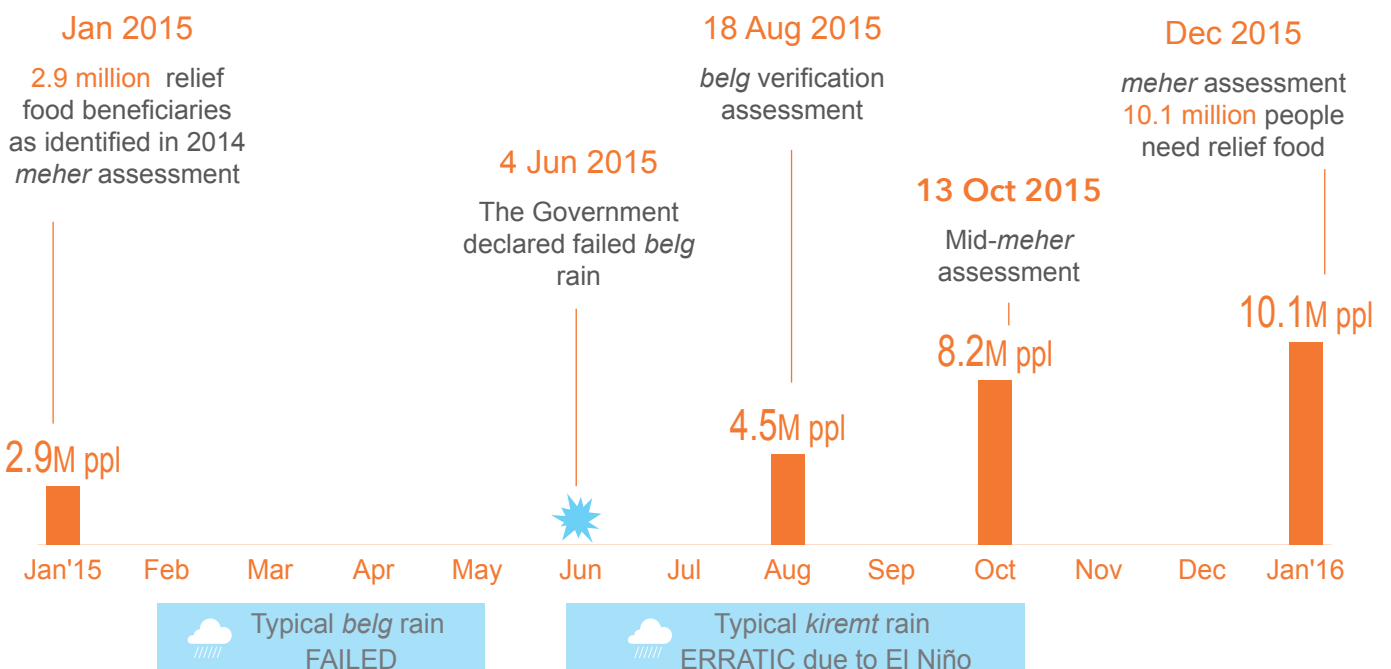
Further informing the needs presented in this HRD are sector projections for 2016, which have been established through joint Government and Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) analysis of ‘analogue’ El Niño impacted years.

AUGUST 2015 NEGATIVE SOIL MOISTURE



August is usually the peak of the summer rains. The most affected areas are experiencing the least soil moisture in over 30 years.

CRISIS TIMELINE

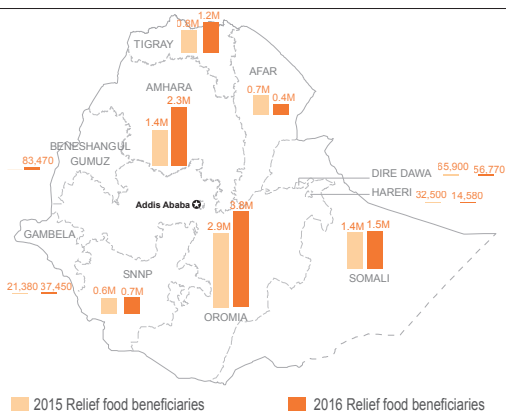


HUMANITARIAN

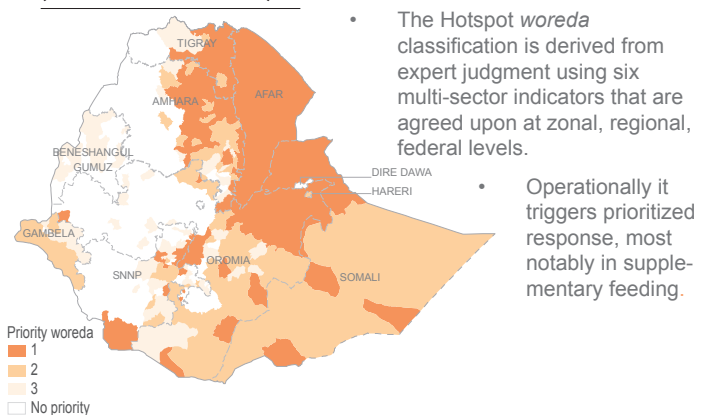
NEEDS

Climatic shocks greatly affecting successive harvests and high food price inflation have combined to drive food insecurity and malnutrition significantly higher. At the household level, the poorest wealth quintile in affected areas are of particular concern, able to cover on average only one third of their minimum daily caloric needs from their own means. Coping mechanisms are stretched to their limits, household debts are rising sharply and dietary diversity has narrowed significantly, with affected populations consuming a diet consisting predominantly of cereals.

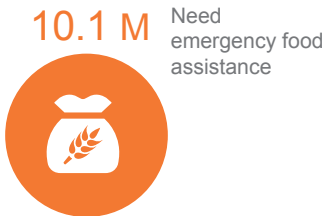
NOVEMBER 2015 VS 2016 PEOPLE NEEDING HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE



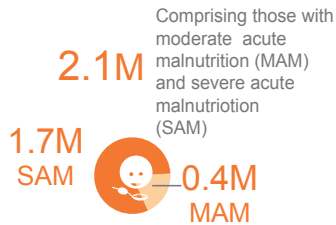
HOTSPOT WOREDAS (AS OF DECEMBER 2015)



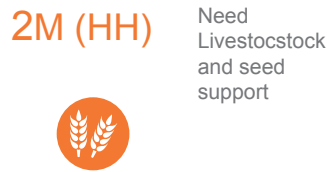
FOOD



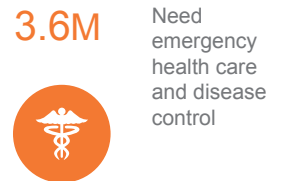
NUTRITION



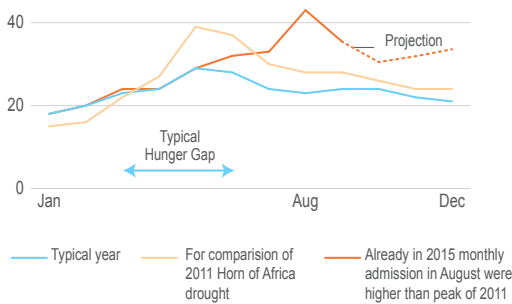
AGRICULTURE



HEALTH



SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION TREND

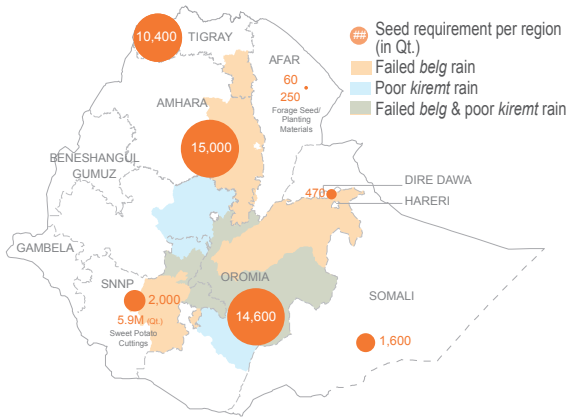


Given the greatly reduced harvest, admissions are expected to increase much earlier than usual. SAM projections of 0.4M are dependent on the success of the food and TSF response. - If there are delays, the figure will be much higher.

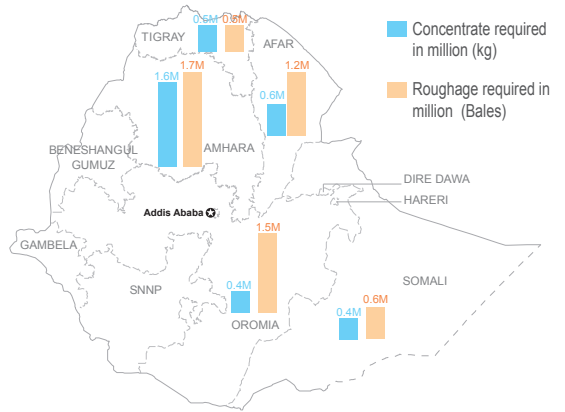
MODERATE ACUTE MALNUTRITION CASES

Region	PEOPLE TARGETED		
	Children (6 - 59 months)	Children & Pregnant and lactating women	% children & Pregnant and lactating women
AFAR	136,000		
AMHARA	340,000		
GAMBELLA	17,000		
OROMIA	561,000		
SNNP	204,000		
SOMALI	238,000		
TIGRAY	204,000		
TOTAL	1.7M	59%	41%

SEED REQUIREMENT PER REGION - 2016 PROJECTION



ANIMAL FEED REQUIREMENT PER REGION - 2016 PROJECTION



EDUCATION

1.3M Need EiE supplies, school meal and WASH.

EMERGENCY SHELTER & NFI

0.8M Projected to be in need of emergency shelter and non-food item supplies.

PROTECTION

2.5M

WASH

5.8M Need access to clean drinking water and basic latrine facilities.

2016 PROJECTED DISPLACEMENT - IOM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

821,400

425,000

Flooding

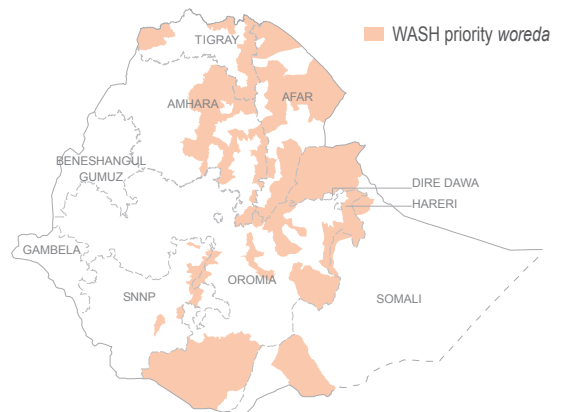
286,400

Drought

110,000

Communal conflict

2016 WASH PRIORITY WOREDAS



RESPONSE

STRATEGY

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Government and the Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team have prepared this evidence-based plan on the basis of the *meher* and projections for 2016. To ensure appropriate inter-sector coordination, it has been built around three pillars, which have formed the basis for related sector-specific operational plans, which will be presented in the second part of the HRD.

1

Save lives and reduce morbidity related to drought



Activities will focus on priority (1,2 & 3) *woredas*. Ensuring access to safe drinking water underpins all efforts – without which there could be large-scale population movement. The Government has requested monthly food distribution. Regular screening will ensure that the most vulnerable are reached with treatment and supplementary food. The potential for disease outbreaks is of particular concern – and hence the need to increase immunization coverage. In coping with these factors, school absenteeism and child labour increase, families marry young girls off at earlier ages and send their children to much longer distances to fetch water. Women face risks of different forms of violence, including when eroded livelihoods forces them into survival sex.

2

Protect and restore livelihoods



Activities will focus on priority (1,2,3) *woredas* to ensure that at risk livelihoods can be protected, and to take advantage of the 2016 rains. Supporting livestock survival, including plough oxen, through the provision of fodder, access to drinking water and vaccination will be key. For families most affected by drought, timely access to seeds and fertilizer will be prioritized to enable them to take advantage of the 2016 rains.

3

Prepare for and respond to other humanitarian shocks – natural disasters, conflict and displacement



This objective relates to drought and flood affected areas. El Niño will likely be followed by La Niña related flooding. Drought will force more people to move in search for water and pasture. This could exacerbate communal conflict and increase displacement in parts of the country. The Government flood contingency plan expects 210,600 people to be affected by flooding and at least 105,300 people at risk of displacement.

Cross-Cutting: Government service provision strengthened at point of delivery

This cross-cutting theme reaches across the whole HUMANITARIAN REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT (HRD). Almost all humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia is provided through the Government, with technical and material support for systems provided at multiple levels. Whilst there are obvious concerns that the crisis may impact some of Ethiopia's impressive development gains, there is also hope that if well-funded, the implementation of the HRD will lead to longer-term development outcomes, in particular through the support that will be provided to front-end service providers.



Development Agent: Through the Agents, the Government provides agricultural services to farmers, including better seeds, livestock care, and newer technologies



Health Extension Workers: Through these workers, the Government provides essential curative care in rural areas, where health care is limited.

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

There has been great progress in improving the quality of cross-sector needs analysis underpinning the HRD for 2016. Needs projections have already been introduced earlier in the plan, based on analysis of past El-Niño events in Ethiopia.

A number of unpredictable variables remain beyond the control of Government and other humanitarian responders that will affect needs, and the ability of partners to address them over the coming year, most notably the weather.

The following planning assumptions have been agreed as a basis for the HRD:

- i) **The spring 2016 *belg* rains will not fail; meaning that at least 10% of those targeted for emergency food aid will be self-sufficient from the end of July.** Historically, the *belg* rains have been good after an El Niño year, though the intensity of the current event has led meteorologists to remain cautious in their predictions. However, noting livestock loss, it will take pastoralists and farmers several seasons to fully recover from the current drought. The HRD will be revised as part of a Mid-Year Review exercise after completion of a Government-led *belg* harvest assessment in April – May 2016. Contingency planning for possible *belg* failure will be considered early in 2016.
- ii) **There will be increased flooding compared with recent years due to the effects of El Niño.** As outlined above, the Government has identified locations where increased flooding is very likely. The effects will be somewhat mitigated due to the construction of the dams and other Government interventions.
- iii) **Continued three month lead times for the procurement and delivery of food and other assistance.** Any new funding contribution will take this time to materialize as assistance in the hands of beneficiaries.
- iv) **The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) will provide monthly food and cash transfers to 7.9 million**

beneficiaries as planned for the first six months of the year.

- v) **Aid recipients will share assistance provided.** History has shown that communities will ensure that the most-needy in their midst will have access to available aid. This is particularly important in areas where there may be beneficiaries of both PSNP and HRD relief distributions, which will not be provided simultaneously. This could be an issue of concern as people in need may compromise on calorie consumption.
- vi) **Continuing food price inflation.** WFP market analysis indicates that staple food prices on average have risen between 11 and 18 per cent. Localized inflation and variances in ‘terms of trade’ will be closely monitored, in particular in areas where cash transfers are being considered instead of food aid.
- vii) **Continuing ‘unseasonal’ migration and displacement.** Pastoralist community heads of households leaving in search of pasture for livestock. High potential for displacement of whole communities due to lack of available drinking water.

PRIORITIZATION

The prioritization of activities (and of the overall approach) has been considered in three main dimensions throughout this plan:

Most Lifesaving: Responses that can have an immediate, large impact in a cost-effective manner (whilst still addressing the needs of the most-vulnerable groups– e.g. the elderly – that often comes at a higher cost).

Time Critical: i.e. Ensuring the timely procurement and distribution of seeds to areas benefiting from the different rainy seasons across the country

Critically Enabling: i.e. Drinking water interventions, without which the rest of the multi-sector response would not be possible.

Each sector (cluster) operational plan includes a short list of agreed, prioritized activities – categorized as either ‘high’ or ‘critical’ priority – the associated costing has also been prioritized accordingly.

Geographical prioritization in most sectors is driven primarily by the Government’s ‘Hotspot *woreda* Classification’, which will be periodically updated throughout the year. Further ad-hoc operational prioritization of multi-sector response gaps in affected areas will be handled via the Disaster Risk Management Technical Working Group and Inter-Cluster/sector Coordination Group.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) will work with Government to develop and share regular updates for donors and partners throughout the year on evolving operational and funding priorities, taking into account the dynamics of the crisis, funding allocations and gaps, and the response of the Government (beyond the HRD).

OPERATIONAL

CAPACITY

Currently, there are over 66 humanitarian organizations operational in Ethiopia and supporting the Government led response

This includes 10 UN agencies, 43 INGOs, ICRC, IFRC, the Ethiopian Red Cross and IOM. At least 13 national NGOs are conducting and supporting humanitarian operations. These include faith and community based organizations, who have the multiplier effect of ensuring assistance reaches those in the remotest areas.

COORDINATION

The overall coordination is led by the Ethiopian Government's National Disaster Risk Management Coordination Commission (NDRMCC*). NDRMCC leads federal and regional level Disaster Risk Management Technical Working Groups (DRMTWGs) across Ethiopia and hosts a series of specialised task force that work in tandem with the clusters/sectors, including food and agriculture.

As the crisis evolves, the Government is strengthening the DRMTWGs across Ethiopia, with OCHA's support. Different UN, NGOs and the Ethiopian Red Cross are active participants, including at the regional and sub-regional levels.

Humanitarian partners are committed to a do no harm approach and to a nuanced consideration of gender that takes into account the different vulnerabilities that women, men, boys and girls face in accessing humanitarian assistance. Programmes must always include female community members, beyond the female headed household indicator, which can be misleading. Many women are temporarily heading their households as the male heads of units move in search of livelihood and pasture.

DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CONTEXT:

Over the last decade, Ethiopia has had remarkable economic growth, with real gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaging 10.9 per cent in 2004-2014. The country's growth has been stable and rapid. Poverty has been substantially reduced from 44per cent in 2000 to 30per cent in 2011, according to the national poverty line. But according to the UNDP Human Development Index 67per cent of the population still live in severe multi-dimensional poverty.

*Formerly Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS)

In 2013, Ethiopia adopted a national policy and strategy on disaster risk management (DRM). It includes general directions and major implementation strategies, including on a decentralized DRM system, early warning and risk assessment, information management, capacity building, and on integration of disaster risk reduction into development plans.

The Government has also established an Emergency Food Security Reserve Administration, which provides a short-term buffer stock of emergency response commodities and items on loan to agencies engaged in relief activities (be it Government, UN or NGOs) until they can mobilize replacement resources through other mechanisms.

CASH AS RESPONSE MODALITY

The nature of the drought crisis means that food availability in local markets is variable and in some areas limited. Cash as a modality of response will be considered by WFP, in areas where markets are functioning well. Availability of food in the pipeline, may be used as a basis for determining whether to prioritise food or cash transfers. A cross-sector cash coordination group is being established.

