

25 January 2016

### Key Issues

- Without additional resources, the food sector projects a full pipeline break in a couple of months.
- Resources currently in-hand do not guarantee a full relief food basket for beneficiaries.
- The food sector identified addressing fragmentation of delivery as one critical priority.
- The number of households requiring seeds increased from 500,000 (2016 HRD) to 900,000, resulting in a \$52 million shortfall in *belg* and *meher* seed requirements.

**Ethiopia is responding to an El Niño-caused drought emergency:** The El Niño global climactic event has wreaked havoc on Ethiopia's summer rains. This comes on the heels of failed spring rains, and has driven food insecurity, malnutrition and water shortages in affected areas of the country. A well-coordinated response is already underway and expanding rapidly, although the scale of the developing emergency exceeds resources available to date. Given the lead times necessary for the procurement of relief items, the Government and its international partners have called for early action to this slow onset natural disaster.

### Food pipeline break likely in April – additional funds needed now

Resources currently in-hand do not guarantee a full relief food basket for beneficiaries, and without additional resources, the food sector projects a full pipeline break in a couple of months. For 2016, 10.2 million people are targeted for food assistance (the number is expected to be revised upwards soon), including 5.6 million people supported by the Government, 2 million people by WFP's Hubs & Spokes program, and 2.6 million by the NGO-led Joint Emergency Operation Project (JEOP). Of US\$1.4 billion requested by the 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document, \$1.2 billion is for the food sector, and as of 25 January, the sector was 30 per cent funded, and the whole Appeal 37 per cent funded. In addition to securing additional resources, the Government's continuing effort to ensure maximum fast-tracking of humanitarian supplies from the Port of Djibouti is crucial. WFP recently also started using the Port of Berbera in Somaliland.

Meanwhile, as of 20 January, 57 per cent of the 7<sup>th</sup> relief food round for 2015 was dispatched (91,370MT of 161,025MT allocated), and five per cent distributed. The allocation-dispatch-distribution of one round is taking six weeks. The sector is working to finalize it in at least four weeks.

### A prioritization plan endorsed for the first quarter of 2016

Last week, the inter-cluster group, together with the Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team, finalized the geographic and programmatic prioritization exercise for the first quarter of 2016. This will result in donor advocacy products and will guide allocation of limited resources.

### Child protection rapid assessments – update

Child Protection Rapid Assessments (CPRA) conducted in Amhara, Oromia, Afar, Somali and Tigray regions indicated that the drought increased child protection concerns. Poor families are increasingly taking negative coping mechanisms, including child marriage. CPRA validation and drought response planning workshops are being held at national and regional levels. These will result in a national road map and regional response plans, detailing implementation plans of the child protection and gender based violence minimum package of services spelled out in the 2016 HRD. Needs and associated financial requirements are expected to increase following this exercise. For more information, contact: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

#### Addressing fragmentation of delivery

Beneficiaries are not receiving a full relief food basket at one delivery; instead, items in the food basket are being delivered as they become available. Fragmented delivery of relief food items means that beneficiaries will have to travel to the food distribution point at least twice in a short period of time. Fragmented food aid also has negative implications for nutrition and health, and the effectiveness of targeted supplementary feeding programs (TSF) for the moderately malnourished. The food sector identified addressing fragmentation of delivery as one of its critical priorities for the first quarter of 2016.