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### Key Issues

- Some 2,000,000 pastoralists and agro pastoralists need emergency food assistance; serious water shortage continues to affect the regions
- Guideline developed for the assistance and return of Qoloji IDPs
- Ethiopia continues to receive influx of South Sudanese refugees

Drought exacerbated by El Niño, combined with extensive flooding, disease outbreaks and the disruption of basic public services, continue to have a negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of 9.7 million Ethiopians. Urgent funding gaps for the response remain across multiple sectors to the end of 2016, notably for response to Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), for interventions in animal health and food assistance. Major funding requirements are already anticipated for early 2017, as there are concerning indications that the current negative Indian Ocean Dipole, may affect water availability, livestock body condition and *Meher* harvest performance in southern and eastern Ethiopia.

### Some 2,000,000 pastoralists and agro pastoralists need emergency food assistance; serious water shortage continues to affect the regions

According to the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), about two million pastoralists and agro pastoralists in Afar and Somali as well as low land areas of Oromia and SNNP regions need emergency food assistance. Failed *meher* rains in these areas resulted in serious water and pasture shortages, calling for water trucking services and provision of animal feed. The Commission said Government is dispatching food and non-food items to the affected communities, including to malnourished children and students. The total number of people requiring humanitarian assistance in 2017 will be issued in January 2017.



Meanwhile, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity emphasizes that there is an increasing demand of water tanks such as roto tank in those affected areas, especially in Oromia, Somali and SNNP regions. Currently, the regional governments and some humanitarian partners are operating water trucking on the ground. The drought induced by the negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) continues to affect the east and south-eastern part of the country with serious water scarcity.

### Guideline developed for the assistance and return of Qoloji IDPs

Following the Government of Ethiopia's request for the assistance and return of Qoloji IDPs, the IDP Working Group under the Protection Cluster developed a guideline to provide the humanitarian community with the tools to determine the conducive nature of the places of origin for possible return and take informed decision on whether or not to provide assistance for IDPs in the current displacement sites or in the areas of return. This is also expected to support advocacy efforts aimed at integrating protection considerations in the provision of assistance to these IDPs.

### Ethiopia continues to receive influx of South Sudanese refugees

Some 52,841 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Gambella, Ethiopia since 03 September 2016 of which 52,690 new arrivals have been registered level 1 and relocated to Jewi, Kule, Tierkidi and Nguenyiel refugee camps, whilst 151 level 1 registered persons await relocation. On average, 456 individuals arrived on a daily basis from 03 September to 27 December 2016. Of the total registered new arrivals, 64 per cent are children under the age of 18, including 10,426 unaccompanied and separated children. The new arrivals, mostly originating from the Upper Nile and Jonglei States reported to have fled from insecurity and food shortage in neighboring South Sudan. As of 30 November 2016, the total South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia has reached 328,145.

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