



World - EL NIÑO

ECHO CRISIS REPORT N°1

Period covered:
March 2016

ECHO funding made available for support to countries affected by El Niño:
EUR 125 million

People affected by food insecurity:
Approx. 40 million

Countries globally continue to experience the effects of El Niño, which include below average precipitation during the rainy season, more intense cyclones in the north-western Pacific and potentially more frequent cyclones in the south Pacific over the coming weeks. Droughts in southern and eastern Africa and the Latin America and Caribbean region contribute to a declining food security, nutrition and health situation.

1. ECHO Recommendation/action

EAST AFRICA

For **Ethiopia**: urgent reinforcement of the international community's contribution to the humanitarian operation is needed and in particular to:

- Ensure and reinforce the food pipeline (via WFP)
- Upgrade the emergency water provision systems also via water trucking
- Strengthen the nutritional programmes (therapeutic and supplementary feeding)
- Ensure the availability of high quality seeds and fertilizer for the long cycle rains by May 2016 to optimize the harvest in November 2016.

For **Sudan**, an urgent scale up of the response is needed in key sectors (food security, nutrition, water) and in particular through:

- A coordinated multi-sectoral response that complements any Government of Sudan plan (yet to be communicated)
- An effective and timely access to most affected areas
- A further mobilisation of short and medium term funding to cover additional needs
- An urgent support to food and nutrition pipelines to timely scale up food assistance, therapeutic and supplementary feeding (including pre-positioning of stocks)
- An increased support to livelihoods through targeted agricultural and livestock interventions.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Food insecure population numbers are expected to be at the highest levels since the 2002- 2003 food crisis
- Multipurpose cash-based assistance will be required during the current (February – May 2016) and next lean season (September 2016 – April 2017)
- Support to the next agriculture season will be required to assist farmers (July – October 2016)
- Flexible mechanisms (like crisis modifiers) in development funding to allow partners to switch quickly into emergency mode when necessary.

CHAD

- Continue the monitoring of the food and nutrition situation in countries affected by El Niño and facing food deficit

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- Use El Niño funds to increase the household capacity to deal with climatic shocks,
- Encourage stakeholders to contribute to the national early warning system and information sharing
- Up-scale the food assistance combining nutritional complementary feeding to prevent malnutrition during the lean season and support the livelihoods to improve the next agro pastoral campaigns.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARRIBEAN

The effects of El Niño in the region have overwhelmed local capacities to respond, particularly in Haiti, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Paraguay. Several million people are food insecure, and current and planned responses remain insufficient. Humanitarian assistance is needed to provide:

- food assistance for the most affected population, mainly poor households, subsistence farmers, daily workers and ethnic minorities
- access to safe water and improved water management in areas with scarce water resources and in flooded areas such as Paraguay
- capacities for detection and management of acute malnutrition
- vector control actions especially regarding "*aedes aegypti*", due to the incidence of Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya
- livelihood support , mainly recovery of agriculture growing capacities and protection of livestock
- shelter in flooded areas
- advocacy towards humanitarian and development actors to provide additional response

3. Situation

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia

In December 2015, the Ethiopian government presented the details of its Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), which outlined the humanitarian needs in the country for 2016 and the financial requirements: 1.484 billion USD. The government-led assessment indicated that 10.2 million people are in need of emergency food assistance. This figure came in addition to the 7.9 million chronically food insecure people, already being assisted by the national Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). Pipeline breaks are likely to happen in the second half of the year for the food provisions unless additional funds are secured now. As the process of purchase and delivery takes a couple of months in time, the securing of new funds is urgent. Increasing under-nutrition rates and access to safe water continue to be a huge problem. The HRD 2016 is as of today 46 % funded and includes the contribution of the Government for 2016 (110 M USD). Different regions of Ethiopia are making additional ad hoc requests to the Federal level which is leading to an increase of the number of beneficiaries. In the coming months the official total caseload is expected to be revised upwards. The most likely scenario is that the current lean season will extend till the end of the second quarter of 2016 and, an early, long and harsh lean season will sweep again most of the Region starting from September 2016. The critical situation is expected to extend till the 2016-2017 harvest (May 2017).

Somalia

Somalia is currently experiencing large-scale food insecurity as a result of poor rainfall and severe drought conditions in particular in parts of Somaliland and Puntland.. Acute malnutrition remains high. Nearly one million people are food insecure at crisis and emergency levels, according to the integrated food security phase classification (IPC phases 3 and 4). Erratic rains in 2015 resulted in a near-total failure of cereal production in Puntland and Somaliland with 87% below the five-year average. Drought conditions and consequent food insecurity are expected to worsen until the main "Gu" rainy season which normally starts in April.

Sudan

El Niño has significantly impacted the 2015 rainy season and is affecting 3.5 million people in 82 localities across the country. FEWSNET indicates that more than 4 million people will be in crisis food security situation (IPC Phase 3) or worse between March and September 2016. This is twice as high as in a typical year. The scarcity of rainfall led to a reduced harvest (23% below the five-year average for staple food. Cash crop production is also far below the five-year average). Pasture availability is estimated to be 40% to 60% below average nationally. The caseload is expected to increase due to an earlier and extended lean season (starting in March instead of May) in localities already facing Global and Severe Acute Malnutrition rates above emergency and alert levels. The limited mobilisation so far is

creating further concerns, with low level of preparation for the lean season and little additional capacity to address identified needs (e.g. no earmarked funding to WFP additional food pipeline).

South Sudan

The weather outlook foresees near to below normal rainfall in the northern parts of the country and near to above normal rainfall in the southern and eastern parts. This could lead to potential further drought in the North and difficult conditions during the rainy season in the rest of the country, with higher risks of water borne diseases and very difficult road access to most parts of the country.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The window of opportunity for a recovery of the 2015-16 agriculture season at regional scale is already compromised. According to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), around 10 million people across the region (excluding South Africa, DRC and middle income countries) were identified as being food insecure, of which FEWSNET estimated 2.5 million people presently in IPC3: 900 000 in Malawi; 800 000 in Zimbabwe; 450 000 in Southern and western Madagascar; 375 000 in Southern Mozambique; 40 000 are in Lesotho. The combination of a poor 2014-2015 season, an extremely dry early season (October-December) and forecasts for continuing hot and drier than average conditions through mid-2016, suggest a scenario of extensive, regional-scale crop failure. In addition to reduced staple and cash crop production at the household level, further increases in staple food prices will drive acute food insecurity. The numbers of food insecure people are now increasing and will rise further over the coming two to three months. While it is too early to provide detailed estimates of the population likely to be food insecure in 2016-2017, FEWS NET expects that this population will be at least two times higher than current levels. Assessments are on-going to determine the full impact of El Niño on the main April harvest, but it is known that the impact will be severe. WFP assessment analysts estimate that more than 49 million people in the region (40 million in rural areas and 9 million in urban areas) are at risk of being affected by El Niño.

CHAD

El Niño in Chad implies a high reduction of available biomass, irregular rains, and drier conditions than usual. At national level, the production decreased by 12% compared to last year and in some regions a production decrease of 50% is expected. Compared to last year, the people in need of food assistance would increase by 43% during the 2016 lean season with 1 million people in a crisis situation according to the CH forecasts and 1.6 million people in severe food insecurity according to WFP. The Humanitarian Response Plan is planning to target 1.2 million of people in need of food assistance for a total budget of USD 206 million and with the involvement of about 20 operational partners. The GAM rates are between the serious (six regions with 10-14% GAM) and critical situation (five regions register >15% GAM). One out of 10 children under five are suffering from some form of undernutrition. The El Niño phenomenon is thus adding a burden to the huge challenges in Chad among others: i) the structural vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity especially in the sahelian zone with successive difficult years, high food prices; ii) impacts of population movements; iii) a slowing down of commercial exchanges with borders closures due to insecurity in neighboring countries.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARRIBEAN

In the first quarter of 2016, El Niño is still affecting the weather conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean, with persisting drought in Central America, the Caribbean and parts of South America, and wetter than normal conditions in Southern Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru.

Central America

The Central American “Dry Corridor” which includes parts of Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador is facing one of the worst droughts in decades, and an estimated 3.5 million people have serious difficulties accessing food. The 2015 drought caused extensive crop losses, with families reporting 75%-100% losses among small producers. The first production cycle in 2016 is also expected to be affected, compromising recovery in the first half of 2016. The number of food insecure people has reached 3.5 million according to OCHA, with some 1.5 million people in need of urgent food assistance.

South America

Wetter conditions are expected in Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and southern Brazil, with increased risk of vector-borne diseases, respiratory infections and damage to health facilities. Drought conditions are persistent in the highlands in Peru, and in several departments in Colombia and Venezuela. In Argentina, severe rains caused by

El Niño have affected close to 51 000 people in 14 provinces. In January the government declared a “hydrological state of emergency” in several provinces due to the impact of El Niño since the last quarter of 2015. In Bolivia, hail, rain and drought have affected crops. A state of emergency has been issued in six affected departments and 200 000 people have been affected.

In Colombia, high temperatures and drought are still severely affecting the country with 280 municipalities suffering from water shortages, affecting agriculture and leading to forest fires. Current forecasts report rains will resume by June only. According to the World Food Program water and food shortages have affected more than 63 000 people.

Caribbean

The drought has affected over 6.2 million people in the Caribbean, the most affected countries being Cuba (1 million people), Dominican Republic (1.6 million people) and Haiti (3.6 million people). Insufficient/erratic rainfall has led to loss of staple grain crops and the death of thousands of cattle in Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba, among others. This is the third consecutive year that the population in these areas is facing drought, destroying livelihoods and eroding their resilience.

Haiti

Where 3.6 million people are considered food insecure (one third of the population), 40 communes are currently in IPC 3 level crisis. International and national actors report that 1.5 million people are severely food insecure and need immediate food assistance.

A recent nutrition survey conducted by UNICEF (end of 2015) in the 20 most drought affected communes, shows that five communes are above emergency thresholds in terms of acute malnutrition (>15% GAM or >2% SAM), and two more communes in alert (GAM >10%) requiring immediate response.

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

El Niño has been felt throughout Southeast Asia and the Pacific in different ways and with varying impact. In Mongolia there is a drought situation, which may be caused or exacerbated by the El Niño system. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has launched an emergency appeal and the CERF is being mobilized. In the Mekong region drought has been reported in some areas, as well as extreme cold weather. However the impact has been localized and has not yet given rise to the need for external assistance. The Philippines and Indonesia have also suffered from periods of drought, which in the case of Indonesia has contributed to this year's large scale forest fires. Both countries have a robust response capacity and are implementing a basket of measures to address the situation. In the Pacific, periods of drought were reported in several countries, with special intensity in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and, most severely, in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

4. Aid and assistance required / needs assessment

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia

Relief food pipeline: The current food response is only providing a reduced ration to beneficiaries (1 200 Kcal instead of the required 2 100 Kcal) as it is covering a longer period than programmed. The food pipeline break is expected to be largely avoided in the first half of the year as the Government will avail USD 200 million by mid-February to ensure timely delivery of food for the May/June period. There is a need to scale-up the funding to reinforce the food pipeline. For the second half of the year food will be needed to assist 7.6 million people supported by WFP/Government of Ethiopia channels. The remaining 2.6 million people (out of the 10.2 million in need of relief assistance) are assisted by the JEOP - USAID-funded emergency food assistance programme – and are less likely to suffer from pipeline breaks

Water and sanitation: According to the HRD, 5.8 million drought-affected Ethiopians are in need of WASH support interventions. The shortage of water appears to be under-estimated and it is accurate to say that approximately the entire 10.2 million people dependent on food is also facing serious water shortages. A recent UNICEF real-time assessment of water availability in drought-affected regions shows dramatic reductions in water availability in many communities with 78 % of populations in woredas/districts assessed having less than 5 liters per person per day and 96 % have less than 15 liters per person per day. The Ethiopian Government has indicated that it will take the lead on water trucking requirements.

Nutrition: The figures for 2015/16 are still higher compared to the same months in 2014. Only 50 % of the priorities 1 woredas are covered in terms of nutritional programmes for severely malnourished children (SAM). During the year 2016, a caseload of 1.7 million children and pregnant and lactating women are estimated to be moderately malnourished and only a fraction is currently covered.

Food security: Seeds and agriculture: the number of households requiring seeds for the next Belg planting season almost doubled since the estimates made in December (from 500 000 to 900 000 households). Seeds procurement and distribution is urgent now for the planting season to protect livelihood assets, prevent further displacement and avoid food aid dependency in the longer term (2017). Livestock: Some areas have experienced hundreds of thousands of deaths amongst the animals. This has a devastating effect on the pastoralist communities.

Somalia

El Niño exacerbated the severe drought conditions in the north – in Somaliland and Puntland – which are expected to worsen in the coming months, creating additional humanitarian needs. Of particular concern are the nearly one million food insecure people who urgently need humanitarian aid – and of whom two thirds are internally displaced, showing the high vulnerability of IDPs. Over 300 000 acutely malnourished children are in urgent need of nutrition and health support, while the USD 885 million humanitarian response plan for Somalia for 2016 has so far received less than USD 60 million.

Sudan

ECHO partners and ECHO team's assessments confirm that the impact of a poor harvest and livestock losses will continue in 2016. The coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable households are limited, having drastically reduced the options to cope with the 2016 lean season, projected to start earlier and end later (likely March to September). In 2015, 2 million children under 5 years old were acutely malnourished children, including 500 000 severely acutely malnourished. The nutrition sector estimates that the El Niño impact will be witnessed as from March 2016. An increase in the malnutrition caseload is expected including 59 000 additional Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children during the lean season.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The most likely scenario is that the current lean season will extend till the end of the second quarter of 2016, and, after a few months of truce following the harvest, an early, long and harsh lean season will sweep again most of the Region starting from September 2016.

Angola

An estimated 1.4 million people are currently estimated to be food insecure in southern Angola. The National Civil Protection Department in Cunene estimates that over 700 000 people are at risk of food insecurity (some 72 per cent of the total population), up from 500 000 last year. Crop losses are expected to be as high as 60 per cent, according to FAO.

Lesotho

On 22 December 2015, the Government has declared the State of Drought Emergency due to depletion of water resources. About 464 000 are in need of food assistance which could go up to 650 000 people affected. OCHA indicated USD 38 million required to support the relief operations.

Madagascar

The joint WFP/FAO mission assessment crop and safety food mandated by the estimated at nearly 1.9 million people in a situation of food insecurity of which nearly 450 000 in severe food insecurity. For the 2015-16 season, the rainy season began on time in most regions of the country.

Malawi

WFP indicates that assistance for 2.8 million food insecure people will end in February due to funding gaps and a pipeline break and WFP urgently requires US\$38 million 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.

Mozambique

Due to almost complete absence of rains, the cropping season in the south of the country is definitively compromised. WFP indicates that 900 000 people are exposed to drought in southern Mozambique, which represents a significant deterioration since late 2015 estimation of 160 000 people in food insecurity. WFP reports that maize prices are 50% higher than last year.

Swaziland

The country is experiencing one of the most severe droughts and wave of high temperatures in history affecting agriculture activities and water situation is quite dire. On 22 February 2016 a state of emergency was declared by the Prime Minister. Maize prices are soaring up to 66% of seasonal average. It is estimated that 38 000 cattle were lost to drought during the past 6 months. The 2015 Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Report estimated the number of food insecure people to be about 200 000 by March 2016. It is expected to increase to at least 300 000 by April 2016. The Prime Minister has stated that over the next two months, the government would need EUR 15.5 million, with a shortfall of EUR 8.5 million.

Zimbabwe

On 5 February, Zimbabwe's president, Robert Mugabe, has declared a state of disaster in rural areas hit by a wave of high temperatures and severe drought, as more than a quarter of the population (2.8 million) face "*insufficient means to meet their minimum food needs*". Initial indications from the 2015 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) report were that 1.5 million people were food insecure with all the 60 rural districts being affected in varying degrees. The current humanitarian assistance response runs through March 2016 targeting about 800 000 people.

CHAD

According to WFP, the Chadian population suffering from food insecurity is reaching 25% of the whole population. Out of the 25%, the HRP is targeting 1.2 million people for food assistance requiring a budget of 206 million USD. The global acute malnutrition is reaching 13.3% at national level, with 360 000 children suffering from acute malnutrition including 80 000 with severe acute malnutrition. ECHO is the main food donors in the country and it seems that other donors are more focused on answering the Chad Lake crisis. The mobilisation of additional funds for ECHO would enable to increase the food and nutrition assistance coverage during the worst period (lean season) in the most-affected regions but also to provide assistance in the South of the country which should also be in crisis during the lean season due to climatic hazards, lower production, and populations which escaped conflicts in CAR. It is important to have a double approach that could first reduce the direct impact on food insecurity and malnutrition in the affected areas but that will also on a longer term, create conditions for the populations to cope with future shocks, such as activities strengthening people's livelihoods, bridging the gap between immediate humanitarian response and recovery plans.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CENTRAL AMERICA

Without external assistance, the food insecurity situation of the most vulnerable families will continue unabated until the next "*Primera*" harvest in June-August 2016. There is also concern regarding the negative impact on the nutritional status of under-five children. Livelihoods have been affected by the repeated shocks. It is necessary to continue supporting people's resilience to drought and other recurrent weather hazards that affect their food security, through livelihood recovery actions, livelihood protection and reinforcing drought preparedness and resilience.

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia

Prolonged drought exacerbated by El Niño has caused a critical situation for around 200 000 indigenous people living in the northern part. In view of the current situation and the fact that local and national institutions are unable to cover the needs, assistance is necessary to support access to drinking water, short-term emergency food distribution, detection and management of malnutrition, emergency livelihood recovery and protection, and support for information management.

Paraguay

Heavy rains have affected several areas of Paraguay and more than 170 000 people have been displaced due to the floods. Main needs include WASH, shelter, early recovery and cash based assistance.

CARIBBEAN

Haiti

3.6 million people are food insecure, 1.5 million of them being severely food insecure, according to recent assessments in the country (EFSA/ HEA by WFP/Oxfam). Those affected have put in place coping mechanisms to cover part of their food needs at least for one year, as humanitarian response has been insufficient to cover the needs and support recovery. As the lean season is just starting, the situation is likely to deteriorate in the next months without humanitarian assistance, and the number of people severely food insecure will increase. UNICEF estimates that 130 000 children could be acute malnourished at national level, including 56 500 affected by severe acute malnutrition. Health centres lack sufficient capacities to ensure proper management, and support is needed in training, staffing, therapeutic treatments, supplementary treatments, and screening equipment.

Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, the drought is reported to be the worst in the last 15 years. Agricultural labourers, small scale farmers and livestock breeders as well as woman-headed households living in areas affected by the drought are the most vulnerable groups, reporting an average loss in production of between 40-100 %, and unable to satisfy calorie needs. Cash based assistance, support to recover livelihoods and information management are the main priorities.

Cuba

In Cuba, the drought is affecting 68% of the island. The water crisis is the most severe since 2004, with 120 out of 168 municipalities affected and some 100 000 people dependent on water delivered by tanks. Without immediate livelihood recovery support and access to safe water, food insecurity and diseases are likely to increase.

5. Local response

EAST AFRICA

The Government of Ethiopia has covered a large part of the humanitarian requirements for the first months of the year, with already USD 380 million allocated in the response to El Niño-driven drought (2015-16) and is currently in the process of mobilising about USD 320 million.

The Government of Sudan has so far not made any crisis declaration. The mitigation/preparedness plan recently published by the UN has been shared at federal and technical levels. Cereal availability is supposedly ensured by last year stocks, strategic reserve and importation market. Capacity to move/transport from surplus production areas/reserve places to deficit areas where communities are in need is a concern, especially for localities with low production and distant from national surpluses and markets.

Regarding Somalia, authorities in Somaliland and Puntland declared drought and have issued appeals for assistance in February 2016.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

National and local capacity: While all countries in the region have established national disaster management authorities (NDMAs), they are severely under-resourced and vary in functionality. The governments of South Africa and Botswana will respond to the full caseload and no humanitarian assistance is needed in these countries. Governments in the region do not have recent experience in responding to major humanitarian emergencies. Multiple governments have declared a state of emergency due to extreme drought and have developed national response plans. The majority of countries in the region had contingency plans in place for the 2015-16 season, but more work needs to be done to operationalize them and mobilize resources for their implementation. In the region, there is a general high emphasis in considering national food-sheet balance (country produce vs national consumption). The role of a well-integrated market integration, active private sector and relative good road network is sometimes underestimated in addressing food insecurity issues.

CHAD

The government developed a national response plan to cope with the acute food situation raised in October 2015. It envisages i) to bring food assistance to 460 000 people in crisis and emergency phase, ii) to treat the 285 000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, the 350 000 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition, and the 161 000 PLW, iii) to assist 92 000 vulnerable households with agro-pastoral kits, iv) to support the functioning of the national information system. It also recommends to sustain resilience actions at the benefit of 12 millions of people who are under pressure or with minimal risk of food insecurity and to strengthen the coordination, programming and monitoring capacities. The cost of this national plan has been estimated to 77.6 million euros, with an estimated gap of 39.9 million euro. The situation would be dramatic if the next campaign is going to suffer once again from meteorological and climatic perturbations in 2016. Chadian government is still developing its national information system with the support of FAO (through EU funds) and WFP on some technical issues, but also its monitoring of the next agro-pastoral campaign with all stakeholders.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The government of Honduras activated the Technical Inter-institutional Committee for Drought Risk Management in May 2015 and elaborated a drought action plan for USD 11.72 million. The plan was revised in September 2015 to integrate an update on affectation, with an amount of USD 21.8 million. An allocation of USD 4.55 million has been announced by the government, to be channeled through WFP. In El Salvador, the government presented the crisis situation and their response plan to the international community in September 2015.

Current government response capacities in Guatemala are very limited due to the on-going political crisis. The ministry of Agriculture and the SESAN have developed an integral model for response, with the support of WFP, FAO and IFDA. This model integrates food assistance, recovery and resilience activities. In Nicaragua, government food assistance is ongoing and targets 25 000 people. However, detailed data on the number of people affected is lacking, as well as information on the extent of the impact of the drought on the crops of small producers. In Colombia, at the end of February 2016 the Government announced an emergency plan that includes several sectors: health and nutrition, access to water, food security. In Paraguay, the Government issued a declaration of emergency situation in seven departments and the capital city of Asuncion. Through this emergency declaration, the national government initially allocated 3.1 million EUR to the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) to provide rapid humanitarian assistance to the most affected population.

In Haiti, the Government has developed a drought response plan in February 2016, without involving international actors in the elaboration process. The Government will provide EUR 32.8 million to the plan which aims to link short-term immediate emergency interventions with mid-term ones. However, the implementation of this plan does not seem obvious, considering the strong political crisis affecting the country. In the Dominican Republic the drought emergency mechanism has been activated. The most important actions planned are the following: tankers to deliver nationwide free water to the population, rehabilitation of wells and water supply systems that have been abandoned and construction of additional wells. In Cuba, the country is focusing on improved planning and use of water distribution networks, search for new supply sources, rehabilitation of the network, decrease of leaks and introduction of more efficient irrigation systems in agricultural production.

For the rest of the Caribbean, contingency plans were developed and are being implemented, which includes water delivery and water storage containers as well as public awareness in Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis.

6. International response

EAST AFRICA

In December 2015, the European Commission decided to finance humanitarian action for vulnerable people affected by the consequences of El Niño in the Greater Horn of Africa with EUR 78 million from the European Development Fund (EDF) covering Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. These funds are in addition to the 2016 humanitarian implementation plans (HIP) for the Horn of Africa worth EUR 77 million, and for Sudan and South Sudan worth EUR 85 million.

DG ECHO has so far mobilised EUR 46 million for Ethiopia to reinforce the emergency response through a multi-sectorial approach in the most affected areas. This is a combination of both EDF money and ECHO HIP. It is estimated that about 8 million people are being assisted. 47% of the USD 1.484 billion requirements are currently funded. The months of February-June are the peak of the crisis, however the food aid dependency will continue until November-December 2016. Therefore, more efforts will be needed from the Government of Ethiopia and International

community for 2016. The World Food Programme is clearly under-funded for the second half. The European Commission as a whole has so far contributed over EUR 100 million to the El Niño emergency response and early recovery and socio-economic stability of the drought affected population in Ethiopia, including an EUR 18 million from the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.

In Somalia, humanitarian aid organisations are scaling up the response to the severe drought, in particular in the north of the country, as they did in response to the flooding in southern and central Somalia end of last year. EUR 17 million from the EDF-money have been allocated to Somalia for the El Niño response. It comes in addition to the EUR 29 million allocated to Somalia through the HIP.

In Sudan, the European Commission mobilised EUR 15 million early December as an emergency humanitarian response through a multi-sectorial approach. On 22 February, an El Niño Mitigation and Preparedness Plan was released by the UN for a total amount of US \$82 million. External mobilisation is so far limited with no recent announcements from donors. It is expected that the Mitigation and Preparedness Plan as well as the timely release of the Annual Crop and Food Supply Assessment will support this mobilization. Food security: almost two million people in 12 States and 58 localities are targeted for livelihood and food assistance support during the upcoming early and extended lean season expected to start in March 2016, i.e. two months earlier than usual. WFP estimates that 549 000 people are in need of food assistance, for a period of four to six months during the lean season. WFP will target 400 000 individuals via an estimated USD 27 million response plan. FAO and food security partners estimate that 1.6 million people need livelihood support. Specific food needs for most vulnerable pastoralist households are yet to be determined. The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rangeland identified about 51 million heads of livestock requiring support with inputs and services including fodder and supplementary feeding, water and veterinary services.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ECHO is already contributing to alleviate the impact of the current leans season with a total financial contribution of EUR 12 million through the El Niño EDF decision. However, additional resources will be needed to provide humanitarian assistance to large strata of the population during the next leans season (expected to start in September earlier than usual).

Angola: Under the EDF El Niño decision, ECHO ECHO has committed EUR 1.3 million for nutrition intervention in the south of the country.

Lesotho: Under the EDF El Niño decision, ECHO has committed EUR 2 million for cash transfer and resilient agriculture. Additional resources could be allocated to expand the cash-based support through WFP and other partners.

Madagascar: Under the El Niño decision, ECHO has committed EUR 1 million for nutrition intervention in the south of the country.

Malawi: Under the El Niño decision, ECHO has committed EUR 2.95 million for cash transfer.

Swaziland: Under the EDF El Niño decision, ECHO has committed EUR 0.6 million for cash transfer. Additional resources could be allocated to expand the cash-based support through WFP and other partners.

Zimbabwe: Under EDF El Niño Decision ECHO has committed EUR 4.15 million for cash transfer and response to Foot and Mouth Disease. Based on ECHO's main findings on the ground, there is a need to increase the humanitarian response and recovery interventions in food security and livelihood/asset protection/support activities and food assistance privileging cash based modalities.

Major donors in the region (EU, DFID and USAID) have a strong focus on resilience and rural development. The EU programs under the NIPs (National Indicative Programme) have agriculture and food security as a focal sector. In total, EU support to the sector in southern Africa amount EUR 1.2 billion for the period 2015-2020. Preparedness planning is increasing gaining momentum in Southern Africa and is mainly driven by humanitarian community. National contingency plans are slowly becoming key planning documents in the region though the budgeting side largely remains donor funded with very little contribution from the governments except for few countries like Mozambique. In 2015, humanitarian partners received USD 188 million, 42 % of requirements (USD 450 million). Although funding to the region in 2015 increased compared to 2014, the past five years have seen a steady downward trend. In 2015, CERF provided rapid response funding to Malawi (USD 9.9 million in September) and Zimbabwe (USD 8.1 million in October) to respond to the drought. CERF is currently reviewing applications from Mozambique (USD 5 million) and Angola. Based on available data and projections for the region, it is estimated that total funding requirements in April 2016 will increase to approximately \$4 billion, with funding requirements from the international community amounting to USD 460 million.

CHAD

ECHO is planning to devote about 41% of its funds for the food sector in Chad. It is estimated that about 400 000 people would benefit from assistance. But the resources remain globally the same than last year with a high increase of the food needs. Under the EDF El Niño decision, ECHO has committed EUR 12 million to support joint multi-sectoral activities for the most affected population to increase their resilience to shocks in the most El-Niño affected regions. Additional funds would be necessary to cope with the worst expected period (June-September 2016) and to prevent new natural phenomenon in the country which is strongly dependent on agroclimatic conditions both for income generation and for food availability and access, as it relies especially on the national production.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CENTRAL AMERICA

3.5 million people are in need of food assistance in Central America, including 2.8 million from Guatemala and Honduras only. On 13 January, a sub-regional global response plan (HRP) for USD 101.79 million has been launched for Guatemala and Honduras. 750 000 people targeted in the sub-regional plan for multi-sector approach with emphasis on key vulnerabilities in food security, nutrition, water and sanitation, and livelihoods. Only 42 % of the Flash Appeal for Guatemala launched at the end of the year was covered (USD 10.1 million out of a total near USD 24 million). IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal of CHF 2 037 590 on 5 February 2016 in order to assist 12 000 people in Guatemala. In El Salvador during December, OCHA allocated USD 2.7 million in funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to respond to the effects of prolonged drought in the country. In Honduras OCHA allocated USD 2.2 million in funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). These funds will provide humanitarian assistance to 4 743 affected families (14 230 people). The World Food Program, UNICEF and PAHO together with six local organizations from Humanitarian Country Team will be responsible for the implementation of the programs. ECHO has allocated EUR 3 million for Central America through an increase of the 2015 HIP for Central America in order to support the most vulnerable families that are in food security crisis in 2016 (targeting mainly Guatemala and Honduras).

SOUTH AMERICA

In Colombia, ECHO has allocated EUR 1.5 million for a multi-sector response to the high levels of acute malnutrition and food insecurity through the emergency funding mechanism. The response includes food assistance, rapid livelihoods recovery supporting crop and livestock production, improving water access and the management of acute malnutrition in the areas more affected, and supports information management and coordination.

In Paraguay, humanitarian donors have allocated funds to assist the population affected by floods. Among the main contributions are:

- USAID: USD 0.65 million – Shelter supplies
- WFP: USD 1 million – Cash & vouchers – Livelihoods recovery
- IADB: USD 0.2 million – WASH components
- UNDP: USD 0.1 million – Early recovery
- UNICEF: USD 0.1 million – Temporary school facilities
- ECHO: EUR 0.3 million – WASH components

CARIBBEAN

ECHO is funding a food assistance response in Haiti through the HIP 2016 and EDF funds, with a total funding of EUR 12 million. The response is complemented with other sectors, including improved access to water, detection of malnutrition, and support for livelihoods recovery. USAID/OFDA is also funding a response including food assistance (USD 18.8 million), water access (USD 1 million) and management of acute malnutrition (USD 1.2 million). An allocation of USD 3 million of CERF funds at the end of 2015.

In Cuba, ECHO is funding an emergency response to the drought through a modification to the HIP 2015 for the improvement of the access and management of water (EUR 0.6 million). The UN system has developed a plan to support the authorities at short, medium and longer term; however, implementation has not started yet and CERF funding is under discussion for further response.

In Dominican Republic two ECHO funded interventions through EDF funds are ongoing in terms of food assistance, livelihoods recovery, with a total of EUR 1 million.

7. On-site coordination mechanism

EAST AFRICA

The coordination system with the Government of Ethiopia is organised around the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), directly attached to the Prime Minister office and chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen. Regular meetings are held between the NDRMC and the Donors and senior humanitarian community in the framework of the S-MAC (Strategic Multi-Agency Coordination) forum.

In Somalia, the humanitarian response is coordinated through a cluster system overseen by the Humanitarian Country Team of which ECHO is a member. Specifically on El Niño, the authorities in Somaliland and Puntland issued urgent appeals. Authorities in Somaliland coordinate well with humanitarian actors. Demands for control, for example over NGO tenders and procurement, by authorities in Puntland are putting humanitarian operations increasingly at risk there – while the drought requires a stepping-up of humanitarian action.

In Sudan, the humanitarian response is coordinated through regular sectoral clusters and the Humanitarian Country Team. However limited progress has been achieved so far in terms of preparedness and advocacy for the response. As a result of the recent launch of the El Niño Mitigation and Preparedness Plan, a specific coordination/monitoring mechanism is to be set-up. Identification of critical gaps in terms of needs coverage should be the priority for this task force in order to inform response planning.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The UN and international NGOs are present and have stepped up preparedness and response efforts over recent months. Prior to the onset of El Niño, a Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) existed in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. An HCT has since been set up in Zimbabwe and Lesotho, prompted by El Niño. However, overall, humanitarian response capacity in the region is severely limited, as humanitarian presence in the region is generally small and with a development focus.

CHAD

In Chad, implementing partners are working with the cluster approach in linkages with the national information system and the donors' coordination platform. ECHO is supporting financially the food cluster and attends the meetings of several clusters. The humanitarian response is overseen by the Humanitarian Country Team of which ECHO is a member. Coordination between development and humanitarian donors is also organized through a national committee (CPTF) which would be particularly useful in view of the new EDF which will target regions already affected by El Niño phenomenon.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In Central America, coordination mechanisms are in place involving the humanitarian actors and the government. In Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, response plans have been published with the contribution of all actors. The main institutions involved in coordination are the Food Security leading institutions in each country and UN Agencies.

In Colombia, the government established a Crisis coordination platform for La Guajira, which is the main coordination for the actions in the department, with the participation of all the actors present in the area. In addition, the local humanitarian team, under the national structure of humanitarian coordination lead by OCHA, is in place and in addition to current coordination it will aim at improving information management.

In Haiti coordination mechanisms are still weak in terms of emergency food assistance response, but there are efforts done through the *Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire* with the support of donors and UN agencies. In addition, prior to the onset of El Niño, a Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) existed in Haiti. Currently, ECHO, the EU Delegation as well as others donors, are supporting and playing a key role on improving drought response coordination mechanisms linking them with longer-term governance reinforcement initiatives.

In the Dominican Republic, agencies are coordinating with national authorities (Ministry of Agriculture and National Emergency Committee) on the subject through several roundtables that have been organized. The DRR partners

platform – and to a lesser extent the Humanitarian Country Team - has also been involved in - and generated - discussions around the drought in Dominican Republic.

In Cuba discussions have been held between UN agencies and authorities on the drought through a multi-sectoral approach. The UN system also conveyed a meeting on drought last September, with ECHO presence, inviting NGOs in order to share information on the situation. The National Institute for Hydrologic Resources has been leading this process in close coordination with the Civil Defense and other ministries.