



IN NUMBERS



9.7 million

People food insecure



USD 91 million

Required for humanitarian response in Ethiopia's agriculture sector



1.3 million

People assisted by FAO seed and livestock interventions since January 2016



USD 14 million

Needed by FAO for urgent livestock interventions

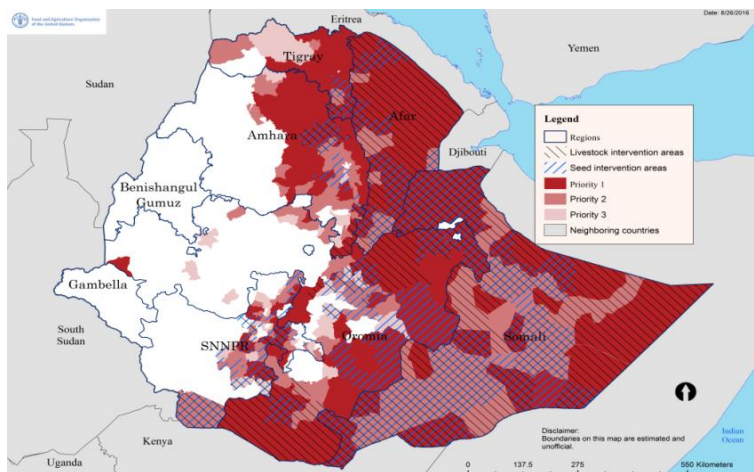
KEY MESSAGES

- **State of Emergency declared amid social unrest.** The Government of Ethiopia declared a State of Emergency in October in response to a wave of protests that has been escalating since August. Travel and telecommunications have been restricted, affecting emergency monitoring and assessments on the ground, particularly in areas of Amhara and Oromia Regions.
- **Livestock-dependent families in pastoral areas face immense challenges.** With prolonged dry spells predicted for southern pastoral areas, urgent livestock assistance is required to save the livelihoods of 2.4 million households, safeguard their herds, improve milk and meat production and ensure access to feed and water.
- **Food insecurity rates remain high.** Some 9.7 million people were estimated to be food insecure in the August 2016 Mid-Year Review of the Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) – only marginally lower than the 10.2 million reported at the height of El Niño impacts in December 2015. While the ongoing *meher* harvest is expected to gradually improve food security, millions are anticipated to remain at risk.

MAP

HOTSPOT CLASSIFICATION AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR INTERVENTION AREAS

(Source: Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners, July 2016)



Hotspot *woredas* classification has been derived using six multisector indicators, including agriculture and nutrition, agreed at zonal, regional and federal levels. A hotspot matrix is often used as a proxy for the Integrated Phase Food Security Classification (IPC).

BACKGROUND

In 2015/16, drought caused by one of the harshest El Niño events on record led to significant crop and livestock losses in Ethiopia, significantly affecting the livelihoods of farmers, pastoralists and agropastoralists. Two failed seasons resulted in wide-scale dependence on food aid, high rates of debt and massive depletion of household seed supplies, with 1.7 million households identified as seed insecure – 88 percent of which were reached with emergency agricultural inputs for the *meher* (summer) season by FAO and other humanitarian actors. The same level of determined commitment is now urgently needed to assist pastoral and agropastoral households in most-affected areas of Afar, Oromia and Somali Regions. Livestock prices tumbled by as much as 60 percent in some areas, reducing incomes and exacerbating food and nutrition insecurity among livestock-owning households; livelihoods remained at risk through the mixed to poor 2016 *belg* (spring) rains, which should have fully replenished water points and pasture. Forecasts indicate vulnerability may deepen in southern pastoral areas, with a potentially long dry period until the arrival of the 2017 *belg* rains in March. The Mid-Year Review of the HRD estimated 2.4 million households will require urgent livestock assistance until the end of 2016. Nationally, 9.7 million people are considered food insecure, just under one-third of the country's *woredas* (districts) were classified as Priority 1 hotspot areas, having decreased only slightly from 224 in March to 206 in July. The hotspot classification findings are critical for the prioritization and allocation of resources to affected *woredas*.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Wheat rust disease – a fungus causing significant stunting in plants, resulting in pre-harvest losses – has affected more than 45 000 farmers since August in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray Regions. However, the timely control of the outbreak is being impacted by the high cost of fungicides and limited supply of spray equipment and protective gear. FAO Ethiopia is working closely with federal and regional Bureaus of Agriculture to monitor and report on the situation.

A recent forecast by the National Meteorological Agency indicates below-average rainfall in lowland pastoral and agropastoral areas between October and December, which will impact water and pasture availability for livestock and therefore threaten the food and nutrition security of the pastoralists that depend on them. According to the Mid-Year Review of the HRD, more than USD 36.2 million is required to reach 2.4 million households with livestock interventions, e.g. animal health, forage production and water point rehabilitation.

The October to January *bega* rains, critical in southern Ethiopia, are late and will likely be below-normal in some areas. The season provides up to 45 percent of total annual rainfall in *bega*-dependent areas and is essential for replenishing water points and pasture and browse for livestock. Abnormal livestock migrations may occur if conditions become severe.

Ethiopia hosts the third-largest South Sudanese refugee population in the region, with nearly 227 000 refugees now living in Gambella Region. With very limited resources and livelihood options, both refugees and host communities are facing high levels of food insecurity and livestock owners face increased risk of transboundary animal diseases. FAO will oversee an upcoming livelihood assessment and is preparing a joint intervention with local authorities, UNHCR and partner NGOs.

FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES



Crops

- Promote post-harvest loss mitigation

Livestock

- Conduct animal vaccinations and treatments
- Support fodder production
- Provision of survival feed to protect draught and core breeding animals
- Secure access to water for livestock
- Restore livelihoods through restocking with small ruminants

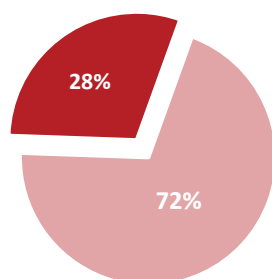


Building resilience

- Cash-for-work initiatives to improve critical infrastructure for water access
- Adoption of the *caisses de résilience* approach for better mitigation of future crises
- Household year-round food production through micro- and small-scale irrigation



FUNDING



- Funding to-date: USD 14 million
- Funding gap: USD 36 million

Donors: Belgium, ECHO, European Union, FAO, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, OCHA, Spain, UNICEF and USA.

FAO requires
USD 50 million

To assist
1.8 million people

ACTIONS TAKEN TO-DATE

- ✓ Crop and vegetable seed interventions in the most nutritionally vulnerable districts, benefiting 168 000 households as of October 2016.
- ✓ Distribution of survival and supplementary livestock feed to 9 600 households.
- ✓ Improving access to water for livestock through the rehabilitation of 18 water points, benefiting 125 480 livestock owned by 12 783 households.
- ✓ Supporting fodder production through the provision of forage seed to 1 600 households.
- ✓ Destocked 4 381 livestock, enhancing the income of 3 214 livestock sellers and improving the nutritional intake of 4 354 displaced households.
- ✓ Treated and/or vaccinated nearly 1.4 million animals belonging to 77 118 households.
- ✓ Created a Strategic Advisory Group to provide technical advice to the chairs of the Disaster Risk Management Agriculture Task Force.
- ✓ Created two emergency working groups (focusing on seed crops and livestock), to harmonize response to the crisis with government, NGO and resource partners.

POST-DISTRIBUTION ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND UPCOMING SEED SYSTEMS SECURITY ASSESSMENT

A recent **Post-Distribution Assessment** (PDA) analysed the effectiveness and appropriateness of the *meher* 2016 emergency seed distribution campaign. It was revealed that nine out of ten respondents received their seed of choice, found it to be of excellent or good quality, received it on time for planting and were overall very satisfied or satisfied with the whole distribution. Results of the PDA will contribute to informed decision-making in future emergency seed responses.

Between October and December 2016, a **Seed Systems Security Assessment** will be carried out by FAO and partners, including Catholic Relief Services, in order to define upcoming seed needs for crop-dependent households.

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