The humanitarian impact of the 2015-2016 El Niño remains deeply alarming, now affecting over 60 million people. Central America, East Africa (particularly Ethiopia), the Pacific and Southern Africa remain the most affected regions. The El Niño phenomenon is now in decline, but projections indicate the situation will worsen throughout at least the end of the year, with food insecurity caused primarily by drought not likely to peak before December. Therefore, the humanitarian impacts will last well into 2017. El Niño has affected food security and agricultural production, with cascading effects on livelihoods, health, water, sanitation, education and other sectors. This is due to flooding, disease outbreaks and malnutrition, disruption of health and education services, and overall increased mortality. In Eastern and Southern Africa, some 50.2 million people are food insecure, many due to drought exacerbated by El Niño or due...
to a combination of drought and conflict. This number is expected to increase significantly towards the end of the year. Drought, flooding and extreme weather events caused by El Niño affect women and girls in particular ways which must be understood and incorporated into humanitarian and development interventions.

This year’s El Niño is taking place in a world already dramatically affected by climate change. More extreme weather events are expected, and climate change may increase the frequency and severity of future El Niño events. These events hit the poorest communities hardest. This means that, in addition to responding quickly to critical food, water, nutrition, health and livelihoods requirements, efforts must be focused on building climate resilience and the capacity to respond to future shocks.

The likelihood of a La Niña developing by September 2016 has increased to 75 per cent. However, some uncertainty remains, as forecasts made at this time of the year typically have less accuracy than those made during the second half of the year. The World Meteorological Organization’s El Niño/La Niña Update of 12 May indicates a return to ENSO-neutral conditions in May 2016, with odds increasing of La Niña development in the third quarter. The specific impacts of La Niña are difficult to predict, but it typically brings extreme weather to the same regions most affected by El Niño, where people’s coping capacities have already been eroded. Areas now experiencing drought could face flooding, and areas that have seen excessive rainfall with El Niño could experience drought. This means that La Niña preparedness and early action need to be built into El Niño response and recovery efforts, and development actors should increase risk and vulnerability-reduction efforts in priority areas, including by reprioritizing existing development funding to mitigate the risks.

Several additional countries have finalized costed response plans since the last Global Overview, raising the funding request to almost US$3.9 billion. Response plans with requests for international assistance have been completed by Governments and/or humanitarian partners in 19 countries, with other plans still being finalized. Since mid-2015, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated over $119 million to 19 countries. Reflecting recent pledges and new funding requests, the current funding gap is almost $2.5 billion. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is expected to issue a regional appeal in June 2016, based on new crop assessments completed in May/June, which is expected to increase the funding request. The food security and agriculture sector is the worst affected by El Niño, with funding requests comprising almost 80 per cent of all national and humanitarian response plans.

On 20 May, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointments of Mary Robinson of Ireland and Macharia Kamau of Kenya as his Special Envoys on El Niño and Climate.

Mrs. Robinson is currently President of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice. She was the President of Ireland and previously served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She has also served as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Climate Change with John Kuofor and Michael Bloomberg. Photo: UN/Ky Chung

Mr. Kamau is the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations. He is a former President of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Board; former Co-Chair of the General Assembly Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and has had a long and distinguished career in the service of the United Nations, including with UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Photo: UN/Manuel Elias
La Niña

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation has three states: El Niño, La Niña and Neutral. A La Niña state occurs when the Equatorial Pacific Ocean surface temperatures are substantially colder than normal, unlike El Niño, which is associated with warmer-than-normal water temperatures. La Niña conditions often, but not always, follow El Niño conditions. Historically, three quarters of El Niño events were followed by La Niña conditions between 1950 and 2015. The strongest El Niño events do not lead necessarily to the strongest La Niña, and La Niña events generally have the opposite weather effects to El Niño. Areas that benefit from enhanced rainfall will not see immediate improvements in the food security and agriculture situation, as harvest may not occur until the end of 2016 or as late as mid-2017. On average, a La Niña event may have even greater overall humanitarian impact, as El Niño has eroded coping capacities.

La Niña Outlook

The possibility of a La Niña event will increase from about 50 per cent in July to about 75 per cent from October onward. La Niña will not be the only influence on weather patterns in the next twelve months - sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic and the Indian oceans will also play a role, enhancing or moderating La Niña impacts. An early start of La Niña in July-August may see it affect weather patterns during the northern hemisphere growing seasons (June to October). If a La Niña event develops, it should peak towards late 2016 and continue into early 2017, influencing the southern hemisphere and equatorial growing seasons from October 2016 to May 2017.

Asia

2016 has seen markedly drier-than-average conditions in southern India, South East Asia and the Philippines, and above-average rainfall in most of India and China. Forecasts for the core monsoon rainfall months (June to October) predict continued wetter-than-average conditions in India and western China, and moderately drier-than-average conditions in South East Asia and the Philippines. Therefore, the coming months are not expected to bring substantial relief to most of South East Asia. However, Indonesia and Malaysia should expect wetter-than-average conditions throughout 2016 and early 2017, and this may extend to Papua New Guinea and neighbouring areas of the Pacific.

West Africa

Up to mid-May, 2016 saw drier-than-average conditions for southwestern regions from Guinea to Ghana, and above-average rainfall across most of the rest of the region from Mali to Chad and Central African Republic. Seasonal forecasts for June to October indicate that drier-than-average conditions are expected to continue for the Senegal-Mauritania region and for the Gulf of Guinea (Guinea to Ghana and extending into Cameroon). In contrast, wetter-than-average conditions are forecast for a wide region of the Sahel from eastern Mali all the way to the Chad-Sudan borders. If the forecasts are realized, most of the Sahel will see a favourable growing season. If a La Niña occurs and

La Niña and Rainfall

La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific are known to shift rainfall patterns in many different parts of the world. Although they vary somewhat from one La Niña to the next, the strongest shifts remain fairly consistent in the regions and seasons shown on the map below.

Image source: IRI. For more information on El Niño and La Niña, go to: http://iri.columbia.edu/enso
continues until late 2017, a further favourable season would follow. For Gulf of Guinea countries, the scenarios are not so favourable, given the persistence of drier-than-average conditions since mid-2015.

**Eastern Africa and the Horn**

Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, South Sudan and Somaliland are experiencing wetter-than-average conditions since April. An earlier-than-usual start of the growing season has occurred across these regions. Seasonal forecasts indicate that these conditions will continue throughout 2016, which should lead to favourable cropping seasons and abundant pasture resources. This will allow for recovery from the disastrous drought in late 2015, after the main harvests. However, floods are possible, particularly in South Sudan, Sudan and western Ethiopia. These regions are typically drier-than-average during La Niña events in the October-December and March-May rainfall seasons. Current forecasts only extend to the three month period September-November and point to below-average rainfall. Although the 2010-2011 devastating drought took place during a La Niña event, it remains an outlier in the historical record.

**Latin America and Caribbean**

The first growing season is underway with irregular rainfall. Early season rainfall has been below average, except for Nicaragua and Honduras, and there have been some delays in the start of the season. Haiti and parts of Cuba were affected by extremely heavy rainfall during May. Seasonal forecasts point to average or moderately above-average rainfall for the first cropping season in May-July, which will take place outside of a possible La Niña influence. For the second season, forecasts indicate close to average conditions at best. Therefore there may not be substantial recovery from last year’s poor seasons.

**Southern Africa**

The next rainfall season will not start until October-November, hence there is little forecast information available. Based on analysis of historical La Niña data, the region should expect wetter-than-average conditions, in particular from early 2017 onwards. Historical crop statistics show seasons under the influence of La Niña corresponding to increased maize productivity. Enhanced crop production will require farmers to be in a position to capitalize on the improved rainfall with agricultural inputs, and crop production increases will only be realized in May 2017, with little impact on food security until then.6

---

6. For more information on El Niño and La Niña, go to: http://iri.columbia.edu/enso
A Global Call for Support and Action

Responding to El Niño - 26 April, Palais de Nations, Geneva

The sixth significant Member States briefing on El Niño since October 2015 was held on 26 April. More than 45 Member States and over 200 humanitarian and development partners participated. The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) urged donors to act now to support the national and international response to prevent the crisis from worsening. He stressed that the longer we wait, the more people will suffer, the more development gains will be lost and the more costly the response. A panel including CARE, UNDP, the AU, IFRC and the RC/HC of Ethiopia highlighted that people are being forced to make impossible choices for survival. The panel also discussed the need for additional funding, costed response plans by Governments, and a review of the weaknesses of the current global system to respond to such crises. The panel argued that ‘emergency development’ needed to be linked to longer-term recovery efforts. The European Commission announced a contribution of €414 million ($464 million) to address immediate and long-term needs. Norway pledged NOK30 million ($3.8 million). Affected countries took the floor to request support, including Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Somalia and Sudan. Humanitarian partners suggested next steps that include organizing a high-level pledging event, and a call was made for a conference in September to prepare for a possible La Niña. Two technical panel discussions were also held on the same day, titled ‘From El Niño to La Niña and beyond: the need for preparedness, early action and long-term resilience solutions’ and ‘Nutrition, HIV and gender integration in the El Niño response in Southern Africa’.

...the longer we wait, the more people will suffer, the more development gains will be lost...
East Africa

El Niño has triggered drought in Ethiopia, the Somaliland and Puntland regions of northern Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and eastern Chad. Due to severe water shortages, most communities in East Africa have turned to unprotected water sources, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases, and poor sanitation and hygiene. Water and pasture shortages damaged livestock production and caused livestock migration and death.

On 5 May, WFP released a report and forecast on the growing-season rains. Heavy rains from early April brought extensive relief to Ethiopia’s Afar region, some parts of Puntland and Somaliland, and south-east Ethiopia. In most agricultural and pastoral areas of southern and central Somalia and parts of semi-arid Kenya, improvements have been more modest, with drier-than-average conditions still affecting pastoral and rain-fed agricultural areas.

Forecasts for the remainder of this season are moderately optimistic for Ethiopian regions, while below-average seasonal rainfall is expected for most of semi-arid Kenya and Somalia. However, recent heavy rains may bring the season closer to average. Forecasts for the main season (June-October) in Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan point to a high likelihood of above-average rainfall. Good recovery prospects for pastoral and agricultural livelihoods are balanced by the possibility of large flood events, particularly for South Sudan.

Ethiopia

The worst drought in 50 years has tripled humanitarian needs since early 2015. More than 2.3 million households need immediate agricultural support. The number of people who need emergency health interventions nearly doubled in three months, from 3.6 million in December 2015 to 6.8 million in March 2016. A total of 10.2 million people still need food assistance, and this number is expected to grow in the second half of the year. There are an estimated 2 million additional ‘ad hoc beneficiaries’ – people needing assistance outside the original plan.

Malnutrition rates are staggering, with over one third of Ethiopia’s woredas (districts) officially classified as facing a dire food security and nutrition crisis. A total of 2.5 million children under age 5, pregnant women and nursing mothers need treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). It is estimated that 20 per cent of the expected 435,000 severely malnourished children will develop medical complications that need intensive life-saving medical treatment in hospital-based therapeutic feeding centres. Access to water and sanitation in the highland regions often exceeds 80 per cent.

Malnutrition rates are staggering, with over one third of Ethiopia’s woredas (districts) officially classified as facing a dire food security and nutrition crisis.
but access in the lowland regions is often below 5 per cent.

After a late start, spring rains have picked up, but they have so far been unevenly distributed. Heavy rains have caused significant dispatch-and-distribution delays for all components of the emergency response. Afder, Liban and Sitti zones have been mainly inaccessible. Dire Dawa, from where food is dispatched to Sitti zone, has been hard hit by heavy rains in the past few weeks. An estimated 485,600 people will be affected by belg-related floods, including about 189,700 people who will be displaced.10 The education system is heavily affected when flooding destroys schools. The loss of assets and livelihoods has compromised the capacity of parents and caregivers to send their children to school and cover the costs of clothing, school materials and food. Over 2 million primary school students (47 per cent girls) have been affected by drought and in some areas by floods (Shabelle zone, Somali region).

The Government has issued flood-alert warnings to the flood-risk woredas and communities about the likely occurrences of floods and the necessary precautionary measures required, including riverwater-level monitoring and evacuation of people residing along major waterways. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission-led Flood Task Force has prepared a flood contingency plan to mitigate the adverse effects of the current and anticipated floods. The task force will update the plan based on the National Meteorological Agency forecast for the 2016 meher (summer rain) season.

A prioritization exercise held during the first week of May clarified acute relief needs and major gaps in the 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) that require urgent additional donor support. The HRD will be formally revised in late June following the conclusion of a Government-led, multi-stakeholder belg assessment starting at the end of May, which will assess the success of the spring harvest and outstanding needs in other non-food sectors.
Impact and Responses by Region

Acute watery diarrhoea/cholera cases have been reported in 10 districts in southern and central Somalia. Since October 2015, humanitarian partners have scaled up critical life-saving and life-sustaining assistance in parts of Puntland and Somaliland. Clusters are prioritizing an integrated approach focusing on schools as entry points for response. This has ensured pupils and teachers remain in schools, and it has reduced the exposure of children to the risks of family separation when receiving assistance, including child labour and abuse. The approach allows for easy access to food assistance and basic services. On 31 March, aid agencies launched a ‘Call for Aid’ seeking $105 million to reach over 1 million people in Puntland and Somaliland.

Despite unevenly distributed gu (Sept-Oct) rains that brought limited relief, there has been some improved water availability and rangeland resources. However, drought continues to have a severe impact on communities in Puntland and Somaliland, and it has compounded an already challenging humanitarian situation. In some areas, 60 to 80 per cent of herds have been lost, with devastating impact on families who depend on livestock for income, food and status. The gu rains have ended the drought in some areas and created opportunities for recovery among affected communities, but the crisis remains of serious concern given the cumulative impact of up to four failed rainy seasons in some areas. If the rains stop earlier than the end of May/early June, the situation could deteriorate rapidly.

The River Shabelle had been at the lowest level in decades, but the water levels have been increasing since mid-April due to recent heavy rains. In the past month, critical water shortages and then a flooding risk were reported in Belet Weyne, Bulo Burto, Jalalaqsi in Hiraan region and Jowhar town in Lower Shabelle region. In Belet Weyne, river water levels were at a historical low since 1963. They reached above the high flood-risk level of 7.5 metres a few weeks later, with flooding affecting over 10,000 people and causing displacement and disrupting education.
There is a significantly increased risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases owing to unsafe water use. Acute watery diarrhoea/cholera cases have been reported in 10 districts in southern and central Somalia. Over 7,000 cholera cases were reported in the first quarter of 2016, including 336 deaths. Of the 7,000 cases, 58 per cent were children under age 5.

According to FEWSNET, the purchasing power of poor households in pastoral and agropastoral areas continues to decline as livestock prices drive reduced terms of trade and staple food access. As a result, food security has started to deteriorate two months earlier than normal in March/April. With an early start to the lean season in March/April, many IDPs and poor households in the SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan are expected to face emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes due to displacement, restricted trade, disrupted livelihood activities and sharp increases in staple food prices. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are likely in much of Darfur, Red Sea State, and parts of Kassala and North Kordofan States. The nutritional status of children remains a countrywide challenge, with acute malnutrition expected to increase by May. An estimated 280,000 children with acute malnutrition are expected to require preventive and life-saving assistance in 72 El Niño-affected localities across Sudan. El Niño brought reduced rainfall in key agricultural areas, reducing yields and the regeneration of water and pasture resources. Funding shortfalls, as well as humanitarian access limitations, are forcing many NGOs to scale down projects in IDP camps, including in the health, WASH and nutrition sectors.

For the most updated information, please visit: www.unocha.org/el-nino-east-africa
It has been the driest growing season in 35 years, and the region has already suffered from drought during the previous growing season. Food security is likely to start deteriorating further by July, reaching its peak between December 2016 and March 2017. Drought emergencies have been declared in Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, while Mozambique declared a 90-day institutional red alert. In addition, seven of South Africa’s nine provinces, which account for almost 90 per cent of the country’s maize production, have been declared drought-disaster areas. Drought is severely affecting more than 1.5 million people who rely on subsistence farming in Namibia, with a quarter of the population food insecure.

Southern African countries face a negative economic outlook, mainly due to falling commodity prices and weakening African currencies. Zambia and Zimbabwe experienced severe power shortages, with the hydroelectric Kariba Dam at 12 per cent capacity in mid-March, although recent rains have temporarily improved the situation. Dams have also dried up across Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland. In Zambia, the reduced power output of the Kariba Dam has affected mining operations and economic development and livelihoods. Water restrictions are being implemented across the region. Maize prices have continued to increase, and South Africa, traditionally a maize exporter, will have to import at least 6 million tons of maize—its staple grain—during 2016.

Inflation in Namibia accelerated sharply in January, as the effects of the severe drought translated into higher food prices.

The Governments of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have drafted response plans for immediate assistance amounting to over $1 billion, with the HCT response plans for Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe totaling $616 million. Some Governments have allocated funding from their State budgets to respond to arising needs, such as Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland, but this has not been systematic. The capacity of Governments in the region to respond to emergencies has increased over recent years, with many countries reaching middle-income status. All countries in the region have established national disaster management authorities (NDMAs) and strengthened early warning systems. However, Governments do not have recent experience in responding to major humanitarian emergencies, and NDMAs are severely underresourced and vary in functionality, particularly at the sub-national level. Humanitarian country teams exist in Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. However, due to decreasing humanitarian need over recent years, international humanitarian response capacity in the region has steadily reduced.

The outcomes of national vulnerability assessments are expected in June 2016, which will confirm the scale of the emergency. SADC is developing a regional response plan, as is the Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee, in support of SADC and its Member States. These plans should be finalized by the end of June, which is after the release of the assessment results but before the onset of the October to March lean season. This is when the impacts of two successive seasons of poor harvests will be most pronounced.
**ANGOLA**

An estimated 1.4 million people are food insecure, with the southern provinces of Benguela, Cuando, Cubango, Cunene, Huila, Kwanza Sul, and Namibe particularly affected. El Niño is causing another year of failed harvests. For example, the number of people requiring assistance in Cunene Province has increased from 500,000 to 700,000 (a quarter of the population), and these figures are expected to continue rising through 2016. Crop losses are expected to be as high as 75 per cent in parts of the south. The country is also battling an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, which is adding to livestock deaths. Angola is responding to a mosquito-borne Yellow Fever outbreak which has also spread to DRC, Uganda and China. Mass-vaccination campaigns for Yellow Fever have been conducted in Angola and are planned in DRC and Uganda.

---

**LESOTHO**

Lesotho is one of the worst-affected countries in the region, with reports showing that the 2015/16 agricultural season has failed. For the May/June harvest period, 80 per cent of farmers are not expecting to harvest anything significant. Rain fell in the early months of 2016, which helped improve the water crisis that had been crippling the country. The results of a multi-stakeholder rapid drought assessment conducted in January 2016 show that 535,000 people in the rural areas are experiencing food insecurity through June 2016. The situation is expected to worsen in the second half of the year into 2017. A recent nutrition and HIV survey found that almost 9 per cent of pregnant and lactating mothers were malnourished—an increase of 37 per cent since 2014.

---

**MADAGASCAR**

The south-western areas are experiencing El Niño-induced drought conditions. Low rainfall and high temperatures in January intensified dryness in the southern half of Madagascar, especially in the Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana regions. The drought, which has affected these regions since October 2015, has negatively affected crops and livestock, water availability, food prices, livelihoods and nutritional well-being. Households’ food and nutrition situation has significantly deteriorated.

More than 1 million people in these regions are food insecure, of whom 665,000 are severely affected. This represents more than 80 per cent of the population in the seven most-affected districts of Amboassary, Ambovombe, Ampaniany, Bekily, Beloha, Betioky and Tsihombe. The communities’ coping strategies are weakened by successive years of

---
shocks. They are adopting negative coping strategies, such as the sale of assets (including livestock); increasing wood-collection activities; reducing the number of meals per day; withdrawing children from schools; and migrating to other areas of the country. The deterioration of households’ food security affects the nutrition status of children under age 5. In February 2016, GAM levels reached an average 8 per cent within this age group. GAM rates were higher than the critical threshold of 10 per cent in some areas. Tshombe district is the most affected, with an average of 14 per cent of children under age 5 presenting signs of acute malnutrition.

MALAWI

On 12 April, the President declared a State of National Disaster caused by the prolonged dry spells during the 2015/16 season, with 2.8 million people being food insecure. Second-round crop estimates show an expected national maize deficit of over 1 million tons, which is nearly five times last year’s registered deficit. This implies that the number of people who need food-relief assistance will significantly increase over the next 18 months.

A pre-harvest assessment (released in March) found that all three regions experienced dry spells due to El Niño, with the central and southern regions hit harder than the north. At the same time, heavy rains continue in the northern region and could last until June, exacerbating the current flooding situation. At least seven displacement camps have been established, with more than 35,000 flood-affected people currently being hosted there. Food insecurity continues to aggravate Malawi’s fragile nutrition situation, with vulnerable groups and people on anti-retroviral treatment or tuberculosis treatment feeling the heavy consequences of drought.

Admissions to health clinics caused by moderate acute malnutrition have risen fourfold since January. The country is also experiencing a cholera outbreak that started in December 2015.

MOZAMBIQUE

On 1 April, the technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition released the results of the latest food and nutrition security assessment. It indicated that 1.5 million people were acutely food insecure and require humanitarian assistance in the Central regions, while the Government estimates that the number will reach 1.8 million this year. An estimated 191,000 children are expected to be severely acutely malnourished in the next 12 months, and GAM rates for children under age 5 are 15.3 per cent and 15.5 per cent in Sofala and Tete Provinces, respectively. Few households have any cereal reserves for consumption. As a result, there has been a sharp reduction in the quality of diet between November 2015 and March 2016. Maize prices have increased by almost 100 per cent since this time last year. Children, particularly girls, are dropping out of school to help fetch water and food, or because families are moving to areas with better conditions. On 12 April, the Government declared a 90-day red alert, the highest level of national emergency preparedness, covering the central and southern areas. This measure aims to intensify and expand response actions, disburse additional funds planned for emergency situations and mobilize resources through cooperating partners. The Government will disburse $10.5 million as budgeted in its contingency plan.

SWAZILAND

The Swaziland Drought Rapid Assessment Report estimates a 64 per cent reduction in maize production compared with last year’s season. Results confirm that 320,000 people (about 30 per cent of the total population) need immediate food assistance. The hardest-hit regions
are Lubombo and Shiselweni. An estimated 64,000 cattle have perished in the drought, threatening lives and livelihoods. The next main harvest season is not until April 2017, meaning food and nutrition indicators are likely to deteriorate over the coming months. This is of great concern given the already high rates of chronic malnutrition. Swaziland has a very high prevalence of HIV/AIDS – 26 per cent among the adult population (15-49 years). Food insecurity negatively affects people living with HIV in a variety of ways.

Following the declaration of a State of Emergency in February 2016, the Government published the National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan. The Government has pledged $16.5 million for immediate and longer-term interventions. The Government held a meeting on 16 March 2016 to brief partners on the situation and mobilize additional resources.

**ZIMBABWE**

The combination of a poor 2015 harvest, an extremely dry early season and forecasts for continuing hot and drier-than-average conditions through mid-2016 suggest a scenario of extensive crop failure in Zimbabwe. With some 2.8 million people (more than a quarter of the rural population) already estimated to be food insecure, the number is projected to rise significantly over the next year, with the main harvest period expected to bring minimal relief.

Global acute malnutrition (GAM) is at 5.7 per cent, the highest in the past 15 years. The severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 2.1 per cent is slightly above the 2 per cent standard threshold for emergency response. 12 Nationally, over 7,000 children with SAM have been admitted to therapeutic treatment programmes between December 2015 and May 2016. Almost 17 per cent (1,162) of these admissions took place in emergency response districts where active nutrition screening is taking place. In these same districts, the number of children admitted for SAM treatment has more than doubled compared with the same period last year. An estimated 62,000 drought-affected children, women and men received access to safe water to prevent water- and sanitation-related diseases through the rehabilitation of piped-water schemes and boreholes. UNICEF is continuing its response to the reported typhoid outbreak.

On 4 May, the Zimbabwe Humanitarian Country Team released the Humanitarian Response Plan, with $360 million required to support a target of 1.86 million people.

For the most updated information, please visit: www.unocha.org/el-Niño-southern-africa

Few households have any cereal reserves for consumption... Children, particularly girls, are dropping out of school to help fetch water and food...
Asia and the Pacific

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Many Pacific countries mitigated the most serious impacts before most situations reached crisis point. In the North Pacific, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands are all grappling with El Niño-induced droughts that are threatening water and food supplies. In the South Pacific, damage from Category 5 cyclones is combining with unusual rainfall patterns to intensify food security risks in Fiji and Vanuatu.

Extended water shortages and prolonged lean seasons due to drought, coupled with poor nutrition outcomes and widespread poverty, are affecting several Asian countries. Asia’s top rice producers are suffering, and global rice output is expected to decline for the first time in six years. In Cambodia, there are concerns regarding water availability. Six per cent of the 411 wells assessed (by telephone assessment) were reported dry. Based on the very limited information available, the estimation is that about 500,000 additional people could temporarily rely on unsafe water sources (e.g. ponds).

The Philippines Government estimates production loss in rice, corn, high-value crops and livestock from February 2015 to April 2016 at PhP11 billion ($239 million), affecting more than 260,000 farmers and about 354,000 hectares of farmland. As of 30 April, 28 provinces, or 35 per cent of the country, experienced drought. By the end of May, this could increase to 37 provinces, or 46 per cent of the country. In Indonesia, an estimated 1.2 million people are reliant on rainfall for their food production. The Government has been nearly the sole provider of assistance, with NGOs providing some additional support. The most common form of assistance was food, cash, drinking water and short-term hybrid seeds.
Impact and Responses by Region

56 million national livestock have perished, affecting the population who rely on livestock for their main source of food and cash. Partners are now beginning to implement early recovery activities and address medium-term priorities linked to El Niño and climate change impacts. To continue to provide assistance to respond to and mitigate the impacts of dzud and El Niño, the Humanitarian Country Team is seeking $14.3 million. The amount reflects the anticipated requirement for immediate response needs (which are now largely addressed) as well as medium- to longer-term preparedness and recovery interventions (where gaps remain). Therefore, the amount may be revised. Some $6.3 million has been received against the plan to date.

In 2016, saltwater intrusions average 20 to 30 km further inland than normal, and started up to two months earlier. As a result, some 429,500 hectares of crops have been damaged or remain unplanted.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Drought and frost have affected the food security of nearly 1.5 million people. Some rains have eased the water supply situation in certain parts of the country, but food and water insecurity persist in various locations. Over 180,000 people face extreme food shortages in the remote Western Province, high-altitude locations in Enga and Hela Provinces, and Milne Bay Province. Communities have restarted their replanting of food gardens, but the three-to-six-month period required for staple crops to mature (up to nine months in high-altitude locations) translates to continued food insecurity until at least September 2016. The situation is particularly aggravated in communities living in dispersed remote areas, where physical access remains a major logistical and financial challenge.

On 18 April, the Disaster Management Team released an El Niño Response Plan for $37.57 million to address critical needs in food assistance, nutrition, health, WASH, agricultural recovery and early recovery. This is targeting 180,000 people who particularly need food relief and 210,000 people who need support in agricultural recovery. The appeal is currently 30 per cent funded, including $4.7 million from CERF.

Silas Orrocco, a community leader at Sirumgoralo, Papua New Guinea, shows the water level in one of his village’s two 90,000-litre water tanks. It’s rained only twice or three times per fortnight; in a regular dry season it should be four times a week.

Photo: Rodney Dekker/Oxfam

Drought and frost have affected the food security of nearly 1.5 million people.
TIMOR-LESTE

The late and reduced rainfall since October 2015 has affected all communities across Timor-Leste, especially coastal areas. In some locations, monthly rainfall has been up to 68 per cent lower than the monthly average rainfall in previous years. This has led to delayed or stressed crop planting, no or reduced yield, reduced water access and insufficient food. People in rural areas continue to depend on unsustainable coping mechanisms, including eating less, changing primary water sources, selling assets and/or borrowing money.

Based on multiple assessments, four municipalities and the country’s Special Economic Zone with a total population of approximately 400,000 people have been identified as worst affected: Baucau, Covalima, Lautem, Oecusse and Viqueque. About 120,000 people in these locations are severely affected.

The Government is preparing to provide emergency food security support in the coming months, and it has identified State warehouses in the relevant municipalities. Criteria have been proposed to ensure that food assistance is distributed to those communities and households most in need. Emergency preparedness and response are led by the Ministry of Interior, in coordination with line ministries. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment purchased 9,000 tons of rice from overseas.

In support of the Government, the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in Timor-Leste prepared an Emergency Response Plan in close collaboration with the HCT and the Ministry of Interior. WASH, food, nutrition, health, livelihoods and education are highlighted as the most urgent areas of response. Funding requirements for the response are $25 million.

VIETNAM

Two million people are at risk of drought-induced water shortages in the Central Highlands, South Central and Mekong Delta regions. About 35 per cent of the country is currently drought affected, with 18 provinces among those most affected. The drought has exacerbated seasonal saltwater intrusion in the Mekong Delta, affecting aquifers that support domestic water demand. In 2016, saltwater intrusions average 20 to 30 km further inland than normal, and started up to two months earlier. As a result, some 429,500 hectares of crops have been damaged or remain unplanted in the Mekong Delta and other parts of the country, causing significant disruption of livelihoods and increasing the risk of food insecurity. In three of the drought-affected provinces assessed in March, the rate of SAM had increased from 1.3 to 1.8 per cent in 2015 to 1.9 to 2.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2016. Increasing cases of disease, including dengue, diarrhoea and dysentery, as well as foot and mouth disease among livestock, were observed.

An interagency and multi-sector rapid assessment was organized from 21 to 24 March in six of the then 12 provinces that had declared states of emergency. The assessment and subsequent updates indicate that 2 million people are without access to water, 1.1 million people need food aid, 27,500 children and 39,000 women are malnourished, 400,000 people are at risk of water-related disease outbreaks and 1.75 million people are suffering lost livelihoods. The direct economic loss of the drought in 2016 is an estimated $400 million.

An Emergency Response Plan released on 26 April requires $48.5 million to meet affected people’s needs. Of this, some $41.4 million is urgently needed to meet immediate and longer-term needs to strengthen resilience.

FIJI

Food security monitoring is under way after the El Niño-fuelled Tropical Cyclone Winston hit the country at Category 5 strength in February. Many areas hit hardest by the cyclone were those that had struggled with El Niño-related water shortages, challenging local resilience. The cyclone initially left many communities reliant on food rations or cash payments for food. More than 350,000 affected people received food rations following the cyclone, but these deliveries have now ended. WFP has secured additional funding to step-up food monitoring with and on behalf of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster. Pregnant and lactating women, as well as young children, are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition. Recent flooding in some areas washed away up to 80 per cent of the replacement seeds and seedlings planted after Winston. This has exacerbated other vulnerabilities including health and safety.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

There has been some welcome recent rainfall in parts of RMI, but a State of Emergency remains in force due to El Niño-induced drought. An estimated 21,000 people are severely affected, with food security emerging as a humanitarian concern. The impacts on agriculture have been severe, and food baskets are being prepared for distribution to thousands of people on the out-
Impact and Responses by Region

The baskets are designed to provide sustenance for between four and seven months depending on local drought severity. On 27 April, President Barack Obama declared a disaster in RMI, freeing-up federal funding available for drought relief. A nine-month Drought Response Plan seeking $8.9 million has been developed, with $4.4 million in activities unfunded. RMI has been hit by an outbreak of conjunctivitis or pink eye, with hundreds of cases reported on Majuro. Health officials have linked the outbreak to the five-month drought, which limited the water available for hand washing.

States of emergency are in force in all four states of FSM due to drought. The Government has signaled that a national declaration remains unlikely, and there is no current request for international assistance, with needs being met internally. The entire population (approx. 100,000 people) has been affected by the current drought. The worst-affected areas are the main island of Yap and its outlying islands/atolls, as well as the Chuuk Northwest region. These areas have a combined population of between 15,000 and 20,000 people. NOAA has classified these regions as being in severe, extreme or exceptional drought. The Government reports that food security for the outlying islands is a serious concern, with decreased rainfall leading to drying up of aquifers. This allows seawater intrusion into taro patches, the main staple crop. Drier conditions in those islands render agricultural fields unproductive. Yap State is providing food assistance to residents of the outlying islands.

Vanuatu continues to grapple with El Niño-influenced drought, with many of the most affected areas the same as those which were hit by Category 5 Cyclone Pam last March. Recent rains have eased water concerns across most of the country but food security remains a significant concern. The country’s Climate Change Department continues to forecast below-average rainfall over the next few months, after which Vanuatu will move into its traditional dry season. There are concerns that food gardens may not be able to supply sufficient produce to keep all areas and populations appropriately fed in the coming months. The National Disaster Management Office and various provincial governments have distributed food to some of the most severely affected locations including the Shepard Islands and western Santo. Shipments of food have also been sent to schools in Shefa and Tafea Province to encourage attendance. All sectors are working on improving monitoring and early warning systems and the newly elected Government has recently provided $480,000 in emergency El Niño funding for water, sanitation, hygiene, food security and logistics needs. This emergency funding is also being used to procure and transport additional water tanks to identified hot spots.

For the most updated information, please visit:
www.unocha.org/el-Niño-pacific
www.unocha.org/el-Niño-asia-pacific
Impact and Responses by Region

Latin America and the Caribbean

The dry corridor countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua are experiencing their worst drought in decades. More than 2 million people are food insecure and need food assistance, health care, livelihood recovery and activities that increase resilience. 2016 maize losses range from 50 to 100 per cent in several areas. Households most affected by drought have already spent two or three years in crisis conditions and most have only one harvest per year. There has been a late and irregular start of the first rainy season and higher temperatures in Central America. This may lead to delays in sowing staple crops (primera) and lack of water for human and animal consumption. Without sufficient emergency assistance, food shortfalls at the household level will continue at least until September 2016. Along the dry corridor of southern and western Honduras, poor households most affected by drought last year are expected to be in crisis (Phase 3) if they do not receive humanitarian assistance. April and May 2016 saw above-normal rainfall in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Eastern Guatemala. Irregular rain patterns, coupled with the poor state of soil moisture in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, will have a negative impact on crop development in the short term for those farmers who have started agricultural activities. For this reason, the Ministries of Agriculture of Guatemala and El Salvador have suggested postponing the start of the lean season (in Guatemala, by the fourth week of May; in El Salvador, based on field confirmation of adequate soil-moisture levels). Nicaragua and Honduras have not made recommendations for the start of the lean season. Above-average rainfall caused by El Niño in parts of South America has caused floods and increased diseases spread by mosquitoes, including malaria, dengue, chikungunya and the Zika virus. Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay and Peru continue to suffer floods in low-lying areas and drought in mountain regions. Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay are seeing more intense rainfall. Drought turned parts of the area behind Venezuela’s Guri Dam into a desert, but the Government is optimistic there will be sufficient rain to refill the dam that provides the bulk of the nation’s power.

Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay and Peru continue to suffer floods in low-lying areas and drought in mountain regions

A total of 700,000 people have been affected by the drought in El Salvador. Drought conditions are expected to last until June 2016 in the dry corridor. An estimated 170,000 people are food insecure and this number may increase until the primera harvests begin in August 2016. The HCT and Government actors

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Flor Marina Aquino, of El Ranchon, La Herradura, El Salvador, who is part of a resilience programme that is changing cultivation techniques and timing, and shifting from chemical to homemade organic fertilizer. This year’s El Niño has proved that the techniques work. Photo: Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam America
prepared a three-year plan of action requiring $44 million. The plan aims to provide humanitarian assistance to 50,000 people (short term) and to increase the resilience of 24,000 families (medium term). So far, approximately $4.2 million has been received (9 per cent of funding requirements). On 14 April, El Salvador declared a water shortage emergency for the first time in its history, citing the effects of climate change and the El Niño phenomenon. In the last four years, rainfall has decreased considerably, and river and water reserve levels have reached a critical state.

GUATEMALA

Serious food insecurity has been reported in the lowest areas of the Temperate Western Altiplano, where heavy losses in staple crops throughout 2015 have made the poorest households totally dependent on food purchases. In some areas, SAM is reported to be as high as 8 per cent. A combination of drought, El Niño and coffee rust has affected people in the dry corridor. Guatemala needs $55.4 million to meet the needs of 500,000 people most affected by the drought, as elaborated in the 2016 Central America HRP, out of a total of 915,000 food insecure people. As of late May, $13 million (23 per cent) was funded. The lack of water and interrupted livelihoods have affected food consumption and people’s nutritional status. In affected areas, acute malnutrition or wasting rates range from 3.3 to 10 per cent. This scenario overlaps with the already high rates of chronic malnutrition in children under age 5 (as high as 53 per cent). As the structural health crisis has affected the entire network, several of the affected areas have no capacity to survey, treat and follow-up malnourished children or to provide basic and emergency health services.

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY EL NIÑO

GUATEMALA 1.5 million drought-affected people day laborers and subsistence farmers

EL SALVADOR 700,000 subsistence farmers affected

HONDURAS 1.3 million people suffer food insecurity as a consequence of the drought caused by El Niño
Honduras

South-western Honduras will remain in crisis (IPC Phase 3) from March to August 2016. According to a recent assessment by the Humanitarian Network, chaired by the Government, more than 2 million people have been severely affected and close to half a million people require emergency assistance. The Government will allocate about $27 million to address the effects of El Niño-induced drought. With these funds, actions will be implemented to ensure water supply for human consumption and agricultural and livestock activities. The Humanitarian Response Plan is 12 per cent funded, with a gap of $38.9 million.

Haiti

Haiti has suffered crop losses of over 50 per cent due to El Niño-influenced drought. A total of 3.6 million people are food insecure (one third of the population), and 40 districts are currently in crisis (IPC Phase 3). Of these people, 1.5 million are severely food insecure and need immediate food assistance, while over 130,000 children are suffering from acute malnutrition.

Dry conditions have prevailed since the main crop season started in February. This means there will not be a good harvest by July, and the food security situation could deteriorate further.

Recent rains have caused flooding, and on 3 March, damaged more than 10,000 homes in the north and west, as well as schools and agricultural land. In Limonade and Cap-Haitien, the two most flood-affected communes, more than 10,000 families need food and other items, such as blankets and mattresses.

The Haiti 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan was launched on 7 April and seeks $105.5 million to provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by El Niño (out of total requirement of $193.8 million).

For the most updated information, please visit: www.unocha.org/el-Niño-latin-america-caribbean

Sources: Government of Haiti (MICT, CNSA, MSPP, CNGIS), OPS/OMS, FEWS NET, WFP)
Shukri Ige and Amina Hassen need to get water from a well dug by villagers in Siti Zone, Ethiopia, but the holes are getting drier and, often, water collected this way is not suitable for drinking. Photo: Abiy Getahun/Oxfam
## El Niño – Current Funding Status (in million US$)

### Government Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>% Funding</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>$37.2M</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>$9.9M</td>
<td>$27.3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>$149M</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>$139M</td>
<td>$10M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>$8.9M</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>$4.5M</td>
<td>$4.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>$238M</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>$28M</td>
<td>$210M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>$3.2M</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>$2M</td>
<td>$1.2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>$64M</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>$10M</td>
<td>$54M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>$600M</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>$200M</td>
<td>$400M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,100.3M</strong></td>
<td><strong>393.4M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$706.9M</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Joint Government and HCT Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>% Funding</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>$44.6M</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$4.2M</td>
<td>$40.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>$1,524M</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>$831M</td>
<td>$693M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>$69.9M</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>$23.9M</td>
<td>$46M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>$14.3M</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>$6.36M</td>
<td>$7.94M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>$82M</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>$25.3M</td>
<td>$56.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor Leste</td>
<td>$25M</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$25M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>$48.5M</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>$7.8</td>
<td>$40.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,808.3M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$898.6M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$909.7M</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding figures are not based on OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service (FTS) but on information provided by partners, governments and donors.
## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS

Funding figures are based on OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>% FUNDING</th>
<th>FUNDING</th>
<th>GAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GUATEMALA*</td>
<td>$57M</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>$13M</td>
<td>$44M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAITI†</td>
<td>$105.5M</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>$18.9M</td>
<td>$86.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONDURAS*</td>
<td>$44.2M</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>$5.3M</td>
<td>$38.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOMALIA*</td>
<td>$127M</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>$37M</td>
<td>$90M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZIMBABWE*</td>
<td>$359M</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$31M</td>
<td>$328M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$692.7M</td>
<td></td>
<td>$105.2M</td>
<td>$587.5M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## OTHER INTER-AGENCY PLANS

Funding figures are not based on OCHA’s FTS but on information provided by partners, governments and donors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>% FUNDING</th>
<th>FUNDING</th>
<th>GAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</td>
<td>$37.6M</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$11.5M</td>
<td>$26.12M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOZAMBIQUE*</td>
<td>$203.5M</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$19.4M</td>
<td>$184.1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESOTHO</td>
<td>$54M</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>$12M</td>
<td>$42M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$295.1M</td>
<td></td>
<td>$42.9M</td>
<td>$252.2M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## GLOBAL TOTAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$3,896.3M</th>
<th>$1,440M</th>
<th>$2,456.4M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

---

*Includes figures for 2015/16

†$600m for immediate response (total $1.6 billion)

*The HRD was reprioritised, with a prioritisation statement issued 10 May. Figures for funding available do not include pledges not yet delivered of $254m, including a $128m pledge from USAID and a $113m pledge from ECHO.

*Under development – Mar 2016 – Apr 2017

*The ERP requirement is expected to increase significantly to reflect new developments and data in the coming weeks

*Figures based on FTS reporting against the HRP as of June 1.

*Finalised April 2016

---

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Guide to Giving

CONTRIBUTING TO EL NIÑO PREPAREDNESS- AND-RESPONSE EFFORTS

To find out about existing HCT El Niño-related response plans, please visit the following links:

- Haiti Humanitarian Response Plan: http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/hti_hrp_060416_final_0.pdf

For Joint Government and HCT El Niño-related response plans, please visit the following links:


CONTRIBUTING THROUGH THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF)

Since mid-2015, the Central Emergency Fund has allocated US$119.2 million to 19 countries for life-saving activities in response to drought, floods and cyclones that can be linked to El Niño. This includes $115.2 million disbursed and some additional $4 million currently being processed.

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CERF_el-nino_20160511.pdf

CERF is one of the fastest and most effective ways to support rapid humanitarian response. The Fund provides immediate funding for life-saving humanitarian action at the onset of emergencies and for crises that have not attracted significant funding. More information about CERF and how to contribute can be found at www.unocha.org/cerf/donate

REGISTERING AND RECOGNIZING YOUR CONTRIBUTION

OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions to emergencies (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral). Its aim is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity and to show the total amount of funding and resource gaps for each emergency. Please report your contributions to FTS, either by e-mail to fts@un.org or through the online contribution report form at http://fts.unocha.org.