EL NIÑO:
OVERVIEW OF IMPACT, PROJECTED
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

60 MILLION
people affected globally

US$5 BILLION
requested

US$3.1 BILLION
funding gap

21 SEPTEMBER 2016

Photo: UNICEF/Ayene
The El Niño weather event has been in a neutral phase since May. Nevertheless, it continues to have a devastating impact on vulnerable people in parts of Eastern and Southern Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Dry Corridor in Central America, and Haiti in the Caribbean. This event will also cause long term consequences for public health, nutrition, livelihoods, water and sanitation.

The weather phenomenon has resulted in poor or failed harvests in Africa, the Pacific and Central America in mid-2016, and has forced millions of poor households to resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing meal sizes and non-food expenditures and selling productive assets. Poor or failed harvests lower the food supply and drive up food prices putting more burden on vulnerable households who have already seen their income reduced from poor crop production, loss of livestock and lack of employment. Water scarcity has also triggered human and livestock migration, particularly in pastoral communities. While some areas have experienced poor harvests due to drought, El Niño has led to heavy rainfalls and flooding in other parts of East Africa, Asia and Latin America, which has damaged crops and further reduced food security. The drought and floods also contribute to the spread of water- and mosquito-borne diseases.

Humanitarian partners have been calling for immediate support for farmers, particularly in East and Southern Africa where the growing season will start in September and October. A timely response could help avoid another food crisis in 2017. Many vulnerable households, including subsistence farmers and pastoral communities, are also in need of food assistance, nutrition and other basic services and support to recover their livelihoods.

In August, Ethiopia and Somalia renewed calls for funding for humanitarian response through the end of 2016. Ethiopia has requested $1.6 billion to assist 9.5 million drought-affected people until December 2016. Somalia is requesting $61 million to continue with the response in the Puntland and Somaliland regions until September 2016. In Southern Africa, Zimbabwe is revising its humanitarian requirements after a recent assessment showed an increase in the number of vulnerable people from 2.8 million to 4.1 million.

Food assistance is still delivered to affected communities in Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Marshall Islands, while about 2 million people in Vietnam need access to safe drinking water following massive saltwater intrusion. In Vietnam, a joint Government-humanitarian partners’ drought recovery plan is being finalized, with the cost of recovery estimated to be $166 million for the remainder of 2016 and $368 million for 2017. Disaster risk reduction and livelihood recovery activities are being implemented to build resilience to future crises, including in the Republic of Marshall Islands and Timor-Leste.

In the Dry Corridor in Central America, about 3.5 million people are still in need of food and livelihoods support. The situation is exacerbated by floods, disease outbreaks and coffee rust infestation.

Latest Forecasts from the US Climate Prediction Centre show that neutral conditions are now more likely than La Niña conditions for the remainder of 2016 and early 2017.

Twenty-three countries have issued costed response plans, requiring a total of $5 billion. As of September 2016, only 38 per cent of the total requirement is funded, leaving 60 million people at significant risk of further loss.
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El Niño and La Niña events have a profound developmental aspect, when considering the vulnerabilities of populations at risk as well as the long term solutions for this type of event.
Special Envoys on El Niño and Climate visit affected regions

The parched road with dying trees and shrubs that leads to Dvokodweni Constituency is a silent witness to the extreme suffering brought by two years of successive drought. The prolonged dryness caused by the El Niño weather event last year has slowly and certainly reduced the quality of life in this rural community in Lubombo region in the easternmost part of Swaziland – a region where families survive by selling crops and raising livestock.

“I am afraid that if the weather deteriorates further all the livestock will die,” Ms. Thwala, an elderly villager in the Lubombo region, told Mrs. Robinson during a mission to Swaziland in late August.

More than 1,900 people in this community of 5,104 received food assistance from the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the World Food Programme (WFP) and its implementing partner Africa Christian Action Trust. Monitoring has shown that emergency food assistance is needed for another nine months, but due to funding shortfalls at WFP, the food assistance will only last for another two months. In November, at the peak of the lean season, the assistance will run out. Lubombo region is one of the worst affected by the drought.

Mrs. Robinson expressed her appreciation to the women who were involved in organizing food distribution and especially to the young people distributing “dignity kits” to their peers to ensure they can make informed choices on sexual health as well as protection from diseases.

“I am most impressed that the operation is more than delivering food but takes a holistic approach by having a mobile clinic and access for young people to receive advice on lifestyle choices,” she said.

She also visited Ndzangu Community in the same region where she met with farmers who received clean drinking water and hygiene messages from the NDMA working with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Vision. More than 440 people, including 109 girls and 105 women, benefit from the water project.
“Because of the drought, we’re forced to get water from the dirty dam and it creates a problem in our community. Many children get waterborne diseases. We’re thankful for this water because it will save the lives of our children,” said Ms. Neli, a mother of three.

In Mbabane, the Special Envoy met with Heads of State from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and spoke at SADC’s 36th Ordinary Summit. In her speech, Mrs. Robinson said that the traditional models of humanitarian response will not be viable for responding to the “new normal” as a consequence of climate change. She emphasized that the focus should be on risk-informed development that prioritizes prevention, mitigation and preparedness. “All the evidence tells that this type of early action works – and that it provides exponential returns in terms of human dignity, safety and wellbeing, as well as countries’ overall economic and social development.”

The former Irish President and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights called for greater support and cooperation in climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, including finding ways to ensure that global commitments to financing for climate resilience are translated into rapid and serious investments in the places that need them most.

The Special Envoy visited Vietnam from 3-6 September, where she advocated for stronger roles for women in disaster risk management and in the response to climate change.

Mrs. Robinson’s speech to the 36th Ordinary Summit of the SADC can be downloaded at Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice. http://www.mrfcj.org/resources/mary-robinson-visits-swaziland-to-witness-the-impacts-of-el-nino-and-climate-change/

“As a global community we are reasonably successful at ‘early warning’, raising the alarm about the slowly-unfolding disaster we can clearly see coming our way. The challenge then is in moving from early warning to early action.

– Mary Robinson, Remarks to the 36th Ordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community, 30 August 2016
Impact and Responses by Region

East Africa

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Rainfall patterns during the period varied both above and below historic averages in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, which are among the worst affected by El Niño in this region. For areas that received below average rainfall, signs of increased vulnerabilities are evident, especially in southern and southeastern Ethiopia and the north of Somalia. These include low food supply from poor harvests, increased malnutrition cases, lack of employment in the agricultural sector, livestock deaths, increased market prices for food and lower prices for livestock, and depleting pasture and water resources. Additionally, children are at risk of being exposed to malnutrition, water shortages, disease outbreaks, child protection violations and disruption to their education.

Flooding in parts of Ethiopia and Sudan resulted in water-borne disease outbreaks, and significant people and livestock movement throughout August.

Ethiopian humanitarian partners were able to reach the targeted 10.2 million affected people with food assistance within six months after the launch of the Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) last December. Over 60 per cent out of the $1.4 billion funding requested was generously covered by donors.

Mothers bring their babies and young children to be screened for malnutrition at the community health post. One mother from Ethiopia, Marianna, is here with her two year old daughter, Tamina, to receive their latest supply of emergency therapeutic food as Tamina has been diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition. (Photo: UNICEF/Mulugeta Ayene)
An estimated 9.7 million people will continue to require humanitarian food aid in the future.

Funding constraints in Somalia, however, have limited partners’ interventions in a range of priority sectors despite the emerging needs of the drought-affected populations in Puntland and Somaliland.

**ETHIOPIA**

The summer (kiremt) rains, beginning in June, brought relief to many parts of the country with the exception of some areas in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, Peoples’ regional state (SNNP), and eastern Oromia where below-average rains threaten to reduce yields. The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) projected that the meher October harvest, the main annual harvest, will be close to average at the national level. Livestock conditions are improving except in seasonally dry areas of southeastern and southern pastoral areas of Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions.

The Government of Ethiopia’s Flood Contingency Plans released in July, estimated over 1 million people in nine regions will be affected by floods during the current rainy season, with more than 460,000 likely to be displaced. The heavy kiremt rains in August had affected more than 771,000 people in seven regions. The rains, compounded with limited access to safe water and poor sanitation and hygiene practices, increased the spread of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD).

Humanitarian partners released a plan to support the Government response to the AWD outbreak as the number of cases surged beyond 15,000 in early September. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Government AWD response plan requires $22.4 million to assist about 70,000 people with integrated health and WASH responses.

Drought exacerbated by El Niño, combined with extensive flooding, disease outbreaks and the disruption of basic public services, is having a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of 9.7 million Ethiopians. Sources: UNHCR, OCHA Ethiopia

From August to September, the impacts of El Niño-induced drought continue to negatively affect food security, nutritional and health conditions as a result of limited belg (spring) harvests and elevated food prices. The rising food prices forced families to resort to drastic coping mechanisms, such as skipping meals, selling off assets, and taking children out of school or missing classes.

By June 2016, five rounds of food assistance had reached the target of 10.2 million drought-affected people in six regions, with more than 200,000 people receiving cash assistance. Seeds were distributed to 1.5 million people, more than 83,000 livestock were treated for diseases, and 15,100 households in Somali region received vouchers for animal health services. Water trucking provided at least 1.3 million people access to safe water prior to the belg rainy season. Water support also reached more than 219,000 children in 60 schools while more than 88,000 school children benefited from the school feeding programme.

More than 80,000 people affected by flood, drought and conflict received emergency shelter support, and more than 197,000 people received medical services. Some 700,000 children received mea-sles vaccinations while more than 490,000 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and more than 170,000 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases affecting children under five and pregnant women were treated. As a result, the estimated number of children that require SAM treatment in 2016 decreased from 458,000 to 420,000.

Psychosocial support services were also provided to more than 9,000 women and girls and 8,100 children.

Following a mid-year review in August 2016, the Government and Humanitarian Partners revised the total number of people requiring humanitarian assistance downward to 9.7 million. The updated HRD requests a total of $1.6 billion with additional requirements for nutrition, health, WASH, education, protection, logistics and emergency shelter/non-food items until December 2016.
As of September, 63 per cent of the HRD has been funded.

In August, OCHA and partners released a forward-looking analysis based on information from the impact of past La Niña events. At the time of release, it was considered more than likely that La Niña conditions would develop and create significant flooding and drought-like conditions in different parts of the country through summer 2017.

Given the likelihood of impact, humanitarian partners have called for urgent support for farmers so that they can start planting in order to avoid a food crisis next year.

**SOMALIA**

Below average and erratic Gu rainfalls from April to July have worsened the drought situation in the northern part of Somalia, which is still recovering from four seasons of failed rains. The most-affected areas are Bari, Karkaar, Mudug, Nugaal and Sool regions in Puntland and along the Hawd Pastoral areas where poor rainfalls have forced livestock migration and low livestock production.

In Bari and parts of Karkaar regions, water trucking has been ongoing since 2015, but prices are beyond...
Impact and Responses by Region

the means of most of the affected people. A majority of water berkeds are dry or damaged.

El Niño brought heavy, though erratic rains and flooding in parts of southern and central Somalia and severe drought in the north. The inconsistency and ill-timed Gu rainfall led to significant crop destruction. In some southern cereal producing regions, this destruction was up to 50 per cent, reducing agricultural labor opportunities. It also failed to adequately restore pasture and water resources to support normal livestock productivity.

Flash floods temporarily improved the water and pasture conditions in Bari, Sanaag and Sool, attracting livestock migration. But this quickly dried up. Many poor households depend on trucked water, making them vulnerable to food insecurity.

While the likelihood of a La Niña event during the Deyr rainy season from October to early 2017 has diminished, the forecast still predicts below average rainfalls. Below average rainfall will likely result in below average Deyr harvest and a failure to restore pasture and water resources, further exacerbating the humanitarian situation. Puntland and the eastern part of Somaliland are forecast to be most affected.

In May, an inter-agency monitoring team reported that more than 180,000 drought-affected people in Sool, Sanaag, Nugaal and Bari regions received food assistance while more than 50,000 people were provided access to safe water through water trucking, water vouchers and rehabilitated borehole wells. In addition, more than 12,400 children received emergency immunization, including 1,834 pregnant and lactating women.

The overall response was able to cover only between 40 per cent and 50 per cent of the targeted caseloads by May 2016. The protection and education sectors had not made significant progress due to funding shortfalls. Lack of funding in all sectors remains a challenge.

The overall lack of funding prompted humanitarian partners to review their response strategy. Adjustments were made to reflect a reduction in the timeframe for implementation by the end of September 2016 as well as a reduction in targeted caseloads including in WASH and health sectors.

In August 2016, the Somalia Humanitarian Country Team updated the
original “Call for Aid” that sought $127 million to respond to severe drought conditions in Puntland and Somaliland. To date, only $49 million of the total requirement has been received.

The updated Call for Aid seeks to mobilize an additional $61 million of the $127 million in the remaining period of the appeal to prevent a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Puntland and Somaliland due to the prolonged effects of drought.

**SUDAN**

The Sudan El Niño Mitigation and Preparedness Plan was issued in February 2016, complementing a multi-sectoral response strategy for the impact of El Niño as part of the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The joint appeal by the Government of Sudan and humanitarian partners sought $82 million for three months to support 3.5 million people in 82 localities across Abyei PCA, Al Gezira, Blue Nile, all Darfur states, Gedaref, Kassala, all Kordofan states, Red Sea, Sennar and White Nile states.

North Darfur, North Kordofan and Kassala, which were the worst affected by El Niño in 2015, were also hit by flooding as a result of above average rainfall since June. By the end of August, according to Sudan’s Humanitarian Aid Commission, the seasonal flooding had affected an estimated 204,000 people, destroyed more than 22,000 houses, and resulted in at least 98 deaths.

To date, food security and livelihoods (FSL) interventions have reached no more than 750,000 affected people in all Darfur states, North and West Kordofan, Kassala, Red Sea, and Gedaref. This includes some 205,000 people reached with livestock and agricultural assistance, and about 577,000 people reached with food assistance.

The agriculture and livestock component received 33 per cent and the food assistance component received 83 per cent of the total requirements. Nutrition sector partners have reported receiving $2 million, of which $1.3 million was used for direct nutrition response, while $700,000 is for nutrition-sensitive interventions within WASH, Health and FSL sectors to complement nutrition response activities in the eastern states of Gedaref, Kassala and Red Sea.

For other sectors (WASH, Education, Health, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items; Recovery Return and Reintegration and Protection), no additional funding or project implementation has been reported.

As of 31 August, the funding gap for El Niño response had gone down to $59 million.15

On a positive note, FEWS NET projected that food security in North Darfur, North Kordofan and Kassala is likely to improve from October 2016 to January 2017 due to better availability of agricultural labor opportunities and improved availability and prices of cereals with the beginning of the next harvest.16

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

Southern Africa

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Poor harvests and crop failures caused by prolonged dryness induced by El Niño have forced many poor households to depend on the market for food. High staple prices eroded purchasing power and forced affected people to engage in non-traditional employment and resort to negative coping mechanisms. Vulnerable groups of people need support for food, livelihoods and basic services. The October planting season is approaching in many parts of the region, while others are entering the lean season.

The region remains the global epicenter of the AIDS pandemic. The region accounts for one-third of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) worldwide. Gaps in testing, treatment and adherence, as well as the high rate of co-morbidity with tuberculosis, compound the situation.

The impacts of El Niño on PLHIV are often overlooked. PLHIV are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, which correlates further with treatment adherence, retention and success. PLHIV who initiate treatment while severely malnourished are two to six times more likely to die in the first six months of treatment than those who are not malnourished when they initiate treatment. A study found a correlation between El Niño-induced drought and HIV infection rates. Drought reduced employment and income opportunities, and forced households and individuals into unsustainable and harmful coping strategies.

The current El Niño crisis could have long term impacts for the broader HIV response and could potentially delay the global goal of ending AIDS by 2030.

Children are severely affected by food insecurity. Over half a million children are currently suffering from SAM in seven countries in the region, while 3.2 million children have their access to safe drinking water reduced as a result of drought. Hunger and lack of water force children to stay out of school or miss classes as well.

A recent study in six countries in Southern Africa found an increase in migration due to lack of food and water during the El Niño-induced drought. The search for employment also resulted in increased numbers of separated and unaccompanied children. Child labor is believed to have increased since the start of the weather event, affecting more boys than girls. The study reports a rising number of school dropouts, including 6,000 children dropping out of schools in Zimbabwe due to hunger or the need to help their families.

Seven countries in this region have launched joint and individual humanitarian response plans to address the humanitarian situation with food and agriculture, nutrition and WASH as key priorities.

ANGOLA

The southern provinces of Cunene, Huila and Namibe continued to experience the impacts of drought throughout August. Food shortages were reported in all municipalities of Cunene, where grain stocks were depleting and residents resorted to selling livestock. In Namibe, communities were selling their crops to benefit from higher prices, therefore exhausting their food supply and seed stocks. Repatriated migrants were the most vulnerable due to lack of assets. Water supply and quality were reportedly deteriorating.

An estimated 1.42 million people, including 756,000 children, were affected by drought. In three affected provinces of Cunene, Huila and Namibe, there are an estimated 800,000 people affected by drought. An estimated 95,877 SAM caseloads were reported in the seven most affected provinces, with 44,511 cases of SAM registered in Huila, Cunene and Namibe.

Source: FEWS NET
Angola requested $261.4 million to assist 756,000 people affected by drought in the areas of food security and agriculture, nutrition, health, education WASH and protection through the SADC Regional Humanitarian Appeal launched in June 2016.

As of 5 August, humanitarian support had reached 9,900 children under the age of five with SAM treatment while more than 1.7 million received key nutrition messages. In addition, safe water was provided to 8,400 people. Lack of new funding has prompted some humanitarian partners to reprogramme their regular resources. Gaps in the response include the availability of materials such as livestock vaccines and hand-pumps, poor transportation and lack of capacity.

The first phase of the yellow fever preventive vaccination campaign was completed at the end of August. A World Health Organization (WHO) situation report concluded that there were no new confirmed cases linked to the current outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 23 June. The high transmission of yellow fever in both countries was attributed to El Niño.

**LESOTHO**

Poor 2015/16 crop production and high staple prices put many poor and very poor households at risk of food insecurity this winter. Income from off-season labour activities and self-employment for these vulnerable groups is below normal due to the impact of drought. FEWS NET also reported households migrating to South Africa for better work opportunities.

More than 20,000 people and 1,800 households in the most affected areas in Mafeteng, Thaba Tseka and Qacha’s Nek districts were provided food and cash assistance. A total of 108,000 people received access to safe water. Some 100,000 people with HIV/AIDS were supported with prevention, care and treatment information and services. About 50,000 children received psychosocial support, 19,000 children were provided vitamin A supplementation and 32,000 caregivers with infants and young children received counselling.

**MADAGASCAR**

The severe 2015/16 drought has resulted in failed or very poor crop production across southern Madagascar. It follows two previous years of below-average crop production, causing households to deplete their resources. Poor households have limited capacity to cope and have to depend on the market. High maize prices throughout August limited vulnerable people’s access to food. Coping mechanisms include cutting non-food expenditures, begging, migration and sales of livestock, forest products and household items, according to FEWS NET. Villages queue for hot meals provided by a Catholic association in southern Madagascar. Providing food for the village has become a challenge this year due to an increasing number of people in need of food aid. (Photo: OCHA/Laila Bourhill)
Humanitarian partners also reported child marriage, high teacher absenteeism, and higher school dropout rates as children were required to help out with work and migration. Water supply and access to safe water remain a challenge across the affected areas. Families reportedly consumed water from water puddles created from rains in July.

The Ministry of Health together with Nutrition Cluster partners conducted periodic malnutrition screenings of 300,000 children under five in eight of the most affected districts in the south in June. The Cluster had seen declines in malnutrition rates in five out of eight districts since the previous screening in February 2016.30

Water trucking and rehabilitation of water points are ongoing.

Following a rapid assessment in June, education support has been redirected towards preventing further dropouts (as high as 40 per cent in certain districts, due to loss of livelihoods and migration). It also offers catch-up and reinsertion opportunities for school leavers.

The Government works with humanitarian partners in general food distribution and food-for-assets programmes in the southern provinces, along with cash-based assistance and supplementary feeding.31

The continued funding gap is cited as a challenge, as unmet needs are expected to be highest from August to October due to an unexpected delay in the delivery of in-kind assistance.

Assessments found a 20 per cent increase in MAM admissions from May to June 2016 for adult PLHIV who are on antiretroviral therapy.32 An earlier assessment indicated that food insecurity had driven girls to engage in transactional sex while both girls and boys had been forced to discontinue schooling to contribute to the household economy.

In response to the Government of Malawi’s 2016/17 Food Insecurity Response Plan, which was launched in June 2016, humanitarian partners have increased activities in the priority clusters of food security, agriculture, health, education and WASH.

About 6.5 million people, including 3.5 million children, need humanitarian assistance until March 2017.33

The Food Security Cluster started a 9-month humanitarian response in July by distributing food and cash to drought-affected people in Nsanje district in the southern region. However, communities received only half-ration of food due to funding constraints.34

WFP and partners are scaling up resilience building activities by

MALAWI

Below average maize production is reported in the southern and central regions, limiting food access for poor and very poor households. These households rely on maize purchases, which drives up the maize prices, FEWS NET has reported. Lack of income earning opportunities and high food prices will make these households increasingly vulnerable to acute food insecurity in October.
Impact and Responses by Region

expanding productive asset creation in five disaster-prone districts. The resilience building programme requires multi-year funding to meet the short-term food security needs and to restore or create assets that enhance livelihoods and build resilience to future shocks.

The Agriculture Cluster conducted a seed availability assessment in June and July 2016. The assessment identified a lack of information on seed availability at the national and district levels. It also forecasted seed scarcity in the next planting season in November.

The Education Cluster deployed standby volunteer teachers and set up 168 learning centers. Some 5,000 adolescent girls and 1,500 children will benefit from food distribution through the learning centers. The Nutrition Cluster has prepositioned lifesaving nutrition commodities nationwide and treated malnourished children from 25 drought-affected districts.

Two Clusters, WASH and Protection, had not received much-needed funding as of 4 August. Cluster co-lead UNICEF reprogrammed internal funds to support WASH Cluster activities, including water points and latrines rehabilitation. The Protection Cluster is strengthening the coordination for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse among UN agencies and international and national non-governmental organizations as well as revamping the Protection Cluster structures in three districts.

MOZAMBIQUE

The lack of food from the second season harvest (August-September) in the southern and central regions contributed to lower food availability and income from agriculture. Consequently, more poor households are forced to engage in self-employment to earn a living. High demand, low supply and high inflation rates are pushing food prices above the five-year average. FEWS NET projected food consumption gaps for poor households during the lean season from October 2016 to January 2017. Seeds and agricultural inputs are crucial for sufficient planting, particularly due to the likelihood of above normal rainfalls.

A summary report from the National Center of Emergency Operations and from the National Institute of Disaster Management concluded that the Government of Mozambique and the Humanitarian Country Team will be able to provide food assistance to about 1.4 million people from September to November 2016.

In July, Mozambique appealed for $204.3 million to assist 1.45 million food insecure people in the south and central regions. Humanitarian support is required in the most affected provinces of Gaza, Maputo, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica, Zambezia and Tete. Mozambique’s Vulnerability Assessment in March 2016 estimated that 280,000 children and pregnant and lactating women are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition over the next 12 months, including 55,000 children with SAM and 136,539 with MAM. An estimated 500,000 people do not have access to safe drinking water, increasing the risk of communicable diseases. Children, including girls, are dropping out of school to collect water or work to support their families.

In response, the Food Security Cluster delivered food assistance to at least 190,225 people in Gaza, Inhambane, Tete, Sofala and Maputo from February to July. A total of 23,000 households in Maputo, Gaza and Tete received vegetable seeds. Emergency school feeding is provided to more than 110,000 children in Inhambane, Gaza and Sofala. The cluster plans to deliver food assistance to 687,000 people from September to November, while 108,775 households will receive agricultural and livelihood support.

From February to July 2016, close to 80,000 people received access to safe drinking water. Over 2.1 million children in the affected provinces were screened for acute malnutrition, with more than 2,800 referred for treatment. A total of 6,689 children received SAM treatment by August.

Humanitarian partners also built the capacity of government officials in drought response and provided technical support for drought assessment. Disease outbreak surveillance was enhanced and the Protection Cluster will be reactivated at the provincial level.

SWAZILAND

As a result, two years of consecutive drought, most recently as the result of El Niño maize production has decreased by up to 64 per cent compared to the 2015 harvest. The number of food insecure people will soar from 44,622 in July 2015 from to an estimated 638,251 at the peak of the lean season in late 2016 to early 2017. Food insecurity is forecast to escalate if the onset of the rains is delayed or the rains are insufficient.

The water level has declined by more than 50 percent with water rationing put in place in the capital per cent city of Mbabane after levels in the main dam supplying the city fell to a critical low. There was a 55 per cent decrease in pregnant women attending antenatal care in health facilities – from 5,309 in 2014 to 2,354 in 2015 – which could be partially attributed to closures or reduced services at some clinics due to lack of water. Lubombo and Shiselweni are the hardest-hit regions.

As part of the emergency response, WFP distributed food assistance to more than 77,000 drought-affected people in July, and provided on-site meals to 52,000 orphans and vulnerable children younger than eight years of age who received early
education and care services at neighborhood care points. USAID also supported World Vision to provide in-kind food assistance, seeds and livelihood interventions. In addition, about 10,700 people were provided access to safe water, more than 26,000 children under age five received measles and routine immunizations, and another 62,700 received vitamin A supplementation.

The UN Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate Mary Robinson visited Swaziland from 29 to 31 August to observe the drought impact and attend the 36th Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of States and Governments. She met with affected communities in Lubombo region, engaged in dialogue with the UN and humanitarian partners, and addressed the Summit.

ZIMBABWE

Prolonged dry spells in two consecutive years, further induced by El Niño, have resulted in poor harvest and water availability, particularly in the south. This situation forced many poor households to rely on the market for food. Critical cash shortages have affected people in the country since the beginning of the main harvest in April 2016, exacerbating negative coping activities.

The first WFP’s mobile Vulnerability and Analysis Mapping (mVAM) survey conducted in June observed the highest levels of negative coping mechanism in the worst-affected provinces of Masvingo, Mashonaland East and Manicaland. Female-led households are more vulnerable to negative coping. Some coping strategies include limiting meal portions and reducing the number of meals consumed each day. Around 80 per cent of surveyed respondents perceived the food security situation in their community to be poor or difficult, with highest proportion of responses from Masvingo. The mVAM data also reveals that respondents who have difficulties accessing food frequently resort to negative coping strategies.

In April 2016, humanitarian partners launched a Humanitarian Response Plan, requesting $360 million to assist 1.86 million people in need of humanitarian support.

As of August, nearly $190 million had been committed, which enabled humanitarian partners to support 1.5 million people with relief assistance. This includes food assistance delivered to more than 1.5 million people, while 8,000 households received subsidized survival stock feed that saved 13,000 cattle from death. Some 270 boreholes and three piped water schemes were rehabilitated, while more than 100,000 people were reached with critical life-saving WASH non-food items and messages. In addition, more than 65,000 people received non-food items and more than 200,000 children were screened for malnutrition and provided with nutritional support.

Humanitarian partners are revising the humanitarian requirements following a recent finding from the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee. The assessment conducted in June found that an estimated 4.1 million people will be food insecure during peak hunger season from January to March 2017, with Matabeleland North, Masvingo and Midlands to be the worst-affected provinces.

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

Students stand in line to receive a bowl of porridge from a school feeding programme in Hwange in eastern Zimbabwe. The programme, run by Caritas International in drought-affected areas across the country, attracts high student attendance. The mid-morning meal could be a student’s only meal for a day. (Photo: Caritas/Isabel Corthier)
Although El Niño reached the neutral phase in May, some countries in the region still endure the adverse impacts of the weather event on food and water resources. This situation was exacerbated by limited capacity of some governments and communities to respond.

Affected governments and communities still require substantial support to recover from the droughts and typhoons caused by the El Niño weather event. The effects will be felt well into 2017. Moreover, additional investment is needed to bolster preparedness for the next emergencies following a forecast of increased probability of heavier rainfall at the end of 2016 and early 2017.44

A demonstration house or “core shelter” in Fiji’s main island of Viti Levu show villagers how to build back safer so that their houses can withstand future cyclones. The island was one of the worst hit by Tropical Cyclone Winston earlier this year. (Photo: IFRC/Corinne Ambler)
Crop production has been disrupted since mid-2015 due to frost and drought. Subsistence farmers are waiting for the next anticipated yields in December or later, and thereby increasing their vulnerability to hunger.49 The lack of access to safe water, irrigation and storage facilities as well as availability of planting material has also disrupted recovery efforts and livelihood management.50

As of July 2016, humanitarian partners had delivered a multi-sectoral response including food assistance to more than 188,000 drought-affected people in the Highlands, Western and Milne Bay provinces.51 Food assistance in the Highlands has been complemented by nutrition interventions targeting severely food insecure communities. About 2,000 households in the Highlands Region received seed and cuttings adapted to high altitude and changed soil conditions as a result of drought. Hygiene trainings were also provided to more than 15,000 people from the Highlands Provinces. Management of SAM training has been provided to 30 health workers and volunteers. Additionally, 130 SAM cases were treated and more than 5,000 children received multiple micronutrient powders to prevent malnutrition.

A joint interagency post-drought rapid assessment led by the Government’s National Disaster Centre and supported by humanitarian partners was started on 31 August. The assessment results are yet to be finalized.

Rainfall since mid-May 2016 has improved the situation in many parts of the country – including more recently in the South-Central region – bringing urgently needed relief to drought-affected households. Nevertheless, the majority of the 18 most severely affected provinces are still in need of water storage and purification, nutrition support, WASH promotion, disease outbreak surveillance and response, and livelihood recovery.

Since mid-2015, one-third of the country has been affected by incremental drought and salt water intrusion stress, resulting in 2 million people in need of clean water; 360,000 people at risk of water-related disease outbreaks; 1.1 million being food insecure; and more than...
2 million people with loss of income due to damaged or destroyed crops or other livelihoods. The total direct loss and damage has been estimated by the Government at around $674 million or equivalent to 0.35 per cent of national Gross Domestic Product. For the first time in decades, a negative agricultural growth was recorded.

An increase of dengue fever cases was reported in August as compared to the average dengue occurrence from previous years. This has over-loaded hospitals, particularly in the Central Highlands region. The spike of dengue fever cases was attributed to drought and the cyclical nature of the disease, which emerges every five years.  

Humanitarian response has supported at least 350,000 people with household water purification and hygiene messages. A total of 683 SAM cases were detected and treated, while more than 5,000 pregnant and lactating women, and more than 13,000 children aged 6 months to 23 months were given micronutrient supplements. In the food security sector, humanitarian partners have been supporting the government in preparing for the drought and conducting multi-cluster rapid assessments.

Total Government assistance since the second half of 2015 is estimated at $65.5 million. It is mainly focused on rice distribution, cash support, water filters and purification, containers, water trucking and expansion or rehabilitation of water infrastructure.

In addition to this support, humanitarian partners have mobilized $16.7 million or 34 per cent of the Government-UN Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The ERP requests $48.5 million for immediate life-saving relief assistance on water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, health, food security and early recovery. The contribution includes $3.9 million from CERF.

The Government, with technical support from humanitarian partners and through multi-stakeholder consultations, has developed a multi-sectoral Drought Recovery Plan which is integrated into the ERP. It is expected to be approved and disseminated in September.

The Government’s drought recovery intervention is estimated to cost $166 million for 2016 and $368 million for 2017, with priority actions including direct livelihoods assistance to the most vulnerable households, access to improved climate information services for multi-hazard preparedness planning, integrated water and natural resources management and build-back-better investments to strengthen resilience to future droughts.

The UN Special Envoy Mary Robinson visited Vietnam from 3 to 6 September, attending a UN Women roundtable discussion on mainstreaming gender for climate-related changes and meeting high-ranking officials.

### MARSHALL ISLANDS

A State of Emergency was declared in June 2016 due to the drought that was linked to El Niño. Food crops were severely damaged by the drought, particularly in the north of the Islands, resulting in low food supply and lack of employment opportunities.

Food assistance and support to rainwater harvesting improvement continue in the drought-affected provinces in the Republic of Marshall Islands. The Government, with support from USAID and IOM, provided food assistance to more than 5,000 affected people. The final food distribution is planned to begin in the third week of September.

The Government’s Drought Response Plan has received $4.5 million out of $8.9 million required. Safe water provision is the priority activity, which is scheduled to last through September.

### PALAU

The Government declared a State of Emergency in March 2016 following the worsening of drought conditions across the Republic, with Koror Island in a state of extreme drought. Water sources were primarily affected with the main dam producing only 19 per cent of its normal water production. Multi-sectoral support was provided through UNDP as part of the UN Joint Country Presence.

Palau still needs a further $1.2 million towards the $3.2 million drought response plan.
TIMOR-LESTE

In the aftermath of the 2015-2016 El Niño-induced drought, 120,000 people remain severely affected in Lautém, Viqueque, Baucau and Covalima municipalities, and in Oecussi Special Economic Zone.

Food, water and sanitation, health, nutrition, livelihoods and education support are priority needs as rainfall levels remain below historic annual averages. The varied weather condition has resulted in small areas of remaining need in remote locations which are difficult to access and constrain recovery efforts.

With a significant gap in cereal production for two consecutive years (cereal deficit reached 129,000 tonnes in 2015, and 188,000 tonnes in 2016), the ongoing drought is putting critical pressure on the limited resources of rural households.

To mitigate the effects of El Niño, the Government of Timor-Leste has imported additional rice for distribution to selected vulnerable households, as well as seeds, pesticides and fertilizers.

The ERP launched in April requested $25 million. So far, $2.5 million has been received for Disaster Risk Reduction, food and nutrition, WASH, health and livelihoods activities. This includes an $847,000 grant from CERF.

For the most updated information, please visit: www.unocha.org/el-Niño-pacific or www.unocha.org/el-Niño-asia-pacific
In Central America, 3.5 million people remain food insecure, as a result of poor food supply and lack of livelihood opportunities. The region has faced one of the worst crises in decades, and the crisis has intensified existing structural vulnerabilities. In Haiti, 1.5 million people are severely food insecure and in need of assistance. The situation is further compounded by a rising number of cholera cases following heavy rains in May and June 2016.

More than one million families in Central America’s Dry Corridor rely on subsistence farming. The levels of poverty and malnutrition are alarming and mainly affect rural populations and indigenous communities. Small-scale producers and rural communities are highly vulnerable to the impact of drought and the lack of safe drinking water. Drought becomes a major socioeconomic phenomenon due to its impact on the livelihoods of poor rural populations.

The southwestern Honduras, the eastern and western El Salvador as well as in the North Pacific and northcentral regions in Nicaragua will continue to be in Crisis level (IPC 3) at least until October due to a succession of damages caused by rainfall deficit and coffee rust.

Above-average rainfall caused by El Niño in parts of South America has also increased the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, including malaria, dengue, chikungunya and the Zika virus.

In August, Tropical Storm Earl formed in the Caribbean prompted Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala and Belize to issue warnings over potentially heavy rains and a big storm surge. In Guatemala, 2,000 people were affected and 162 houses were damaged, leading to displacement in seven shelters.

El Niño has triggered one of the country’s worst droughts, causing damage to agricultural production and affecting 700,000 people, or 11 per cent of the population, mostly subsistence farmers.

Irregular rains in August and September have caused localised damage in the first harvest of the season, aggravated by rust infestation. Food security is expected to improve slightly from October from new crops and livelihood opportunities.

The Government is working with humanitarian partners to support a long-term strategy to adapt local agriculture to the effects of climate change. The effort focuses on local capacity development, agro-climate risk management and support for research, innovation and transfer of new technology for climate change adaptation. Coordination and nutrition surveillance mechanism are also strengthened.

The Government Strategic Response Plan (Oct 2015-Oct 2018) requested $44.6 million for the response to the drought. As of September, nine per cent of the requirement ($4.2 million) is covered.
Recent joint assessments indicate that 1.5 million people are affected by drought in Guatemala, particularly in the south. That includes 915,000 people recorded as severely and moderately food insecure. In some areas, SAM rates are as high as 9 per cent.

In March 2016, the Government launched the Seasonal Hunger Response Plan 2016 (Plan del Pacto Hambre Cero), a five-year plan to address issues concerning family farming, food insecurity and malnutrition among children under five, as well as prevent seasonal hunger.

Since June, the heavy rain season is causing floods and a river to overflow. The National Coordinator for Disaster Reductions has responded to at least 100 emergencies in different departments of the country during the rainy season from the month of May. Two thousand people had to be evacuated due to conditions of rain and Tropical Storm Earl, which affected Petén and Izabal. Further floods and landslides are expected to occur during the month of September, and the government is mobilized to offer logistic and psychological support to families that may need to be evacuated from their houses.

Guatemala’s HRP requests $56.6 million to provide assistance for communities affected by El Niño. So far, $15.6 million has been received.

Over the past years, there was gradual degradation of the already chronically precarious food security and nutrition situation in the Haiti. This was made worse by drought and irregular rains linked to the El Niño phenomenon. Agricultural production has sharply decreased.
by over 50 per cent while prices of locally grown food commodities have increased by up to 40 per cent. There is high dependency on food imports.

Due to exceptional rainfall during May and June 2016, the largest in the last five years, combined with reduced response capacity in Haiti, the number of cholera suspected cases is increasing, reaching the same weekly incidence as in 2013. The Haiti 2016 HRP was launched in April, seeking $194 million to assist people affected by El Niño. As of September, $60.5 million has been received, including $33.8 million for food security and nutrition responses.

HONDURAS

The El Niño weather phenomenon has resulted in the most intense drought in the country’s history. This year, the Global Climate Risk Index put Honduras as the most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change.

An estimated 1.3 million people are affected by drought, while almost 500,000 people have been recorded as severely or moderately food insecure. Pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and children under five were the most affected by food insecurity.

Beyond food insecurity impacts, the drought also contributed to the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, such as Zika, malaria, dengue and chikungunya. There are limited capacities and resources to address the spread of the diseases which further affect vulnerable groups living in high-risk urban areas.

Honduras has appealed for $46.1 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs for 1.3 million people. The requirement is 9 per cent funded so far. A joint humanitarian response plan for Honduras and Guatemala was launched in January 2016 to support the government response to drought.

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

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AWD Acute Watery Diarrhea
CERF Central Emergency Response Fund
ENSO El Niño/Southern Oscillation
ERP Emergency Response Plan
FEWS NET Famine Early Warning System Network
FSL Food Security and Livelihoods
GAM Global Acute Malnutrition
HCT Humanitarian Country Team
HRD Humanitarian Requirements Document
HRP Humanitarian Response Plan
IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
MAM Moderate Acute Malnutrition
mVAM Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
NDMA National Disaster Management Agency
PLHIV People Living with HIV
RIASCO Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee
SADC Southern African Development Community
SAM Severe Acute Malnutrition
SNNP Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Regional State
WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
This report provides an overview of impacts, needs and relevant activities registered in Humanitarian Response Plans for El Niño or drought. There are 23 Humanitarian Response Plans which are issued by Governments, the Humanitarian Country Team, or jointly developed by the Governments and humanitarian partners in affected countries.

For summary of fun-ding status, see the funding table on Page 25.


Humanitarian partners’ joint plan to support Government response to acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreak in Ethiopia, September 2016.


UNICEF Southern Africa Region.


## El Niño – Current Funding Status (in million US$)

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

### GOVERNMENT PLANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Required $M</th>
<th>% Funding</th>
<th>Available $M</th>
<th>Funding Gap $M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANGOLA</td>
<td>261.42</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>32.45</td>
<td>228.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOTSWANA</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADAGASCAR</td>
<td>70.48</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>41.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARSHALL ISLANDS</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOZAMBIQUE</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>78.17</td>
<td>138.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAMIBIA</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>20.82</td>
<td>35.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PALAU</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWAZILAND</td>
<td>92.46</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>61.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZAMBIA</td>
<td>76.32</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>33.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZIMBABWE</td>
<td>1,040.31</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>165.07</td>
<td>875.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGIONAL SOUTHERN AFRICA</td>
<td>309.57</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>22.72</td>
<td>286.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,370.59M</strong></td>
<td><strong>18%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$431.06M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,939.52M</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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### JOINT GOVERNMENT & HCT PLANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Required $M</th>
<th>% Funding</th>
<th>Available $M</th>
<th>Funding Gap $M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EL SALVADOR</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>40.4</td>
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<td>ETHIOPIA</td>
<td>1,670</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>612.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>LESOTHO</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>29.14</td>
<td>27.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALAWI</td>
<td>395.36</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>202.81</td>
<td>192.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUDAN</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMOR-LESTE</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>22.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIETNAM</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,321.66M</strong></td>
<td><strong>57%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,327.63M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$986.42M</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures correspond to the RIASCO Action Plan. The SADC Appeal for Lesotho is under revision. Figures correspond to the RIASCO Action Plan. The SADC Appeal for Malawi is under revision. Funding status for Sudan is under review and will be updated in end September. Based on FTS figures.
### Impact and Responses by Region

#### Government Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Required $M</th>
<th>% Funding</th>
<th>Available $M</th>
<th>Funding Gap $M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,370.59M</strong></td>
<td><strong>18%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$431.06M</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,939.52M</strong></td>
<td><strong>33%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,327.63M</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$394.4M</strong></td>
<td><strong>33%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$203M</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Joint Government & HCT Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Required $M</th>
<th>% Funding</th>
<th>Available $M</th>
<th>Funding Gap $M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,321.66M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,327.63M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$986.42M</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$394.4M</strong></td>
<td><strong>33%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$203M</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Required $M</th>
<th>% Funding</th>
<th>Available $M</th>
<th>Funding Gap $M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,124.22M</strong></td>
<td><strong>37%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,904M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,152M</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. Figures correspond to the RIASCO Action Plan. The SADC Appeal for Lesotho is under revision.
2. Figures correspond to the RIASCO Action Plan. The SADC Appeal for Malawi is under revision.
3. Funding status for Sudan is under review and will be updated in end September.
4. Based on FTS figures.
5. Based on FTS figures.
6. Based on FTS figures.

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


SADC Regional Humanitarian Appeal: http://www.sadc.int/files/8014/6909/6132/SADC_Regional_Humanitarian_Appeal_June_20160714.pdf


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.

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.
CERF is one of the fastest and most effective ways to support rapid humanitarian response for people affected by natural disasters and armed conflict. The Fund, which is managed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), receives voluntary contributions year-round from United Nations Member States and Observers, regional governments, private sector, foundations and individuals. This money is set aside for immediate use at the onset of emergencies, in rapidly deteriorating situations and in protracted crises that fail to attract sufficient resources.

Creation: 10 August 2016  Source: UNCS, CERF  Feedback: cerf@un.org  cerf.un.org  www.unocha.org

The El Niño global climatic event has had a devastating impact on tens of millions of people across the globe in 2015 and 2016. East Africa, Southern Africa, Central America, South East Asia and the Pacific Islands, continue to be at risk of extreme weather events, including below-normal rains and flooding. The humanitarian fallout includes increased food insecurity due to low crop yields and rising prices; higher malnutrition rates; devastated livelihoods; increased susceptibility to illnesses, and forced displacement. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has been one of the quickest and largest supporters of early humanitarian action in response to the El Niño phenomenon.

Since mid-2015, CERF has allocated US$117.5 million to 19 countries for life-saving activities in response to drought, floods and cyclones linked to El Niño.