

05 December 2016

Key Issues

- Government and partners providing water trucking services in Oromia and Somali regions
- Inter Cluster Group do the prioritization exercise, in it includes US\$27 million for immediate livestock interventions
- Humanitarian partners launch lesson learning on the El-Niño drought response in Ethiopia

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

Government and partners providing water trucking services in Oromia and Somali regions

Water shortage due to late onset, erratic and poor autumn *Hagaya/Deyr* rains is affecting Somali and Oromia regions. In support of the ongoing water delivery by the Oromia Region Water Bureau, UNICEF will start water trucking in Oromia in December for over 270,000 people. In Somali region, Somali Regional Water Bureau, Islamic Relief, AWDA and DRC, IRC, SCI and Oxfam are currently water trucking. OCHA's allocation of EHF funding to water trucking will also supplement the efforts of UNICEF in January 2017 in Oromia region, coupled with distribution of water treatment chemicals. SCI will also start water trucking in Somali region through EHF fund.

The Deyr/Hagaya short rains (October to December), accounting for up to 35 per cent of annual rainfall in some areas, have been influenced by a negative Indian Ocean Dipole, a phenomenon causing poor precipitation across East Africa and causing imminent new drought in the region.

Inter Cluster Group do the prioritization exercise, in it includes US\$27 million for immediate livestock interventions

Humanitarian partners identified priorities for the 2017 drought response, including \$27 million for immediate livestock interventions. Southern Oromia region, southern zones of SNNPR (South Omo, and lowlands of Segen and Gamogofa) and Somali region are immediate priorities. The rest of Somali region and eastern parts of Oromia are expected to become priority areas in the coming six months. A dearth of pasture and dwindling water supplies in the southern and southeastern rangelands has led to a sharp deterioration in livestock body conditions.

Although water availability is improving due to recent rains in southern Ethiopia, pastoralists are concerned that the rains may not continue or support a full recovery. As a result, they are continuing to destock including slaughtering young animals that are dependent on their dams milk in order to protect their breeding females and selling surplus livestock.



Humanitarian partners launch lesson learning on the El-Niño drought response in Ethiopia

On 05 December, the Ethiopian Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT) will be convening a lesson learning workshop on the 2016 El-Niño drought response in Ethiopia. Members of the Humanitarian Country Team, Cluster Coordinators, the DAG and HRDG, and representatives from the Humanitarian INGO forum have taken part in the exercise and further discussions will be held with Government. The result of the exercise will inform best practices and gaps drawn from the past year's drought response and will be used in the planning of the 2017 Ethiopia Humanitarian Requirements (HRD).

For further information contact: ocha-eth@un.org