

30 November 2015

### Key Issues

- Development partners are urged to scale-up their investment on long-term community water supply schemes to break the cycle of chronic water shortages, and extreme vulnerability to the slightest weather shocks.
- The final draft of the 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for endorsement early this week. The official release of the Document is tentatively planned for 4 December.
- UNICEF, WFP and WHO are exploring ways to better integrate activities to support the emergency.
- A number of agencies have brought surge staff on board to strengthen cluster coordination and response.

#### Donors are urgently requested to:

- Provide additional funding to address current (2015) needs
- Bring forward 2016 funds now
- Review options to re-programme existing development funding for priority humanitarian response
- Seek additional resources
- Support country-level pooled funds (OCHA's Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) and the emergency funds managed by USAID and ECHO)

**Ethiopia is responding to an El Niño-caused drought emergency:** The impact of the failed spring *belg* (mid-February-May) rains was compounded by the arrival of the El Niño weather conditions that weakened summer *kiremt* (June-September) rains, whose harvest feeds 80 to 85 per cent of the country. This greatly expanded food insecurity, malnutrition and affected livelihoods across six regions of the country. The level of acute need across virtually all humanitarian sectors has already exceeded levels seen in the Horn of Africa drought of 2011 and is projected to be far more severe throughout an 8 to 10 months period in 2016.

### Strengthening humanitarian-development linkages

Launched in September 2013, the Government of Ethiopia's One WaSH National Program is a seven-year program (2013-2020) with an aim to achieve the goals set out in the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), including 98 per cent access to safe drinking water in rural areas and 100 per cent access in urban areas. The program's budget is US\$2.4 billion and operates through the coordination of the Water, Health, Education and Finance Ministries.

As a result of the El Niño-caused drought, increasing numbers of *woredas* are reporting water shortages. The WaSH Cluster recently identified 29 emergency WaSH hotspot *woredas* that are also targeted by the One WaSH Program. The Cluster is discussing with the Ministry of Water to allow *woreda* authorities to use the one WaSH program pool-fund for emergency response, including for water trucking. Development partners are urged to scale-up their investment on long-term community water supply schemes to break the cycle of chronic water shortages, and extreme vulnerability to the slightest weather shocks. For more information, contact [awesterbeek@unicef.org](mailto:awesterbeek@unicef.org)

### International partners respond to Government's call for support

#### Improved inter-sector/cluster coordination

The Government of Ethiopia continues to lead the drought response diverting more resources to boost the drought response; establishing committees to oversee a timely distribution of relief items; and increasing the frequency of sector and inter-sector taskforce meetings for better coordination.

Humanitarian partners also recognize the need to strengthen inter-cluster coordination for a more effective and timely response. Similar to other clusters, the Education Cluster is closely working with other sectors, including WaSH and Child Protection, to ensure a coordinated emergency response. UNICEF, WFP and WHO are exploring ways to better integrate activities to support the emergency. From 10 to 12 November, regional representatives from the three agencies conducted a joint mission to Ethiopia to assess possible integration areas. A draft joint report is shared with the country offices for comment. The WFP and UNICEF – Ethiopia representatives also met to discuss improved collaboration between the agencies, including for moderate and severe acute malnutrition interventions.

#### Agencies are bringing surge staff on board

A number of agencies have already brought surge staff on board, including field-based coordinators, information management officers, and technical advisors with varying capacities, some were provided by the global cluster networks. For more information, contact [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

### Evidence-based response planning

Assessment conducted by the Ministry of Education, Regional Education Bureaus and the Education Cluster indicated that nearly 2 million school children (47 per cent girls) in hotspot priority *one woredas* dropped-out of school as a result of drought and flood-affected families moving elsewhere in search of food and water or withdrawing their children from school to supplement household income. Thousands more are at risk of dropping out, especially in hotspot priority two *woredas*. For more information, contact: [mshumetie@unicef.org](mailto:mshumetie@unicef.org)