

Briefing Note – 13 May 2016

ETHIOPIA

Floods

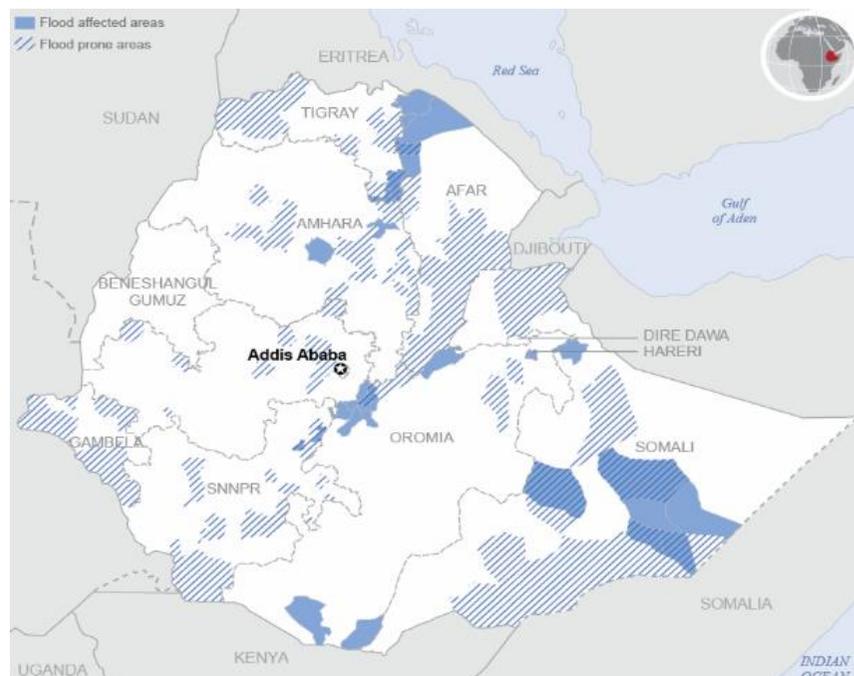


Need for international assistance	Not required	Low	Moderate	Significant	Major
		X			
Expected impact	Very low	Low	Moderate	Significant	Major
		X			

Crisis overview

Since April 2016, heavy spring/*belg* rains have caused floods and landslides, resulting in 100 deaths as of 12 May. Up to 120,000 people have been displaced in six regions. The most affected regions are Somali, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP), Afar, Amhara, and Harari – already severely affected by the El Niño drought.

Flood-affected and flood-prone areas, 9 May 2016



Source: OCHA
09/05/2016

Affected areas	Resident pop.	People displaced by floods since April 2016
Somali	5,300,000	50,000
Oromia	27,000,000	27,000
SNNP	14,900,000	15,000
Afar	1,600,000	3,000
Amhara	17,200,000	2,100
Harari	210,000	1,400
Total six regions	66,210,000	120,000
Total Ethiopia	97,000,000	120,000

Sources: CIA Factbook 2015, City Population, OCHA 09/05/2016

Key findings

Anticipated scope and scale	Flash floods also likely to increase in northeastern and central Ethiopia in the coming weeks. The number of displaced is expected to increase to 189,660 at least during the end of May (spring) as localised floods, landslides and overflowing rivers continue. 485,600 people are expected to be affected.
Priorities for humanitarian intervention	Emergency food and water assistance to populations previously suffering from drought now affected by floods. Shelter and NFI support once the flooding subsides. Livelihoods support for farmers and vulnerable groups impacted by floods.
Humanitarian constraints	Multiple roads and bridges have been damaged or rendered impassable by the flooding.

Limitations

There is very little information available on the whereabouts and needs of people displaced by floods. Health, food, WASH, shelter and education needs information is also very limited in most affected areas. Information on damaged roads or infrastructure is also missing.

Crisis impact

Abnormally heavy spring rains (*belg/gu/ganna*) are affecting southeastern and central Ethiopia. Since April 2016, *belg* rains have caused floods and landslides resulting in 100 deaths and up to 120,000 displaced in six regions as of 12 May (ECHO 12/05/2016, Reuters 12/05/2016). The areas hardest hit by rains are Somali (50,000 IDPs) Oromia (27,000 IDPs), SNNP (15,000 IDPs), Afar (3,000 IDPs), Amhara (2,100 IDPs) and Harari (1,400 IDPs) – areas already severely impacted by El Niño-induced drought (see below) (OCHA 09/05/2016).

Spring rains are expected to continue at least until the end of May (Government 12/05/2016). 189,660 people are expected to be displaced by river or flash floods and 485,600 people are expected to be affected in the south and southeast. Flash floods are also likely to increasingly affect northeastern (Tigray region) and central Ethiopia (Addis Abeba) in the coming weeks (OCHA 04/05/2016 OCHA 09/05/2016 ECHO 12/05/2016).

As of 12 May, at least 100 people have died and more have been injured. 41 people died in Kindo Didaye *woreda* in the southern district of Wolaita (SNNPR), and nine people drowned in the southeastern area of Bale (Oromia) (BBCNews 11/05/2016, FBC 10/05/2016). Between 8 and 11 May, flash floods in Jijjiga town (Somali), in Afar region, and in east Hararghe zone (Oromia) killed 22 people, including 9 children (FBC 12/05/2016)

Food: Trucks carrying food assistance have reportedly not been able to reach some communities in remote areas of Sitti zone for weeks due to flooded roads (Enca 04/05/2016). Rains have also destroyed crops (DT 09/05/2016). At the beginning of May, flooding, notably in Bale, has reportedly damaged 559 hectares where seeds had been planted (BBCNews 11/05/2016)

Livelihoods: The rains have led to several thousands of livestock deaths, notably by drowning. In Bale zone (Oromia) some 1,136 cattle have been killed since April by flooding that hit five *woredas*. In Afar region, at least 2,016 goats have reportedly died due to heavy rains (FBC 12/05/2016). Cattle already weakened by severe drought and more susceptible to illness are also reportedly severely affected (BBCNews 11/05/2016, Enca 04/05/2016).

Shelter: Heavy rains and landslides have led to the destruction of hundreds of homes. On 8 May, at least 270 homes were destroyed by flash floods in Afar (FBC 12/05/2016).

Health: Floods raise the risk of transmission of waterborne diseases as people or livestock use contaminated water. An increase in cases of acute watery diarrhoea have already been reported in parts of Oromia, where localised flooding has prevented the passage of water trucks (UNHCR 02/05/2016). Access to health facilities, already limited in Ethiopia due to lack of health infrastructure, is likely to become more restricted because flooded roads. There is also a risk of mosquito-borne diseases due to stagnant water post-floods.

WASH: Because of limited road access for water trucks to affected areas, the need for chemicals to treat water has increased, notably in Oromia (UNHCR 02/05/2016).

Education: Limited road access, landslides and overflowing rivers are likely to hinder children from going to school.

Impact on critical infrastructure

Multiple roads and bridges have been damaged or rendered impassable. Roads linking Wolaita zone with Dawro zone and a bridge connecting Wolaita town with Sidama zone have reportedly been damaged (FBC 10/05/2016)

Vulnerable groups

The people most vulnerable people to floods are those who are already the most drought affected.

Children: 9 children have reportedly been killed in Somali, Afar and Oromia regions (FBC 12/05/2016). Children in most drought-affected areas who are suffering from malnutrition are likely to be vulnerable to water-borne diseases.

Rural populations are more exposed to lack of access to improved drinking water as only 48.6% of the rural population has access to improved drinking water, compared with 93.1% in urban areas (2015 estimations, CIA Factbook 2015).

Refugees and IDPs are particularly exposed to any potential food security and shelter problems (ECHO 12/2015). More than 210,000 Somali refugees are currently in Liben zone, Somali region, where floods have been reported. 37,000 refugees are in Jijjiga (Somali region), 32,000 in Samara (Afar region) and 3,600 in Borena (Oromia) near the Kenyan border. In Tigray region, where floods are expected to occur in the coming weeks, there are 36,000 refugees (UNHCR 30/04/2016).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Since April, spring rains have seriously hampered delivery of food and nutrition supplies, in particular in Somali region (ECHO 12/05/2016). Afdem, Liben, and Sitti zones are the main flood-affected areas that remain inaccessible to humanitarian operations. Dire Dawa (Somali region), from where food is dispatched to Sitti zone, has been severely affected by heavy rains for the past few weeks (OCHA 09/05/2016). As such, trucks carrying food assistance have reportedly not been able to reach some communities in remote areas in Sitti zone for weeks (Enca 04/05/2016)

Aggravating factors

Drought-related factors

Since June 2015, Ethiopia has been facing the worst drought for 50 years (FEWSNET 18/03/2016). The failure of *belg* rains between March and May 2015, and *kiremt* rains between June and September 2015, together with other effects of El Niño, have impacted food security, nutrition, WASH, health and education, in particular in agro-pastoral communities in southern Afar, northern Somali, eastern Amhara, and eastern Oromia, and SNNPR (FAO 09/03/2016 IFRC 04/01/2016).

Food insecurity: In May 2016, over 10.2 million people are suffering from food insecurity. Projections indicate that the number is likely to rise to around 15 million in 2016 (FEWSNET 18/03/2016 OCHA 09/03/2016). Poor households in affected areas of southern Afar and Sitti zone in Somali region, in the agricultural lowlands of East and West Hararghe zones in Oromia, and in Wag Hemra and North Wollo in Amhara region, are expected to remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security conditions until September (FEWSNET 18/03/2016 WFP 04/03/2016). Broader areas of eastern Tigray and Amhara, central and eastern Oromia, and northern SNNPR will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through September (FEWSNET 18/03/2016).

Livelihoods: Herds in several parts of Afar and Somali regions have been decimated by pasture and water scarcity in 2015. As of March 2016, at least a million livestock have died, with over 1.7 million more at risk (FAO 15/03/2016). Drought-affected smallholders requiring emergency seed support have almost doubled since December 2015, to 3.3 million in March (USAID 16/03/2016 FAO 15/03/2016 OCHA 10/02/2016). Poor households in many affected areas have already run out of own-production stocks, in many instances three months or more earlier than normal (FEWSNET 18/03/2016).

Nutrition: 2.2 million children under five and pregnant/breastfeeding mothers suffer from moderate acute malnutrition, more than double the number of 2015. Over 450,000 children are in need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition, mostly in Oromia, SNNP and Amhara (UNICEF 18/02/2016 USAID 16/03/2016 OCHA 14/03/2016). Because of poor livestock body conditions, milk production is extremely low, which affects children's nutrition (FAO 15/03/2016 FEWSNET 18/03/2016). Lack of safe drinking water resulting in increased incidence of diarrheal diseases has exacerbated acute malnutrition (USAID 16/03/2016).

WASH: Severe water shortages are reported throughout the country, but especially in Amhara, Oromia, and SNNPR. 5.8 million people require emergency water supply and sanitation (USAID 16/03/2016 OCHA 09/03/2016 ECHO 04/03/2016).

Health: In Moyale *woreda* of Borena zone (Oromia) and in Moyale *woreda* of Liben zone (Somali), 149 new cases of acute watery diarrhoea were reported in January and February 2016 (OCHA 07/03/2016. OCHA 18/02/2016). As of 31 January, measles outbreaks

have been reported in 13 districts of Ethiopia, including nine in Oromia. As of 22 January 2016, 31,000 measles cases have been registered in the country (OCHA 07/03/2016).

Education: The drought has caused thousands of schools to close and many children to drop out of school (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Lack of adequate water infrastructure

Despite Ethiopia usually being considered a country with many water resources, the water supply to the population and for agricultural purposes is limited due to a critical lack of infrastructure for the distribution and management of water (All Africa 31/12/2015).

Political stability and security

Ethiopia has relative political stability, however several areas are insecure. During emergencies, there has in the past been partisan distribution of aid.

Clashes between government forces and the Ogaden National Liberation Front have persisted since 1994 in Somali region, and the Oromo ethnic group has been marginalised for decades. In mid-December, violent protests broke out in the capital Addis Ababa against the urban planning strategy of the government, which envisaged confiscating land from Oromo farmers in order to expand the city's urban territory. On 12 January, the Ethiopian government decided to abandon the expansion plan, but protests persisted. As of 25 February, some hospitals have been closed for three months in Ambo, west of Ginchi, in Oromia, because of clashes between federal security forces and Oromo protesters. Between November 2015 and mid-April 2016, Oromo activists estimate that over 400 Oromo people have been killed by Ethiopian forces and over 50,000 arrested. (Gadaa 17/04/2016 Open Democracy 18/01/2016; Africa Cradle 2015; Advocates for Human Rights 2009; All Africa 20/04/2015; UNPO 01/06/2015; US News 23/12/2015; The Guardian 18/12/2015; International Crisis Group 01/01/2016; HRW 27/01/2016 Africa Confidential 18/03/2016; International Business Times 10/03/2016; AFP 25/02/2016).

Key characteristics

Demographic profile: Population 97 million; 78 million in rural areas. 19.5% of the population live in urban areas (CIA Factbook 2015) 42% of the total population is under 14 years old, 55% is between 15 and 64 years old. 50.2% of the population is female (Trading Economics 2010; World Bank 2014).

Food security: Poor households in pastoral southern Afar and Sitti zone in Somali region and in the agricultural lowlands of East and West Hararghe zones in Oromia are facing

Emergency food security outcomes. Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Oromia, Somali, and SNNPR regions are in Crisis food security outcomes (FEWSNET 12/2015).

Nutrition: An estimated 450,000 children will suffer from SAM and 2.2 million people experience MAM in 2016 (OCHA 14/03/2016).

Health: Infant mortality rate: 53.37 deaths/1,000 live births (2015 estimations, Maternal mortality ratio: 353 deaths per 100,000 live births (CIA Factbook 2015); Under-five mortality rate: 68/1,000 live births (UNICEF 2012);

WASH: Access to improved sources of drinking water in urban areas: 93.1%, in rural areas: 48.6% of the population. Access to improved sanitation facilities in urban areas: 27.2%, in rural areas: 28% (2015 estimations, CIA Factbook 2015)

Lighting and cooking: In rural areas, kerosene, fuelwood and candles are used for lighting (Lighting Africa 08/2012). Wood is the most important energy source for cooking: 85% of the population use it (World Vision 2011 Cleancookstoves 2016)

Literacy: Total adult literacy: 49.1% (male: 57.2% female: 41.1%) (2015 estimations) (CIA Factbook 2015)

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity: At the beginning of April, the government issued a flood alert to the flood-risk *woredas* and communities, with advice regarding the precautionary measures necessary (OCHA 09/05/2016 Government 13/04/2016). The government is planning to send out alerts telling communities around major rivers to evacuate (OCHA 04/05/2016). At the beginning of May, the government began relocating people from high-risk flood areas. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission is providing emergency supplies in Afar, Somali, and Oromia regions. The Commission has also prepared supplies for people living in flood-risk areas. (FBC 12/05/2016).

International response capacity

In Somali region, the Ethiopia Red Cross, IOM, and Save the Children International have provided assistance (OCHA 09/05/2016).

Population coping mechanisms

Due to limited access to improved sources of water, vulnerable people affected by floods are more likely to use water from unprotected rivers, resulting in waterborne diseases. (CIA Factbook 2015 Global Health Action 2009).

Information gaps and needs

- There is currently very little information on the needs of people displaced by floods or on their current location.
- Health, food, WASH and education needs information is also very limited in most affected areas.

Lessons learned

- The reported main impacts of flooding on human health in Gambella region were deaths, injuries, and diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea. Another notable consequence of flooding was crop destruction and subsequent malnutrition (Global Health Action 2009).
- The Gambella Regional Administration has planned in the past to reduce the effects of flooding on the population through relocating residents of flood-prone areas to safer regions on a voluntary basis. However, flood-affected individuals in certain areas did not want to be resettled for agricultural reasons (Global Health Action 2009)
- Management systems during and after a flood incident have the potential to reduce flood damage. Proper drainage, and the construction of small dams may protect population from unexpected flash floods (AllAfrica 06/05/2016)

Flood-risk areas in Ethiopia, 12 May 2016

SNNPR: Bonke and Mirab-Abaya *woredas* in Gamo Gofa zone; Dasenech, Nyangatom, Hamer, Jinka Town, Debub Ari and Semen Ari in South Omo zone; Loka Abaya *woreda* in Sidama zone and Humbo *woreda* in Wolayita zone.

Somali: Kelafo, Mustahil, Ferfer, Gode, Bera'ano, and East Imy *woredas* in Shebelle zone; West Imy, Cherati, Dolo Bay and Hargele *woredas* in Afder zone; Dolo Ado *woreda* in Liben zone and Jigjiga town.

Oromia: Liben *woreda* in Guji zone; and Legehida, Gassera, Agarfa and Gololcha *woredas* in Bale zone; Dodota, Zway Dugda, Hitosa, Arsi zone; Boset, Dugda, Lome, Wenji and Bora in East Showa zone; Becho, Sebeta Awas and Illu in Southwest Shewa zone; Mega, Gelana and Abaya *woredas* in Borena zone. Dire Dawa City Administration.

Tigray: South and southeast, including Alamata and Raya *woredas*.

Afar: Megale, Dallol, Berhale, Ab'ala and Koneba *woredas* in Zone 2; Chifra and Aysayita *woredas* in Zone 1; Amibara, Bure Mudaytu, Gewane, Awash Fentale, and Mille *woredas* in Zone 3.

Amhara: Parts of North and South Wollo, and Oromia zones (Government 12/05/2016)