THE STATE OF RESPONSE TO EL NIÑO IN THE HORN OF AFRICA
CONTENT

• Drivers of humanitarian needs
• Historic impact of El Niño in the region
• The Horn of Africa
• Response to El Niño
• Challenges
• TAKE AWAY POINTS – Response to cyclical disasters
• CONCLUSION
MAIN DRIVERS OF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

• Climate/ El Niño: Drought, flooding and related consequences - food insecurity and malnutrition

• Armed Conflict: the primary threat to the safety and dignity of civilians in the region. New and protracted conflicts, inter-communal violence
  - It is also the main driver of displacement, within states and cross border, in the region.
  - E.g. upsurge in violence in South Sudan, Somalia

• Economic shocks: economic shocks including the decline of global oil prices, currency devaluation and rising cost of commodities and increasing food prices exacerbated existing chronic vulnerabilities
HISTORIC IMPACT OF EL NIÑO IN THE REGION

- Historical comparisons show that overall humanitarian needs in the region are higher in El Niño years than non-El Niño years.

- Historically El Niño had a variable impact on the region, ranging from drought to floods.

- Similarly, the humanitarian impact of effects of La Niña is at times greater, especially when it immediately follows an El Niño.

  E.g. 1988 floods affected 2.5 million people
  1999 drought affected 31.5 million people
  2011 drought affected nearly 14 million people
Drought and flood affected people in Eastern Africa by year

Source: http://ggweather.com/enso/oni.htm, EMDAT
The recent El Niño phenomenon:

- regarded as the strongest on record
- Exasperated drought resulting in massive humanitarian consequences; Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, South Sudan, North Somalia, parts of Sudan,
- severe on already chronically vulnerable population in disaster-prone areas such, flooding, pre-existing protracted, armed conflict, population displacements as well as refugee populations

Generally resulted in
- Food insecurity/malnutrition – failed crops, food prices
- reduced livelihoods
- Protection of vulnerable people – moving long distances to collect food and water
About 24 million people (June 2016) face critical food insecurity as a result of the Drought.

Enhanced rainfall due to El Niño – leading to good pasture, crop development and replenishment of water sources and an overall improvement in the food and nutrition security for the last season (Oct-Dec 2015).


Displacement - Heavy rains intensified in late April, - affecting nearly 410,000 people, displacing 231,916 people and killing 271 people in the region.
• Triggered outbreak of communicable diseases including higher risk of water/vector borne diseases;

• Impact of El Niño likely to be felt through 2016 and into 2017

• About 60% chance that a La Niña weather event will develop during the fall and winter this year (IGAD-ICPAC and global climate partners)
RESPONSE TO El Niño

• Government led
• In partnership with humanitarian partners
• Local communities, private sector, other local actors

NATURE OF RESPONSE

• Saving lives: distribution of food, water and sanitation, health
• Provision animal feed
• Preparedness and mitigating impact: technical support, provision of seeds, farm inputs etc.
• Protection of civilians – vulnerable groups
GOOD PRACTICES IN RESPONSE

Ethiopia
- **Active role of the government** - financing Partnering with other non state actors
  The National Government in allocated more than USD 380 million for El Niño preparedness and response, while donors in Ethiopia advanced funding meant for 2016 projects to the current drought response activities.
  - Productive Safety-Net Programmes are helping 7.8 million people for the rest six months of 2016.
  - The Government launched a logistics plan to ensure food aid delivery will not be interrupted during the upcoming rain.

Djibouti
- WFP established a new humanitarian logistics base in Djibouti, which facilitated preparedness and early action throughout the whole region

Somalia
- Early prepositioning of aid supplies and boats undertaken in flood prone areas.
- Local authorities and community leadership in awareness raising and preparedness such as enforcing embankments and climate monitoring.

Kenya
- A task force on El Niño communication, led by the Office of the Deputy President, produced daily press statements on the hotspot areas and information on where to and assistance.
- Emergency telephone lines, a What's up App platform and twitter account managed by the Kenya Red Cross provided daily situation updates.

Sudan
- The Government set aside 700,000 metric tons of sorghum - with in its National Strategic Grain Reserve with a further estimated 500,000 metric tons held by private sector to be used to stabilize market prices in 2016.
- An inter-ministerial technical working group representing all affected sectors was formed in Sudan and played the role of overall national coordination of El Niño mitigation and response.

IGAD Member States committed to information sharing and the drafting of a joint regional strategy for El Niño recovery and potential La Niña preparedness.
SOUTH SUDAN – MULTIPLE AND INTERLOCKING THREATS

- Across South Sudan, people have been affected by multiple and interlocking threats
  - Armed conflict, inter-communal violence, economic decline, disease and climactic shocks
- Aggravates the humanitarian consequences including IDPS and Refugees
- Volatile conditions in the countries often obstruct access
- The outcome is a cycle of crisis that millions cannot escape, resulting in great hardship, great costs, and the loss of hard-won livelihoods.
### SOUTH SUDAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Internally Displaced Persons (with 50 per cent estimated to be children)</td>
<td>1.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of refugees in neighboring countries (post 15 Dec 2013)</td>
<td>900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of food insecure people in July</td>
<td>4.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Malaria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cholera</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1.1 million malaria cases were reported across South Sudan from 1 Jan. - 31 July 2016, an increase from the nearly 960,800 cases reported during the same period in 2015.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>883 cholera cases and 22 deaths (Aug 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People to be assisted in 2016</td>
<td>5.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with humanitarian assistance in 2016</td>
<td>2.8 Million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAJOR CHALLENGES

- **Funding**: Globally humanitarian funds are overstretched - Funding shortfalls expected to continue to impact humanitarian - Response in the East Africa region is one of the most under funded regions globally

- **Humanitarian space**: Many areas of the region remain hard-to-reach or inaccessible - increasing insecurity, logistical constraints, and high operational costs, reduced ability of the people to seek assistance.

- **Upsurge of violence against aid workers** in the region
TAKE AWAY POINTS  Response to Cyclical Disasters

• **TIMELY PREPAREDNESS** is vital and affects the **EFFECTIVENESS OF RESPONSE**

• Early warning, **early response mechanisms** to humanitarian crises at national, regional and continental level
  
  • **Building resilience at household and community level, national level, regional, country, etc.** to reduce the vulnerability

• **In other words** strengthen Response Readiness For Critical Cyclical Disasters

• **Strengthen collective action** in the search of durable solutions
HOW can we assist communities prepare and build on resilience for drought - drought readiness

- Availing accessible timely regular Early Warning Use of technology (targeted mobile phone messages, followed by technical support)

  e.g. 10 things to do to prepare for drought/floods etc

  - Promote the positive coping mechanisms of communities

  - Reduce the negative ones - e.g. in the case of droughts distress selling of animals, assets, early marriage of girls, resource based inter-community clashes

- Governments can work to minimize the impact of

  - Inter community resource sharing agreements
  - Availing or facilitating livestock feed and drought resistant seeds in timely manner, storage
  - Promote and facilitate technical assistance and resources for water harvesting, irrigation
  - Promoting on research and innovation

PREVENTION, TIMELY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE
Four Ways to Prepare for an Emergency or Disaster In Your Area

1. KNOW YOUR HAZARD PROFILE
   - What Hazards and Risks are Common in Your Area?
   - Floods, accidents, fires, landslides, etc

2. KNOW THE VULNERABILITY PROFILE OF YOUR AREA
   - Which Persons and Assets are Exposed to the Main Hazards?

3. KNOW YOUR CAPACITIES TO RESPOND
   - Who has What, Where?
   - Trained Volunteers, Heavy Equipment, Resources, Ambulance, Fire Engines, Rescue Boats etc

4. KNOW YOUR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AT ALL LEVELS
   - Do you Have Their Contacts?
   - The PC, DC, Police, Ambulance Services, Fire Brigade, National Disaster Operation Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>National Disaster Operation Centre</th>
<th>Contact Telephone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Brigade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Red Cross</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Environment Management Agency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Wildlife Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Power and Lighting Company</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office of The President
Ministry of State for Social Programming and Provincial Administration & Internal Security

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)
CONCLUSION

• The response to El Niño phenomena across the Horn of Africa - national response is encouraging Yet

  • National governments and development partners need to step up
    - reduce the risks,
    - allocating an increased level of contingency financing for emergency response to meet short term, emergency needs

• Simultaneously support social safety net mechanisms to help minimize any deterioration in livelihoods and address critical gaps in basic social services and social protection that complement disaster risk reduction, recovery and development initiatives
At Regional /Continental Level

• There is need to develop a concerted but diversified continental sustainable response e.g. appropriate humanitarian policy framework, water management policy, climate adaptation strategies, disaster risk management etc.

• Allow promot information sharing

• Making available necessary resources to support regional efforts

• Strengthen collective action in the search of durable solutions to give the millions of people better life with dignity and self-reliance
THANK YOU!