



IN NUMBERS



8.5 million

People food insecure

(Midyear Review of the 2017 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD))



2.25 million

Households require emergency livestock support in 2017



USD 60.1 million

Required for humanitarian response in Ethiopia's agriculture sector in 2017

(Midyear Review of the 2017 HRD)



USD 20 million

Needed by FAO to assist 1 million farming, agropastoral and pastoral households in 2017

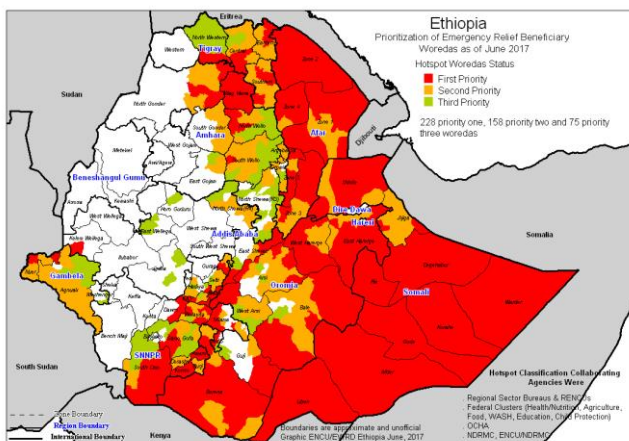
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Consecutive seasons of poor rainfall in southern and southeastern pastoral areas** have driven increasing humanitarian needs. At USD 1.25 billion, Ethiopia's Midyear Review of the 2017 HRD is among the largest humanitarian appeals in the world.
- **A surge in food insecurity – now affecting 8.5 million people, up from 5.6 million in January** – and staggering malnutrition rates in drought-affected areas are in large part a consequence of insufficient livelihoods response, which remains just 43% funded.
- **For pastoral households, keeping livestock alive is key to their own survival.** Remaining livestock – especially those able to help regenerate a herd – require urgent access to feed and animal health services. In addition to emergency activities, pastoral and agropastoral communities further require resilience-focused interventions to cope with future disasters.
- **Drought impacts are unlikely to end soon.** According to Ethiopia's National Meteorology Agency, the upcoming October–December rainfall season is expected to be near normal to below normal, with potentially late onset and early withdrawal. This has significant potential to lead to a further deterioration in the current livelihood situation.
- **A new pest, the fall armyworm, is spreading rapidly across the country's maize-producing areas – and threatens widespread crop damage across the western half of the country if left unaddressed.** Presence of the pest has been reported in six surplus-producing regions, with 600 000 ha of maize infested.

MAP

HOTSPOT CLASSIFICATION

(Source: Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners, June 2017)



Hotspot *woreda* classification has been derived using six multisector indicators, including agriculture and nutrition, agreed at zonal, regional and federal levels. A hotspot matrix is often used as a proxy for the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

BACKGROUND

The failure of last year's October–December (*deyr/hagaya*) rains, followed by below-average, late and erratic March–May (*gu/genna*) rainfall this year have caused devastating drought conditions in southern and southeastern Ethiopia. Significant pasture and water deficits have severely affecting livestock-dependent households in lowlands of Borena, Guji and Bale Zones in Oromia Region, South Omo Zone in SNNPR and southern zones of Somali Region. Abnormal migrations, high livestock mortality rates, outbreaks of opportunistic diseases and extreme emaciation have been reported throughout the affected areas, where the dominant livelihood is pastoralism. Livestock-dependent households' access to food is constrained by their diminishing herds and deteriorating body conditions of their surviving animals – milk production is extremely low, prices for livestock have plummeted and staple food costs have risen. The number of people food insecure is soaring – from 5.6 million in January 2017 to 7.8 million in May to 8.5 million declared in August. With many households not yet recovered from the El Niño drought of 2015/16, this current crisis is exacerbating an already precarious situation.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Livestock-dependent households are struggling to sustain their animals amid parched rangelands and scarce water sources in southern and southeastern Ethiopia. Herd sizes are diminishing across the affected areas, impacting household food security and nutrition. Accounts of extreme coping mechanisms are widespread, such as widespread abnormal migrations (significantly increasing internal displacement), skipping meals, reducing portion sizes, eating less diversely and selling remaining productive assets to purchase food. Such conditions are particularly pronounced in southern zones of Somali Region. The ongoing long dry season is further enhancing vulnerabilities and compromising the livelihoods of the worst-affected.

According to Ethiopia's National Meteorology Agency and the 47th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum, southern and southeastern areas will likely experience little relief from the upcoming October–December rainfall season. The rains are expected to be near normal to below normal with potentially late onset and early withdrawal, meaning a potential further deterioration in the current livelihood situation. Drought impacts are likely to continue at least until the first quarter of 2018, and the full recovery of pastoral households will take much longer – between two to four years, depending on the number and type of livestock lost.

The rapid spread of the fall armyworm is threatening crop production across the country, having been reported in 411 *woredas* in six regional states (Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray) as of August 2017. Maize is the most affected, with 22 percent of all maize planted infested (600 000 ha), having significant implications for harvests. There is concern that the pest could soon spread to sorghum-growing areas in Afar, Amhara, Somali and Tigray Regions and likely affect other crops.

FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES IN 2017



- Expanding coverage of:
 - Supplementary animal feed for core breeding stock
 - Animal feed production and forage support
 - Vaccination and treatment interventions
 - Livestock destocking
 - Water point rehabilitation
 - Capacity building of community-based animal health workers
- Support fodder production and conservation



- Enhancing pest and disease surveillance and control
- Promotion of climate-smart and conservation agricultural techniques
- Small-scale irrigation and water harvesting
- Community and school gardens

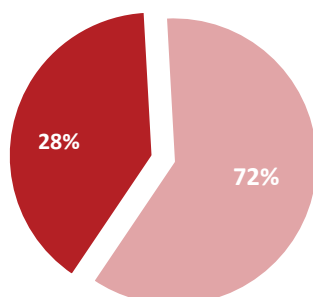


- Support to national- and regional-level coordination
- Food security, livelihood, seed, crop & livestock assessments

ACHIEVEMENTS TO-DATE IN 2017

- ✓ Destocked 22 189 cattle, sheep and goats, increasing the income of 15 274 households and improving the nutritional intake of 44 356 households.
- ✓ Provided animal feed to 46 766 animals belonging to 11 256 households.
- ✓ Animal health services delivered to 237 734 livestock owned by 26 913 households.
- ✓ Rehabilitating 10 water points.
- ✓ Capacity building of animal health workers.
- ✓ Support to monitoring of fall armyworm.
- ✓ Undertook fall armyworm assessment, with the Government, to determine the reach and severity of the infestation.
- ✓ Undertaking seed policy review on request of the Government of Ethiopia.
- ✓ Finalized the 2017 Seed Systems Security Assessment.
- ✓ Coordination of seed interventions at national, regional and zonal levels, contributing to a more streamlined, efficient response.

FUNDING



■ **Funding to-date:**
USD 7.9 million

■ **Funding gap:**
USD 12.1 million

Donors: Belgium, Canada, CERF, EHF, FAO, SFERA, SFERA-EWEA, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA

FAO requires
USD 20 million

To assist
1 million households

ASSESSMENTS

FAO, in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia, is currently undertaking an assessment on the state of grain markets – including storage, market information, transport and finance – with the objective of understanding current trends and making recommendations to enhance the efficiency of the way grain markets operate. Interviews are being held with key stakeholders, including smallholders, traders and representatives of cooperative unions. The study is expected to assess the flow of grain from farmers to various markets both within and outside Ethiopia, as well as the flow of imported grain to different consumers. Once complete, the assessment findings will additionally help to determine the impact of the current grain market on food insecure households.

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