



### IN NUMBERS



### 10.2 million

People food insecure (2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document)



### >1.7 million

Households need emergency seed support



### >654 000

Households require livestock assistance



### USD 50 million

needed for the implementation of FAO's El Niño Response Plan

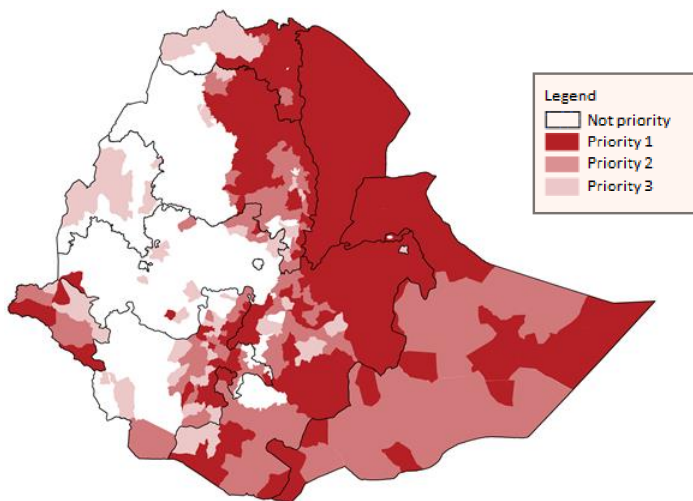
### KEY MESSAGES

- **Humanitarian needs in Ethiopia have tripled since the beginning of 2015** as one of the strongest El Niño events on record caused severe drought, leading to successive crop failures and widespread livestock deaths.
- **Food insecurity and malnutrition rates remain high.** Insufficient access to and availability of food has caused humanitarian needs to increase. The current situation requires simultaneous and immediate scaling up of multisector lifesaving and livelihood support along with investment in resilience building efforts in the most affected and at-risk areas.
- **Escalating needs require a scaled up response.** In areas severely affected by the drought, recent flooding has inundated farmland and killed livestock, eroding farming communities' already weakened coping capacities.
- **The El Niño-induced drought is not just a food crisis — above all, it is a livelihood crisis.** Over 80 percent of the population depend on agriculture for their food and income; affected households require urgent support to resume their livelihoods.

### MAP

#### HOTSPOT CLASSIFICATION

(Source: Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners, March 2016)



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 Phase Food Security Classification (IPC).

### BACKGROUND

In 2015, Ethiopia faced one of the most severe droughts in half a century due to the effects of El Niño. Significant rainfall deficits severely impacted the lives and livelihoods of farmers and herders throughout the country. Following two consecutive poor rainy seasons – *belg* (February to May) and *kiremt* (June to September) – harvests were well below average, with some areas experiencing between 50 and 90 percent crop loss. The livestock sector has seen extreme mortality and morbidity rates and abnormal migration in search of pasture and water. Many families dependent on agriculture have become indebted and dependent on humanitarian assistance.

With inadequate sources of food and income as a result of the drought, vulnerable rural households face widespread hunger and malnutrition. In late 2015, a Government-led multi-agency *meher* assessment found that 10.2 million people were food insecure, while 2 million required agricultural input support to resume food production. Since December 2015, 15 to 20 percent of *woredas* identified as Priority 2 or 3 had slipped into Priority 1 or 2, respectively, by March. One-third of the country's *woredas* are now officially classified as hotspot Priority 1 areas.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Following 18 months of dry spells and erratic rainfall, abnormally heavy *belg* rains have caused flooding in six regional states, displacing upwards of 180 000 people since late March. Some 55 000 hectares of farmland have been submerged, thousands of livestock killed, and key infrastructure damaged. Many communities have been rendered impassable, further complicating the delivery of emergency livelihood support. With the rains likely to continue through the end of May and restart in mid-June, the National Flood Taskforce predicts that at least 485 000 people will be affected by flooding.

The success of the main agricultural season – the *meher* – will be critical to improving food security and nutrition throughout the country. However, the number of seed-insecure households remains high, with half a million farming households of the 1.7 million most in need remaining untargeted in the most nutritionally vulnerable areas. The planting window is limited, and the time to respond is running out for most staple crops.

Despite the onset of the spring rains in most pastoral areas, pasture and water point recovery has been slow. The rains have further impacted livestock body conditions, increasing incidence of disease and death. Emergency interventions are still required, and animal health interventions will be critical to protecting livelihood assets ahead of the *meher* season. Current estimates indicate that 654 000 households require livestock support.

## FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

### PRIORITY ACTIVITIES



#### Crops

- Quality drought-resilient seed production
- Backyard vegetable production initiatives
- Nutrition-rich and high-value root and tuber crop production support



#### Livestock

- Conduct animal health interventions
- Support fodder production
- Provision of survival feed to protect draught and core breeding animals
- Increase access to water for livestock



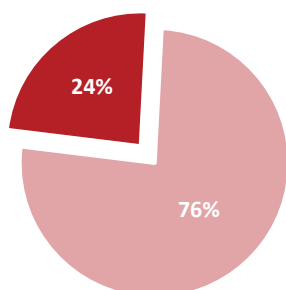
#### Building resilience

- Cash-for-work initiatives to improve critical infrastructure for water access
- Adoption of the *caisses de résilience* approach for better mitigation of future crises
- Support to year-round food production at household level through micro- and small-scale irrigation

### ACTIONS TAKEN TO-DATE

- ✓ Crop seed interventions in the most nutritionally vulnerable districts, benefiting 90 000 households.
- ✓ Distribution of survival and supplementary livestock feed to 9 600 households is ongoing.
- ✓ Improving access to water for livestock through the rehabilitation of 18 water points, benefiting 125 480 livestock owned by 12 783 households.
- ✓ Supporting fodder production through the provision of forage seed to 1 600 households.
- ✓ Destocked 4 381 livestock, enhancing the income of 3 214 livestock sellers and improving the nutritional intake of 4 354 displaced households.
- ✓ Treated and/or vaccinated nearly 1.4 million animals belonging to 77 118 households.
- ✓ Created a Strategic Advisory Group to provide technical advice to the chairs of the Disaster Risk Management Agriculture Task Force (DRM-ATF).
- ✓ Created two emergency working groups (focusing on seeds and livestock), to harmonize response to the crisis with government, NGO and resource partners.

### FUNDING



- **Funding to-date:**  
USD 12 million
- **Funding gap:**  
USD 38 million

**Donors:** Belgium, ECHO, FAO, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, OCHA, Spain, UNICEF and United States of America.

### ASSESSMENTS

FAO conducted a rapid appraisal of the livestock situation in selected pastoral areas of Afar and Somali Regions from 11 April to 4 May. In addition to field visits, meetings were held with Ministry of Livestock and Fishery officials, NGOs, private sector actors and affected livestock owners. Some of the main impacts observed on food security included reduced terms of trade, loss of livestock assets, as well as increased levels of poverty in affected communities. FAO's response plan has been adjusted to reflect current priorities, and recommendations have been made to the Government and donors regarding interventions and funding required. FAO estimates that USD 30 million is required by the livestock sector, a figure endorsed by the Government and UN community.

**FAO requires**  
USD 50 million

**To assist**  
1.8 million people

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