



IN NUMBERS



60 million

people affected by El Niño-related droughts, floods and extreme hot and cold weather.



84% of the impact

of drought is absorbed by the agriculture sector alone.



USD 232 million

needed for emergency and recovery responses in FAO's 29 high priority countries.



50 to 90%

failed maize and bean harvests in the Dry Corridor of Central America.



2.6 million ha

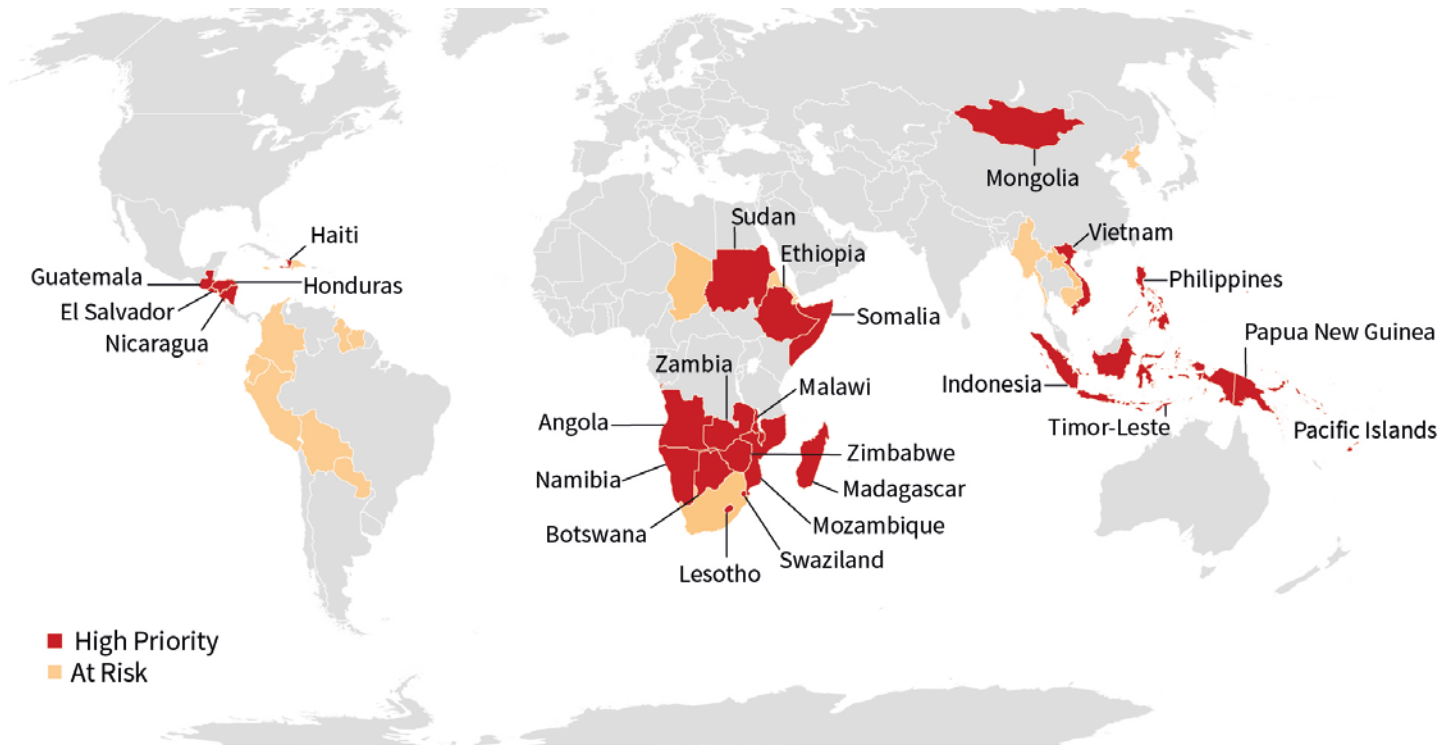
of forest and agricultural land burnt by fires in Indonesia.



31.6 million

people are food insecure in Southern Africa.

PRIORITY AND AT-RISK COUNTRIES



OVERVIEW

The current 2015-2016 El Niño cycle has been one of the strongest on record and has had significant impacts on agricultural production and food security across the globe.

At present, the agriculture, food security and nutritional status of 60 million people is affected by El Niño-related droughts, floods and extreme hot and cold weather.

While El Niño is likely to decline in strength over the coming months, and forecast models indicate a return to an El Niño neutral state during the second quarter of 2016, this does not mean that the danger has passed.

Harvests in several parts of the world have already failed and are forecast to fail in others, which will result in a dramatic increase in acute household food insecurity.

The regions most affected include the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, the Dry Corridor of Central America, Caribbean Islands, Southeast Asia and Pacific Islands. Many countries within these regions have already declared a national state of emergency. In many of the affected countries, FAO is using early warning information to design and implement early action and response plans.

HORN OF AFRICA

Ethiopia

Country overview



10.2 million people
food insecure

Humanitarian needs have tripled since the beginning of 2015 as the drought continues to have devastating effects — causing successive crop failures and widespread livestock deaths. Food insecurity and malnutrition rates are high, with some 10.2 million people in need of food assistance. Malnutrition rates are staggering, with over one-third of Ethiopia's *woredas* now officially classified as facing a food security and nutrition crisis. These figures are increasing as the effects of drought continue to grip the country. Recent estimates from Ethiopia's regional Bureaus of Agriculture indicate that more than 2.3 million households need immediate agricultural support.

FAO's response

As co-chair of the Disaster Risk Management Agriculture Task Force, FAO is working with the Government to conduct seasonal assessments and develop preparedness and response plans as well as guidelines for emergency agriculture support. To date, FAO's crop seed interventions have benefited 200 000 households, and survival and supplementary livestock feed is ongoing to 9 600 households. In addition, 1.4 million animals have been treated and/or vaccinated and 18 water points have been rehabilitated benefiting livestock owned by more than 12 000 households. The destocking of livestock has also provided much needed income and improved the nutritional intake of 4 300 households.

Somalia and Sudan

Country overviews



At least 6.3 million people
acutely food insecure in Sudan and Somalia

In **Somalia**, nearly 4.7 million people, 38 percent of the population, are food insecure (IPC phases 2, 3 and 4) and will need humanitarian assistance through June 2016. Of these, 1.7 million are in Puntland and Somaliland. Drought has been declared in Puntland and Somaliland, where some communities have not experienced normal rains for up to four seasons, spanning two years. In **Sudan**, 4.6 million people are acutely food insecure as a result of El Niño. Below-average agricultural production in 2015 (national cereal production was 25 percent below the 5-year average), rising staple food prices, very poor pasture conditions and continued conflict in Greater Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile States are leading to much higher food insecurity in 2016.

FAO's response

In **Somalia**, FAO was able to repair river breakages and reinforce embankments, reduce the likelihood of animal disease outbreaks, help farmers protect seed and grains, and increase water storage in the north where El Niño made drought conditions worse. As a result, 9 000 hectares of farmland was saved from flooding, capable of producing enough to feed 1.7 million people for one month – worth USD 6.7 million. In **Sudan**, FAO has provided technical leadership and coordination support to develop the joint UN-Government of Sudan El Niño Mitigation and Preparedness Plan; and an assessment is being conducted of El Niño impacts across the country in order to update the number and location of those worst affected to ensure targeted responses are funded and implemented quickly.

Priority actions and funding gap



Emergency seed distribution to affected areas for the main agricultural season.



Animal feed, health campaigns and restocking with small ruminants.



Cash-for-work initiatives to improve critical infrastructure for water access activities.



USD 41.7 million

Priority actions and funding gap

Somalia: Cash relief through cash-for-work initiatives to meet immediate food security needs; emergency animal health treatment, vaccination and restocking of livestock; and restore crop production through distribution of high performing, drought-tolerant seeds and land preparation support.



USD 17 million (required to meet the immediate needs of 1 million people in Puntland and Somaliland)

Sudan: Emergency seed distribution to affected areas for the main agricultural season; animal feed, vaccination and treatment campaigns; water trucking and rehabilitation of water points for livestock; and provision of livelihood training and start-up kits.



USD 23 million

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Regional overview



31.6 million people

food insecure

The situation is critical with more than 30 million people food insecure in the region. This number is projected to rise as a direct result of the poor rain season from the 2015-2016 El Niño event. Drier than average conditions are expected to continue, increasing the possibility of reduced maize production. Drought emergencies have been declared in **Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland** and **Zimbabwe**. In addition, seven of South Africa's nine provinces, which account for almost 90 percent of the country's maize production, have been declared drought disaster areas. In **Malawi**, 2.8 million people are predicted to be food insecure and over 47 percent of children under the age of five are currently malnourished. Drought is also severely affecting more than 1.5 million people who rely on subsistence farming in **Namibia**, with a quarter of the population food insecure. In **Mozambique**, the Government estimates that the population affected by food insecurity could reach 1.8 million in 2016, while in **Zambia** 800 000 people cannot meet their basic food needs.

FAO's response

FAO is supporting 8 000 households in **Zimbabwe** to access livestock survival feed and drought-tolerant seeds of sorghum and cowpea in Mangwe, Matobo, Beitbridge, Gwanda and Chivi. In **Malawi**, support has included vaccinating small livestock, providing early maturing varieties of drought-resistant cereals and irrigation support to around 42 000 households in the six districts more prone to erratic rainfall and dry spells. In **Namibia**, FAO is supporting the Government in the rehabilitation of boreholes and training farmers on conservation agriculture, while in **Zambia** a rapid assessment to evaluate the impact of El Niño has been undertaken with the Government and WFP. In **Lesotho** and **Mozambique**, FAO has been strengthening national capacity for response and providing coordination support.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Regional overview



3.5 million people

food insecure in the Dry Corridor of Central America

The **Dry Corridor** countries of **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras** and **Nicaragua** are most affected and are currently experiencing the worst drought in decades. More than 3.5 million people are food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance after suffering major crop losses due to prolonged drought conditions. The 2016 maize harvest is expected to be well below average and losses range from 50-100 percent in several areas. The joint FAO/WFP food security assessment in **Haiti** indicated that almost half of the 3.6 million people food insecure are severely food insecure. The main harvest for 2015 fell below average with losses of up to 70 percent in some areas. There is a 90 percent probability that the El Niño phenomenon will continue in the region until May/June 2016.

Priority actions and funding gap

Lesotho: Social protection; emergency inputs for home gardening; recovery seed production packages; food production in schools; and livestock vaccination and destocking.

USD 5.9 million

Malawi: Small-scale irrigation equipment to boost the local seed system; restocking with small ruminants; and animal health activities.

USD 10.5 million

Mozambique: Seed distribution and production; animal feed and health activities; rehabilitation of reservoirs and water point construction.

USD 5 million

Namibia: Drought-tolerant seed production; small-scale irrigation initiatives; livestock restocking; animal feed and fodder production; animal health activities; water point rehabilitation.

USD 2.3 million

Swaziland: Livestock restocking; animal health interventions; increasing water access through cash-for-work activities; information; coordination and analysis.

USD 13.7 million

Zambia: Emergency micronutrient powders and ready-to-use therapeutic food to affected districts; livestock destocking and restocking; animal health; and cash-for-work initiatives.

USD 7 million

Zimbabwe: Livestock vaccination, destocking, animal feed; fodder production; drought-tolerant seeds; rehabilitation of water points; and strengthening early warning systems.

USD 37.9 million

Priority actions and funding gap

El Salvador: Distribution of seeds; rehabilitation of irrigation and water collection storage systems.

USD 6.6 million

Guatemala: Immediate livelihood restoration activities.

USD 7 million

Haiti: Distribution of seeds and planting materials; seed fairs with subsidized vouchers; and training.

USD 7.9 million

Honduras: Immediate livelihood restoration activities.

USD 3.4 million

FAO's response

FAO is supporting farmers with seeds and tools in the most drought-affected areas of **Haiti**, while strengthening the community adaptation capacity and improving the resilience of agro-ecosystems through farmer field schools and training. In the **Dry Corridor**, funds have been committed to efforts to reduce vulnerability and increase livelihood resilience in the agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries sectors. In **Guatemala**, an emergency response programme is currently targeting 7 000 families. In **El Salvador**, support is focusing on local capacity development and rehabilitating and diversifying the agricultural production of more than 17 000 people affected by drought.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Regional overview



4.7 million people
at risk of drought in 13 Pacific Island countries

The Southern Central, Central Highlands and Mekong Delta regions of **Viet Nam** are experiencing saltwater intrusion and the most severe drought in more than 60 years, affecting the livelihoods of 2.3 million people. To date, 39 provinces have been affected by drought; of which 14 provinces have been declared a State of Emergency. The South Pacific region has experienced tropical depressions and cyclones in recent months, including Tropical Cyclone Winston that hit **Fiji** in February affecting 40 percent of the population and Tropical Cyclone Zena in early April. In the most-affected areas, up to 100 percent of crops were damaged or destroyed, with the cost of damage to crops and livestock estimated at USD 104 million. In addition, the fisheries sector was also critically affected. Drought, frost and fires in **Papua New Guinea** are affecting 2.7 million people, while in the **Philippines**, 11 provinces were affected by a dry spell in March and 23 provinces (mostly in Mindanao) experienced drought conditions. The **Federated States of Micronesia**, **Marshall Islands** and **Palau** have declared a state of emergency as a result of El Niño-induced drought conditions, while in the northern and western **Pacific**; drought is also forecast, threatening the livelihoods and well-being of 4.7 million people in **Fiji**, **Solomon Islands**, **Tonga** and **Vanuatu**. In **Indonesia**, the quantity of planted paddy was 17 percent lower than usual (October-December 2015), and in the most drought-affected areas in eastern **Indonesia**, was up to 40 percent lower than normal. In **Timor-Leste**, food insecurity is affecting 40 percent of the rural and agriculture-dependent population, and this figure is expected to rise to 45 percent between April and June. In **Mongolia**, around 60 percent of the country has been affected by the *dzud* (harsh winter preceded by drought), which has led to very high numbers of livestock deaths and disease.

FAO's response

In **Viet Nam**, FAO is assisting the Government with the development of a set of suitable agricultural drought indices and is on standby to provide emergency seeds and tools. In **Fiji**, emergency assistance is currently being provided to 1 050 households as part of the Cyclone Winston response. FAO is working with the Government in **Mongolia** on an animal health response to address the sheep and goat pox outbreak, including providing livestock, hay, wheat bran and animal health care kits to 4 390 vulnerable herder households. FAO is planning to work with partners in **Papua New Guinea** to support farming families in the worst affected provinces with drought-tolerant seeds and smart irrigation material (e.g. drip-irrigation systems). In **Timor-Leste**, additional maize and cover crop seeds are being distributed to beneficiaries for El Niño-affected fields. Climate information was disseminated through farmer field days in the **Philippines**, and agricultural extension workers were trained on enhanced climate risk management. FAO is also implementing El Niño drought preparation and monitoring in **Micronesia** and **Melanesia**.

Priority actions and funding gap

Fiji: Distribution of seeds, planting materials, fertilizers, hand tools; animal feed, restocking of poultry; and fisheries inputs including repair/replacement of boats, engines and fishing gear.

USD 1.56 million

Indonesia: Drought-resilient agricultural practices; food security monitoring, preparedness, mitigation, response.

USD 2.7 million

Mongolia: Destocking of livestock to protect the livelihoods of 6 500 households.

USD 7.1 million

Papua New Guinea: Facilitating agricultural recovery through enhanced support to cluster/sectoral coordination.

USD 4.3 million

Philippines: Strengthening the capacity of communities and the Government for adaptation and strategic mitigation measures, including early warning systems.

USD 4.6 million

Timor-Leste: Rainwater harvesting; drought-resilient agricultural practices and restoring livelihoods of affected farming communities.

USD 10.6 million

Viet Nam: Emergency distribution of seeds, tools and fertilizers; provision of water and feed for livestock; restocking; and assessments on the impact of drought (and floods).

USD 12 million