

21 December 2015

Key Issues

- Cluster partners continue to increase response capacity with surge deployments.
- More than 4,500MT of cereals is required to support small holder farmers with seed in 2016.
- The relief food pipeline for early 2016 is significantly strained. The monthly commodity requirements for 10.2 million people are 173,595 MT of food.
- The 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) presents for the first time a coordinated humanitarian response plan with costed inputs, including those of INGOs. The overall financial requirements for 2016 are US\$1.4 billion, of which \$1.1 billion is for food assistance.

Donors are urgently requested to:

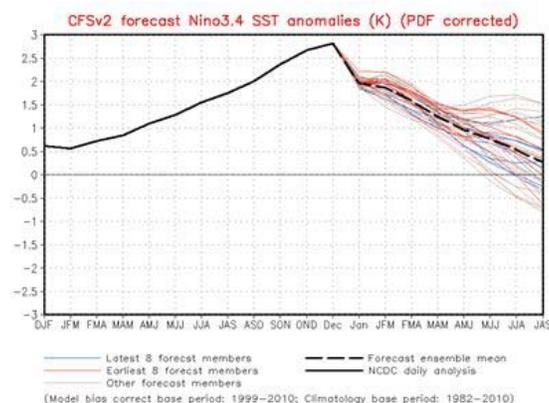
- Provide additional funding to address current (2015) needs
- Bring forward 2016 funds now
- Review options to re-programme existing development funding for priority humanitarian response
- Seek additional resources
- Support country-level pooled funds (OCHA's Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) and the emergency funds managed by USAID and ECHO)

Ethiopia is responding to an El Niño-caused drought emergency: The El Niño global climactic event has wreaked havoc on Ethiopia's summer rains. This comes on the heels of failed spring rains, and has driven food insecurity, malnutrition and water shortages in affected areas of the country. A well-coordinated response is already underway and expanding rapidly, although the scale of the developing emergency exceeds resources available to date. Given the lead times necessary for the procurement of relief items, the Government and its international partners have called for early action to this slow onset natural disaster.

El Niño will remain strong through winter 2016

On 14 December, the NOAA¹ Climate Prediction Centre reported that the sea surface temperature (SST) in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean stood at +2.8 degree Celsius above normal, up from +2.7 degree Celsius two weeks ago. El Niño is expected to remain strong through winter 2016, and to neutralize during late spring or early summer 2016 (see graph. Source: NOAA).

In Ethiopia, the strengthening 2015 El Niño will continue to disrupt weather patterns through the first half of 2016.



Seed support for small holder farmers in *belg*-receiving areas

The National Meteorological Agency's (NMA) weather forecast for the first two dekads of December had predicted near normal (above normal in some areas) rainfall in most parts of Afar and Amhara (except North Gonder zone); parts of Tigray (Central, Eastern and Southern zones); parts of Oromia (Borena, Guji, Illubabor, Jimma, West Wollega zones); parts of SNNP (Bench Maji, Gamo Gofa, Gurage, Hadiya, Keffa, Segen Peoples, Sidama, South Omoa and Wolayita zones); and pocket areas of Gambella.

The NMA advised farmers in *belg*-producing areas to make use of the soil moisture to prepare their land. A three month forecast in mid-January will provide a more accurate picture of the 2016 *belg* rains. More than 4,500MT of cereals is required to support small holder farmers with seed in 2016.

Planning and prioritization

Government and partners responding to increasing WaSH needs

Reports of severe water shortages continue to be reported in drought-affected parts of the country. Reported damages on permanent water schemes are increasing with added pressure on the limited water points. Some of the water schemes are no longer usable due to the decrease in the level of ground water. In Waghimra zone of Amhara region – one of the most severely affected areas where all *woredas* (except Sekota town) are hotspot priority one – the water table is reported as low as 400 meters deep, which requires high technology options to access it. The Regional Water Bureau and WaSH partners are responding to needs in the zone.

Humanitarian – development linkages

Of the seven *woredas* in Waghimra, four *woredas* (Abergele, Gazgibla, Sikota Zuria and Ziquala) are under the One WaSH National Programme. Some 4.3 million birr was transferred to the four *woredas* to support construction, rehabilitation and expansion of small scale water supply schemes. For more information, contact ocha-eth@un.org

¹ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration