

Key Issues

- Coordination to acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) response well underway in Somali region
- Protection mainstreaming and camp coordination and management training on-going in Somali region
- Parts of the country to receive better rainfall in April, but current drought belt remain dry

Back-to-back seasons of poor or non-existent rainfall in 2015, exacerbated by the strongest El Niño phenomenon on record in the same year, led to the worst drought in decades in Ethiopia in 2016. While the country continues to respond to residual needs from the past drought, below average rains in the southern and eastern parts of the country caused by the negative Indian Ocean Dipole have left 5.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2017. Some US\$948 million is urgently required to respond to the new humanitarian needs.

Coordination to acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) response well underway in Somali region

The Government-led Health Command Post continues to lead and strengthen the coordination of the acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) response from Jijiga; holding daily meetings with operational partners. The Federal Ministry of Health has deployed two rounds national health staff from across the country to Somali region to scale up the response. Currently more than 300 Government mobilized staffs are on the ground. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also deployed some 25 surveillance officers to Somali region to support Government in identifying the causes of the outbreak and improve case reporting. Government, with support from NGOs including MSF, has established case treatment centers in districts/*woredas* that are prioritized by the command post

Meanwhile 19 projects supported by the Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) at a cost of US\$24 million are being implemented to contain, prevent and respond to the AWD outbreak across the country. The projects aim to contribute to the reduction of mortality and morbidity from AWD through case treatment, provision of safe water, promotion of safe hygiene practices, community based surveillance and outreach services.

Protection mainstreaming and camp coordination and management training on-going in Somali region

From 24 to 26 April 2017, the Protection Cluster together with International organization for Migration (IOM) will provide training on protection mainstreaming and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) in Somali region. The objective of the training is to increase understanding of CCCM roles and responsibilities and enhance practical knowledge in site planning and management. The training will help humanitarian responders in the drought-hit region manage the needs of displaced populations in camps and other displacement situations.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) indicates that some 116,660 individuals were displaced since the beginning of the year in Somali region alone, due to the ongoing drought and occasional conflicts. The three days training targets some 40 participants drawn from Government officials at regional, zonal and *woreda* levels and service providers, including sub-national Cluster Coordinators and NGOs.

Parts of the country to receive better rainfall in April, but current drought belt remain dry

The National Meteorological Agency (NMA) reported that the southern and western parts of the country (parts of Amhara, Benishagul Gumuz, Gambella, SNNPR and Oromia regions) received above normal rainfall in the first ten days of April 2017. This provided a good supply of water for sprouting seedlings on farms and for perennial crops, as well as for pasture. However, the central and north eastern parts of the country, which should have received *gu/ganna* rains remained dry during the same time period, causing stress on drinking water supply and fodder for livestock. The Agency warned that the warm weather condition that accompanies the rainy situation could create conditions for the proliferation of crop pests, and advised necessary precautions to be taken to avoid loss of crops. For more on this: <http://bit.ly/2om3YnD>

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