

28 December 2015

### Key Issues

- El Niño continues to strengthen with the sea surface temperature (SST) in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean registering +2.9 degree Celsius above normal as of 21 December, up from +2.8 degree Celsius on 14 December and from +2.7 degree Celsius three weeks ago.
- Failing to address MAM cases will cause spikes in SAM cases, leading to more human suffering and costlier intervention months down the line.
- The relief food pipeline for early 2016 is significantly strained. The monthly food commodity requirements for 10.2 million people are some 173,595 MT.

#### *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.

### Planning and prioritization

#### **Government and partners mobilize resources for 7<sup>th</sup> round relief food distribution**

The Government and partners are mobilizing resources to cover shortfalls for the seventh round relief food ration for 10.2 million people. Of 9,692 metric tons of food allocated by the National Disaster Risk Management Coordination Commission (NDRMCC) and WFP for the seventh round, 73 per cent was dispatched and 43 per cent distributed as of 23 December. As per the decision of the National DRM Council, food allocation will, from now onwards, be done on a monthly basis. The monthly food commodity requirements for 10.2 million relief food beneficiaries identified for 2016 is some 173,595 metric tons. Of the 10.2 million, NDRMCC will cover 5.7 million people, JEOP will cover 2.6 million people, and WFP will cover 1.6 million people.

#### **TSF intervention – a high priority**

Between January and November 2015, 862,978 people (468,924 children under five and 394,054 pregnant and breastfeeding women) benefited from targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) interventions in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions, with 18,226 MT of food (16,008 Mt of CSB+ and 2,218 MT vegetable oil). The 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document prioritized some 1.7 million children, pregnant and lactating women requiring specialized nutritional support during the year.

The Government and nutrition partners agree on the need for timely implementation of targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) interventions to address moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Failing to address such needs will cause spikes in SAM cases, and to more human suffering and costlier intervention months down the line.

#### **Responding to WaSH needs**

In parallel to sustainable water scheme developments, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MWIE) and the WaSH Cluster is supporting water trucking interventions in highly drought-affected areas of the country. In Afar region, the regional DPPB and the Water Bureau, with support from the NGOs Islamic relief and AISDA are supporting 29 water trucks, leaving a gap of nine trucks. Similarly in Oromia region, 27 water trucks are providing water to affected communities, leaving a gap of 15 tracks. At least 695,931 people are accessing safe drinking water as a result.

### El Niño continues to strengthen

El Niño continues to strengthen with the sea surface temperature (SST) in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean registering +2.9 degree Celsius above normal as of 21 December, up from +2.8 degree Celsius on 14 December and from +2.7 degree Celsius three weeks ago. In Ethiopia, the strengthening 2015 El Niño will continue to disrupt weather patterns through the first half of 2016. For more information, contact [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)