



Northern Barh el Gazel, Chad, is affected by drought. 85 percent of the households in the region are in a situation of food insecurity, according to the ENSA report published in December 2015.

Photo: WFP/Alexis Masciarelli



World Food Programme



WFP El Niño 2015-2016 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Situation Report #4, 24 May 2016

IN NUMBERS

60 MILLION people affected globally at present.

32 MILLION people food insecure in Southern Africa.

10.2 MILLION people in Ethiopia need emergency food assistance.

50 PERCENT crop losses in Haiti due to El Niño-influenced drought.

HIGHLIGHTS

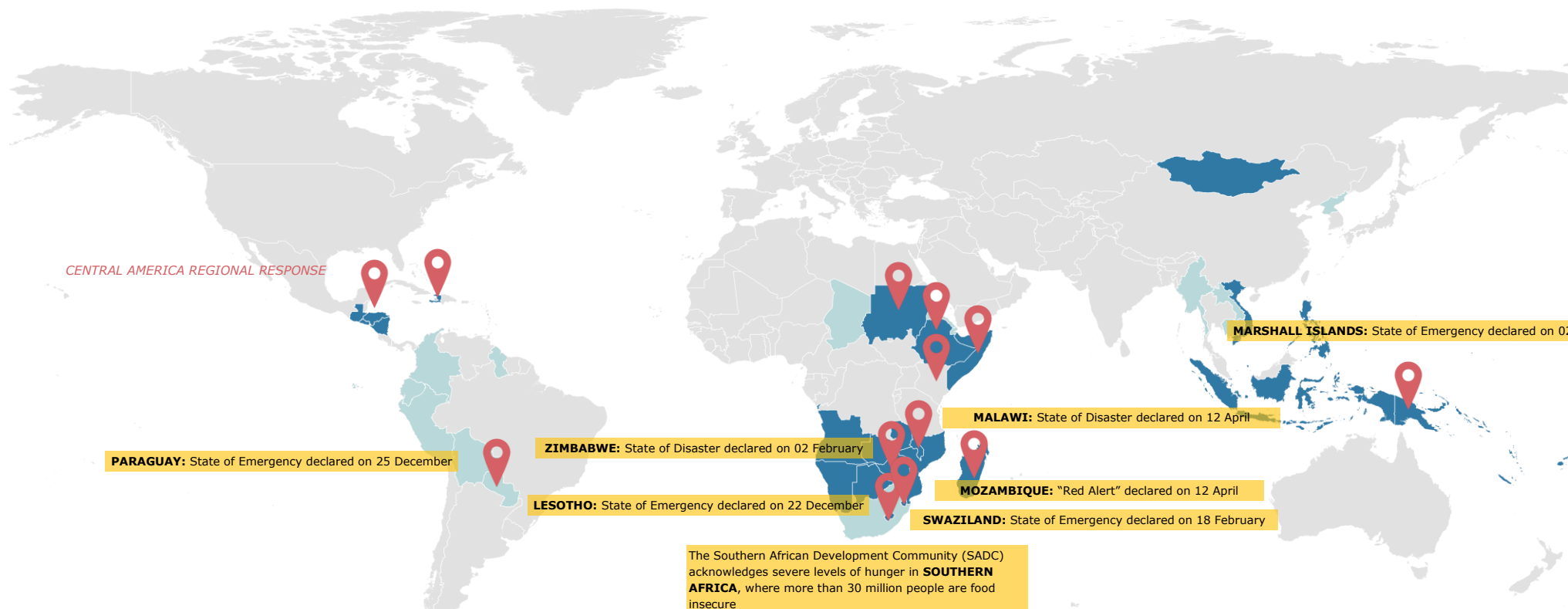
- With its onset in early 2015, the current El Niño event is one of the strongest on record. At present, it has affected an estimated 60 million people globally and their food security is severely impacted.
- Despite the weather phenomenon winding down in the second quarter of 2016, the number of people affected is expected to increase through to early 2017.
- WFP is rapidly scaling up relief operations but resources are stretched.

SITUATION UPDATE

- With its onset in early 2015, the current El Niño event is one of the strongest on record. At present, it has affected an estimated 60 million people globally. Despite the weather phenomenon winding down in the second quarter of 2016, the number of people affected is expected to increase through to early 2017.
- Food security of vulnerable populations is severely impacted. Particular areas of concern include nearly all of **Southern Africa** which is the hardest hit region; **Ethiopia** and its neighbours **Somalia** and **Sudan** in **East Africa**; **Central America**'s 'dry corridor', nearby **Haiti** and the northern region of **South America** while floods affect the southern region; and many of **Asia**'s island nations including **Indonesia**, **Papua New Guinea** and Philippines.
- Countries will continue coping with the effects on harvests and livestock through the end of 2016, with the humanitarian impact expected to increase. In some locations, the current droughts and adverse weather conditions have only added to consecutive harvest failures, in some cases for the second or third successive time.
- El Niño is expected to aggravate the already serious chronic malnutrition situation in particular for hard-hit communities and for vulnerable groups such as young children and the elderly. Reduced food access, resulting from falling food production and food price increases, will reduce dietary diversity. This will impact the quality of infant and young child feeding and increase the risk of acute malnutrition. Access to essential protein and iron-rich foods may also be reduced, particularly in rural areas, as a result of drought impact on livestock.

WFP-FAO 2015-2016 EL NIÑO MONITORING COUNTRIES

Monitoring Country list compiled jointly by WFP and FAO.



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HIGH PRIORITY

MONITORING



WFP 2015-2016 EL NIÑO RESPONSE OPERATION

WFP 2015-2016 EL NIÑO RESPONSE OPERATIONS:

	TOTAL PLANNED BENEFICIARIES	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT		TOTAL PLANNED BENEFICIARIES	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT		TOTAL PLANNED BENEFICIARIES	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT
LESOTHO	140,600	USD2.5 MILLION (April—Dec 2016)	ZIMBABWE	2,800,000	USD58.4 MILLION (April—Sept 2016)	TIMOR LESTE	59,000	USD0 (March—July 2016)
MADAGASCAR	CP: 1,100,000 PRRO: 449,000	USD6.3M (April—Dec 2016) USD6.7M (April—Sept 2016)	ETHIOPIA	7,600,000	USD441.5 MILLION (April—Sept 2016)	CENTRAL AMERICAN REGIONAL	550,000	USD26 MILLION (April—Sept 2016)
MALAWI	CP: 2,300,000 PRRO: 2,800,000	USD7.5M (Apr—Dec 2016) USD16.5M (Apr—Sept 2016)	SOMALIA	385,000	USD40 MILLION (April—Sept 2016)	HAITI	1,000,000	USD70 MILLION (April—Sept 2016)
MOZAMBIQUE	323,000	USD15.8 MILLION (April—Sept 2016)	SUDAN	5,200,000	USD64.9 MILLION (April—Sept 2016)	PARAGUAY	33,500	USD1.4 MILLION (April—Sept 2016)
SWAZILAND	150,000	USD4.5 MILLION (April—Dec 2016)	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	180,000	USD9 MILLION (March—July 2016)			

*The Net Funding Requirements refer to the amount that needs to be resourced for the indicated period in order to avoid pipeline breaks. This figure takes into account confirmed contributions not yet programmed and outstanding advances received by the project that must be repaid.
CP = Country Programme PRRO=Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation

WFP PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

WFP is rapidly scaling up relief operations to assist the most vulnerable communities, particularly those already reeling from successive bad harvests. WFP is providing emergency food where needed, and cash to buy food where markets are functioning. Nutrition support programmes such as Targeted Supplementary Feeding are being scaled up. Innovative insurance pay-outs have also been triggered in participating countries to help farming families and economies endure El Niño. WFP is furthermore assisting governments in strengthening their Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience plans and response.

WFP works closely with other UN agencies and the wider humanitarian community to respond to the impact of El Niño. At events in Rome, Geneva and New York, UN agencies have jointly committed to urgent action and outlined response measures. It has been emphasised that, even though there are urgent needs, there also needs to be further investment in disaster risk reduction and resilience-building. Food and agriculture remain the focus, with as much as 80 percent of the humanitarian response need being related to the sector.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Southern Africa is experiencing unprecedented El Niño-related stress. October – January has been the driest growing season in 35 years, prompting what could become the driest agricultural season on record. There are already some 32 million food insecure people in the southern Africa region, largely as a result of drought which led to a poor harvest last year. The El Niño phenomenon is set to cause an even worse harvest in the coming weeks and months. The number of food-insecure people in Southern Africa alone in 2016-17 is likely to be at least two times higher than the current levels.

While assessments are underway to determine the April/May harvest outcome, it is expected a meagre harvest will only temporarily improve food access in parts of the region over the short term, with food security likely to begin deteriorating by July, reaching its peak between December 2016 and March 2017.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) acknowledges severe levels of hunger in the Southern Africa region – where some 32 million people, or nearly half of the entire current global caseload, are food insecure at present due to El Niño's impact. Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have declared national drought emergencies and Mozambique has declared an Institutional Red Alert.

While scaling up urgent food and cash interventions, and supporting rural households through WFP's development projects, WFP and partners are supporting governments with technical expertise in rapid multi-sectoral assessments and market assessments. WFP is working with governments and other partners to collectively prepare for the next planting season, improve national contingency plans and enhance preparedness measures to reduce the impact of El Niño on rural livelihoods and food security.

To safeguard development gains and adapt to ever increasing climatic shocks, there is need to intensify work on climate change adaptation and integrated risk management linked to long-term resilience building such as productive asset creation and weather-based insurance. WFP is supporting these activities through strengthening food and nutrition

security surveillance, developing national data analysis capacity and supporting national social protection programmes.



LESOTHO

Lesotho is one of the worst affected countries in the region, with reports showing that the 2015/16 agricultural season has failed. For the May/June harvest period, 80 percent of farmers are not expecting to harvest anything. Rain was received in the beginning months of 2016, which helped improve the water crisis that had been crippling the country.

Lesotho's Prime Minister on 22 December 2015, declared a state of drought emergency. The results of a multi-stakeholder Rapid Drought Assessment conducted in January 2016, show that 535,000 people in the rural areas are experiencing food insecurity through June 2016. The situation is expected to worsen in the second half of the year into 2017.

WFP RESPONSE IN LESOTHO

In April, WFP started to provide technical assistance to the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) in preparation for the next LVAC in May 2016. The results of this assessment will help stakeholders understand the drought's effects and will inform resource mobilization strategies. In addition, WFP is working with the government and other UN agencies on a Nutrition Assessment and the results will be integrated into the LVAC.

WFP has started distributing cash to 4,000 households in two of the most drought-affected districts, Mafeteng and Mofale's Hoek. Each family receives USD 65 a month for an initial three months. The cash transfer will benefit 20,000 people.



MADAGASCAR

Southern Madagascar –including the Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana regions –has been especially affected by El Niño-induced drought. The drought, which has affected these regions since October 2015, is impacting crops and livestock, water availability, food prices, livelihoods and nutritional wellbeing. Households' food and nutrition has significantly deteriorated. More than one million people in these regions are food insecure, of which 665,000 are severely affected.

WFP RESPONSE IN MADAGASCAR

WFP is planning to provide food or cash assistance to 250,000 people in the seven most severely affected districts through food-for-training and food/cash-for-assets programmes. General Food Distribution (GFD) will be available to people who do not have the physical ability to participate in these community works. In addition, 60,000 children under five will receive supplementary feeding for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). WFP, with support to the Ministry of Education, implements a School Feeding programme for 260,000 children from 1,300 primary schools in the three regions. The programme helps mitigate the impact of El Niño by alleviating the pressure put on parents. Further funding is required to sustain the programme from the school year 2016/17 onwards.



MALAWI

On 12 April 2016, the President of Malawi declared a State of National Disaster caused by the prolonged dry spells during the 2015/16 season. Second round crop estimates show an expected 1.07 million mt national maize deficit, which is nearly five times the registered deficit last year and implies that the number of people in need of relief food assistance will significantly increase over the next 18 months.

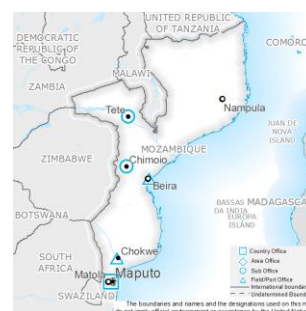
A pre-harvest Malawi Vulnerability Analysis Committee (MVAC) assessment (released in March)

found that all the three regions experienced dry spells due to effects of the El Niño, with the central and southern regions hit harder than the north.

For more information, see [WFP Southern Africa Regional El Niño Situation Report #3 \(26 April\)](#)

WFP RESPONSE IN MALAWI

In April, of the 2.86 million people in need of food assistance, WFP as co-lead of the national Food Security Cluster planned to reach over 2.4 million with food and cash-based assistance—as per the Humanitarian Response Committee endorsement and based on the latest MVAC assessment conducted in December 2015. WFP's final round of distributions have so far reached about 2.07 million people including over 1,640,700 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance and nearly 432,100 with cash-based transfers. Pipeline breaks for commodities that began in February caused a domino effect into March and April distributions, leading to April distributions being concluded in May 2016.



MOZAMBIQUE

On 01 April 2016, the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) released the results of the latest food and nutrition security assessment which indicated that 1.5 million people are acutely food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance in the Central (Zambezia, Manica, Sofala and Tete provinces) and Southern regions (Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo provinces). Very few households have any cereal reserves for consumption and as a result, there has been a sharp reduction in the quality of diet between November 2015 and March 2016. (Prices of the staple food, maize, have increased by almost 100 percent in markets when compared to this time last year.) The nutritional status of children is worrisome, particularly in Sofala, Tete and Manica provinces; there are very high GAM rates (over 15 percent in two provinces) with additional aggravating factors (weak health systems and water and sanitation challenges). In view of this alarming situation, the Government of Mozambique declared on 12 April a 90 day red alert, the highest level of national emergency preparedness, covering the central and southern areas of the country.

WFP RESPONSE IN MOZAMBIQUE

Under the overall coordination of the Government and in cooperation with other humanitarian partners,

WFP is stepping up its response to the drought. Since late 2015, WFP has supported approximately 56,150 people through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities in Gaza province (Chicualacuala, Guija, Chigubo, Massangena and Massingir districts), Sofala province (Machanga district) and Tete province (Mutarara district). Resources currently available will allow WFP to reach some 150,000 people through FFA programmes from May until July. Considering the significantly increased needs and the capacity of other local partners, WFP plans to further scale up its FFA and General Food Distributions (GFD) operations to reach 700,000 people in the most affected provinces and districts and meet their basic food needs until the next harvest in early 2017. WFP will also launch treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children under five years of age in the districts with the highest GAM rates.



SWAZILAND

The Swaziland Drought Rapid Assessment Report estimates a 64 percent reduction in maize production compared to last year's season. Results confirm that 320,000 people are in need of immediate food assistance and the hardest-hit regions are Lubombo and Shiselweni. The impact of the drought on nutrition is likely to be apparent in the coming months as food stocks run out and the effects of water shortage emerge. Swaziland has a very high prevalence of HIV/AIDS –26 percent among the adult population (15-49 years).

WFP RESPONSE IN SWAZILAND

An Immediate Response Emergency Operation to target some 70,000 people with one month of food assistance to complement the government response has been approved, to be followed by an Emergency Operation that will target 150,000 people at the peak of the lean season, including in-kind food assistance and cash based transfers, in coordination with all stakeholders.



ZAMBIA

The Government's Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit (DMMU), Ministry of Community Development, DFID, WFP, UNICEF and INGOs are working together to develop an Integrated Emergency Response model to address the multifaceted problems triggered by El Niño. The size of the population to be reached with assistance will only become clear following the Government's Crop Forecast Survey (results in early May), and the multi-sectoral impact and needs assessment published by the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC) by the end of May.

WFP RESPONSE IN ZAMBIA

The proposed transfer modalities are likely to include social cash transfers and in-kind food assistance depending on market functionalities. To avoid school dropouts due to worsening household food security, an emergency school feeding programme may be implemented expanding the coverage of the ongoing Home Grown School Feeding programme. An emergency supplementary and/or therapeutic feeding programme through health facilities may also be established to address child malnutrition.



ZIMBABWE

The combination of a poor 2014-2015 harvest, an extremely dry early season (October-December) and forecasts for continuing hot and drier-than-average conditions through mid-2016 suggest a scenario of extensive crop failure in Zimbabwe. With some 2.8 million people – more than a quarter of the rural population – already estimated to be food insecure, the number is projected to rise exponentially over the next year, with the main harvest period in May expected to bring minimal relief. These projections prompted the government to declare a state of national drought disaster in all rural areas of the country in February 2016, and subsequently issue a domestic and international appeal for USD 1.5billion in humanitarian assistance for February-December 2016.

WFP RESPONSE IN ZIMBABWE

WFP has revised its food insecurity projections for May and June to an estimated 1.46 million people, reflecting the positive impact of the March/April rains in 31 districts, whilst noting little to no improvement in 29 priority districts. Projections beyond June will be updated based on the results of the 2016 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment now underway. WFP's El Niño Response Plan for the 2016/17 consumption year encompasses Lean Season Assistance (LSA)

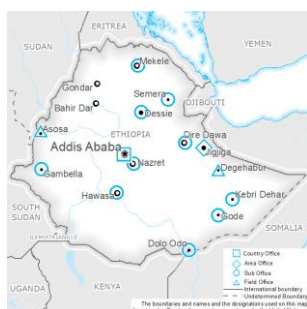
activities and a Productive Asset Creation (PAC) programme to bridge immediate relief with longer-term resilience-building interventions. The 2015/16 LSA programme was extended to April, with the 2016/17 LSA commencing as of May along with the 2016 cycle of PAC activities. Available resources enabled WFP to provide targeted food assistance to 448,000 people in 13 districts through its April distribution cycle. Of these, seven districts received all or part of the assistance through cash-based transfers, while the remaining received in-kind rations.



Ethiopia, Amhara region, Gazgibla woreda (district), Bella village, 28 March 2016 Photo: WFP/Michael Tewelde

EAST AFRICA

Even though, the El Niño event has started to decline in strength, the ongoing effects of harvest losses will intensify humanitarian needs in the coming months. Ethiopia has been particularly badly affected: humanitarian needs have tripled since early 2015 as severe drought has caused successive harvest failures and widespread livestock deaths. More than 10 million people need emergency food assistance, and many will require support until the next main harvest at the end of the year. Humanitarian effects have also been felt in Somalia, Eritrea and Djibouti, Chad and Sudan.



ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is dealing with the consequences of the worst drought in 50 years. Both the Belg (March to May) and Meher (July to September) growing seasons last year were affected by drought, exacerbated by El Niño. Humanitarian needs have tripled since early 2015 as severe drought has caused successive harvest failures and widespread livestock deaths. Acute malnutrition has risen

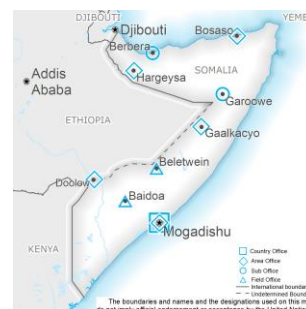
sharply, and one quarter of Ethiopia's districts are now officially classified as facing a nutrition crisis. According to the Government and humanitarian partners' 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document, more than 10 million people need emergency food assistance. WFP household surveys show that the affected population can now only meet 25 percent of their daily food needs through their own means, and the bottom quintile can only meet 15 percent of their daily food needs. Many will require support until the next main harvest comes in at the end of the year.

A revision of the Priority Hotspot districts (known as woreda) classification was finalized in early April, increasing the number of Priority 1 woredas from 186 in December, to a new total of 219, signalling a need to scale up emergency nutrition programmes in these areas significantly. The results will likely increase WFP needs for all components of the emergency response. (Woredas are prioritized as "Hotspot" Priority 1, 2 or 3 based on a combination of food security indicators).

WFP RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

Of the total population in need of assistance, the Government's National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), together with WFP, is assisting 7.6 million people with food sourced from both the Government and WFP. The remaining beneficiary caseload (2.6 million people) is covered by the Joint Emergency Operation Plan (JEOP) NGO consortium. So far in 2016, three rounds of relief food assistance for 10.2 million people have been dispatched with distributions ongoing, and round three is currently ramping up. The Government has approved an accelerated schedule of distribution rounds, with the third round commencing late March, the fourth round scheduled for mid-April; and the fifth round in early May. The objective is to align the distribution rounds with calendar months, reducing the time between each distribution and ensuring that food assistance is delivered in a timely manner. For nutrition, by the end of the first quarter of 2016, 546,000 moderately malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women were reached through the Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) Programme, 82 percent of the first quarter target of 665,000.

For more information, see [WFP Ethiopia Drought Emergency Situation Report #3 \(20 May\)](#)



SOMALIA

El Niño has triggered drought in the Somaliland and Puntland, and caused flooding in the southern and central areas since late October. Somaliland was already seeing one of the driest years in memory: severe shortages of food and water, and the deaths of livestock have plunged thousands of families into destitution.

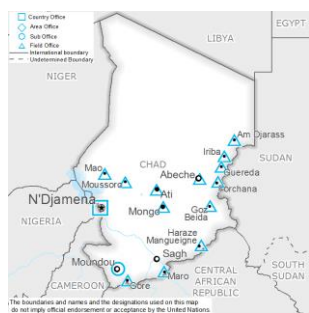
WFP RESPONSE IN SOMALIA

WFP's emergency response has provided food assistance and nutrition support for 150,000 vulnerable people affected by the drought, and WFP continues to provide food or cash-based assistance as a safety net to help vulnerable families make it through the dry lean season. WFP is also providing specialized nutrition support to prevent malnutrition in pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and young children.



SUDAN

Mitigation of the impact of El Niño will require a holistic response across sectors targeting small-scale and pastoralist communities in addition to already vulnerable groups who will be affected through low availability of food and higher market prices. The deterioration of the food security conditions are expected to increase levels of acute malnutrition above normal seasonal trends. Early response is required to avoid a drastic deterioration of the food insecurity felt at household level, aiming to prevent negative short-term strategies such as selling off households' productive assets and supporting those dependent on agriculture and livestock.



CHAD

The 2015/2016 agro-pastoral campaign recorded a significant production shortfall as a result of erratic rainfall. Early results of a recent Emergency Food Security Assessment indicate that the effect of El Niño has negatively impacted the food security and nutritional situation in the Sahelian Chad.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In Central America and the Caribbean, where preparations for the main season should be ongoing, all reports confirm both a rainfall deficit since December and a delayed start of the new rainy season. Combined with the persistence of El Niño up to mid-2016, the main agriculture season is at risk again. Important parts of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, part of the agro-ecological zone known as the 'Dry Corridor' and Haiti are most affected by drought. South America presents a mixed situation with localized drought and flood-affected areas, with agriculture damage that can extend as time goes on.



THE DRY CORRIDOR

In Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, extending to Costa Rica and Panama, households most affected by the drought have already spent two or three years in crisis conditions. Most households in the highlands of the Dry Corridor have only one harvest per year. Food shortfalls at household level will continue at least until September 2016 if there is insufficient emergency assistance.

WFP RESPONSE IN THE DRY CORRIDOR

WFP provides food and cash based transfers through its regular programmes to address household food gaps caused by the El Niño induced drought.



HAITI

In Haiti, a third consecutive year of drought has resulted in a drastic deterioration of the food security situation. One-third of the population (3.6 million people) are currently food insecure. Of these, 1.5

million are severely food insecure, double the figure of six months ago.

WFP RESPONSE IN HAITI

Starting in March, WFP initiated an emergency operation to reach one million people in need of food assistance. Immediate cash and food transfers will be followed by asset creating activities such as watershed management and soil conservation projects designed to improve local infrastructure and facilitate early recovery. Based on initial nutrition information, the emergency operation will also incorporate a supplementary nutritional programme to prevent acute malnutrition during the lean season. WFP’s activities will complement planned interventions by the Government and NGOs estimated to assist half a million people.

SOUTH AMERICA

South America is affected by drought and floods. The northern part – Colombia and Venezuela - is affected by what is characterized as the worst drought in over two decades, while the central and southern parts are experiencing the worst flooding in the last 50 years - affecting Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru.

WFP RESPONSE IN SOUTH AMERICA

WFP has provided support to the Governments of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru for El Niño-related preparedness actions in the areas of food security, early warning, assessments, logistics and telecommunications.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

El Niño-induced drought has hit much of the Asia and Pacific region, with Indonesia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea of particular concern. Many Pacific Island nations have also been affected. Furthermore, the frequency and strengths of tropical cyclones in the Pacific, such as Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston that recently hit Fiji has increased due to El Niño.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea has been suffering from drought and frost caused by the El Niño phenomenon since mid-2015. These events have seriously disrupted food production and livelihoods and led to widespread food and water shortages. While there has been some rain since mid-December there remain pockets of acute suffering in some parts.

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Previous [WFP El Niño Situation Report \(March 2016\)](#)
[WFP El Niño Global Snapshot \(April 2016\)](#)

WFP RESPONSE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WFP has initiated an Emergency Operation with the overall goal to provide life-saving food assistance to the populations most severely affected by the El Niño phenomenon. Targeting 180,000 people, the Emergency Operation will meet the urgent food needs of people who have exhausted other viable means of subsistence and protect livelihoods, limiting the incidence of negative coping strategies.



INDONESIA

A WFP survey of 2,400 households in eight El Niño-affected districts found that 40 percent of rice growers had lost more than half their crops due to drought. Three out of five households had lost income and in two of the worst-affected districts, more than a quarter of households had started reducing the number or size of meals. The survey results prompted the Ministry of Social Affairs to consider additional cash transfers to affected areas.



PHILIPPINES

More than half a million people have been affected by El Niño in the Philippines, with about half of the total 194,000 hectares of affected farm areas being in Mindanao.

WFP RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES

In partnership with the National Nutrition Council and local government units, WFP is providing a three-month nutrition support to children aged 6-59 months to areas affected by El Niño (Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and North Cotabato) and previous emergencies (Aurora, Quezon, and Tondo) help mitigate and prevent occurrence of acute malnutrition. WFP has been providing technical assistance to the regional government of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in conducting the Emergency Food Security Assessment to assess the impact of El Niño on the region. Data collection was completed in March, and WFP is currently providing support to data processing and data analysis. Preliminary results are expected to be presented to the ARMM Government in early April.