



IN NUMBERS



60 million

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



84% of the impact

of drought alone is absorbed by the agriculture sector.



USD 235 million

needed for emergency and recovery responses.



50 to 90%

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



2.6 million ha

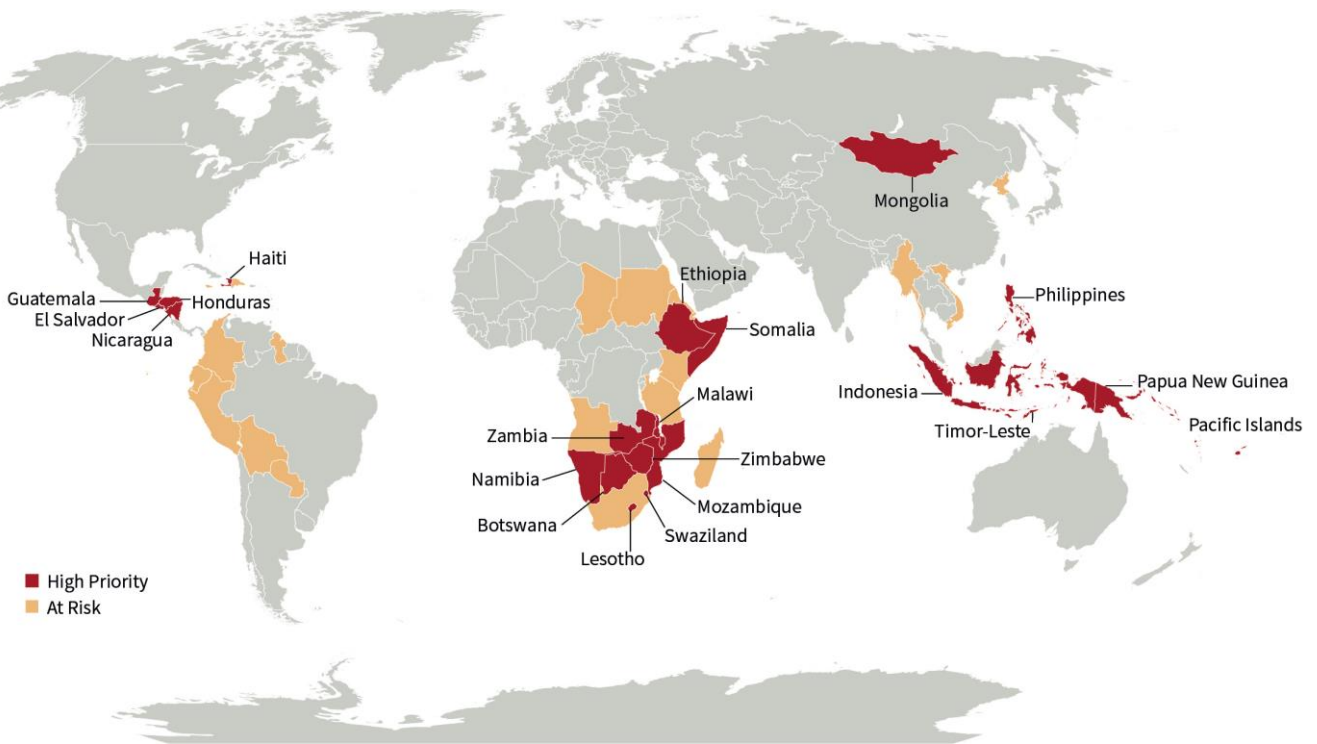
of forest and agricultural land burnt by fires in Indonesia.



30 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 alarming with some 10.2 million people in need of food assistance. One-quarter of all districts in Ethiopia are officially classified as facing a food security and nutrition crisis. Recent estimates from Ethiopia's Bureau of Agriculture indicate that some 7.5 million farmers and herders need immediate agricultural support.

FAO's response

As co-chair of the Disaster Risk Management Agriculture Task Force, FAO is closely working with the Government to conduct seasonal assessments and develop preparedness and response plans, as well as guidelines for emergency agriculture support (e.g. seed distribution, livestock water, feed, and slaughter destocking). FAO has created two emergency working groups (seeds and livestock) to harmonize response to the crisis with government, NGO and resource partners. To safeguard households' remaining productive animals, FAO has provided survival and supplementary livestock feed, animal health interventions and improved access to water for livestock. In addition, support is being provided for fodder production and slaughter destocking – purchasing households' weak animals for slaughter, providing both cash and meat to vulnerable households. In the coming months, crop seed interventions will be conducted in the most nutritionally vulnerable districts.

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 46 million

Somalia

Country overview



4.7 million people
acutely food insecure

The country will continue to face large-scale food insecurity between now and June 2016 as a result of poor rainfall and drought conditions in several areas, trade disruptions, and a combination of protracted and new population displacements – all of which are exacerbated by chronic poverty. Acute malnutrition remains high in many parts of the country. The latest assessment by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports that nearly 4.7 million people (38 percent of the population) are acutely food insecure and will be in need of humanitarian assistance.

FAO's response

FAO established community-based early warning systems to help communities in flood-prone areas to better prepare. This included early warning messages broadcast on local radio and 8 800 SMS sent to alert families in high-risk areas. In addition, FAO is also strengthening riverbanks, building flood barriers, pre-positioning grain and seed protection bags and supporting livestock health. Cash-for-work activities that focus on repairing river breakages are being implemented in over 50 locations, targeting a total of 2 800 households. Some 11 000 households received material and training to build elevated storage platforms to protect household seed and grain stocks from water damage.

Priority actions and funding gap



Livelihoods diversification and rehabilitation.



Emergency treatment, vaccination and restocking of livestock.



Repairing infrastructures and flood control measures.



Desilting irrigation canals.



Improving water management at community level.



USD 55 million

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Regional Overview



30 million people

food insecure

The situation is critical with at least 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


One of the areas most affected are the **Dry Corridor** countries of **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras** and **Nicaragua**, which is 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 of the 3.6 million food insecure, over 1.5 million 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**, along with strengthening the community adaptation capacity and improving the resilience of the agro-ecosystems through farmer field schools and training. In the **Dry Corridor**, funds have been committed to promote actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and to 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


Tropical Cyclone Winston cut a path of destruction across **Fiji** on 20-21 February, affecting 40 percent of the population and damaging 100 percent of crops in the hardest-hit areas. Drought, frost and fires in **Papua New Guinea** are affecting 2.7 million people, while in the **Philippines** 40 percent of the country was affected by drought during the peak of El Niño (December–February). The **Marshall Islands** declared a state of emergency in February, with 23 percent of the population affected by El Niño-induced drought conditions. Drought is also forecasted in the northern and western **Pacific** 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 25 percent lower than usual (October–December 2015), and in the most drought-affected areas in eastern **Indonesia**, it was up to 80 percent lower than normal. In **Timor-Leste**, about 40 percent of maize and 57 percent of rice production areas will be affected by El Niño, impacting 220 000 people in rural areas. In **Mongolia**, 16 provinces are experiencing *dzud* (harsh winter preceded by drought), which has led to very high numbers of livestock deaths and disease.

FAO's response


Emergency assistance is being provided to 1 050 households in **Fiji** as part of the Cyclone Winston response. FAO has deployed various missions to support the development and implementation of an early action and response plan in **Indonesia**, **Mongolia** and **Papua New Guinea**. Some 80 000 subsistence farming families in the four worst-affected provinces in **Papua New Guinea** were provided 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 vegetable seeds, planting materials, fertilizers and hand tools; animal feed and restocking of poultry; and fisheries inputs including repair/replacement of boats, engines and fishing gear.

 **USD 2.89 million**

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

 **USD 2.7 million**


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

 **USD 7.1 million**


Papua New Guinea: Distribution of drought-tolerant crop seeds and drip-irrigation systems to assist 560 000 farmers.

 **USD 4.3 million**

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

 **USD 4.6 million**

Timor-Leste: Drought-resilient agricultural practices and restoring livelihoods of affected farming communities.

 **USD 5 million**