

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Ethiopia

Post: Addis Ababa

Back-to-Back Droughts Hit Ethiopia

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Grain and Feed

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

The Government of Ethiopia and international development partners are gearing up to address drought conditions in the southern and eastern parts of the country. An estimated 5.6 million people will require food assistance as well as other forms of humanitarian support. Meantime, FEWS NET is warning of the possibility of famine in bordering countries, Somalia and South Sudan during 2017.

General Information:

On January 17, the Government of Ethiopia and development partners jointly launched the [Humanitarian Requirements Document \(HRD\) for 2017](#) which outlines the country's current needs and planned interventions to address the current drought conditions in the southern and eastern parts of the country. This latest drought, which comes on the heels of the country's worst drought in 50 years, has resulted in increased food and nutritional insecurity, livestock deaths, water shortages, as well as other humanitarian challenges.

Broadly, the HRD calls for \$948 million to support 5.6 million people with food and non-food assistance in pastoral lowland areas in the south and eastern parts of the country, which are struggling with drought conditions caused by the negative Indian Ocean Dipole. Available financial resources have already been mobilized towards addressing the situation, but a sizeable gap remains. On January 29, the UN Under-Secretary-General, at a high-level event on the current humanitarian situation in Ethiopia, [called on the international community to act now](#) before it is too late and fund the HRD.

Food relief, consisting mainly of cereals (e.g. wheat and sorghum) and cooking oil, is the single biggest HRD intervention in terms of cost with an estimated price tag of \$598 million. The next largest are nutrition at \$105 million and water, sanitation and hygiene for \$86 million. Other interventions include education, health, protection, shelter, and non-food items.

At the same time, FEWS NET is warning of the possibility of famine in bordering countries, [Somalia](#) and [South Sudan](#) during 2017. International resources are needed to address the critical humanitarian needs in both of these countries.