

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Humanitarian Conditions Improving But Situation Still Critical

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

The Government of Ethiopia and international partners continue to work together to respond to the drought-related humanitarian needs. While significant progress has been made, the situation remains critical. According to the latest estimates, 9.7 million people require emergency food assistance through the remainder of the year. The projected annual cost to cover these food needs is \$1.1 billion, of which \$482 million is not yet funded. USDA is playing a role in the humanitarian response through its school feeding program and livestock feed development activity.

General Information:

The Government of Ethiopia (GOE) and its international partners have worked closely together during the first half of the year to stabilize food security conditions in the country, which were seriously affected by drought and more recent flooding. While these concerted efforts have improved humanitarian conditions, the situation remains critical. Additional resources and time are required in order to move towards recovery.

In August, the government and development partners jointly released the 2016 humanitarian requirements document (HRD) [mid-year review](#). According to the revised HRD figures, there are 9.7 million people requiring humanitarian assistance. While these numbers are slightly down from the earlier 2016 HRD, which was published last December, they are still triple the number from early 2015. The anticipated yearly financial requirement to address the humanitarian response is estimated at \$1.6 billion, of which \$612 million remains unfunded.

Food needs remain critical, especially as the major harvest is not expected to finish until the end of December. As stated in the HRD, there are 9.7 million people who will require emergency food assistance until the end of the year. The projected annual cost to cover these food needs is \$1.1 billion, of which \$482 million is not yet funded. A significant amount of the food assistance that is being distributed to target beneficiaries is imported wheat, which is provided by the GOE and USAID. Meantime, as one of the HRD focus areas, logistical improvements are being made to ensure the timely distribution of food assistance.

Other agricultural-related areas requiring ongoing humanitarian interventions, mentioned in the HRD, are seed distribution, livestock vaccination and treatment, as well as livestock feed and forage production. Under its Food for Progress Program, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is supporting the development of Ethiopia's livestock feed sector. This ongoing activity has built the feed industry's capacity, which previously was very limited, to respond to the drought.

Other critical interventions are education, nutrition, shelter, health, as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene. With regards to education, the government estimates there are 4 million primary school children who need school feeding during the first semester of the 2016/17 school year. Of this total, government-supported school feeding will target 2.9 million students and the remaining 1.1 million will be covered by humanitarian partners. Some of these requirements will be met by USDA's McGovern-Dole school feeding program in Afar and Somali regions.