The Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund Allocates US$11.35 to fill critical gaps until early 2018

The OCHA-managed Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF) allocated US$11.35 million under its Reserve Allocation as a bridging response to the critical requirements identified until early 2018. The EHF dedicated the current round of allocation for Oromia and Somali regions to provide impactful response. Triage between the various planning documents, including the recent adjustment to the mid-year review of the Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), the Somali Region Operational Plan and the Inter-cluster prioritization exercise, identified ‘top priorities’ with critical humanitarian funding gaps across sectors until the first quarter of 2018. In 2017, the EHF has allocated more than $82.4 million to support 106 multi-sector projects, with the financial contribution of seven donors (Germany, Ireland, South Korea, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States).

Taking into account all pipelines, there remains an overall funding gap of US$248.7 million against the revised Ethiopia humanitarian requirements of $1.4 billion (up from $1.259 billion) to the end of the year.

No. of Projects and Allocation (US$ million) by Sector

- WASH $23.4 28% 23
- Nutrition $21.9 27% 39
- Health $16.6 20% 16
- Agriculture $12.1 15% 27
- NFES $4.5 3% 6
- Protection $3.1 3% 6
- Education $1.9 1% 2
- Common Services $1.5 1%

Allocated Amount ▶ No. of Projects**

FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affected pop.</td>
<td>8.5 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAM</td>
<td>3.6 m</td>
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<td>SAM</td>
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**HIGHLIGHT**

- Humanitarian and development actors are considering multi-year planning as a mechanism to mitigate Ethiopia’s cyclic droughts.

- The 2017 Government-led multi-agency needs assessment to determine the humanitarian requirements for Ethiopia in 2018 is underway from 18 November-13 December.

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**Partners consider multi-year planning to mitigate Ethiopia’s cyclical drought**

Climate-induced recurrent drought has placed Ethiopia as one of the major and long-standing recipients of life-saving humanitarian assistance for the last two decades. As the humanitarian response to such droughts continues to grow, the international community is considering the case of longer-term planning, in the form of a multi-year framework, together with the Government, on how to best address humanitarian needs that are predictable and recurrent.

On 14 November 2017, humanitarian and development actors participated in a workshop to consider the case of multi-year planning approach to address the humanitarian and recovery needs in the country. Partners committed to supporting the Government to develop a multi-year ‘Framework’—up to 2020. The planning will continue at different levels, involving all relevant stakeholders. This includes preparing analysis on ‘an argument to invest in recovery’ for a High Level Forum scheduled for January 2018. The forum, to be led by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and supported by the Office the Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator, will bring together Government, development donors and the humanitarian community. A joint rapid assessment will also be conducted to identify the recovery needs of affected communities.

The Government of Ethiopia is planning to prioritize recovery efforts to address the resilience needs of people who were affected by back-to-back drought and inter-communal conflicts. Stakeholders have been discussing the contribution of multi-year planning to efficiency and effectiveness gains for early and rapid response, including in slow-onset crises, over the past years.

Multi-year response planning would promote greater predictability and longer planning horizons for Ethiopia including strengthening systems and activities which span calendar years, such as seasonally sensitive programming.

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**The 2017 Ethiopia multi-agency meher season assessment ongoing across all the regions**

The 2017 Government-led multi-agency needs assessment is ongoing from 18 November to 13 December. On 17 November 2017, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) briefed the teams deployed in 208 woredas of Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Harari, Oromia, Somali, SNNP and Tigray regions and Dire Dawa Council. The teams are now assessing the performance of kiremt (summer) rains on harvest in cropping areas and the performance of the short seasonal deyr/hagaya (autumn) rains in the lowland areas of south and southeastern Ethiopia. The result of the assessment will help determine the humanitarian requirements for Ethiopia in 2018. The needs assessment is taking place by the time most crops are ripening in highland areas and under harvest in lowland areas.

Situation update by the Early Warning Department of NDRMC pointed out chronic shortage of water and fodder is already observed in most parts of the current drought-belt.

Currently, Government and humanitarian partners are providing humanitarian assistance to 8.5 million people affected by the current drought an additional 4 million people ‘public works’ clients who are receiving assistance through the Government’s Productive Safety Net Programme.

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