EHF allocates US$16.2 million to support most critical funding gaps

The Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF), OCHA-managed pooled fund, in the First Round Standard Allocation, allotted $16.2 million to support the most critical funding gaps in the first half of 2018. The allocation is triggered following the launch of the joint Government and Partners Humanitarian and Disaster Resilience Plan (HDRP) and its subsequent prioritization exercise that identifies acute relief needs and major gaps that require urgent response in the context of the HDRP. Immediate requirements identified in the Prioritization Statement, including averting pipeline breaks, contributing to mitigation of climate-driven drought-induced needs, and ensuring continuity of presence of partners already implementing in priority woredas are prioritize for funding. The allocation targets immediate and life-saving activities in Nutrition ($5.5m), Health ($3.7m), WaSH ($3.5m), Agriculture/Livestock ($2m), Education ($1m) and Protection ($0.5m) sectors.

FIGURES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIGURES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affected population</td>
<td>7.88 m</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MAM</td>
<td>3.5 m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAM</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td># of people displaced due to conflict</td>
<td>1.2 m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of people displaced due to climatic shocks</td>
<td>0.5 m</td>
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FUNDING

US$1.658 billion

Requirement for 2018 Ethiopia Humanitarian and Disaster Resilience Plan

In this issue

- EHF allocates US$16.2 million
- More than 27,000 HH affected by flood
- Large scale displacement in West Guji and Gedeo zones

Figure 1 2018 HDRP Ethiopia Funding Update, as of 05 April
HIGHLIGHTS

- Some 165,000 flood-affected persons need urgent food, water, health services and NFIs support in Somali region.

Last year, the EHF provided more than $94.2m in support of 124 multi-sector projects and covering nearly 18 per cent of the total non-food needs identified in the 2017 HRD with contributions from eight donors namely Germany, Ireland, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

So far Ethiopia’s humanitarian response is 32 per cent funded. From the total requirement of $1.658 billion, $525 has been contributed so far ($182 million from the Government of Ethiopia, $127 million from international donors and $215 million carried over from 2017).

Conflict leaves large scale displacement in West Gujji and Gedeo zones

Conflict between ethnic Oromos from West Gujji and Gedeos from SNNP region resulted in large scale displacement from both sides, leaving people in dire need of food and non-food assistance. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission has dispatched 1,250 metric ton of rice, 115 metric ton of CSB, 33 metric ton of oil and 500 cartons of biscuit to Gede (SNNP) and Kercha (Oromia) sites and distribution is ongoing. Humanitarian partners are also moving supplies and commodities to both regions. Currently, Government and partners are assessing the actual number of needs and will continue to provide coordinated support accordingly.

Meanwhile the regional Governments of Oromia and SNNP are working jointly to return the displaced to their places of origin and restore peace and security in the area.

Flash floods leave more than 27,000 households in urgent need of assistance in Somali region

Drought caused mainly by underperformance of rains in parts of the country coupled with displacements due to ethnic conflicts has put Ethiopia at a humanitarian hotspot for three years in a row. While shortage of rains has been the driver for drought, flash floods following heavy rains, mostly from highland areas, continue to affect numerous people. Reported flash flood incidences since the second week of April have left hundreds of thousands of people in need of immediate humanitarian support in Afar (Awwsi), Oromia (Arsi, East Shewa, East and West Hararge zones) and Somali (7 zones) regions. Areas affected by recurring floods have been advocating for enhanced flood early warning, mitigation and preparedness mechanisms.

Somali region the worst affected by floods

In Somali region, more than 27,000 flood-affected households (165,000 persons) need urgent food, water, health services and NFIs support. Overflow of Genale and Wabi Shebelle rivers and related tributaries due recent heavy rains in the Somali region and the highlands of Oromia has affected more than 83 kebeles in 19 woredas (districts) of Afder, Fafan, Liben, Nogob, Siti, Shebele and warder Zones. Several Kebeles are submerged and farmlands are either flooded or washed away at flowering stage. Many people’s houses/shelters and livestock have reportedly been washed away, leaving people displaced and homeless.
The regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau and partners operational in the region have prepared an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for flood victims.

**NDRMC and partners dispatching food and non-food items amid road access challenges**

Following the request for immediate support by Somali region, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission has allocated food and non-food items and is working with WFP on logistics for transportation. The commission is also working with shelter and NFI cluster for additional non-food response. According to WFP, heavy rains received in previous weeks have contributed to delays in food deliveries to some of the woredas in Somali and Oromia regions. Road inaccessibility due to the current belg rain is delaying dispatches to Bale, Arsi and West Arsi zones of Oromia region.

**April- May Meteorological forecast**

According to the National meteorological Agency (NMA), the mid-season rain predicted for much of the country for the two months (April & May) will be at most-close to normal with a possibility of above normal rainfall anomalies in some places. Better rainfall activity is anticipated to favor both belg-growing and benefiting areas of the country, and with the expected enhanced rain-giving meteorological systems, heavy falls are likely to prevail over different places. the expected heavy fall over some areas would have a negative impact on crop fields particularly over low-lying areas. Thus, proper attention should be undertaken to minimize the risk in low lying areas, and areas with less vegetation coverage.

**National Flood Taskforce activated**

The national flood taskforce was activated on 19 April 2018 following reports of flash floods from different parts of the country. The taskforce is preparing a national contingency plan for flood-affected and flood at-risk communities across the country.

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