



Ethiopia

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

In 2017:

5.6 million people
in need of **food**
assistance

3.9 million people
in need of **water**
trucking

3 million acutely
malnourished
children & women
including 300 000
children suffering
from severe acute
malnutrition

1.9 million
households need
support to keep
livestock alive

Almost **10%** of the
population chronically
vulnerable to food
insecurity

(source: UNOCHA)

Refugees: 793 321
(UNHCR)

European
Commission
humanitarian
funding in 2016:
€168.3 million

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Entire families are on the move in search of water. ©EU/ECHO/Anouk Delafortrie

Key messages

- After one of the strongest **El Niño** events on record, Ethiopia is still recovering from the 2015-16 drought which left nearly 10 million in need of food assistance. The government and the international community worked together to assist the affected population in one of the biggest humanitarian responses ever seen in Africa.
- Of the 718 000 people internally displaced in 2016 due to drought and internal conflict more than half has returned home. However, the **Horn of Africa** region, including parts of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, continues to experience prolonged drought in 2017. It is estimated that **10.7 million in the region face severe food shortages**.
- South-eastern Ethiopia received less than a quarter of its normal seasonal rainfall from October to December 2016. Ethiopia's National Disaster Risk Management Commission warns that **5.6 million pastoralists and agro-pastoralists** in Afar, Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions **need emergency food assistance**.
- **Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in the world** with over 793 000 registered refugees, most of them from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. The country hosts more than 338 000 refugees from war-torn South Sudan where one million people are on the brink of starvation. Since January 2017, Somalis have again started to arrive in the South of the country, fleeing insecurity and severe drought.
- The European Commission provides humanitarian funding to address food and water scarcity as well as malnutrition, and to provide refugees across Ethiopia with assistance.

Humanitarian situation and needs

With 100 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is one of the most populous countries in the world. It struggles to deal with the effects of one of the longest and worst drought spells in recent history. Millions of Ethiopians have lost their source of food, water and livelihoods.

The 2015-2016 drought, exacerbated by El Niño, hit mostly the north and north-eastern highlands of Ethiopia. While the country is still recovering from this event, a new drought has taken hold in the south and south-eastern lowlands. Affecting the same areas as the 2011 drought, an estimated 5.6 million people are in need of humanitarian support.

The current drought is affecting the wider Horn of Africa region, including many parts of Somalia, northern and eastern Kenya and south and south-eastern Ethiopia. Many drought-hit areas haven't seen decent rains in years, leaving the population in a vulnerable position to deal with yet another crisis. Increased displacement and regional movements of people in search of pasture and assistance are likely. A staggering 84% of Somali children who arrived in Melkadida refugee camp in January 2017 were found to be acutely malnourished. Since the start of a cholera epidemic in November 2015, active transmission continues in the country and recent outbreaks have been reported in some of the drought affected areas.

Ethiopia is hosting refugees in 25 camps across five different regions (Tigray, Afar, Somali, Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz) while some refugees also stay in urban areas. New arrivals from [South Sudan](#)*, Eritrea and [Somalia](#)*, in addition to the long term refugees from [Sudan](#)*, have resulted in overstretched services, and tensions between refugees and host communities in certain regions.

Even in years without a major crisis, parts of Ethiopia are prone to natural hazards which are exacerbated by climate change. People are regularly exposed to droughts, floods, landslides, epidemics and earthquakes. Local clashes over increasingly scarce resources are a regular occurrence. Addressing emergencies remains a humanitarian priority, but longer-term support to boost the resilience and food security of the poorest and most vulnerable communities is equally needed.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

In 2016, the European Commission allocated €168.3 million in humanitarian funds for the refugee response and for addressing the El Niño induced drought. These funds have assisted millions of vulnerable people, including refugees and those affected by recurring droughts in many parts of Ethiopia. In 2016 alone, more than 7 million people were reached with food assistance thanks to EU Humanitarian Aid. Partners provided communities with food assistance, but also nutrition for malnourished children and mothers. They made water available through water trucking, the digging and rehabilitation of water wells. They also created more livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities.

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Operations channels part of its aid through an emergency response mechanism, aimed at optimising the response to sudden emergencies.

The Commission continues to provide assistance to refugees, covering a wide range of needs, from shelter and nutrition to protection, education and food assistance in refugee camps across Ethiopia.

Thanks to coordinated humanitarian and development programming, the EU has been instrumental in shaping efforts to strengthen the resilience of communities who face recurrent climate hazards. This programming, called Reset (Resilience Building in Ethiopia), focuses on eight areas of the country that are home to 25% of the drought-prone population.



Examples of EU funded humanitarian projects in Ethiopia



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In camps in the Tigray and Afar regions, where Eritrean refugees continue to arrive, the **World Food Program (WFP)** has rolled out 'biometric' registration in 2016. Refugees' fingerprints are taken electronically, making it easier to verify who is entitled to aid. Efficiency-gains will result from this as the process of food distribution becomes faster and more accurate, which is also a precondition for introducing cash transfers.

In Siti zone, one of the hardest hit by the El Niño induced drought, 70 000 people were displaced in 2016, after water points dried up and they lost most of their livestock. **OXFAM** has worked to provide communities with water by digging and repairing dozens of water boreholes. Each borehole serves an average of 5 000 people. Sixty per cent of the water is used to keep the animals alive. The organisation also trucked water as a last resort to communities without any other water source and supported 3 800 households with animal feed. ©EC/ECHO



Throughout the country and notably in areas strongly affected by the El Niño-triggered drought, **UNICEF** screens children as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women for undernutrition. The aim is to identify who needs treatment for either moderate or severe acute malnutrition. Supported by the EU and other donors, UNICEF was able to help the health sector treat more than 270 000 severely malnourished children in 2016. Children under 5 years of age are also provided with vitamin A and de-worming. ©EC/ECHO



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