



A Proposal for Luxembourg ING Night Marathon



As a consequence from the worst drought in 30 years in Ethiopia, 435,000 children under 5 are suffering from malnutrition and 1.7 million children and pregnant and nursing women are in need of specialized nutritional support

Ethiopia Food Crisis Fund

Background

The current El Niño phenomenon is one of the strongest on record, disturbing weather patterns around the world and causing the worst drought Ethiopia has had in 30 years. This drought is already having a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of families and communities in affected regions. According to the Ethiopian government, the estimated number of people predicted to require food assistance in 2016 has increased from 8.2 million in October 2015 to 10.2 million as of December 2015. Among all affected individuals, 435,000 children under 5 are suffering from malnutrition and 1.7 million children and pregnant and nursing women are in need of specialized nutritional support. The number of people affected by the drought and in need of food assistance is expected to increase to over 18 million by the end of 2016. As much as 20 percent of the country's population will require relief food assistance during this period. This increase underscores the country's deteriorating food security situation and the magnitude of the large-scale emergency projected to persist throughout 2016.

Livestock in these largely rural areas have also been affected by reduced pasture and water availability. Lack of demand for agricultural labor and reduced income have been accompanied by increased food prices in local markets. Coping mechanisms for affected families have reached their limits, with household debt rising sharply, dietary diversity significantly narrowed and people predominantly consuming a diet of cereals.

The drought is forcing women and girls to walk longer distances in search of water, exposing them to the risk of sexual and gender-based violence. In some cases, girls are also being subjected to child marriage as families seek to reduce the number of dependents in order to mitigate the effects of the drought. Food scarcity is also contributing to school absenteeism.

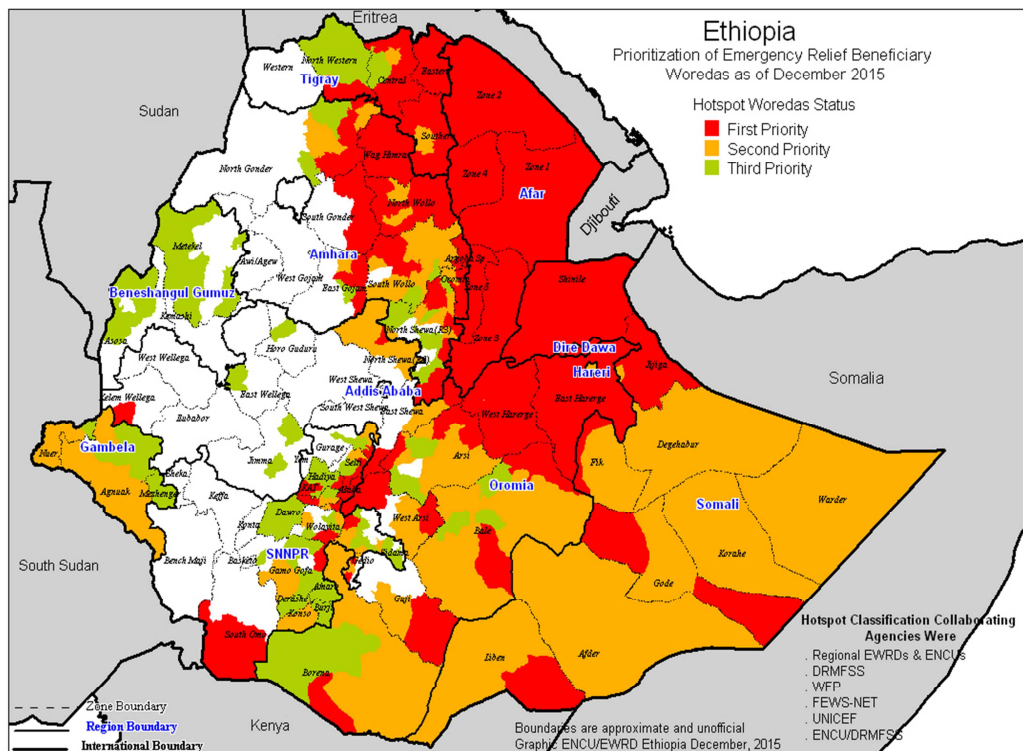
Significant populations in the northern Somali and southern Afar regions are already unable to access adequate food for survival and are facing an increased risk of malnutrition and mortality. Emergency classified areas are expected to expand to include areas of eastern Oromia; after March, the affected areas may further expand. Sustained, large-scale, multi-sectoral emergency assistance is required to save lives and preserve livelihoods.

The government of Ethiopia has now requested urgent international help. The government is leading a coordinated response in partnership with the humanitarian community, including CARE. However, the



Razaiya (35), mother of eight children aged seven months to 19 years in East Hararghe, Ethiopia: "This drought is brought by God, I have to accept that and hope. I would love to have some vegetables and milk for my children. We have had problems before, but we have always had some rain and the crop has not failed as completely as it has this year. And the problems are double now because we had a bad harvest last year too. So we have very little to eat and nothing to sell any more. We have sold one cow, but it was in such a bad shape we did not get much money from it. We have borrowed some grain from a privately owned local grain bank and we receive monthly food supplies from the government and CARE, but it is not enough."
PHOTO: Anders Nordstoga/CARE

existing funds secured for emergency response in Ethiopia are insufficient and there is currently a total funding gap of \$313 million. It takes a substantial amount of time to get food to those in need. **This means that unless food is procured now, 10.2 million people will not have enough to eat from April onwards.**



The map below shows the government’s “hotspot classification” indicating those areas most in need of nutrition assistance.

Your contribution to the **Ethiopia Food Crisis Fund**¹ is a crucial source for a rapid response and the most effective way to support CARE’s work. Your gift will help us position and deploy needed supplies and staff, make funds available to emergency-affected communities for immediate assistance and provide overall program oversight to ensure the highest-quality response.

¹ In order to effectively manage the current emergency response and continue to be able to rapidly deploy resources for other emergencies, CARE will reserve 20 percent of donations to the Ethiopia Food Crisis Fund to cover technical support, administration and emergency preparedness expenses, including the rapid deployment of staff to emergencies such as this one.

CARE's Response

CARE has been working in Ethiopia for over 30 years, and during this time our activities have expanded to address the root causes of poverty and vulnerability. With existing programs in the areas of Ethiopia most severely affected by the drought, CARE already has the infrastructure necessary to respond to this emergency, and has started providing emergency assistance and planning for a longer-term response.

Our current response is as follows:

- Providing **food assistance** to **500,000** people per month. Activities to date have included food distribution, cash grants and cash-for-work activities to ensure food security.
- Reaching **290,000** people with **emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support**. CARE's response has included the rehabilitation of broken water systems, water trucking (where necessary), distribution of water purifiers and containers, and hygiene and sanitation training.
- Support **150,000** children and mothers with **emergency nutrition activities**. Activities have included providing support to health centers, including supplementary therapeutic food, basic medications and equipment and supplies such as mattresses.
- Helping **1,120,000** people with **emergency livelihoods support**. Activities conducted to date include: providing cash grants to farmers to use for livestock feed and medications; providing agricultural inputs (small livestock, seeds and tools); training those affected on improved agricultural production techniques and climate change adaptation; and establishment of village savings and loan associations (VSLAs), which provide members with a safe and secure way to access loans and save money.



CARE's response efforts are designed to take gender considerations into account at all levels. We ensure that men, women and children have equal participation in and access to CARE's emergency programs. In addition we address the specific needs of women, girls and young children, who are often the most vulnerable during a crisis.

Conclusion

When a large-scale emergency occurs, CARE needs flexible funding to allow us to mount a comprehensive and timely response. By contributing to CARE's **Ethiopia Food Crisis Fund**, you are helping us to ensure that emergency food supplies and other assistance will continue to be provided to those most vulnerable to this drought. Thank you for considering a donation to support these lifesaving efforts.

March 2016