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Ethiopia



ETH161 EL Niño-induced drought Emergency

Update February 2016

Update

Since both the failed *belg* (*small or spring*) and *meher* (Big or summer) rains in 2015, over 10.2 million Ethiopians are in need of emergency aid. The drought situation has now reached a very critical point with the small or *belg* rainy season just around the corner with no signs, however, of tell-tale signs of its impending arrival, raising deep concerns that the situation could get even worse for hundreds of thousands of people and livestock who are on the brink of starvation. If the current situation holds, the situation will be catastrophic. The *belg* rains, a time for preparing the soil and sowing for a September/October harvest -- following the big rains in July/August -- are critical for most of the Ethiopian farmers who depend on and live off rain-fed agriculture.

Response so far

The Ethiopian Government and the international community have responded to the crisis, however the needs and the requirements far exceed the cash and in-kind donations pledged so far. The total cash requirement stands at a staggering USD 1.4 billion.

The Government has been praised for the sophisticated food security network that it has established over the last two decades: The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is a welfare-for-work initiative enabling about 6 million people to work on public infrastructure projects in return for food or cash. In addition, there's a national food reserve and early warning systems throughout woredas, local administrative organizations.

Today, Ethiopia is by comparison a politically and economically much more stable country, capable of self-help and robust action.¹

Besides, peace and stability and concrete measures over the last two decades to stem biblical scenes of famine, the Government has provided USD 381 million, including 272 million USD in 2015 and another USD 109 million so far in 2016 towards drought relief efforts which are being supplemented by funding from the international donor community, including the ACT Alliance. The joint HRD 2016 still shows a gap of USD 714 million still to be mobilized to mitigate the effects of the El Niño-induced drought.

ACT Appeal ETH161

The Lutheran World Federation as part of the ACT Alliance Ethiopia Forum has launched an appeal in February 2016 together with IOCC/EOC-DICAC and DASCC in February 2016. The target requirement for the Joint Appeal is USD 5,025,690 of which USD 1,461,537 is for LWF's interventions. USD 437,790 have already been pledged to-date towards to the LWF component of the appeal, thank you.

LWF Ethiopia is currently making final preparations to launch its operation in one of the two intervention areas identified in the appeal: Lasta and Rayitu woredas in North Wollo Zone, Amhara Regional State and in Bale Zone, Oromia region respectively.

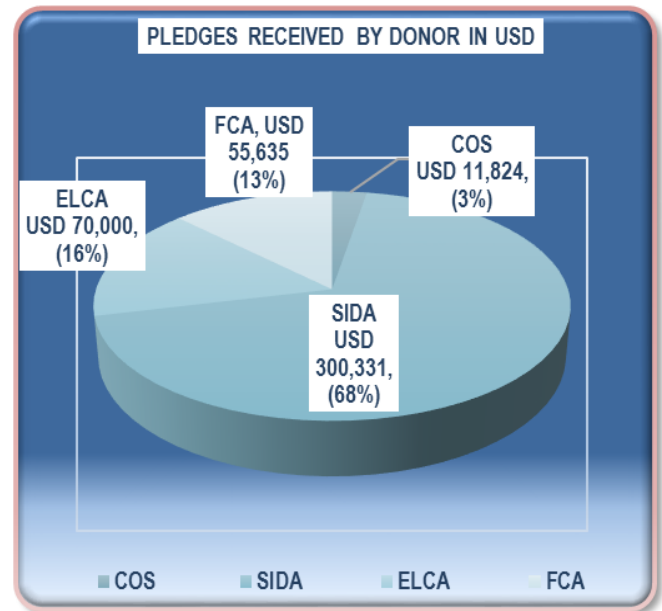
¹ Inter Press Service. 29/0/2016

LWF Ethiopia has prioritized the Lasta woreda (district), hotspot priority area 1, in North Wollo Zone, Amhara Regional State for the initial response with the planned cash for work (CFW) activities to close food gaps. As the funding situation improves, the response will also include seed distribution to restore agricultural production for the *meher* season in July/August and extend the emergency response to the second identified intervention district of Rayitu in Bale Zone, Oromia Regional State.

Achievements so far

- LWF Ethiopia signed an agreement with the North Wollo zone government to intervene in Lasta-Lalibela Woreda
- Identified 8 target kebeles (smallest administrative unit) for intervention
- Identified 2,242 individuals (1,569 male and 673 female) for both cash for work (1,517) and direct cash support (725) to help meet their basic needs during difficult periods, while re-building infrastructure
- A Team leader and two emergency facilitators for the Emergency response have been recruited and deployed in the LWF Ethiopia Regional Coordination office located in Lalibela

Funding Snapshot



LWF Ethiopia wishes to extend its sincere thanks to its partners for the timely and generous contributions it has received in support of this appeal.



Evangelical Lutheran
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