



**World Food Programme**

**Programme Alimentaire Mondial**

**Programa Mundial de Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية العالمي**

## WFP News Video

### **EL Nino in 2015 Could be the Most Severe on Record, WFP Warns That It May Cause Widespread Global Hunger**

**Location: Zimbabwe, Somalia, Guatemala, French Guiana, Space**  
**TRT: 2:40**

#### **Shotlist:**

**:00-:15**

**Sasula district, Zimbabwe**

**Shot: 29, Oct 2015**

Woman Farmers working in the field

At least 1.5 million people are estimated to be facing food insecurity in Zimbabwe following a poor harvest in April caused by prolonged dry spells during the growing season. The south has been particularly badly affected. Farmers are now preparing their land with a view to planting their crops this month. They are waiting for decent rain but there are fears that the El Niño weather phenomenon will bring yet another season of drought.

**:15-:35**

**Sasula district, Zimbabwe**

**Shot: 29, Oct 2015**

**SOT (Shona) Priscilla Mudyanavana,**

36 years old, farmer, married with three children.

*"This season was very hard because of lack of rain. We hoped there would be rain for our fields but there was none."*

**:35-:46**

**Europe's spaceport, Kourou French Guiana**

**Shot: 23, June 2015 (European Space Agency footage)**

Countdown and launch of Sentinel 2

In partnership with the European Space Agency, WFP will use data from Sentinel-2 to monitor the effects of climactic changes in agricultural and pastoral areas. This will help WFP plan and respond to climactic events and conditions that can cause poor harvests and hunger. Designed as a two-satellite mission, Sentinel-2 will provide imagery on a five-day revisit cycle once its twin, Sentinel-2B, is launched in 2016.

Sentinel 2 is a polar-orbiting, multispectral high-resolution imaging mission for land monitoring to provide, for example, imagery of vegetation, soil and water cover, inland waterways and coastal areas. Its camera sensor has been designed to detect very specific wavelengths of light that detail the health of plants.

**:46-01:07**

Animated rendition of Sentinel 2 in space scanning the earth (European Space Agency animation)

**01:07-01:33**

**Rome, Italy**

**Shot: 4, Nov 2015**

**SOT (English) Rogerio Bonifacio,**

**WFP VAM Officer, (Vulnerability Assessments and Mapping)**

*“This year’s el Niño is likely to be one of the worst on record. What it will do is to push a lot of people who are on edge in a way, and it will push them into a status where they will need assistance from WFP and that is going to happen at a large geographical scale from Central America, to southern Africa to East Africa and that is going to push our capacity to respond to new levels.”*

**01:33-01:58**

**Jowhar, Somalia**

**Shot: 14, Oct 2015**

Convoy of WFP trucks driving in drought stricken areas, unloading WFP food

In Somalia, El Niño has triggered drought in north western Somalia, and is expected to cause massive flooding in the southern and central areas. Somaliland is already seeing one of the driest years in memory: severe shortages of food and water, and the deaths of livestock of herders have plunged over 10,000 families into destitution. For those suffering from drought – WFP the regional government and partners will provide 60,000 drought-affected people with electronic transfers to allow them to purchase food. Ahead of expected flooding, WFP is currently pre-positioning food, including High Energy Biscuits, and nutrition products in the main areas expected to see an influx of people, among them Beletweyne, Jowhar, Balcad and Afgoye.

**01:57-02:18**

**River Shebelle, Somalia**

**Shot 18 Oct 2015**

WFP boats preparing for floods

**02:18-02:40**

**San Antonio Ilotenango, Guatemala**

**Shot: 25 Aug 2015**

Drought damaged corn crops /farmers in a religious procession praying for rain.

In Central America’s “Dry Corridor”, a prolonged dry spell severely affected crops in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua in 2014 causing significant losses,

especially in the Dry Corridor – a drought-prone area shared by the four countries. In 2015, another dry spell, exacerbated by El Niño caused significant harvest losses for small producers. More than 65 percent of households in the Dry Corridor had no food stocks left by the start of the 2015 Primera season. An Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) carried out by WFP and partners between May and July 2015 reported that some 4.2 million people have been affected by the current drought and approximately 2.3 million are food insecure. Guatemala reported losses between 50 percent and 100 percent for maize and beans in the Dry Corridor. According to FAO, this corresponds to a loss of US\$82.6 million in maize production. Honduras reported a 96 percent loss in maize, 87 percent in beans, and a 19 percent decrease in the amount of sorghum produced in the Dry Corridor.

ENDS

### **El Niño and Food Security:**

- **The current El Niño is one of the strongest on the record and its impact on food security illustrates the need to increase investment in disaster risk reduction, early warning, climate change adaptation and resilience building.**
- **WFP is closely monitoring the current El Niño and preparing for its possible impact on food production. Over the next 12 months, El Niño could potentially affect the food security of a large number of already vulnerable people who depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood in Central America, most of Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.**
- **People are already feeling the impact. In Central America, people in the Dry Corridor, from Guatemala to Nicaragua, are enduring the second consecutive year of drought, with extensive crop losses in the first season of this year. Ethiopia is enduring continued drought conditions since early in 2015, a situation which has extended into Sudan and Eritrea. In the coming months, Zimbabwe and other countries in southern Africa could also be severely affected.**
- **It is possible that WFP will be stretched operationally and financially during 2016 when the impact of the El Niño event translates into increased food assistance needs across most of our areas of operation.**
- **Ironically, in some parts of the world, more rain caused by El Niño may bring welcome relief, especially for pastoralists.**

### **BACKGROUND: What is El Niño?**

- **El Niño refers to a pattern of unusually warm water stretching across the surface of the Pacific Ocean. It occurs every 3-7 years. During an El Niño event, the relationship between winds and ocean currents in the Pacific Ocean changes, modifying weather conditions around the world. The resulting changes in rainfall and temperature affect crop and pasture development across many of the areas where WFP works.**
- **An El Niño event has been active since March 2015 and is strengthening as it approaches its maximum intensity in late 2015, before subsiding in early 2016. There are indications it could become one of the most intense El Niños of the past 30 years.**

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries.

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