



**World Food
Programme**

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**برنامج الأغذية
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WFP News Video:

Over 60 Million Affected Globally by El Niño, More at Risk From La Nina Impact

Locations: Papua New Guinea / Swaziland

Shot: 23,29,30 June. 2 July 2016

TRT 2:03

Release Date: 6 July 2016

Shotlist:

:00 - :14

Mang, Papua New Guinea,

Shot: 2 July 2016

Farmer, Leo Peter walking through Kaukau plot garden. Last year El Nino caused an intense drought followed by frost causing the Kaukau, a local type of sweet potato, to rot in the ground. Peter digging up Kaukau

:14-:25

SOT(Enga): Leo Peter, Farmer

“Normally, a few years back these would be 5kg... Now we only have a few small ones on every vine.”

:25 - :38

Mang, Papua New Guinea,

Shot: 23 June 2016

WFP distribution of fortified rice for people affected by El Nino

:38 - 01:08

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Shot 30 June 2016

SOT(English): Macharia Kamau, UN Special Envoy on El Niño

“There is almost 200,000 people who are in immediate needs and whose challenges are very real; to do with food, to do with water, to do with basic livelihood... These are the people who, without aid, would probably not live, literally to the next season, as opposed to the bulk of the population that might struggle, but these are the ones we cannot leave behind because they are particularly vulnerable.”

1:08 - 01:38

Swaziland

Shot 29 June 2016

Various shots of drought. Dried fields and crops, dried out river bed, children crossing stone bridge over dried river. Recent winter rains in Southern Africa have not been enough to compensate for the damage caused by this spring's El Nino caused drought.

1:38 - 02:03

Swaziland

Shot 29 June 2016

WFP food distribution to El Nino affected people

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- **The recent El Niño weather event, one of the strongest on record, has wound down but its damaging effects on the food security of the most vulnerable continue to increase and will be felt through mid-2017. The food security of at least 60 million people has been affected globally, weighing heavily on WFP operations and responses into next year.**

Across hard-hit Southern Africa, WFP is rapidly scaling up its life-saving relief operations and aims to support 11.5 million people until January 2017. Food security is set to deteriorate as early as July in the worst-hit countries – Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The lean season usually does not start until October.

- **El Niño threatens to undermine decades of development progress by leaving communities less able to absorb and adapt to a changing climate. These effects will be felt through generations unless resilience is at the centre of the El Niño response. Collective action by UN organizations and NGOs, governments and the private sector in responding rapidly while also managing risks is essential. ¹**
- **Concerns are growing about a La Niña event materializing in the second half of 2016. Although this may eventually bring much-needed rains to some parts of the world late this year, La Niña is forecast to bring drier-than-average conditions that could lead to drought in parts of Eastern Africa, including Somalia and Kenya into 2017.**

Key facts:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| People whose food security has been affected by El Nino to date (global) | 60 million |
| Food-insecure people WFP seeking to assist in Southern Africa: | 11.5 million |
| Flash appeal for immediate needs Southern Africa: | US\$202 million |
| Funding shortfall (84% of total) May 2016-April 2017 | US\$610 million |

What is WFP Doing?

- The World Food Programme has rapidly scaled up relief operations to assist communities grappling with El Niño's impacts, particularly in four of the most affected regions: Southern Africa, East Africa – particularly Ethiopia and Somalia - Asia Pacific, and Latin America-Caribbean including Haiti². WFP is working closely with governments on preparedness and response plans.
- WFP is providing emergency food where needed or cash to buy food where markets are functioning. In **Ethiopia**, more than 7.6 million people have received food assistance from WFP and more than 200,000 people have also received cash transfers in areas where market supply and food prices were stable.³ In **Malawi**, WFP's new lean season food assistance programme is scaling up to reach more than 5 million people by November and 5.85 million people by January 2017. In **Papua New Guinea**, over 260,000 people affected by El Niño-related food insecurity are being reached with WFP assistance.
- WFP has launched emergency food distributions in **Swaziland** and in **Lesotho**, has started cash-based transfers for thousands of vulnerable people in two of the worst-hit districts.
- Resilience-building is integrated into emergency responses as much as possible. In **Zimbabwe**, a small grains production pilot supported by WFP-led weather-based financing facility **FoodSECuRE** trains smallholders in climate-smart agriculture and the use of drought-tolerant grains. Elsewhere, WFP provides people with food in exchange for work on projects such as water-harvesting and irrigation.
- Innovative insurance payouts have been triggered to help farming families endure El Niño in some countries. The Rural Resilience Initiative (R4), for example, has provided El Niño-related payments to affected farming families in **Ethiopia**, **Malawi** and **Senegal**.
- WFP works closely with **African Risk Capacity (ARC)** – an insurance pool that diversifies weather risk across its 7 member countries (**Kenya**, **Malawi** and 5 in **West Africa**). This group approach lowers the cost of responding to disasters before these become humanitarian crises.

^{1,2}Draft Concept Note – High Level Event document for July 2016 NYC

³ Ethiopia media messages June 2016

- WFP also tracks food prices, market access, food quality and supply-chain efficiency, and works with partners to deliver easy-to-understand climate and weather information to help people prepare for future shocks.

What is El Niño? *El Niño refers to a pattern of unusually warm water stretching across the surface of the Pacific Ocean, and 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. The recent El Niño was the second strongest on record.*

What is La Niña? *La Niña represents the cooling of surface ocean waters along the tropical west coast of South America. Both it and El Niño are examples of the many ways that the global weather changes from year to year. There is around a 70 percent chance of a La Niña episode developing from the second half of 2016, though any potential impact remains unclear at this stage. The probabilities for La Niña have increased since the end of 2015.*

ANNEX: Regional Overviews

In Detail: Southern Africa

Key facts:

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Food-insecure people across region 2016-2017: | 33 million |
| Immediate need in 7 most drought-affected countries ⁴ : | 15 million |
| ○ Malawi: scaling up to | 4.5 million (January 2017) |
| ○ Zimbabwe: scaling up to | 2.2 million (January 2017) |
| ○ Mozambique: scaling up to | 700,000 (January 2017) |

Funding shortfall (84 percent of total needs) US\$610 million May 2016-April 2017

- The number of people facing hunger in several countries in the region has increased alarmingly in the last year until June 2016. Malawi jumped by a staggering 169 percent, Swaziland nearly doubled, at 99 percent and Lesotho increased by 53 percent. Zimbabwe saw a rise of 44 percent year on year.
- Although a meagre April/May 2016 harvest provided some respite, food security is deteriorating in some of the worst-hit countries: Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. This is much earlier than the normal lean season, which generally starts in October.
- This situation has severe consequences for a region where about 70 percent of the rural population depend on agriculture for their food and income, and which has among the world's highest rates of stunting, HIV/AIDS and TB.

In Detail: Ethiopia

- Humanitarian needs in Ethiopia have tripled since early 2015 as severe drought in some regions, exacerbated by El Niño, caused successive harvest failures and widespread livestock deaths. Acute malnutrition has risen sharply, and one-quarter of Ethiopia's districts are officially classified as facing a nutrition crisis. Out of 10.2 million people requiring urgent humanitarian assistance, WFP is supporting the government in meeting the needs of 7.6 million people in 2016.⁵
- WFP urgently requires US\$426 million⁶ to meet the needs of drought-affected people through the end of the year. Much of Ethiopia entered the annual "hunger

⁴ WFP Southern Africa El Nino Response hout

⁵ Stephanie 29 June

⁶ Ibid

season” in June, so resources to cover these needs are required immediately. Despite the best efforts of many donors, funding has not kept pace with needs.

- WFP plays a critical role in supporting the Government to strengthen national systems and promote innovative and effective approaches to building resilience. The WFP-led Logistics Cluster is investing US\$15 million in measures designed to strengthen core government systems and bring long-term benefits.
- WFP and the Government aim to assist 2.5 million women and children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition in 2016 - more than double last year’s number. By the end of the first quarter of 2016, WFP had treated more than 540,000 moderately malnourished children and pregnant and nursing mothers.

In Detail: Somalia

- El Niño has also triggered severe and protracted drought in Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, eastern Chad - but particularly in the Somaliland and Puntland regions of northern **Somalia**. The country is fragile and people’s ability to cope in the face of adverse weather is very limited, as seen in previous climate shocks that cut farm production as well as reduced water and fodder for livestock. Approximately 1.7 million people living in Somalia’s drought affected regions require urgent and sustained humanitarian assistance.
- WFP has been providing assistance to those affected by El Niño-related drought for the last eight months, including supporting 260,000 people through 1 cash-based transfers.
- WFP requires US\$72.6 million to November 2016 to continue providing lifesaving assistance to vulnerable Somalis in the El Niño-affected regions as well as elsewhere in the country where needs are acute.

In Detail: Asia and the Pacific Region

- El Niño-induced drought has damaged harvests in many parts of the Asia and Pacific region, with **Papua New Guinea, Indonesia** and the **Philippines** of particular concern. **Vietnam** as well is suffering from its worst drought in nearly a century, and the Ministry of Agriculture estimates that the water level in the Mekong Delta is at its lowest point in 90 years.
- **Papua New Guinea** has endured both drought and frost caused by El Niño since mid-2015 and although the weather event has wound down, close to 250,000 people hit by agricultural losses require food assistance. Serious disruptions to food production and

livelihoods have contributed to widespread food and water shortages. An estimated 1.47 million people in **Papua New Guinea** are food insecure, of which 180,000 are severely food insecure and require assistance,

- WFP has launched emergency assistance operations **in Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, and Nepal** and is preparing a response for the **Philippines**. In these three countries, WFP will provide over 6,414 tons of rice in assistance and US\$1.8 million in emergency cash to over 260,000 people affected by El Niño-related food insecurity.
- In **PNG**, WFP is responding with an emergency operation for 180,000 people through 31 August 2016. By mid-June, WFP had reached almost 25,000 people with a 70 kg ration lasting six weeks.

In Detail: Haiti

- Haiti is in its third year of drought exacerbated by El Niño. A joint WFP and Government assessment showed that 3.6 million people are food insecure and 1.5 million people are severely food insecure. WFP is scaling up its food assistance in an upcoming emergency operation to address the most critical and immediate needs of 1 million drought-affected people.

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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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