



**World Food
Programme**

**Programme
Alimentaire
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Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية
العالمي**

WFP News Video: El Nino
Locations: Ethiopia, Haiti, Italy
Shot: 28-30 Jan / 2 February 2016
TRT 2:48

Shotlist

:00 - :25

Ethiopia, Between Shire Town and Qad
Shot 28Jan2016

Shows arid fields, malnourished camels in grazing areas, pastoralists with cattle and goats fetching water from the well.

These areas should be green and full of plant life especially during this time of year.

Humanitarian needs in Ethiopia have tripled since early 2015 as severe drought in some regions, exacerbated by the strongest El Nino in decades, caused successive harvest failures and widespread livestock deaths. Acute malnutrition has risen sharply, and one quarter of Ethiopia's districts are now officially classified as facing a nutrition crisis. Out of 10.2 million people now requiring urgent humanitarian assistance, WFP is tasked with supporting the government in meeting the needs of 7.6 million people in 2016.

:25 - :35

Ethiopia, Shire Town
Shot 29Jan2016

Wide shot of women from the local community, queuing and waiting for WFP food distribution to start

:35-:45

Ethiopia, Qad Village
Shot 28Jan2016

two women going home with their food rations on their donkey

:45 - 1:23

Italy, Rome,
Shot 2 Feb2016

SOT(English): Rogerio Bonifacio, WFP Climate Analyst

“The current El Niño event that started in March 2015 has peaked in December, being one of probably the strongest on record and will wind down toward the middle of 2016. It's effects however will be felt all the way to early 2017 and its effects have been widespread geographically. El Niño has caused impacts on the growing seasons of central america - Haiti. Ethiopia where it registered one of the driest seasons in the last 50 years all the way to Indonesia and Papua New Guinea which again has suffered one of the major droughts on record.”

1:23 - 1:32

Ethiopia, Ogocha, Ziway Dugda district, Oromia

Shot 31 Jan2016

Arrival of UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon and WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin visiting this drought-hit region of Ethiopia to help raise awareness of the worsening hunger crisis caused by El nino.

1:32 - 01:43

Ethiopia, Ogocha, Ziway Dugda district, Oromia

Shot 31 Jan2016

SOT(English): Ertharin Cousin, WFP Executive Director

“This is a different Ethiopia than 1984, but we need an international community that recognizes we don’t need to wait until babies are starving.”

01:43 - 02:13

Haiti, Pont Janvier & Mahotiere, Commune of Thimazeau

Shot 27Jan2016

Dried field cracked earth. Failed crops Dried leaves. Farmers working in field.

Consecutive years of drought in Haiti, exacerbated by El Nino has caused many farmers to lose a significant part of the harvest they depend on to feed their families. The number of food insecure people in Haiti doubled in less than 6 months, according to preliminary results of a new study conducted by WFP and the Government

2:13 - 02:38

Haiti, Mahotiere, Commune of Thimazeau

Shot 27 Jan2016

SOT(French): Casilien Señor, Farmer

“We have to walk 6 hours to find water. Children get hungry on the way and they arrive late to school because of the drought, because they have to get water. But the head master cannot punish them because he understands the situation.”

2:38 - 02:48

Haiti, Pont Janvier, Commune of Thimazeau

Shot 27 Jan2016

Father greeting son as he returns to village.

ENDS

The current El Niño, which began in early 2015, has at least matched the strongest on record, affecting the food security of a vast number of vulnerable people around the globe. The current El Niño is comparable to that of 1997/98, which

killed some 23,000 people, displaced hundreds of thousands, and resulted in some \$45 billion in damages.

WFP could be stretched operationally and financially during 2016 as the impact of El Niño translates into increased food-assistance needs across most areas of operations. This highlights the necessity of increased investment in disaster-risk reduction, early warning, climate-change adaptation and resilience building.

WFP is responding with such measures as: prepositioning stocks of food, for example in cyclone-prone Madagascar and in Haiti, where earthquakes and drought wreak havoc; planning water deliveries in Lesotho where shortages are being felt; distributing high-energy biscuits as emergency food to flood victims in Somalia.

ETHIOPIA

One of the countries already hard hit is Ethiopia, facing what could be its worst drought-related emergency in 50 years. Drought conditions have persisted since early 2015, with similar conditions extending into Sudan and Eritrea.

Although El Niño itself is forecast to gradually wind down by mid-2016, the longer-term impact on water supplies, crops and yields, and the spread of disease will continue to be felt in many parts of the globe for many months, and possibly years.

According to the government and humanitarian partners' 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document, more than 10 million people are in need of relief food assistance for the first six months of 2016 – more than triple the number at the same time last year.

The number of mothers and children admitted to WFP's treatment programmes for moderate malnutrition has risen sharply in the last several months. WFP and the government plan to assist 2.2 million women and children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition in 2016 (1.4 million in the first six months), more than double the number last year.

The Government of Ethiopia is leading a well-coordinated response, and has devoted enormous resources - close to US\$300 million - to food assistance and other emergency relief, including water and livestock interventions.

So far WFP has only received less than a third of the resources required for the first six months of this year for the response in Ethiopia. A crisis of this scale urgently requires significant support from the international community. So far, there has not been enough.

HAITI

Haiti is in its third year of drought which has been exacerbated by El Niño whose effects will continue to be felt through this year and beyond.

The number of food insecure people in Haiti doubled in less than 6 months, according to preliminary results of a new study conducted by WFP and the Government. These results suggest that over one million Haitians are currently facing crisis levels of food insecurity and need immediate assistance. In some areas, more than 70% of the population is facing hunger.

The 2015 spring harvest, which accounts for over 50 percent of national annual farm production, fell below average with losses of up to 70 percent in some areas. Making matters worse, without rain for the 2016 spring season farmers will, for the third time in a row, lose the harvest on which they normally depend to feed their families.

WFP has started distributions of emergency food rations drawn from contingency stocks and is targeting 24,000 affected households (about 120,000 people) across six Departments. WFP is also implementing Cash for Assets projects for 30,000 Haitians in areas worst affected by the drought.

Corn production, one of the main domestic crops, was 16 percent lower last year in comparison to 2014. National rice production also decreased to 105,000 metric tons from 125,000 metric tons.

Three years of drought have pushed people further into poverty and hunger, and many households have experienced several back-to-back poor harvests. As a result, any alternative livelihood strategies and coping mechanisms are nearly depleted.

Agriculture is generally a very important source of income among poor households, but the drought has reduced opportunities for agricultural manual labour.

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.

The current El Niño was officially declared in March 2015 and reached its peak intensity at the end of 2015. It is expected to subside back to neutral conditions, likely by the second quarter of 2016.

Although the weather event has been felt mainly as drought, some parts of the world have seen greater amounts of rain than normal, raising the risk of large-scale floods.

Although El Niño has started to decline in strength, this does not mean that the danger has passed. The lingering impacts of El Niño and the possibility of subsequent La Niña may continue to affect different parts of the world, and increase food insecurity, for as long as two years.

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