

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Ethiopia allocated some \$182 million to support and rehabilitate people affected by natural and manmade disasters in 2018.
- If the predicted erratic and underperforming spring rains materialize, in the current drought belt, it will be the 4th successive year of underperforming rains in some of these areas.



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Government allocates US\$182 million for 2018 Humanitarian response

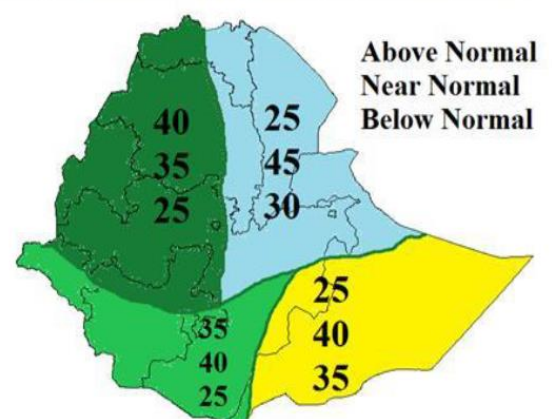
The Government of Ethiopia allocated some \$182 million to support and rehabilitate people affected by natural and manmade disasters in 2018. This includes the \$36 million that was allocated earlier to Oromia and Somali regions for IDP recovery and rehabilitation programmes. The \$10 million Central Emergency Response Fund announced in January will complement the Government plan and enable humanitarian partners to provide life-saving assistance including shelter, clean water and sanitation services and solutions for those most in need amongst the conflict-displaced and host communities.

Meanwhile, the January nutrition hotspot classification has identified 463 districts nationwide as priority areas for humanitarian response in 2018, of which 216 are Priority 1 (P1), 161 Priority 2 (P2) and 86 Priority 3 (P3). The Geographic footprint remains the same as in 2017, with few additional P1 districts identified in northern and north eastern Amhara and in Afar regions.

2018 Spring (mid-February–May) rains could underperform in current drought belt

According to the National Meteorological Agency (NMA), the 2018 spring rains in the current drought belt (south and southeastern Ethiopia) could potentially be erratic and could underperform. If this materializes, it will be the 4th successive year of underperforming rains in some of these areas. Global weather forecasting systems have also identified Ethiopia as one of the four countries at highest risk of being impacted by La Niña during this period. The humanitarian situation will likely deteriorate further if the projected La Niña affects the spring rains in the lowland pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas, extending the dry season.

Belg 2018 Tercile probability climate Outlook



Source:-NMA

FIGURES

Affected pop.	8.5 m
MAM	3.6 m
SAM	375,000

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- Close to 8,000 internally displaced households at El-ma'an site, Dawa zone of Somali region need urgent life-saving and protection assistance.

Early warning information will be availed to pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in these areas for timely and informed decision making. The Government and partners are taking preventive and preparedness measures. To this end, frontloading of pipelines and of funding to partners on the ground is urgently required.

Close to 8,000 new influx of internally displaced households at El-ma'an IDP site need urgent assistance

From 7 to 16 February 2018, UNOCHA led a mission to assess the situation of new influxes of IDPs (displaced between December 2017 and January 2018) in El-ma'an IDP site, Hudet *woreda*/district in Dawa zone, Somali region. The assessment identified close to 8,000 El-ma'an displaced households, majority women and children, requiring urgent food, water, health, shelter and sustainable livelihood support. Critical shortage of ES/NFIs coupled with overcrowded IDPs in this new IDP site is posing huge protection concerns. The zonal administration called for Government and humanitarian partners to pay particular attention to IDPs with specific needs (older persons at risk, unaccompanied and separated children, persons with disabilities and pregnant and lactating women). Partners are looking into mobilizing additional resources to address the rising IDPs needs.



Figure 1 Close to 8,000 household IDPs reside at El-ma'an IDP site, Hudet *woreda*, Dawa Zone

The Dawa zonal administration encouraged humanitarian actors to make use of the reactivated zonal cluster coordination forum at El Leh, Dawa zone on 12 February, as an opportunity to scale up IDP coordination and response ahead of the seasonal *gu* (April-June) rains. Furthermore, the recent construction of Gaaluun bridge is a window of opportunity to humanitarian actors to provide and/preposition essential services to persons in need in Dawa zone. Hudet *woreda* can also be accessed through Filtu /Dheka Suftu-Negele route.

Government and partners closely monitoring humanitarian response amidst ongoing unrest

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- The Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners are closely monitoring the impact of the ongoing unrest in delivering humanitarian assistance to people in need.

Government and humanitarian partners are closely monitoring the impact of the ongoing unrest in Ethiopia to ensure that humanitarian assistance is delivered to the people in need in an effective and principled manner. So far, partners reported no significant disruption of operation and access constraints in providing assistance to beneficiaries affected by drought and conflict. However, there were few incidents where humanitarian operation was hampered in some areas due to mass violence and stay-at-home protests, including road blockade, and attack and looting of trucks transporting relief food from warehouses to distribution points.

On 16 February 2018, the Council of Ministers of the Government of Ethiopia declared a State of Emergency (SoE) for six months, to ensure security in areas where violence is prevalent. A command post led by the Prime Minister has been established to oversee the implementation of the SoE, comprised of different security establishments including the federal police. One of the duties of the command post is to work to rehabilitate conflict displaced people in collaboration with regional governments. On 23 February 2018, the United Nations welcomed steps taken towards governance reforms and increased political participation in Ethiopia. The UN also took note of the recent declaration of SoE and stressed the importance of avoiding restrictions that would impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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