

HIGHLIGHTS

- Building durable solutions through Climate Resilient WaSH programming: A showcase to HDN in Ethiopia
- The EHF allocates US\$5 million for nutrition response in Kamachi and Dawa zones
- Regional Government and partners conduct IDPs assessment in Amhara region
- The Ethiopia Cash Working Group (ECWG) elected Technical Co-Chairs together with the Steering Committee.
- Government and Partners discuss the 2019 Ethiopia HNO/HRP



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Building durable solutions through Climate Resilient WaSH programming: A showcase to HDN in Ethiopia

The recently signed phase II of the One WASH National Program (OWNP) put forth climate resilient interventions, setting an example for strengthening Humanitarian and Development Nexus (HDN) in Ethiopia. From a total budget of US\$6.5 billion allocated for the second phase of the OWNP, \$2 billion (38 per cent) is dedicated for climate resilient WaSH programs. This presents new opportunities for investments in systems that reduce vulnerability to climatic shocks and increased investments that build climate resilient communities in the drought-prone lowland areas. Consolidated Cash Account (CWA)-a pooled fund dedicated to areas hit by disasters, offers phase II of the OWNP flexibility to allocate resources in emergency operations. Such interventions are particularly crucial in countries like Ethiopia where droughts are expected to be more frequent and more severe due to climate change and needs associated with WaSH remaining high. Surface water and shallow wells are either temporary (during rainy season) or dry up during drought periods. Poor performance of spring rains in Somali region for example, resulted in 95 per cent of water points drying up in April 2017. Water schemes that were still providing water during the dry season (only the 5 per cent) are all deep wells, calling for investments that address the underlying problems. Only a small portion of humanitarian finances has been invested in long term durable solutions (only a fraction of the approximately \$300 million since 2016 and less than 20 per cent of the total WaSH investment in 2018).



Figure 1 Water shortage at the height of the 2016 drought in Shebele zone, Somali region. Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

- The Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund, an OCHA-managed pooled fund has allocated \$5 million to support nutrition needs in pocket areas of Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia and Somali regions.

The One WASH National Programme (OWNP)-a harmonized sector-wide approach was created by the government of Ethiopia in response to the challenges of improving WaSH services throughout the country. The first phase of the programme (2014-2017) contributed significantly towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Some 8.7 million people gained access to water supply, 11 million people became Open Defecation Free, and 1,280 school wash facilities were constructed through CWA.

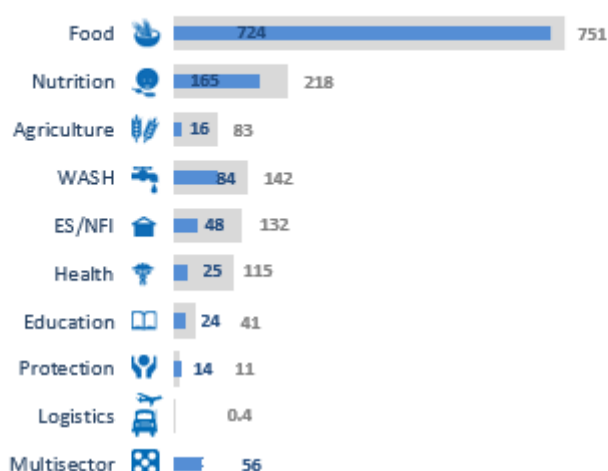
EHF allocates US\$5 million for nutrition response in Kamachi and Dawa zones

The Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund, an OCHA-managed pooled fund has allocated \$5 million to support nutrition needs in pocket areas of Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia and Somali regions. The allocation is part of the 2018 Second Round Reserve Allocation with a total allocation of \$14.2 million. In response, eight nutrition proposals were submitted for the \$5 million allocation for IDPs and host communities in the targeted regions. The allocation enables implementing partners to pre-position essential nutrition supplies (\$3.5 million) and continuation of NGO response (\$1.5m).

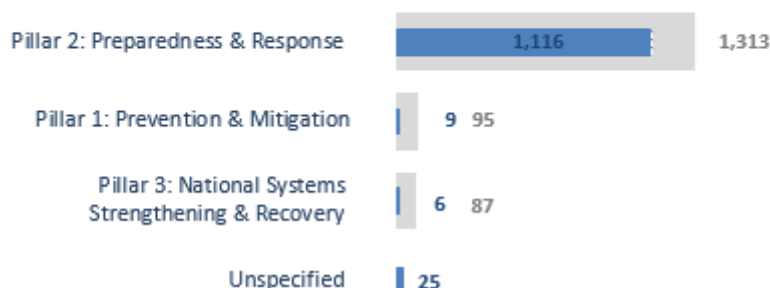
In 2018, the EHF allocated more than \$71 million supporting 132 projects with eight donors' contributions from Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Korea, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

Ethiopia: 2018 HDRP Funding Update (as of 15 January 2019)

Requirements and funding per sector - \$million



Requirements and funding per pillar- \$million



A joint regional Government and partners' IDPs assessment conducted between 22-28 January 2019 revealed a significant increase in displacement figures compared with the October 2018 estimate (of 43,000).

Regional Government and partners conduct IDPs assessment in Amhara region

A joint regional Government and partners' IDPs assessment conducted between 22-28 January 2019 identified a significant increase in displacement figures compared with the October 2018 estimate (of 43,000).

According to the joint assessment, the displaced lack adequate access to basic services such as food, water and sanitation, education, health, shelter and livelihoods. The recent inter-communal conflicts in areas bordering Northern Gondar zone and Tigray and Afar regions contributed to the rise in the number of IDPs in the region. The result of the joint Government and humanitarian partners' assessment has provided an update on the situation, needs and gaps including durable solutions.

The displaced came from Oromia (Buno Bedele, Jimma, Nekemt and Kelem Wellega zones), Afar, Benishangul Gumz (Kemash zone), SNNP (Bench Maji zone) and Somali Regions since October 2017. In December 2018, The Amhara Region Disaster Prevention and Food Security Programme Coordination Office requested partners \$8 million for a multi-sector IDP response to address prioritized needs of 43,000 IDPs (identified in October 2018) between December 2018 and May 2019.

The Ethiopia Cash Working Group (ECWG) elected Technical Co-Chairs together with the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is now revising the 2019 work plan for the group building off previous achievements in 2018.

2019 Ethiopia Cash Working Group Leadership

On 29 January, the Ethiopia Cash Working Group (ECWG) held its leadership selection process and elected WFP and Save the Children as the Technical Co-Chairs of the group, together with the Steering Committee composed of IOM, UNHCR, WFP, CRS, DRC, Oxfam, SCI, WVE, the World Bank and NDRMC. The ECWG also benefits from the support provided by the CashCap Technical Cash Advisor. The Steering Committee is now revising the 2019 work plan for the group building off previous achievements in 2018.

In 2018, the ECWG led crisis-specific initiatives, such as developing suggested transfer values in conflict-induced displacement hotspots based off local market assessments and establishing temporary sub-national cash working groups for implementing partners on the ground that met on a regular basis. This included the development of zone specific response matrixes capturing all Cash Based Interventions (CBIs) and cash implementing guidelines, taking into account local contexts, market settings and sources of conflict. A repository of cash feasibility assessments, including market and beneficiary preference assessments, was created, providing implementing partners with critical background information required for any program planning and/or implementation in these areas.

The ECWG also led advocacy efforts for the use of cash, particularly in the case of Gedeo-West Guji CBIs, which were temporarily suspended at a crucial time in the IDP response. The ECWG conducted a review of the actions which led to the suspension, strengthened the Gedeo-West Guji cash guidelines to mitigate protection and targeting concerns, and conducted cash familiarization workshops with zonal and regional authorities to demonstrate the feasibility, security and benefits of CBIs. The ECWG briefed the Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team on several occasions to keep it abreast of the freeze, and following a number of meetings with NDRMC, the ECWG was able to lift the CBI freeze, allowing cash implementing partners to resume their activities.

Re-established in August 2016 "to strengthen the policy development and operations of cash based interventions in Ethiopia through advocacy, improved coordination and information sharing", the ECWG is composed of over 20 humanitarian agencies, organizations, donors and government representatives and meet regularly on the last Tuesday of every month.

Government and Humanitarian partners discuss the draft 2019 Ethiopia HNO/HRP

In preparation to the launch of the 2019 humanitarian Response Plan for Ethiopia, Government and partners discussed the draft Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan

Government and partners on 23-24 January 2019 met to discuss the draft 2019 Ethiopia Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and on 29 January 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for the year. The discussions helped to determine the actual number of people to be targeted for humanitarian assistance from the total 8.6 million people the draft HNO identified as in need of assistance in 2019.

The draft HNO, exercised for the first time in Ethiopia, created a strong inter-sectoral evidence base for the humanitarian response plan, describing the impact of the different humanitarian crises, including drought, floods, conflict and disease outbreaks. The fact that the HNO classified needs at different levels of severity provided the opportunity for both development and humanitarian actors opportunities to intervene as needed.

The Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Aeneas Chuma, thanked the Government of Ethiopia for supporting the introduction of HNO for the first time in Ethiopia. Ato Tadesse Bekele, Advisor to the Commissioner at the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), said the HNO exercise made needs more objective as it enriched data obtained from other sources such as the House Hold Economic Analysis (HEA) tool used during the seasonal needs assessment and IPC report. "Analysis of needs by their levels of severity helps us move from annual response planning toward a multi-year financial planning which will bring humanitarian and development partners together," said Ato Tadesse.

Partners also discussed multi-sector prioritized response plan in the 2019 HRP based on severity of needs and geographic priorities identified through the HNO analysis. Government and partners will launch the 2019 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan by mid-February once the draft HRP is endorsed by the humanitarian country team and NDRMC.



Figure 2 Government and partners discussing the 2019 HNO.
Photo Credit: OCHA Ethiopia

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