



TWO YEARS OF DROUGHT RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

June 2014 – June 2016

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Authored by: Bethlehem Negash and Charlie Mason, July 4th 2016
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

FOREWORD – by Helle Thorning-Schmidt, CEO of Save the Children International

In December 2015, Save the Children launched one of its most ambitious emergency response programmes ever to scale up in response to the massive drought in Ethiopia caused by El Nino, calling for USD \$100 million to meet the needs of 2 million people in Ethiopia.

In my recent visit to Ethiopia, I witnessed first-hand our dedicated work to support the Government of Ethiopia's efforts to prevent the failure of seasonal rains from becoming a humanitarian catastrophe. Since June 2014 we have been working tirelessly delivering life-saving support to families who have lost everything during the recent drought. So far we have raised nearly 90% of our funding target and reached 1.9 million people. The next six months will be absolutely critical for Ethiopia however, and we call on world leaders to continue their tremendous support and ensure that all of the response efforts to date are sustained through the traditional hunger season until the next harvest late in the year.

Preventing a catastrophe on this scale is a serious undertaking given the huge number of people at risk; El Nino has had a serious impact on many people around the world, but Ethiopia has the systems and expertise which are required to prevent loss of life or unnecessary suffering. Save the Children has been proud to work alongside many partners in this work, and recognises the role of the Government of Ethiopia in leading the response, alerting the world, and all their efforts and resources committed in support of the response, particularly to help children and their families.

FOREWORD – by John Graham, Country Director

Ethiopia is largely made up of lowland areas which are dry much of the year and support nomadic herders; people who have adapted to move in search of water and pasture for their animals, and this lifestyle plays a significant part in the national production of livestock and animal products. Then there are the highly populous farming areas across the highland plateau of the central and northern parts of the country. People there are not so able to move around and although they are impressively resilient, they are vulnerable to a double rain season failure which defines a drought; a terrible event that dries out wells and water sources, reduces the grazing to dust, and turns green fields to stony ground.

By the middle of 2015 it had become clear that failed rains the previous year and that spring would pose a serious threat to the lives of millions of people. That was the moment when the Government of Ethiopia played its fundamental role of recognising and responding to the gravity of the loss of harvest, and lack of food and water for hundreds of thousands of families, calling on the support of the international community to prevent a terrible catastrophe. That first call to action was answered by the public of many countries, who generously donated funds for immediate interventions to provide for malnourished children. Within a few months the Governments of Europe, USA and Canada and others around the world joined forces in donating hundreds of millions of dollars to provide food aid, water and medical care to 10 million people directly affected by drought.

That is the day and age in which we live today; in which there is no excuse for drought disasters to cause suffering and death. We know the different weather systems and the changes occurring in our climate globally, and must rely on other countries to support each other in times of need. Save the Children is proud to have been playing its part for over two years to prevent this natural disaster from becoming a cause of suffering and deaths as we have witnessed in the past.

This report is intended both by way of gratitude to those who have helped those in need through a long and ferocious drought, both individual members of the public and the Governments who have focussed their taxpayers' aid money to combat this threat. It recognises the leading and exemplary role of the Ethiopian Government, and is intended to let the people of Ethiopia know what we have done with the funds to assist their fellow citizens who do not have a voice on social media.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

El Nino has caused the third successive rainfall failure in some areas of Ethiopia, and from the middle of 2015 onwards the country has since been in a race against time to meet the resulting food needs of 10.2 million people. This precarious situation called for the collective resources of Governments around the world to help the Government of Ethiopia to provide enough food and aid, to enough people in time. The relief effort was calculated to require an estimated USD \$1.4 billion of funding, 1.5 million metric tonnes of food aid, and the concerted effort of every aid agency in the country and beyond.

This is one of the largest humanitarian operations in the world, and has been led and coordinated by the Government of Ethiopia which has itself committed USD \$381 million during 2015-16. This report details the role and contribution of Save the Children which is programming USD \$90 million worth of relief activities, has raised USD \$6.5 million of its own funding contributions, reached nearly 2 million people, and helped to save the lives of thousands of children.

The response phase is not over yet. The next six months of 2016 will determine whether all of the efforts to date to prevent a food security crisis of this proportion have been adequate as the population faces the traditional lean season. Every effort must now be renewed and sustained to support the Government's efforts to prepare for the impacts of such prolonged drought and assist the affected population to make a quick recovery.



Ayan, 41, is a mother of six children displaced from her home because of the drought. The family had 170 animals between them – about 100 sheep and goats, 50 cows and 20 camels. Now only 17 remain – three cows, three sheep, seven goats and four camels. Ayan* received fodder and livestock feed for her remaining animals from Save the Children.*

3. INTRODUCTION

Many people have an impression of Ethiopia as constantly suffering from droughts and food shortages, however the reverse is true. It is usually a green and fertile country, with highly productive areas and high potential for agricultural growth, although it is susceptible to changes in global weather systems, especially El Nino or La Nina events. This drought has been the worst in 50 years; the overall rainfall in 2015 was the lowest since records began in the 1960s. It was a huge shock to a productive system affecting an agricultural area the size of the United Kingdom or New Zealand, and everyone who lives within. It was a slow-moving disaster, the kind that unfolds over months or years, but gets worse in leaps and bounds as water or food become suddenly unavailable for people and their livestock. It was also a succession of natural events that started as localised droughts back in 2014, that spread to several regions after the poor spring rains of 2015, and became an environmental catastrophe affecting a huge part of the country and agricultural production when the main summer rains subsequently failed due to one of the strongest El Nino events on record in the summer of 2015.

We did not wait for the situation to deteriorate to the point of seeing suffering children on the TV screens, this is precisely what we needed to prevent. However, amidst the competing priorities of the world news, awareness of the pending disaster and the scale of the situation already developing on the ground was very limited and so the funding required was slow to materialise. In August 2015 the Ethiopian Government recognised the issue, as did Save the Children, and the organisation called on world leaders to step in and support the Government to ensure there would be a sufficient aid response to prevent a major catastrophe.

Two years on from the start of the initial response and a great deal has been achieved to avert a crisis and respond to the needs of the affected population. The well-coordinated relief efforts have achieved remarkable results, so far minimising the dangers posed by widespread food insecurity which could have caused overwhelming numbers of malnourished children and forced displacements of rural populations on a massive scale. Instead, food aid has been reaching 10 million people on a regular basis and thousands of children have been treated for malnutrition, before they reached a point of no return.

As the country heads to the traditional 'hunger season' in the second half of 2016, every effort must be renewed to prevent food shortfalls and prepare for the expected spike in the numbers of malnourished children requiring assistance. The prospects for a good harvest this year are positive, although once the situation stabilises, it will take two or three years for families and communities to fully recover and they will continue to need support to do so. The next six months however will be the true test of the planning, efforts and investments to prevent a catastrophe, and this remains the critical moment when the efforts of so few will determine the outcomes for so many.

4. RESPONDING TO THE DROUGHT

4.1 Save the Children in Ethiopia

Save the Children first worked in Ethiopia in the 1930s and its permanent offices were set up by Save the Children Sweden in the 1960's and Save the Children UK in the 1970's. That early work in Ethiopia focused on humanitarian and emergency relief, and has evolved into a range of longer-term development initiatives for the most vulnerable children. This includes making investments in health, nutrition, child well-being, education, resilience-building and disaster risk management. Through these programmes, Save the Children supports the Ethiopian Government systems to help those who face chronic food shortfalls to become self-sufficient.

Save the Children¹ is a key actor in the drought response efforts, supporting communities in every region of the country and has played a leading role in raising the alarm on the scale and possible effects of the drought in Ethiopia. The communities affected by the drought have also expressed their appreciation of Save the Children's efforts, with a community member from one of the worst affected areas telling a programme evaluator that, *"If a child was asked what are the benefits he gets from his mother what would the answer be? Save the Children is like a mother to our community"*.

4.2 El Nino's 2015 Drought in Ethiopia: impact and needs

In Ethiopia, 78% of the population relies on rain-fed agriculture or pastoralism for a living. So when the drought hit, official Government figures of those directly affected and needing emergency food assistance rose rapidly from 2.9 million in January 2015 to 4.5 million in August 2015², due to spring *Belg* rain season failure (March-April), and then increased to 10.2 million in December due to summer *Kiremt* rain season failure (July-October), including over 5.75 million children³. An estimated 450,000 children are expected to suffer severe acute malnutrition in 2016, and 5.8 million people need access to clean drinking water.

The total estimate of people affected in different ways from the drought during 2016:

10.2m

Require
food
assistance

2.5*m

Moderately
malnourished

458,000*

Severely
Malnourished
children

5.8m

People
requiring
water

5.6*m

Farmers in need
of seeds

3.6m

People need
emergency
health

149,359

Households in
need of flood
response

*** Increased needs since the 2016 HRD was launched in December 2015**

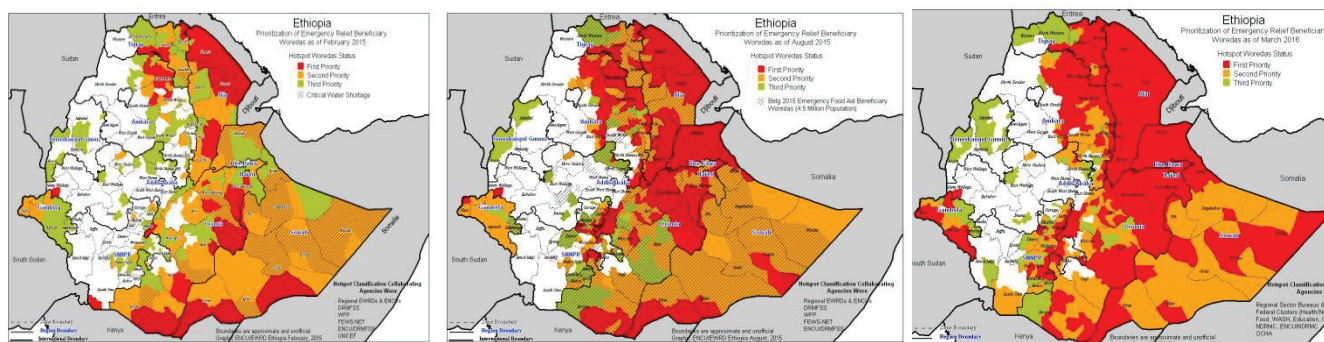
¹ <https://ethiopia.savethechildren.net/>

² <http://www.dppc.gov.et/downloadable/reports/appeal/2015/HRD-Revised%20August%202015.pdf>

³ <http://www.dppc.gov.et/downloadable/reports/appeal/2015/HRD%202016,%20December%202011-2015.pdf>

Simultaneously, the number of affected districts (woredas) in the country rose dramatically from 125 “Priority 1” woredas in early 2014, to 219 by early 2016⁴. At the same time, the amount of funding required to meet humanitarian needs went from USD \$386 million for 2015 to a staggering USD \$1.4 billion for 2016. Despite this, the \$1.4 billion funding needed for 2016 has not yet been achieved. The review made on 10th May 2016 states that there is still USD \$703 million needed to sustain those affected through to the end of 2016.

Spread of Emergency Hotspot Priority Woredas: Feb 2015, August 2015, and March 2016:



The impact of the drought is being felt in every region of Ethiopia. Lowland areas like Afar in the Northeast bore the brunt of the 450,000 livestock that have perished from a lack of food and water. As a result; thousands of families have lost their supply of nutritious milk for their children and a vital commodity for trade. Those whose animals are still alive are often forced to sell them at a significantly reduced price so they can afford food for their families, thus losing their livelihoods in one heart-breaking transaction. Many of these desperate people have left their homes in search of food, water, and any sort of ways to make a living. Meanwhile in the highlands, entire farming communities had suffered total crop failure, taking away their primary source of food and income and forcing them to sell possessions and keep their children back from school to support the household. For these farming families, many months of surviving on food aid lay ahead.

⁴ <https://www.dppc.gov.et/downloadable/Documentation/Hotspot%20Classification%20Guideline%20May%202014.pdf>



Ubah* and her family are from a small community in Sitti Zone in Eastern Ethiopia. They lost dozens of livestock to the drought, and as a result had to leave their pastoral land in search of humanitarian assistance. They travelled on foot for three days to reach the Fadato community, where hundreds of displaced families have settled. Ubah's son Rukia* was being treated for severe acute malnutrition at the health centre supported by Save the Children with the Ministry of Health. Ubah and her family are receiving food rations in Fadato and also have access to water, however they have lost their livelihoods.

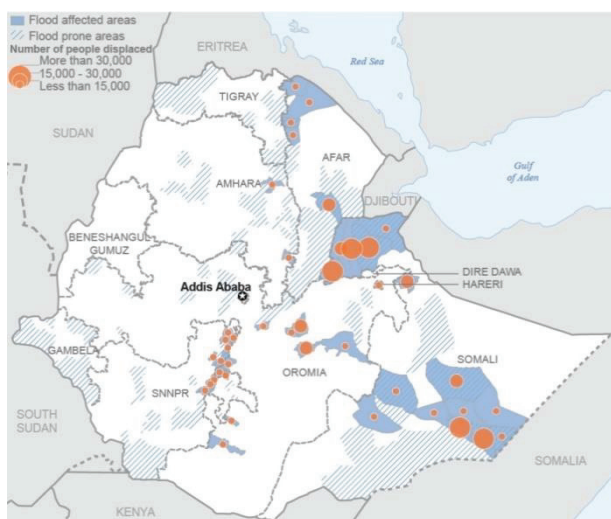
"We came here (to Fedato) because we lost our livestock. We lost them due to the drought. All the livestock we used to have, they died. There were around hundred. My child was healthy previously, but now because of the drought he is malnourished and got sick. Save the Children helped us by providing medication and nutrition supplies for our children." Said Ubah

Food insecurity will remain a concern until at least the next harvest in November 2016, as the prolonged El Nino created deep uncertainty about even the performance of the 2016 Belg season. Uninterrupted and timely assistance over the next months is therefore vital for children and their families in these vulnerable areas.

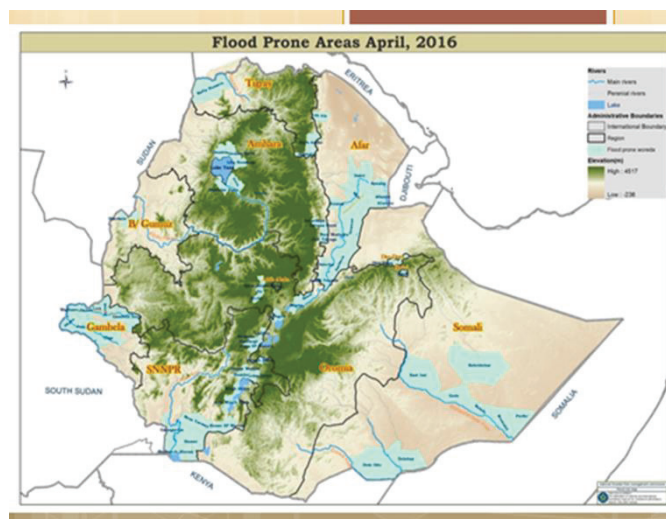
The Ethiopian Government's "Humanitarian Requirements Document" (HRD) indicated the increased number of displaced people from the affected communities, and the urgent need for psychosocial support particularly among children within displaced communities. The need for strengthening systems to identify and respond for child protection issues is also emphasised in the HRD. The November 2015 "Child Protection Rapid Assessment"⁵ report indicated that a large number of children in the drought affected areas are reported to be separated from their family, and engaged in increased work responsibilities to support their family to cope with the household need. Children living in affected areas show symptoms of psychological distress which are manifested through changes in their behaviour including unwillingness to go to school, increased aggressiveness and screaming. Added to that, lack of adequate food to the family, loss of property and livelihood, and lack of safe environment for their children are reported to cause increased stress for caregivers, which is affecting the treatment and relation of caregivers with their children.

It is very common to receive heavy rain and flash flooding after being affected by prolonged drought, and after waiting for rain for so many months the country experienced flash and river flooding in the months of April and May 2016⁶. At least 19,000 households were displaced by flooding across the country and the flooding hampered the ongoing drought relief effort. For instance, many districts of Sitti zone which was one the worst drought affected areas, became totally inaccessible for food distribution and other health and nutrition interventions were interrupted for weeks.

Flood-induced displacement (March - May 2016)



Flood Prone areas April 2016



⁵ <http://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-el-nino-driven-drought-child-protection-rapid-assessment-cpra-summary>

⁶ http://www.dppc.gov.et/downloadable/reports/Early_warning/Special%20reports/National%20Flood%20Alert%202016_April%2011.pdf

4.3 How we are responding to the drought

The widespread nature and sheer scale of need caused by these failed rain seasons resulted in Save the Children scaling up to a “Category 1”, the maximum possible response level available to the global organisation, before the impact of failed November harvests was fully felt - an example of the organisation’s commitment to respond to early warning signals and prevent humanitarian crises where possible.

The focus for Save the Children’s response is a multi-sector response, combining the immediate treatment of malnutrition and resulting medical complications amongst children and interventions that address the causes of malnutrition in a sustainable and integrated manner. This will be achieved through providing Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) with Water and Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions wherever there are Health or Nutrition programmes, and supporting Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) and Education in Emergencies (EiE) in specified target geographic areas.

Save the Children is responding in 60 woredas (districts) in seven Regional States around the country, targeting the worst affected and hardest to reach locations including remote areas of the northern Afar and south east Somali region. We are providing food, water, medicine and crucial income support to families who have lost everything, and working around the clock to identify and treat malnutrition. Save the Children’s existing development programmes, including; ‘Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities’ in Oromia and Somali regions funded by the US Government, ‘Peace and Development Programme’ in the Somali Region funded by the UK Government, ‘Integrated Approach to Improved Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Status’ in Afar and Amhara region funded by the Canadian Government, were also part of the early response, through ‘crisis modifiers’ which enabled these long term development programmes to shift their focus to life-saving work.

Efforts by Save the Children and other agencies have also helped thousands of children to remain at school through the provision of food and water at over two hundred schools. In another intervention specifically supporting children, Save the Children has set up and trained community groups to look out for and manage issues relating to child welfare, which could range from psychosocial stress to more serious impacts of depleted household incomes such as early marriage or child labour.



Heliwa, 30, is a mother of four children living in Megenta Kebele of Afar region. She has lost 25 cattle due to the current drought and only left with five goats. Her youngest son, Hummed*, 1, was admitted to a stabilisation center at Megenta health centre to receive treatment for severe acute malnutrition.*

“My son, Hummed, fell very sick in the past weeks. He lost weight and had a fever. He wasn’t been able to breastfed. So I brought him here at Megenta health centre. He was admitted for medication and treatment. I stayed with him in the health centre for five days. My son’s condition has improved now and he started taking the plumpy nut (nutritious food given for children to treat sever or moderate malnutrition).”*

5. SAVE THE CHILDREN'S DROUGHT RESPONSE PER SECTOR



People from Denkarone and surrounding areas fill their containers with precious water delivered by Save the Children.



Food aid in Ziquala Woreda Waghimira Zone, Amhara Region being delivered by Save the Children.

5.1 Health and Nutrition

The key focus of Save the Children's overall drought response effort is to save the lives of children who become severely malnourished from lack of food. Children are likely to be the first to bear the brunt of food shortages, and are vulnerable to becoming malnourished very rapidly if they do not get sufficient calories and a balanced diet. It is therefore critical to address children's nutritional needs, including the detection and treatment of acute malnutrition, and to prevent, detect, and address disease outbreaks such as measles, meningitis, dengue fever and scabies which can adversely affect malnourished children. The drought was projected to cause 450,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition amongst children during 2016, and Save the Children has been scaling up massively since July 2015 to train health workers, equip facilities and treat affected children. So far in 2016, we have treated close to 30,000 children for severe acute malnutrition. Additionally, Save the Children has opened and equipped a number of new stabilisation centres and strengthened hundreds of existing centres by providing equipment and much needed medical supplies, training and logistical support.

The nutrition intervention addresses emergency nutritional needs with life-saving interventions following the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) approach which the organisation helped develop during a previous drought in Ethiopia. This programme includes the detection and rehabilitation of severe acute malnutrition cases amongst children and promotes good feeding practices of infants and young children under-24 months and supports the nutritional needs and care of pregnant and breast-feeding women.

The health interventions focus on strengthening the public health emergency system through capacity building, supporting surveillance system for earlier disease detection and responses, provision of medications and medical supplies, distribution of water purification materials and hygiene promotion especially in area affected by water borne diseases. Vaccine preventable diseases such as measles are amongst the main cause of mortality, and malnourished children are more susceptible to outbreaks of measles so Save the Children is supporting the Government's mass vaccination campaigns with technical and logistical resources.

5.2 Food Security and Livelihoods

Our goal is to increase access to basic food and protect or re-establish livelihoods and thereby prevent children becoming malnourished and reduce people's dependency on food aid. Our emergency food aid distribution is now providing food to over 377,000 people each month, which is complemented with the provision of livestock feed and improved animal health through vaccinations and/or treatment to ensure that breeding livestock survive. Projects that engage communities in paid work are providing people with a valuable income while rehabilitating pastureland and providing maintenance and repair of local agriculture infrastructure.

Save the Children started providing animal feed as early as July 2015, and continues to date to ensure that people do not lose their animals to the drought and can protect their household income. 5,415 families also received support in animal health in 2016 addressing an estimated 135,375 livestock, and 8,282 families have received 82,820 quintals of concentrated livestock feed.

Equally important is to ensure that families are able to produce a good harvest the year after the drought has ended, as many did not produce enough seed for the following harvest or were forced to eat or sell their seeds. Save the Children started to address these gaps in Amhara region in early 2016, and was able to respond to the drought affected woredas of North Wollo zone by contributing 62% of the seed response reaching 5,450 households of Waghimra zone of the region.

The organisation has continued to scale up the provision of seeds massively, and has procured around 17,000 quintals (1,700 MT) of various crop seeds for the main *Meher* planting season of 2016, reaching 76,600 households throughout drought affected areas.



A family in Wag Himra who received animal fodder from Save the Children. Their flock of 14 goats had been reduced to 10 by the drought, and they were forced to sell a further three at very low price and in emaciated condition. Since the animal fodder was provided the remaining 7 had gained weight and 4 were pregnant, restoring the family's future and preventing their dependency on food aid and reducing risks of malnutrition amongst the youngest children.

In the last two years, Save the Children has reached 790,219 people with food aid and livelihoods support, saving the lives of thousands of people by providing emergency food aid in some of the worst affected areas, sustaining their livestock by providing animal feed and animal health interventions, and helping prevent or reduce malnutrition amongst children.

Among the many challenges in this sector has been our inability to respond to the overwhelming need for seed supply due to the limited and late availability of funding for seeds, and the limited supply in the market, as well as having to make difficult decisions on the ground about who will get support and who will not. One respondent to our programme evaluation described this dilemma that our staff face every day by telling us that; *"I was left out [of the seed distribution] because I have an ox. As a result, I have not planted my land and I am going to sell the ox to buy seed for the next Meher harvest. So next time I am going to be member of the poorest of the poor."*

Another challenge is transportation to the remote inaccessible parts of the response areas, thus not being able to provide need quickly. For instance, in January 2016, under part of the food security programme, Save the Children had planned to distribute animal fodder to 400 vulnerable households whose animals are starving, to distribute vouchers for veterinary care to 800 households, and to distribute meat for 200 vulnerable households, mainly with pregnant and lactating women, in the very remote Dalol woreda of Afar region. Of all these activities at the time of the response evaluation in May 2016, Save the Children had only managed to start the distribution of animal fodder, the main reason being the delays with transporters and availability of trucks for rental which has been a challenge across the whole country.

5.3 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

That a drought on this scale would cause massive water shortages for millions of people is self-evident. However, the overall planning and subsequent available funding to meet those water needs of an estimated 5.8 million people was of limited scope, and the ability to provide emergency water to families was thereby delayed. Save the Children had started water trucking in some areas as early as July 2015, like Afar and Sitti zone in Somali region, and was able to scale up further in northern Amhara by December of 2015, to reach over 200,000 people with water provision in 2016 alone.

Our goal is to reduce the risks of water-related illnesses and malnutrition by ensuring children and families have access to safe water and sanitation and adopt improved hygiene practices. We are delivering water to schools, health centres and other public places, and using donkeys where there is no road access in remote areas. Water sources that require maintenance are being rehabilitated and new water sources constructed, communal latrines are being built and chemicals for water purification have been distributed to prevent disease outbreaks, and since the start of the response in June 2014 Save the Children has supported nearly 450,000 people with water and sanitation services.

Save the Children is providing a life-saving water supply service through water trucking, providing millions of litres of safe drinking water. We also construct and rehabilitate capped springs, hand dug wells, shallow wells and deep wells, including the replacement or installation of pumps and generators, to enable households in different communities to access potable water. Pipeline extension works of water schemes and water point installation were accomplished in various drought-prone kebeles and the local communities are accessing potable water. This has resulted in decreasing the labour burden of carrying water, especially for women and girls, and significantly contributes for the reduction of water related communicable diseases.



Jama is a 40 years old husband and father of 10 children living with his wife and mother in a village near Erer, in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. The pastoralist family abandoned their remote home when 450 of their goats and cattle died as a result of the drought.

“If we didn’t have the water trucks come to our community, we would have to walk for two or three hours each way to get water. We would have to go to the riverside and hope there is water in one of the hand dug wells, and it would mean getting up very early in the morning to do this. But the wells are dangerous, they can collapse and often the water is dirty.”

“Now thanks to Save the Children’s water trucking we have clean water for drinking. Everyday each family receives around 50 litres depending on how many people they are, which is used for drinking, washing dishes, cooking and sanitation” said Jama.

5.4 Education

One of the consequences of the drought with the most serious long term implications is that many schools had to close or were interrupted, and thousands of children at risk of dropping out of school. This could deprive them of their chance for an education and future prosperity. The goal of this programme sector is to ensure access to quality, healthy and protective learning for all children in affected areas and to protect children from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. We provide temporary or transitional learning spaces and mobilise parents and communities to support children's and youths' learning. We are ensuring school children and teachers have access to water for drinking and essential hygiene. We are also strengthening existing child protection systems and ensuring that children affected by drought have the resilience and skills to cope.

Our Education sector response focuses on increasing access to education for all ages, by first ensuring all school children and teachers have access to water for drinking and essential hygiene, improving school and district management to ensure teachers are in place and teaching, and increasing community engagement to ensure children are learning.



Children at Sasato primary school in Afar region. Save the Children provides school feeding for 36 schools in the region.



Water is being provided for 75 schools in Afar using donkeys

Save the Children has reached 119,614 people directly through its Education in Emergency programme during the two years of drought response. In 2016 alone more than 80,000 students, over 800 teachers and over 200 Parent Teacher Associations have been supported by our programmes. Major activities in 2016 were: school feeding for 57 schools of Afar and Somali regions benefitting a total of 12,780 children; water trucking in schools in 75 schools which is still undergoing in Afar, Somali and Amhara Regions with 285 donkeys and 5 water tankers; and education supplies and play kits distributed to 108 schools in Afar and Somali regions benefitting 19,202 children.

A national cluster coordination mechanism was established, supported by Save the Children in its role as co-lead of the Education cluster globally, alongside that of education taskforces in all six priority regions with oversight of Regional Education Bureaus and with the engagement of key partners. Nationally, a total of 2,534,375 students have been provided with school meals with support from the Ministry of Education, the World Food Programme and Save the Children since September 2015. Over 590 primary schools have been provided with water in total and over 57,700 displaced children have been accommodated through temporary learning facilities.

Some of the challenge and remaining gaps in this sector include: more than one million school children remain in need of school meals; there was a considerable number of school days lost (school closure, student absenteeism) in the 2015/16 academic year resulting in a high risk of students not progressing to subsequent year; and overall there is a lack of partners in Ethiopia willing or able to step up and support the Government to provide assistance to schools at the scale required.

5.5 Child Protection

Children and young people, especially those forced out of school by the drought, are particularly vulnerable to risks such as child labour, early marriage and forced migration. Our child protection programme sector strives to protect children from the effects of the drought by training and enabling community groups, schools, and the local Government systems to identify children at risk and protect them from violence and harm through official reporting and case management interventions where necessary. In this way, planned early marriages in Amhara have already been prevented, and thousands of children have been helped to cope with the drought by the provision of recreational and educational activities as an alternative to the daily burdens of carrying water over long distances and other negative coping mechanisms.

The drought can also have psycho-social effects on children when they suffer prolonged periods of hunger and are affected by the stress of families struggling to cope with the loss of food, income and the daily search for water over long distances. So the programme also integrates activities that ensure the psycho-social wellbeing of affected children. This is done through intensive recreational and social activities within school and community groups. It also delivers more structured child resilience-building sessions and other psychosocial support for children. We provide parenting sessions with care providers to better help them cope with the hardships of the drought and to care for their children, and also training on child protection issues to increase capacity of staff, community social workers, teachers and key government stakeholders to identify and address particular risks and threats affecting children. At the level of strengthening systems between different community groups and Government actors, we initiate and support coordination and referral mechanisms among different actors in the intervention areas to ensure the delivery of holistic responses for vulnerable and affected children. Children are also supported to be engaged in peer education and support groups through establishing and supporting child led clubs. Save the Children has directly reached 13,794 people in this sector by creating and training community groups, Government staff, school teachers, families and children across 14 high priority districts.

The challenges that remain for the sector and for Save the Children are the limited resources constraining the scale up of these successful programmes to over 200 other high priority districts identified. This includes a lack of operational partners, available and timely funding, and the capacities of specialised actors to train others to be able to effectively intervene in cases of early marriage, child labour, forced migration or other complex issues forced on communities by the extreme challenge of surviving one of nature's worst disasters.



Members of school-led children's clubs in Sekota District, Amhara Region.

This is a crucial part of our child protection programme, enabling children to come together and share their experiences of the drought and engage in recreational and educational activities as an alternative to the hard daily struggle coping with the effects of drought.

The sessions also provide a safe environment for children to talk to trained staff if they have concerns about abusive or harmful practices arising from the impact of extreme poverty caused by the drought, and for staff to be able to support that child or family or refer them to Government run services.

6. BENEFICIARIES REACHED

Save the children has supported more than 1.9 million people living in the drought affected areas across all the sectors with the life-saving and livelihoods support programmes outlined above.

6.1 Key beneficiary statistics

	Children	All Beneficiaries
Total number of direct beneficiaries to date (June 2014 to June 2016)	1,124,344	1,899,732

6.2 Funding received to date

As of June 2016, Save the Children's overall drought response has reached USD \$88.5 million of the USD \$100 million target. The public fundraising appeal had a target of USD \$10 million and has reached USD \$6.5 million of that total. However, it is critical that this funding gap is filled as Ethiopia approaches the traditional hunger season of 2016. This is expected to be extremely serious this year due to the harvest failures of 2015, prolonged drought conditions, poor household income, and food insecurity. Save the Children in Ethiopia has launched a fresh appeal to its members for a minimum of USD \$2million to meet the expected immediate needs arising during this hunger season.

Total funding secured, June 2014 – June 2016

Funding Target	Total Secured Funding	Public Appeal Funding	Funding Gap
\$ 100,000,000	\$ 88,500,000	\$ 6,753,000	\$ 11,500,000

7. THE WAY FORWARD

Ethiopia has made steady progress for children over the last generation, dramatically improving child and maternal mortality, literacy and making huge progress towards other Millennium Development Goals. While this drought has powerfully impacted millions of people and further increased their vulnerability, Save the Children is dedicated to undertaking the commitments made to our donors and beneficiaries in response to this drought to ensure that we finish the job we have started, supporting recovery in the hardest hit communities, and building long-term resilience of systems and people. We will continue to work to improve early warning systems and the timely response capacity of key entities such as the public health system and social safety net system so that these systems build from the experience of responding to this drought. We will also work with individual, vulnerable households and communities to build their assets back, improve their longer-term economic prospects in a changing economy, and collaborate with the Ethiopian Government, donors, and other actors to ensure access to water, food, sanitation, schools, and health centres.

However, there will be another drought in Ethiopia and already the signs of a La Nina phenomenon are developing over the Pacific Ocean. While we will work to ensure that Ethiopia and Save the Children are better prepared to respond and that households, communities, and systems we support are more resilient, we call for greater flexibility in the humanitarian system to allow us to respond faster and more comprehensively at an earlier stage of the crisis. Funding should have been made available earlier during this crisis as the Government of Ethiopia and Save the Children were sounding the alarm bells as early as February 2015. This could have been done through crisis modifiers within our current programmes or quicker availability of more flexible funds to respond through immediate actions to meet specific needs. This would have helped avoid such a deep crisis and protect more of the gains made for children over the past decade.

The next six months remain a very critical time for the 10 million people affected by the 2015 El Nino drought, who depend on the stretched food pipelines from around the world to sustain them. Sufficient healthcare and nutrition resources must be in place to cater for the monthly toll of malnourished children to ensure that they survive this drought and return at the earliest stage to education and to a place in Ethiopia's future.

8. LIST OF DONORS FUNDING THE ETHIOPIAN DROUGHT RESPONSE

Save the Children in Ethiopia would like to thank the following Donor and Member organisations who contributed funds towards the drought response since June 2014

1. DANIDA – Government of Denmark
2. DFID – Government of UK
3. EC - European Commission
4. ECHO - European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
5. GAC – Government of Canada
6. NORAD - Government of Norway
7. IKEA Foundation
8. OFDA – Government of USA
9. MFA - Government of Netherlands
10. Procter and Gamble (P&G)
11. Save the Children Australia
12. Save the Children Denmark
13. Save the Children Hong Kong
14. Save the Children Italy
15. Save the Children Korea
16. Save the Children Norway
17. Save the Children Spain
18. Save the Children Sweden
19. Save the Children UK
20. Save the Children USA
21. SIDA – Government of Sweden
22. START FUND
23. Swedish Radiohjälpen
24. The Band Aid Charitable Trust
25. UNOCHA - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
26. USAID - United States Agency for International Development

ANNEX 1: FUNDING AND REACH FIGURES

Total reach figures by sector, June 2014 – June 2016

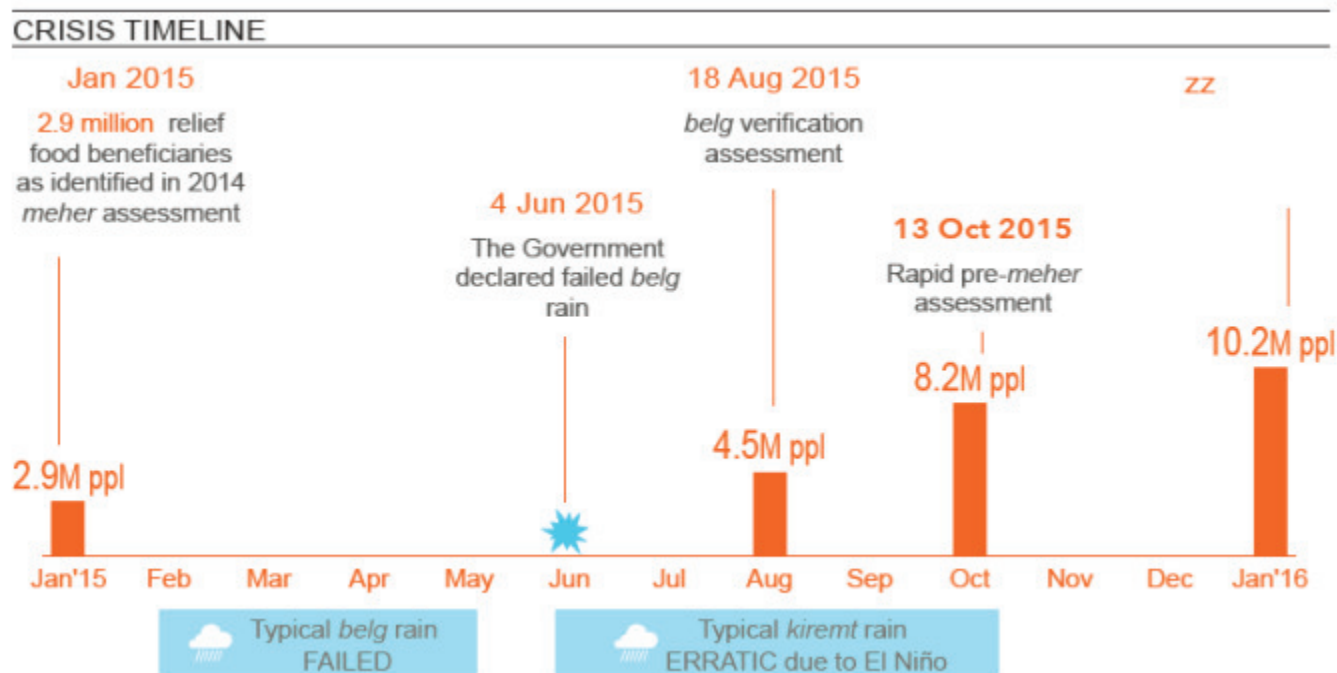
Beneficiary numbers by gender and age group	Total # of Beneficiaries	WASH	Nutrition	Education	FSL	Child Protection
Total # of Children Reached	1,1 28,821	283,591	304,0 42	91, 221	439,476	10,490
Total # of Male Children Reached	5 66,943	139,327	155,0 48	44, 380	222,717	5,471
Total # of Female Children Reached	5 61,878	144,264	148,9 95	46, 841	216,759	5,020
Total # of Adults Reached	7 70,911	151,765	234,4 08	28, 392	350,742	5,604
Total # of Male Adults Reached	2 88,017	62,050	60,9 04	10, 269	152,383	2,411
Total # of Female Adults Reached	4 82,894	89,715	173,5 04	18, 123	198,359	3,193
Total # of beneficiaries reached	1,899,732	435,355	538,4 50	119, 614	790,219	16,095
Total # of Male beneficiaries reached	854,9 60	201,376	215,9 51	54, 649	375,101	7,882
Total # of Female beneficiaries reached	1,044,772	233,979	322,4 98	64, 964	415,118	8,213

Total funding by programme sector, June 2014 – June 2016

Sector	Secured	Target	Gap
Food Security and Livelihoods	45,000,000	43,990,000	1,010,000
WASH	12,000,000	8,300,000	3,700,000
Nutrition/Health	10,500,000	15,770,000	5,270,000
Education	2,000,000	11,620,000	9,620,000
Child Protection	2,000,000	3,320,000	1,320,000
Non Thematic Cost	14,500,000	17,000,000	2,500,000
Total (USD)	\$88,500,000	\$100,000,000	\$11,500,000

ANNEX 2: 2015 TIMELINE

A timeline of how events unfolded during 2015⁷:



⁷ From the Ethiopian Government's "Humanitarian Requirements Document" (HRD) 2016