



Urgent Call for Anticipatory Action to Safeguard Farmer and Pastoralist Livelihoods from El Niño–Induced Moisture Stress.

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163

Districts to be
affected by El Niño
conditions



of People to assist
2.4 M



Funding required

USD 78.8 M

Current climate outlooks point to a high risk of a very strong dry signal during the June–September 2026 Kiremt season in parts of Ethiopia. The situation is most acute in central and northern Ethiopia, where the probability of below-average rainfall increases to between 70 and 90 percent. National and regional forecasts from the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute (EMI)¹ and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC)² suggest that El Niño conditions are likely to develop during mid-2026, increasing the likelihood of below-average rainfall during the main production season. This is a major concern because the Kiremt season is critical for crop production, water recharge, and pasture regeneration.

Areas of greatest concern include Afar, parts of Tigray and Amhara, eastern and southern Oromia, northern Somali, and parts of Dire Dawa and Central Ethiopia Region, where households are already exposed to recent and repeated shocks and slow recovery. In response to this, the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) has issued an Early Warning Alert³ and has formally triggered anticipatory action implementation under the National Common Framework on Drought Anticipatory Action⁴ in the identified moisture stress-prone areas.

Lessons from previous events show that El Niño can drive significant crop losses, livestock mortality, water shortages, and rising humanitarian needs. Given Ethiopia's high vulnerability to recurrent climatic shocks, anticipatory action ahead of the main rainfall season is critical.

A proven package of early measures combining drought-tolerant seeds and inputs, livestock health and feed support, strategic destocking, and investments in water access has consistently reduced the impact of droughts. When coupled with timely early warning information, these interventions enable early action, protect livelihoods and productive assets, and strengthen resilience to anticipated shocks.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) anticipatory action evidence shows that every USD 1 invested in anticipatory action can generate up to USD 7 in avoided humanitarian losses. With such high returns on investment in anticipatory action, early funding is imperative to prevent an increase in the humanitarian caseload and prevent aggravated losses.

¹Ethiopian Meteorology Institute (EMI) National Climate Outlook Forum Kermat (JJAS) 2026

²ICPAC - IGAD June to September (JJAS) 2026 Seasonal Forecast

³Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) Moisture Stress Early Warning Alert 2026 Kermat (Rainy) Season

⁴EDRMC Common Framework for Drought Anticipatory Action



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The Ethiopia Agriculture Task Force (ATF) is appealing for USD 78.8 million to support 2.4 million people ahead of the projected peak of the anticipated shock. This funding will enable the timely implementation of prioritized, high-impact interventions:

- Provide drought-tolerant and short-maturing seeds and agricultural inputs.
- Conduct livestock disease surveillance, vaccination, and treatment.
- Support livestock feed preservation and the provision of supplementary feed.
- Support strategic destocking.
- Support water harvesting and water point rehabilitation.
- Disseminate early warning information.



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