The impact of El Niño has affected over 19.5 million people (FNSWG March 2016) and over 10.5 million children in East Africa. Rainfall patterns varied between above- and below-historic averages in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, which are among the worst countries affected by El Niño in this region. The humanitarian situation in Djibouti continues to be of concern due to a combination of the impact of El Niño and drought conditions spanning over two decades. Some 159,000 people are experiencing a food security crisis due to drought. Similarly, in Kenya about 1.2 million people are facing crisis and emergency food insecurity under the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (phases 3 and 4 of IPC) and will require humanitarian assistance until February 2017.

For parts of the region that received below-average rainfall, signs of increased vulnerabilities are evident, especially in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia. These signs include low food supply from poor harvests, increased malnutrition, lack of employment in the agricultural sector, livestock deaths, increased market prices for food, lower prices for livestock, and depleted pasture and water resources. Additionally, children are at risk of being exposed to malnutrition, water shortages, disease outbreaks, child-protection violations and disruptions to their education.

The United States meteorological agency confirmed on 10 November that La Niña conditions were already present, though this has not been corroborated by other agencies. Forecasts indicate that there is a 55 per cent chance for these conditions to return to neutral in early 2017. The effects of this weather phenomenon are most concerning for the Horn of Africa in particular, where continued below average rainfall is forecast across the main growing and sowing months, with a very significant potential impact on food insecurity and malnutrition. Of particular concern are Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, where back-to-back below-average harvests will impact on millions of food insecure farmers and pastoralists and will likely deepen humanitarian needs significantly, extending the current humanitarian response requirements well into 2017.
La Niña

La Niña is associated with cooler-than-normal water temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean, unlike El Niño, which is associated with warmer-than-normal water temperatures. Global La Niña-related impacts tend to be opposite to those of El Niño - i.e. regions that received excessive rainfall could experience drought, and vice versa.

Historical patterns show that, when a La Niña follows an El Niño, it has an even greater overall humanitarian impact on average, as coping capacities are eroded. For example, the 1997/98 El Niño (which affected nearly 3 million people in eastern Africa) was followed in 1999 by a La Niña which affected 31.5 million people in that same region. The 2011 drought, which affected nearly 14 million people in the Horn of Africa and caused a famine in Somalia, was also associated with a La Niña that followed an El Niño.

While the existence of an El Niño or La Niña has significant and predictable impacts on weather patterns around the world, it is not the only factor to be considered in determining a local or regional forecast, which depend on a large number of other climatological variables. For this reason the relative strength of an El Niño or La Niña episode is not always directly related to the scale of weather impacts in affected regions. For example in 2016, the negative Indian Ocean Dipole (an irregular oscillation of sea surface temperatures) has also contributed significantly to forecasts for below normal precipitation in parts of the Horn of Africa typically affected by La Niña.

EL NIÑO RESPONSE IN THE REGION

Ethiopia

The 2016 El Niño drought response operation in Ethiopia is ongoing. Some 9.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance as outlined in the joint Government and humanitarian partners’ Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), while another 7.9 million people are targeted for food and cash assistance through the Productive Safety Net Programme supported by development partners. The program was exceptionally extended for the second half of the year given the gravity of the situation. This brings the total number of people in need of assistance to 17.6 million. Some US$553 million is urgently required to fill the 34 per cent funding gap.

To date, about 9.7 million people are in the process of receiving an eighth round of relief food assistance, with nine rounds expected to have been completed for a majority by the end of the year. Two million cases of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in children under-five and pregnant and lactating women had been treated with Targeted Supplementary Feeding as of October 2016. To address cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) among children under-five and pregnant and lactating women, partners supported the Government in setting up and managing 14,880 Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Program sites across ‘hotspot priority’ woredas (districts), with a further 1,527 inpatient Stabilization Centers established for the treatment of complicated cases. More than 217,400 SAM cases had been treated by the end of August. Some 3.15 million children were provided with school feeding in 2016. Of these, the majority were supported directly by the Ministry of Education.

At the peak of the drought in 2016, trucked water was being regularly provided for 2.7 million people. A further 2.6 million people received water treatment chemicals to ensure safe drinking water. Nearly 750 motorized boreholes were rehabilitated in 2016. In the agriculture sector, the biggest ever emergency seed response operation in Ethiopia saw 1.5 million households
receive seeds for the meher planting season between September and November. In the belg (short rainy season) rain receiving areas nearly 83,000 households were also provided with seeds in early 2016. Support was provided to over 15,000 households with emergency livestock health interventions, with more than 83,000 animals treated.

Some 34,500 internally displaced persons (IDP) households have received emergency shelter and non-food items (NFIs) kits to date. The majority, or some 19,320 households, was displaced due to conflict, while the remainder was displaced due to flooding and drought.

The logistics capacity augmentation, to enable the response, included the establishment of 76 new temporary warehouses and the hiring of 829 additional logisticians across the country to oversee the dispatch and distribution operations for food and other relief items.

The spread of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) continues to affect people, with some 25,700 AWD cases reported since November 2015. In September, more than 2,500 health care workers in the country were trained on AWD and scabies. Humanitarian partners continue to seek support for the AWD response plan, requesting $22.4 million for integrated health and WASH responses.

While Ethiopia battles residual needs from the El Niño-induced drought, below average rains in the southern and eastern parts of the country caused by the negative Indian Ocean Dipole have led to new symptoms of drought. Livestock deaths and water shortages are already reported from the primarily pastoral affected areas. In addition, disease outbreaks and food and nutritional insecurity persist in few other pocket areas.

It is anticipated that some 5.6 million people will require emergency food assistance; some 1.2 million children and pregnant and lactating mothers will require supplementary feeding; some 9.2 million people will not have regular access to safe drinking water; and some 2.4 million households will need livestock support. Partners also estimate that 300,000 children will become severely acutely malnourished in 2017. The total anticipated financial requirements for the 2017 HRD are $895 million.

Somalia

Severe drought conditions are deepening in Puntland and Somaliland, and have expanded to southern and central regions of Somalia. The ongoing October to December Deyr rains are performing poorly. This will likely result in poor Deyr production, further increasing food insecurity particularly in areas that received below-average Gu (April-June) rainfall. The drought has also led to severe shortage of pasture and water, for humans and livestock, and consequently deterioration in livestock body conditions, declining livestock production and increased livestock deaths. Livestock prices have been steadily declining since February 2016 as has the terms of trade between goats and cereals, thus impacting people’s access to food.
In some areas, water prices have tripled in the last year while milk prices have more than doubled in the last nine months which put the lives of vulnerable people such as children and elderly people at risk. Reported movements of pastoralists from Ethiopia to parts of Puntland could increase the possibilities of localized conflict over scarce resources and livestock disease outbreak. Protection concerns risks associated with collection of water have been reported particularly among women.

The drought situation was worsened by below-average and erratic Gu rainfall in northern Somalia, which was still recovering from four consecutive seasons of failed rains. This poor Gu performance led to increased food insecurity, cash shortages, outmigration of livestock, rising water prices and a sharp increase in debt among poor households. At the same time, heavy rains and flooding in parts of southern and central Somalia led to significant crop destruction and reduced agricultural labor opportunities, as they failed to adequately restore pasture and water resources to support normal livestock productivity. Overall, an estimated 5 million people require some form of humanitarian assistance, including 1.1 million people who are acutely food insecure and struggle to meet their daily food needs. About 320,000 children under age five are acutely malnourished, 50,000 of whom are severely malnourished.

The latest outlook from the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) indicates that about 1,372,000 people will be in Crisis phase (IPC Phase 3) between January and May 2017 – a 25 per cent increase from the current 1.1 million people. The key drivers of the deteriorating food security in the coming months are forecast below average October to December Deyr rains and the preceding poor Gu season, which resulted in poor harvests. Food insecurity is expected to be highest in agro-pastoral areas of southern and central Somalia and in pastoral areas in the north. The impact of the drought and the demand on humanitarian resources has been further magnified by a number of emerging crises, including an increase in conflict-related displacements and refugee returns from Kenya.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) revised the ‘Call for Aid’ to respond to the impact of El Niño, initially launched in March 2016, to mitigate a further deterioration of the situation in Puntland and Somaliland. The revised call covered a three-month period from July to September 2016, and was built on the initial ‘Call for Aid’, the Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan and the Somalia Contingency Plan for El Niño developed in September 2015. The response activities continue.

As of October 2016, a total of 60,181 children under five with SAM were admitted to the Therapeutic Feeding Programmes. More than 74,000 children and adolescents, including girls and boys in emergency setting have access to education and 487,466 people have sustained access to safe water.

Of the $127 million required as of 31 March, $49 million has been provided to date, enabling some clusters to scale up response. Since 2015, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated $15.9 million in response to drought and flooding in Somalia. Priorities now include the immediate needs of more than 1 million people in Somaliland and Puntland to ensure they can meet their food security needs and save livestock. Access to safe water via water-supply vouchers, the rehabilitation and repair of strategic boreholes and water points, and the distribution of hygiene kits are also urgently required.

In 2017 Somalia is seeking $863 million to assist 3.9 million people including more than 320,000 malnourished children. About five million people in Somalia are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. Acute vulnerability levels are increasing due to conflict, displacement, poor basic services, food insecurity, malnutrition and climatic variability. Humanitarian partners will prioritize saving lives, protection for the most vulnerable, basic services, strengthened resilience and finding durable solutions.
Two consecutive years of erratic rain and dryness, exacerbated by El Niño, has caused the worst drought in 35 years in Southern Africa, resulting in a second consecutive failed harvest. Food availability has been reduced by 15 per cent compared to the 5-year average. The region has recorded cereal and maize deficits of 9.3 million tons and 5 million tons respectively. Food prices in the region have risen substantially by 168 per cent in Malawi and 180 per cent in Mozambique compared to the 5-year average. Vulnerable groups will need humanitarian support as many countries in the region are entering the lean season and are projected to experience a deteriorating situation until March/April 2017.

Children are particularly affected by food insecurity: Almost 580,000 children need treatment for severe acute malnutrition and more than 3 million children still have reduced access to safe drinking water as a direct result of the drought. Hunger and lack of water forced children to stay out of school or miss classes. In Malawi, the 2016 drought has affected 42 per cent of primary schools and forced over 137,000 children to discontinue their education.

In addition to food insecurity and malnutrition, the El Niño has impacted the overall health of the population, particularly people with HIV (PLHIV). PLHIV are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, which correlates further with treatment adherence, retention and success. PLHIV who initiate treatment while severely malnourished are two to six times more likely to die in the first six months of treatment than those who are not malnourished when they initiate treatment. A study found a correlation between El Niño-induced drought and HIV infection rates, which could have long-term negative impacts for the broader HIV response and the global goal of ending AIDS by 2030.

The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Regional Humanitarian Appeal, launched in July, estimates that 41 million people across the region need assistance, including some 23 million who are severely food insecure and require urgent humanitarian assistance. To support SADC’s response effort, the Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (RIASCO) launched in July a regional action plan on behalf of seven most-affected countries (Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe). Between May 2016 and April 2017, $1.2 billion will be required to assist 12.3 million people in seven priority countries.

A recent study in six countries in southern Africa also found increased migration due to a lack of food and water during the El Niño-induced drought. The search for employment also resulted in increased numbers of separated and unaccompanied children. Child labor was believed to have increased since the start of El Niño, which affected more boys than girls. The study reports a rising number of school dropouts, including 6,000 children dropping out of schools in Zimbabwe due to hunger or the need to help their families.

In addition, a recent macro-level study of seed availability in the formal market in six countries revealed significant gaps in seed supply and demand in drought-affected countries. The countries with the most significant gaps in the availability of seed in the formal market were Madagascar and Mozambique. The shortage of seed in the formal market is likely to negatively affect the capacity of governments and development partners to quickly and effectively respond to the crisis at scale through provision of certified quality seed and other agricultural inputs. The study highlights the importance of the informal seed sector across all countries.

A revision to the RIASCO Action Plan was made in November 2016 to continue responding to the remaining humanitarian needs as a result of El Niño-induced drought and the La Niña-like impacts in this region. The Plan seeks $1.3 billion to support 13.8 million people in seven priority countries between December 2016 and April 2017.
EL NIÑO RESPONSE IN THE REGION

Angola

Angola continues to be impacted by two consecutive years of regional drought. The agricultural production deficit for 2016 is estimated at upwards of 40 per cent, with an estimated 1.2 million people affected, particularly in the provinces of Cunene (755,930 people affected), Huila (205,507 people) and Namibe (177,627 people), with SAM rates ranging between 3.75 and 5 per cent. The situation is exacerbated by the economic crisis and reduced imports, which is reflected in the significant increase in staple food prices and lack of basic commodities. Food commodity prices continue to increase at a rate of up to 50 per cent almost every month. Restrictions on US dollar transfers has led to shortages of essential products for humanitarian intervention.

Of the estimated $69.2 million required to respond through the RIASCO Action Plan in July, only about $11.3 million has been mobilized as of October, leaving a gap of $57.9 million (83 per cent). Despite the financial constraints, UN agencies and NGOs are working closely with the Government to provide emergency assistance to people in need. For example, UNICEF has conducted nutrition screening of more than 15,000 children in the three provinces. Of these children, 11,513 with SAM were admitted to health facilities. FAO has improved the capacity of 3,000 households in Cunene, Huila and Namibe to cope with the drought and improve the production of short-cycle millet, maize and vegetables in their gardens, and it is training 342 Community Animal Health Workers. In September, UNDP began providing 16,000 people with 12-month livelihood and income-diversification support in drought recovery and La Niña preparedness.

In response to yellow fever outbreak in Angola, WHO, UNICEF and partners supported the government to vaccinate over 17 million people in the country. The last confirmed case reported in Angola was on 23 June. Preventive vaccination campaign will continue for the remaining populations.

However, financial constraints across all sectors are experienced by the Government and partners, resulting in the re-programming of some activities. In November 2016, Angola increased the funding requirement to $70.4 million to support affected population with food and agriculture, health and nutrition service, protection; education, and water and sanitation services.

Lesotho

Lesotho is reaching the peak of the lean season that is projected to last until April/May 2017. Food insecurity in rural areas is about 48 per cent with 679,437 people affected. Heavy snowfall due to El Niño affected agricultural production during July and August. This resulted in the decline of maize production by 61 per cent, sorghum by 88...
per cent and wheat by 38 per cent compared with the last season, which was already marked by poor performance.

Since the Government of Lesotho declared a state of emergency on 22 December 2015, the HCT has raised about $37 million so far. The Government has committed $11 million to implement its response plan, as well as an additional $12 million for a 30 per cent food price subsidy on selected staple foods. With such levels of funding as well as the Government’s food price subsidy, humanitarian partners are expected to reach 509,695 people out of the 679,437 food insecure people, including all 476,000 people living with a survival deficit. As of October 2016, a total of 132,208 people had access to sufficient water and safe water for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene and 134,190 children, young people, and women had continuing access to HIV prevention, care and treatment information and services.

A significant number of the rural population (522,875 people) will receive some form of agricultural assistance. Health and nutrition interventions have also helped manage disease outbreaks and treatment of severe malnutrition, while WASH interventions have reached 29,880 people through the provision of water and water-purification tablets, and the rehabilitation of water sources.

Lesotho has reduced its funding requirement to $52.6 million through the revised RIASCO Action Plan from $54.8 million requested in July 2016.

**Madagascar**

Madagascar has been severely affected by two successive years of drought, exacerbated by El Niño. Due to the delay of the rainy season, June 2016 crop yields for maize, cassava and rice dropped by 95 per cent compared with 2015. This has negatively impacted the southern part of the country, the Grand Sud, which is home to approximately 1.63 million people. The most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification assessment, conducted between September and October 2016, indicates that 845,000 people – approximately half the population of Grand Sud – urgently need humanitarian assistance, including some 330,000 people who are in emergency phase (IPC phase 4) and 515,000 in crisis phase (IPC phase 3).

The data from the beginning of 2016 indicate the low use of health services. Following an aggravated food insecurity, the outpatient’s attendance at the clinics has decreased by 22 per cent, and up to 89 per cent in some districts. The ante-natal consultation (ANC) coverage has also reduced in Beloha and Ambovombe districts. Assisted deliveries in health facilities have decreased from 5,116 in 2014 to 3,393 at the end of 2015. A deterioration in vaccination coverage is also a risk for children under 5.

A recent joint evaluation showed that the entire population suffering from severe food insecurity (665,000 individuals) do not seek healthcare services due the lack of food. The effect of the deterioration in access to essential health services is aggravated by El Niño with the increase of mortality among children under five that exceeds the alert threshold of 2 deaths per day per 10,000 children.

The Health partners are planning for acquisition of medical kits for management of the most frequent and life threatening diseases for 120,000 people in the most affected areas for at least three months, and emergency reproductive health kits for 38 basic health centers and two reference hospitals as well as capacity building for health workers.

A seed security assessment undertaken in October revealed significant shortages of seed on the formal market, a situation which is most likely to affect the capacity of government and development partners to quickly and effectively respond to the crisis at scale through provision of certified quality seed and other agricultural inputs. This challenge will be further compounded by the fact that there is little trade between Madagascar and mainland southern African countries, further limiting access to quality seeds.

The Government of Madagascar declared the drought emergency on 26 September in solidarity with other SADC countries. In light of the increased humanitarian needs, the Government and the HCT also revised a response plan in October 2016, with an estimated total requirement of $154.9 million. The UNCT
and HCT have doubled their efforts to provide emergency assistance to people in need in addition to investing in resilience-building in Grand Sud. However, only 26 per cent of the financial requirement has been mobilized so far, leaving a gap of $115.3 million. This constraint partners’ ability to respond to the exacerbating vulnerability in food security, WASH, nutrition and health between January and March 2017.

As of October, 204,520 people living in the areas most affected by drought provided with safe water and 12,000 children aged six to 59 months suffering from SAM had received treatment.

On 29 October, the Government of Madagascar and the HCT released a joint statement and requested increased resource mobilization to scale up the response effort to avoid a deteriorating humanitarian situation in the coming months. The peak of the lean season is approaching fast and the urgency of additional resources is becoming very critical in Madagascar.

**Malawi**

On 12 April 2016, the President of Malawi declared a State of National Disaster due to food shortages caused by the drought affecting most of the country. The Malawi vulnerability assessment in October indicates that an estimated 6.7 million people will need food or cash assistance during the 2016/2017 lean season. Mass screenings of SAM and MAM admissions in September found an increase of 100 per cent and 154 per cent respectively compared with September 2015, while Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is assessed at 4.2 per cent, including the doubling of rates in the southern districts. Increased incidences of waterborne diseases, such as typhoid and cholera, and vector-borne diseases, including malaria, have been reported, as well as an increase in school-dropout rates, child labour and marriages.

Malawi has so far mobilized $293 million as of October 2016, against the $395.1 million
requirement. This has helped WFP and NGO partners to scale up food assistance from 240,000 people in July to 1.73 million in September, and to 3 million people being assisted in October. Also in October, UNICEF and NGO partners provided potable water to 7,000 drought-affected people through the construction and rehabilitation of water points. UNICEF, in partnership with NGOs, carried out hygiene-promotion interventions, such as hand washing, and reached 55,915 drought-affected people in rural communities. FAO and its partners are supporting 279,259 households (1,396,295 individuals) to restore production and save livestock assets. The interventions include provision of seeds and other inputs, emergency fodder for livestock as well as construction and rehabilitation of emergency watering points for livestock and gardens.

The Government plans to launch a National Resilience Plan as part of the effort to help build a more resilient economy and, therefore, communities.

In November 2016, Malawi slightly increased the requirement to $395.4 million to assist drought-affected population with food and agriculture intervention, health and nutrition, education, protection and water and sanitation services until April 2017.

Mozambique

On 12 April 2016, the Government of Mozambique activated an institutional red alert in light of the country experiencing its worst drought of the last 35 years, particularly in the southern and central regions. An estimated 1.5 million people are food insecure and need urgent food assistance in seven provinces including Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Maputo, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia.

A subsequent assessment conducted by the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) in July projected that as many as 2.3 million people could become acutely food insecure by March 2017. Between March 2015 and March 2016, the drought caused a sharp increase in staple food prices, or over 121 per cent in the retail price of maize, while purchasing power continues to be affected by the depreciating currency. The drought has exacerbated malnutrition and stunting, particularly among children under age 5. GAM rates in Tete and Sofala provinces, for example, are already over 15 per cent. In addition, recent vulnerability assessment results estimate that 280,000 children and pregnant and lactating women are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition from March 2016 to March 2017, including 55,000 children with SAM and 136,539 with MAM. Mozambique is one of the countries with significant shortages of seed on the formal market, a situation which will affect provision of quality seed. A total of 263,421 households (1,317,105 individuals) will receive support to restore crop production and livestock assets.

The RIASCO Action plan stipulates a total financial requirement of $204.3 million, of which $119 million has been mobilized as of October to provide urgent assistance in seven most-affected provinces, with a focus on food security, WASH and nutrition. The Government and partners have so far reached at least 800,000 people with food assistance, and emergency school feeding is being provided to more than 110,000 children in Gaza, Inhambane and Sofala. As of October 2016, a total of 8,102 children aged six to 59 months suffering from SAM had access to treatment. More than 221,000 people provided with access to safe water while 114,399 people reached with hygiene promotion activities.

From 25 to 28 October 2016, the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for El Niño and Climate, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, visited the country and met with the President, key Government ministers, UNCT, HCT, donors and the private sector. He also visited several project sites in the field and recommended that in alignment with other SADC countries, the Government considers declaring a drought emergency in order to scale up the resource mobilization and response effort.

The country reduced its requirement to $180.2 million in November to continue support to drought-affected population until April 2017.

Swaziland

On 18 February 2016, the Government of Swaziland declared a national emergency due to the continuing impact of the worst drought of the last 35 years. An estimated 414,000 people –
over 30 per cent of the population – need urgent food assistance until the next harvest season (March 2017). Households are resorting to extreme coping mechanisms including reducing food consumption, borrowing food and eating less-preferred food. Malnutrition rates are also high, with 31 per cent of children under age 5 reportedly stunted.

A comprehensive joint health-and-nutrition assessment conducted in late March 2016 revealed a deterioration in the health status of PLHIV and a lower adherence to the HIV and tuberculosis (TB) treatment than previous years. The prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in Swaziland is already the world's highest at 28.8 per cent.

Following the declaration of a national emergency, the Government launched the 2016-2022 National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan to cover immediate humanitarian needs (mainly food) and longer-term needs. The plan has a funding requirement of $83 million, of which $39 million has been mobilized as of October 2016. The UN and the Government, through the Swaziland National Disaster Management Agency, have provided food assistance to over 300,000 people, assisted over 25,000 people with cash-transfer programmes, established food-and-nutrition gardens, drilled new boreholes, and installed new water harvesting systems for human and animal consumption.

However, a lack of funding remains the most significant limiting factor across all sectors, affecting the capacity of the Government and implementing agencies to expand the activities to meet the needs of the most affected people.

Swaziland is requesting $96.4 million for the drought response through the updated RIASCO Action Plan.

The UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for El Niño and Climate, Mary Robinson, visited Swaziland from 29 to 31 August to observe the drought impact and attend the thirty-sixth Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Governments. She also visited the affected communities in Lubombo region and held discussions with the UN and humanitarian partners.

**Zimbabwe**

The Government of Zimbabwe declared a state of disaster on 4 February 2016 due to the severe El Niño-induced drought affecting the country. An estimated 3.3 million people require food assistance between October and December 2016.

Since the drought began, approximately 1.7 million people have been reached in over 35 districts with various types of assistance including food and agriculture inputs, WASH and nutrition. So far, approximately $256.2 million has been mobilized against the $352 million requirement, including $190 million for food and agriculture and $13.5 million for health and nutrition.

However, the protection sector still remains severely underfunded despite efforts to ensure that it is mainstreamed into all sectors. Like most countries in the region, there is a shortage of small grains and legume seeds, which will affect the efforts by government and humanitarian actors to promote resilient production systems.
Approximately 4.1 million people, or nearly 42 per cent of the rural population, are expected to require interventions in food, agriculture, water, sanitation and nutrition between January and March 2017, particularly in Matabeleland North, Masvingo and Midlands provinces. An additional 1.1 million people in urban and peri-urban settlements (30 per cent of urban population) are food insecure according to recent assessments. Nutrition indicators have also deteriorated: the latest Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment indicates 15 districts with a GAM rate of over 5 per cent, of which two districts report SAM rates of above 8 per cent. This is unprecedented in Zimbabwe, where GAM rates have traditionally remained within the ‘acceptable’ range of less than 5 per cent.

As of October 2016, a total of 127,148 people have been provided with access to safe water. About 70,544 children with diarrheal diseases have access to life-saving curative interventions, including oral rehydration therapy and zinc.

Meanwhile, 5,104 children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM have been admitted to community-based treatment programs. A total of 881,695 households (2,408,475 individuals) will benefit from agricultural interventions.

Given the continued dry-spell forecast, the situation is likely to worsen from late 2016 to early 2017, with crop and livestock production expected to fail in some areas. The drought is also affecting Zimbabwe at its worst economic crisis: the growth rate has declined and the Government is facing severe economic hardship. The unemployment rate is increasing and foreign investment is absent while liquidity problems persists.

The newly revised HRP indicates increased needs since its initial launch in March, seeking $372.5 million to assist affected population with support in food and agriculture, health and nutrition, protection and water and sanitation until April 2017.
EL NIÑO FUNDING STATUS AS OF 1 DECEMBER 2016

East Africa

Ethiopia

The 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) has so far received $1.06 billion out of the $1.6 billion requested and has a 34 per cent funding gap of some $553 million. The total anticipated funding requirements for the 2017 HRD are $895 million.

Somalia

The Somalia 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) sought $885 million. Some $413 million has been received leaving a funding gap of 53 per cent ($472 million). In 2017 Somalia is seeking $863 million targeting 3.9 million people.

Southern Africa

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1 The funding requirement is based on the RIASCO Action Plan December 2016-April 2017, which was updated in November 2016.
2 Analysis of funding available is based not on OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service but on information provided to RIASCO by partners, governments and donors.