

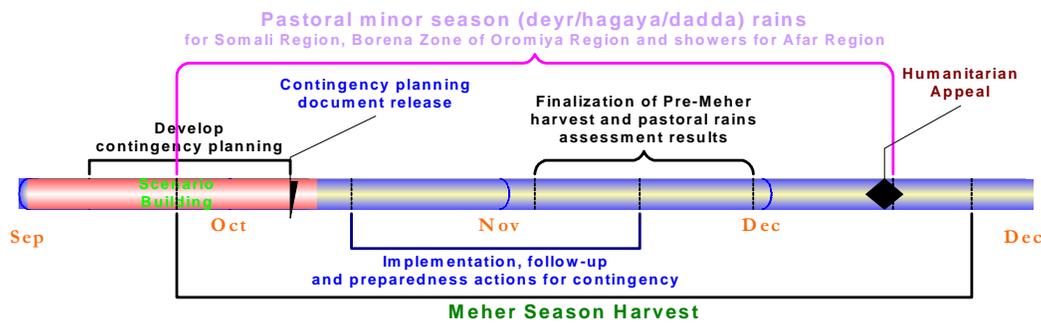
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SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

The multi-agency and multi-sectoral contingency planning exercise points to 2005 humanitarian needs of between 300 million and 600 million US dollars in food, water, agriculture, livestock, health, nutrition and education, depending on whether a mid- or worst-case scenario evolves. According to current government plans, safety net programs are meant to cover the food needs of 5.1 million chronically food insecure people. Appropriate actions in preparation for these outcomes should be taken now.

SEASONAL TIMELINE

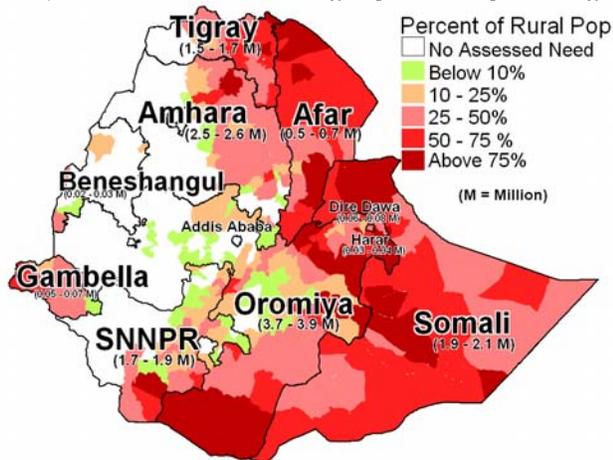


CURRENT HAZARD SUMMARY

- The poor 2004 *belg* season rains (March – May) resulted in below-average crop production, degraded pasture and water sources, and the loss of important cash crops, such as coffee, pepper and chat in the eastern areas of the country.
- The *meher* season rains (June – September) have been below average in the eastern crop-dependent areas, resulting in a significant *meher* crop failure in some cases.
- In pastoral areas, the main seasonal rains (*gu/sugum*), which occur between March and May, and the *Karma* season rains (June – September) were late and erratic, with a subsequent weakening of livestock conditions.

FOOD SECURITY SUMMARY – PROJECTION FOR 2005

Figure 1: Percentage of Population Requiring Food Assistance in 2005 (Worst-case Scenario: Emergency and Safety Net Programs)



Data Sources: Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission, Various Mid-Meher Season Assessment reports, September 2004.

Scenarios for 2005: In either the mid-case or worst-case scenario, the amount of assistance required to meet emergency and productive safety net needs will be significant in 2005. Excluding the productive safety net program (which aims to cover around 5.1 million chronically food insecure people), around 1.2 million MT of food will be needed to cover emergency needs in the worst-case scenario. The total cost of interventions to cover all emergency related humanitarian needs in the worst-case scenario could be close to 600 million US dollars. While the needs are lower in the mid-case scenario, over 650,000 MT of food aid will still be required for emergency programs only (not counting food needs under the productive safety net program) and over 300 million US dollars will be required to meet needs in both food and non-food sectors. In the worst-case scenario, the most acute needs in pastoral areas will occur towards the end of 2004, making it even more essential that agencies prepare and plan now for 2005 humanitarian operations to save lives and livelihoods.

FOOD AND NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE UPDATE AND NEEDS FOR REMAINDER OF 2004

Successive rain failure over the past several seasons has continued to add to the existing burden on millions of increasingly impoverished people in Ethiopia, who live close to the margins every year. The impact this year has been greatest in pastoral areas of eastern and southeastern Ethiopia and in marginal agricultural areas in the south, east and north of the country.

The failure of the 2004 *belg* season rains (March – May) coupled with poor *meher* season rains (June – September 2004) in many eastern areas of the country continued to hamper recovery from previous years. Currently about 7.8 million people (13 percent of the rural population) require humanitarian assistance in order to survive. A combined humanitarian assistance effort by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), donors, United Nations (UN) agencies and NGOs has helped to save lives and protect livelihoods in 2004. However, a 22 percent shortfall (around 21,297 MT) remains between the amount of cereals pledged and those needed for the period October through December 2004. (Table 1). According to WFP, as of 29 September 2004, the food aid pipeline has sufficient cereals to last only until November. It should be noted that there are currently no carry-over stocks to meet unanticipated needs during the early months of 2005, and this is especially worrying given the potential for increased needs in pastoral areas towards the end of the year. In addition, only 44 percent of the non-food sector's emergency requirements have been met, and this remains a vital concern.

Table 1: Food Aid Pledges against the 2004 Revised Appeal

Summary Oct-Dec 04	Cereals	Pulses	Vegetable oil	Blended Food	Iodized Salt
Requirements	177,784	17,779	7,842	24,668	900
Availability	156,487	17,940	16,495	42,779	574
Shortfall/Surplus	(21,297)	161	8,654	18,111	(326)
Coverage	88%	101%	210%	173%	64%

Source: Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC), and WFP.

Recent multi-agency reports reiterate that low production prospects in the eastern half, and limited access to water, browse and fodder in pastoral areas, will prolong the need for food and non-food aid assistance through 2004 and beyond.

The GoE, donors, UN agencies and NGOs will need to work closely together to raise the funds necessary to respond appropriately to both end of year 2004 and 2005 requirements.

The DPPC-led annual national food security assessment for 2005 is set to start the first week of November 2004. This multi-agency assessment will cover all crop-dependent areas of the country. Many livestock dependent areas, which will be in the middle of their *deyr/hagaya/dadda* rainy season, will also be covered by this assessment. Fourteen teams are being organized and are expected to complete the assessment in about three weeks. Following the generally poor performances of the last two consecutive seasons in the eastern half of the country, the number of people requiring assistance could increase from the current 7.8 million to up to over 12 million in 2005 in the worst-case scenario. The findings of this and other non-food assessments will form the basis of the annual appeal, which is planned to be released on 15 December 2004.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Contingency planning has been an especially useful and necessary tool for preparing and planning to respond to the recurring crises in Ethiopia. The aim of the 2005 contingency planning, which took place over several stages between June and October of 2004, has been to help the GoE, donors and NGOs plan now in order to respond in a timely and effective manner to the likely needs in 2005.

As part of the process, multi-agency and multi-sectoral assessment teams visited various regions of the country where they, along with regional officials, came up with potential scenarios for 2005, taking into consideration the on-going or just completed *meher* season, the upcoming *deyr* season, and a number of other factors. Based on this analysis, they developed estimates of humanitarian needs corresponding to the different scenarios. While initially three main scenarios were developed, events have overtaken the first (best-case) scenario, leaving only the mid-case and worst-case scenarios as possibilities. Under either the mid-case or the worst-case scenario, emergency humanitarian needs will be significant. Some of the food needs foreseen will be covered by the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)¹, while additional food needs will need to be covered through emergency food aid provision.

According to the preliminary results of the assessments, the mid-case scenario foresees serious food deficits and other humanitarian requirements in Oromiya (including the lowlands of Arsi, Bale, East and West Hararge, and Borena), Somali, SNNP (eastern parts of the region and South Omo), and Afar Regions. As a result, about 3.8 million people will require emergency food assistance² during 2005. In addition, about 5.1 million chronically food insecure people will require assistance through the PSNP. Over 300 million US dollars will be required to cover all food and non-food needs under the mid-case scenario. It should be noted that the costs involved in the non-food sector interventions will be used for both safety net and emergency programs.

The worst-case scenario is based on the assumption that, in addition to the poor *belg* and *meher* seasons experienced so far this year, the rains in pastoral areas (*deyr/hagaya*) between October and December 2004 would be poor or fail. This would lead to a widespread

¹ Initially, 5.1 million beneficiaries are planned under the productive safety net program. However a contingency mechanism has been built into the program which would allow for up to a 20 percent increase in resources (either for additional beneficiaries or increased levels of assistance to existing beneficiaries) based on period reviews of the chronically food insecure population.

crisis in pastoral areas, especially in Somali Region, Borena Zone of Oromiya Region, and South Omo in SNNPR. In this scenario as many as 7.5 million people could need assistance through emergency programs in addition to the 5.1 million chronically food insecure people who are meant to be assisted through the PSNP. In addition, significant amounts of non-food aid in the areas of agriculture, livestock, water, health, nutrition and education will be needed. Overall needs could be closer to 600 million US dollars under this scenario.

KIREMT 2004 PERFORMANCE IN CROP DEPENDENT AREAS

The main rainy season (*kiremt*) in Ethiopia usually starts to wind down in September. A late withdrawal of these rains can have a negative impact on harvesting efforts in areas where the June–September rainfall onset was normal. Frost is another potential hazard during the season, mainly over northeastern, central, eastern and southern highlands.

Figure 2 presents a month-by-month illustration of how the rains progressed in Ethiopia this year. As shown in the figure, and according to the National Meteorological Service Agency (NMSA), with the exception of southern and southeastern Ethiopia and some areas of northeastern portions of the country, much of the country received normal to above normal rainfall during the *kiremt* 2004 season. As time progressed during the season, the rainfall activity as well as the number of rainy days increased over central, northeastern and eastern Ethiopia up to the end of August. The rainfall amount decreased from the beginning of September over northeastern highlands and withdrew in a timely manner. In addition, the expected unseasonable showers of rain over highlands of central, eastern and north eastern parts of the country will reduce the possibility of the frequency of occurrence of frost in these areas.

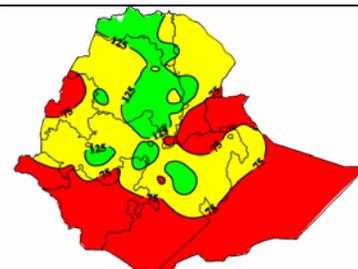
Given the late start to the rains in the northern areas, the on-time withdrawal of rains in these areas will result in a below average harvest. Crops would have required rainfall through September, and in some cases October, to reach maturity and complete the grain filling process. On the other hand, delayed withdrawals in the eastern highland and midlands have reportedly supplied enough moisture for crops to complete the grain-filling process.

According to the NMSA and field level information from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the *kiremt* 2004 rains, and their impact on long-cycle crops (which make up between 40 and 50 percent of national grain production) can be considered positive over the western half of the country, including the central highlands, and over the wet midlands and highlands of the eastern half of the country. Long cycle crops (dominantly maize and sorghum) failed in the lowlands and have suffered severe moisture stress in the mid-altitude eastern half of Ethiopia. As a result, the performance of long cycle crops over the lowlands and mid-altitude dry lands in the eastern half of the country can be considered poor due to a prolonged dry spell, and insufficient rainfall up to mid-July. Short to medium-cycle *meher* crops, including the late planted crops, are reported in much better condition over significant parts of the country.

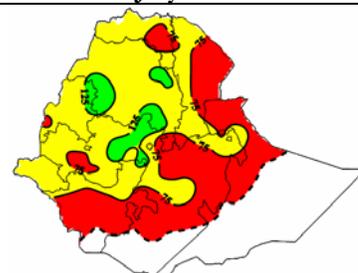
Despite inadequate moisture in many of eastern lowland crop dependent areas of the country, the overall national production prospects for this growing season may well be about average due to good performances in the west, which produces a significant proportion of national production.

Figure 2: Percent of Normal Rainfall (Difference between Current Rainfall and the Long-term Average)

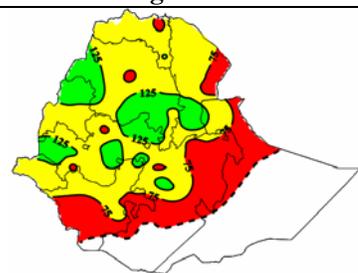
June 2004



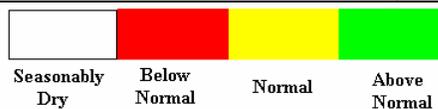
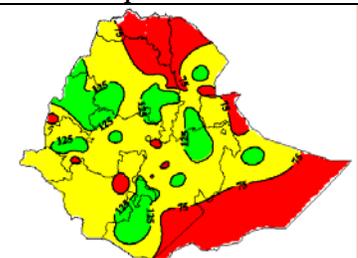
July 2004



August 2004



September 2004

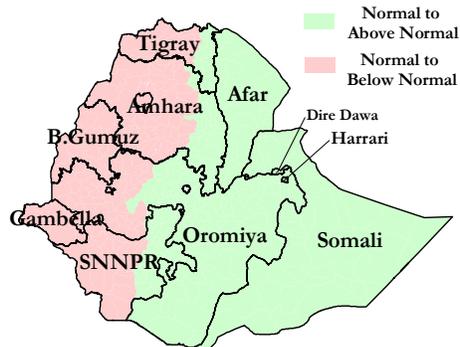


Source: NMSA, October 2004.

² According to the Safety Net Project Implementation Manual, the safety net program, which is planned to start in January, is expected to cover 5.1 million chronically food insecure people, who cannot meet their annual minimum food requirements even in a good year.

THE OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2004 OUTLOOK

**Figure 3: National Meteorological Service Agency
Climate Forecast: October–December 2004**



Data source: National Meteorological Service Agency, October 2004.

Graphics by FEWS NET Ethiopia.

The NMSA released its weather forecast for the October to December 2004 period (locally known as *bega* in crop-dependent areas of northern Ethiopia and *hagaya, deyr or dadda* in the mainly pastoral southern, southeastern and northeastern parts of the country, respectively). The rains during this short season are normally highly variable and span only a few dekads.

After October, much of the northern half of the country tends to be dry, while in the southern and southeastern lowlands, October and November usually bring the *hagaya/deyr* rains (the second rainy season). These rains, which follow an extended dry season, are extremely important for replenishing pasture and water in the pastoral areas of South Omo Zone of SNNPR, Borena Zone of the Oromiya Region, and in most of the southern Somali Region.

According to the NMSA³, higher probabilities exist for *near normal to above normal rainfall* conditions over central, eastern, southern, southeastern and northeastern parts of the country. However, the forecast information shows that western portions of the country will have a higher probability of receiving *below normal rainfall*. (Figure 3).

In the agro-pastoral and pastoral areas of southern, southeastern, and northeastern

Ethiopia, *normal to above-normal rainfall* would bring a long-awaited respite to the dry conditions currently prevailing in these areas. It should be noted that pasture and water availability have been diminishing in these areas due to consecutive poor seasons, seriously affecting livestock and human well-being. Full recovery in these areas will only take place after several good short rainy seasons. Since localized month-to-month variations are likely to occur, the agency advises users to follow the regular forecast updates provided by the agency and regional offices.

In the agricultural areas, late and erratic *kiremt* rainfall in the southern and eastern highlands of the country will be compensated by a greater likelihood of *normal to above-normal rains* which should facilitate smooth grain filling and harvesting stages. The residual moisture from these rains may also be helpful to the production of pulses.

The *normal to below normal rainfall* predicted for the western portions of Ethiopia, where normal *kiremt* rains fell, will not have any negative impact on the seed setting and the grain filling processes of crops, and will not affect the on-going harvest.

CONCLUSIONS

The areas of most immediate and urgent concern continue to be southern and eastern Tigray, Afar, the southern pastoralist zones of Somali Region, South Omo and central and eastern SNNPR, and the lowlands of Oromiya Region, including Arsi, Bale, Borena, and East and West Hararghe. Given the widespread and continuous impact of the food crisis in the previous years and seasons, increasing destitution and chronic food insecurity, erosion of livelihoods, and other factors, humanitarian assistance will be required through the end of 2004 and well into 2005. The food aid pipeline shows that there is sufficient food aid only until November. Carry-over stocks would be insufficient to cover needs during the early months of 2005. Hence, the GoE and donors should take action now to ensure sufficient funds are available to cover the humanitarian needs of Ethiopia through at least the end of this year and the first half of 2005.

³ The regional Climate Outlook Forum consensus forecast from the Drought Monitoring Center (DMC-N) is basically inconsistent with the seasonal prediction of the Ethiopian NMSA. Under such circumstances, the DMC-N usually advises users to rely on forecasts by national meteorological agencies for smaller geographic areas and short time scales.