



Appeal No: <b>MDRET027</b>	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: <b>CHF 8 million</b> Federation-wide Funding requirements: <b>CHF 12.5 million</b>	
Glide No: <b>DR-2022-000168-ETH</b>	People affected <b>6.8 million people</b>	Total People to be assisted: <b>500,000 people</b>
DREF allocation: <b>CHF 507,000</b> (grant to be integrated into the appeal as a loan)	Appeal launched: <b>29/03/2022</b>	Appeal ends: <b>28/02/2024</b>

***A large-scale, climate-induced, humanitarian crisis has unfolded in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia where 6.8 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The IFRC is launching this Hunger Crisis Appeal to mobilize resources for the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) to scale up its humanitarian assistance and early recovery support in communities most affected by the hunger crisis in Southern Ethiopia, assisting communities to adapt to evolving environmental conditions, in line with IFRC's Pan Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.***

# SITUATION OVERVIEW

## HORN OF AFRICA

Across the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia), millions of households now face the effects of multiple concurrent shocks including aggravated food insecurity. Millions of men, women and children are facing hunger and malnutrition. People are missing meals, parents are going without food for the sake of their children, and families are struggling to find enough water to keep their livestock alive. There is serious concern that another failed rainy season will bring further devastation to the lives of people who have already endured multiple climate disasters.

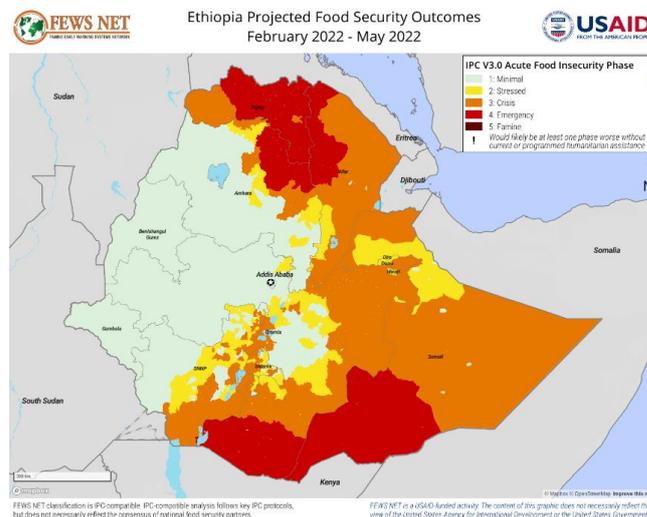
**As of March 2022, 13.3 million people were severely food insecure in the Horn of Africa, and acute malnutrition rates have increased considerably, affecting 5.5 million children.**

Intertwined with drought, southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, and the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) regions of Kenya and Somalia, have been affected by three exceptionally wet seasons, bringing widespread floods, displacement, and a locust outbreak that was the worst in 25 years in Ethiopia and Somalia, and in 75 years in Kenya. This exceptional series of consecutive drought and flood shocks is having devastating impacts on agriculture, rangelands, and water resources, leading to a sharp decrease in food availability and access due to concerning food production shortages, increases in staple food and water prices, and erosion of livelihoods, which in turn are driving an upsurge in food insecurity and malnutrition.

In East Africa, food prices have for many months been rising in drought-affected areas, due to a combination of macro-economic challenges and below-average harvests, leaving families unable to afford even basic items. In addition to the pre-existing shocks, the crisis in Ukraine will mean disrupted supply chains of wheat to the Horn of Africa – a region highly dependent on imports from Russia and Ukraine – and even higher prices, which could have far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people who are already facing acute hunger.

While the large humanitarian needs are clearly visible and must be addressed through emergency life-saving humanitarian support in the shortest time possible, there is a recognition that their drivers are deeply rooted in a larger climate-induced hunger crisis that requires a holistic and coordinated approach. Sustainable livelihoods are rural people's best asset against hunger and malnutrition. Building more resilient livelihoods is one of the most powerful means to mitigate and prevent food security crises. Food security, nutrition and livelihoods sustainable interventions can save lives, mitigate gender inequalities, strengthen resilience in disaster and conflict situations, and can contribute to generating peace dividends and sustaining peace<sup>1</sup>.

**IN SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA, AN ESTIMATED 6.8 MILLION PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY IN NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE.**



Through May 2022, it is projected that 6.8<sup>2</sup> million people in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia will likely face high levels of food insecurity (in line with IPC Phase 3 and above) because of the ongoing drought. The hardest-hit regions are in the south of the country: [Somali, South Oromia, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples \(SNNP\)](#), where people have barely managed to recover from the severe drought in 2017, only to have to endure once again harsh conditions, the first signs of which started appearing towards the end of 2020 and continued to worsen with successive failed rain seasons in 2021.

Household food security is now extremely constrained, as food production has dropped

<sup>1</sup> UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Resilience Strategy for East Africa

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.icpac.net/fsnwg/>

considerably, and staple food prices remain above average. Water reserves are completely or nearly depleted in most drought-affected areas, which makes access to water for household consumption extremely expensive, with a 60% increase or greater reported in agro-pastoral livelihood zones. It is nearly impossible to maintain livestock under these conditions, resulting in increased livestock deaths. Livestock herders and their families must now trek long distances in search of water and appropriate rangelands, which heightens the potential of resource-induced conflict. Households are also now increasingly having to practice food-consumption-based coping strategies, such as reducing the number of daily meals, eating less preferred foods, limiting adult intake to prioritize children, borrowing food from friends and relatives, and livestock sales at much lower prices. Survival coping mechanisms such as child labour, school dropout, and early marriage, are also increasing.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), the IFRC, and Red Cross Red Crescent Partner National Societies carried out a joint assessment in the most hard-hit areas in February 2022, and the findings in the report reflect the severity of the situation<sup>3</sup>. There were 260,000 livestock deaths reported by January 2022 and over two million more are at risk. Child malnutrition is currently at 19%, while 32% of pregnant and lactating women are suffering some form of malnutrition, an upward trend since November 2021.

## TARGETING

**This Emergency Appeal will support a total of 500,000 people affected by this climate-induced hunger crisis, with essential, lifesaving, humanitarian and early recovery support over 24 months.**

The Appeal is aligned with the Government of Ethiopia's estimation of need and will focus operations and programming in the hardest drought-affected zones in Southern Ethiopia: **Somali, Oromia, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR)**. It should be noted that the geographic coverage of this Emergency Appeal does not overlap with other IFRC-supported operations, namely the *Ethiopia Crisis and its Humanitarian Consequences* Emergency Appeal (formerly called the Tigray Crisis Population Movement Appeal) as most of the interventions of that Appeal are in the Afar and Amhara regions, not in Southern Ethiopia.

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<sup>3</sup> Note: the findings are extracted from ERCS and partners assessment report conducted in February 2022. The figures are exemplary of certain specific zones, districts or communities.

More than 3.15 million people also face water shortages, and in the Somali region alone, 2.28 million people need emergency water assistance. In some communities, people are forced to walk for up to 12 hours each day in search of water, with reports of women fainting on the way due to fatigue and lack of water and food. Lack of water treatment was also observed in 60% of households, while hygiene and overall sanitation are seriously compromised, leading to localized disease outbreaks. In some *woredas*<sup>4</sup>, the drought is to the extent that *every resident* has lost 90% of their cattle due to lack of fodder, lack of water, and increased incidence of animal diseases. In the Guji zone alone, food production losses were at 79%, while in Boreda and Dawa zones, a household survey showed that 86% of the population was forced to skip meals or reduce meal size, while 84% expressed concern over the lack of income for food and increased prices.

Children's education has also been disrupted due to the lack of water in schools and the halt of school feeding programmes. Children and adolescents are also taking charge of searching for food and water, which exposes them to many protection risks.

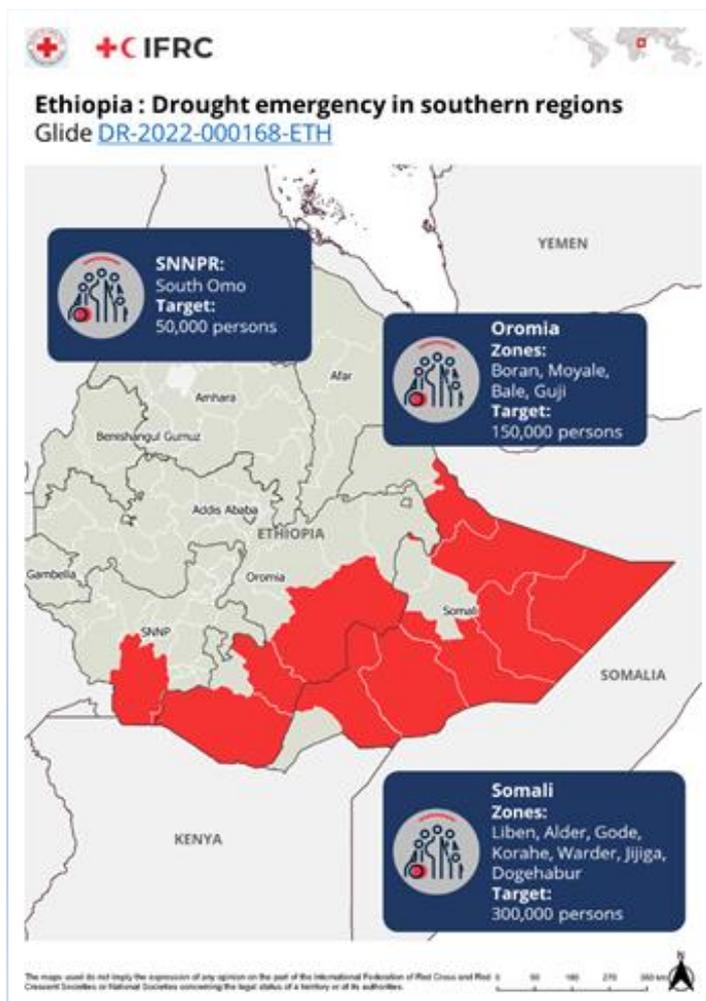
If decisive action is not taken there will be a steady increase in food insecurity, malnutrition levels, and related opportunistic diseases, as well as increased exposure to epidemics.

<sup>4</sup> Woredas, or "districts", are Ethiopia's third-level of administrative division.

The geographic and household targeting is based on the findings of the joint assessment carried out by ERCS, IFRC, and Red Cross Red Crescent partners, and discussions held with authorities and local communities regarding geographic locations and sectoral interventions. It also considers the specificities of the Southern Ethiopia context, namely vulnerable households whose income is dependent on farming and livestock with no alternative coping mechanisms, or who have exhausted their resources. Displaced populations have special protection needs that will be taken into consideration. The targeting will be further guided by in-country plans and applicable humanitarian standards, with attention to community customs and traditions.

The IFRC's Community engagement and accountability approach, as well as protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) standards, will help further refine the targeting methodology, with attention to particularly vulnerable and/or most-at-risk groups, including:

- Extended households with pregnant and lactating mothers and/or children under age five
- Households nursing older people, and/or people terminally ill with HIV/AIDS or other chronic conditions
- Children or adolescent-headed households
- Households with specific social protection needs
- People with disabilities
- Internally displaced households



## PLANNED OPERATIONS

The intervention strategy for this Hunger Crisis Appeal aims to support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) in responding to the climate-induced hunger crisis by **saving lives, protecting livelihoods, and promoting the early recovery of the most food-insecure people**. In the proposed methodology, the phases of intervention will overlap, from life-saving humanitarian response to promoting early recovery initiatives against the recurring climate-induced phenomenon of acute and chronic food crises.

This will be done through a focus on the following sectors:

	<p><b>Integrated assistance (Livelihoods and multi-purpose cash)</b> <b>(Target: 100,000 people)</b></p> <p>Immediate humanitarian support is needed for rural families to help them meet their daily food needs during this lean season and farmers need support to safeguard their livelihoods and assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Multipurpose cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to 20,000 households</b> amongst the most vulnerable, food-insecure households, to increase their purchasing power and meet their basic needs.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Safeguarding livelihoods support</b> vulnerable communities to protect and adapt livelihoods, diversify food production and nutritional intake.</li> <li>• <b>Support to 5,000 smallholder farmers</b>, through anticipatory climate-smart action, including complimentary technical support and resources (e.g., seeds, tools, stocks); and support to communities to improve stocking and management of seeds, seedlings, and harvested crops.</li> </ul>
  	<p><b>Health &amp; Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)</b>  <b>(Target: 500,000 people)</b></p> <p><b>Health and nutrition activities</b> will support addressing malnutrition, promoting the sustainable reduction of health and nutrition risks, and increasing the overall nutrition practices of the targeted communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Establish referral systems with outpatient therapeutic programmes/targeted supplementary feeding programmes (OTP/TSFP).</b></li> <li>• <b>Strengthen infant and young child feeding (IYCF)</b>, including engagement with community platforms.</li> <li>• <b>Establish community-based epidemic/disease control for volunteers (ECV)</b> and community health promotion, for early detection of epidemics and diseases.</li> <li>• <b>Provide psychological first aid</b> for mothers and caregivers for improved IYCF and care practices.</li> </ul> <p><b>WASH activities</b> aim to maintain access to safe water and support a sustainable reduction in the risk of waterborne diseases. The immediate and early recovery needs will be addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Extensive hygiene promotion campaign to reach 500,000 people</b> to strengthen WASH knowledge and best practices.</li> <li>• <b>To meet the immediate water needs of 200,000 people</b>, support to rehabilitate and protect water sources, distribution and training on water treatment chemicals and water trucking.</li> <li>• <b>Providing and training households</b> in the use of water storage, water filters, and/or water treatment (aqua tabs).</li> <li>• <b>Promoting installation of toilets and handwashing stations</b> at water points and public places.</li> </ul>
  	<p><b>Protection and Prevention</b> (Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), disaster risk reduction, CEA)  <b>(Target: 500,000 people)</b></p> <p><b>Safe and equitable provision of services</b> with consideration of needs based on gender and other diversity factors, and sex, age, and disability disaggregated data will be mainstreamed. Other protection activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linking the multipurpose cash and livelihood protection with awareness-raising to halt or reduce household survival coping mechanisms.</li> <li>• Training staff and volunteers on the protection of gender and inclusion (PGI), protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), disability inclusion, child safeguarding, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).</li> <li>• Coordinating with local stakeholders (health staff, teachers, social services, etc.) to establish referral pathways for child protection/SGBV cases.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mobilization of communities to conduct risk assessments</b> for prevalent risks and provide mitigation strategies. Households will be able to protect their livelihoods and food production systems to be more resilient:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting communities' resilience through identification of risks and mitigations/plans of action for disaster risk reduction (DRR) by conducting community-led vulnerability and risk assessments.</li> <li>• Supporting organizational contingency planning response and coordination planning with national and regional authorities and stakeholders.</li> <li>• Supporting communities with risk mapping, holistic monitoring, and integrated analysis of agriculture and livelihoods indicators.</li> <li>• Implementing risk reduction technologies and practices with communities that will enhance food security e.g., crop breeding and seed production, conservation agriculture, fodder conservation, and adjustment of cropping calendar.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community engagement and accountability (CEA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders, especially the affected communities, through close consultation throughout the response, and conducting regular surveys with communities to assess their views and satisfaction with the services provided and adapt the response accordingly.</li> </ul>
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**Sustainability and linkages to longer-term resilience programming**

This strategy is aligned with the IFRC-wide Pan Africa Zero Hunger Initiative that undertakes a holistic approach to food security, associating specific interventions for rapid nutrition, food security, and livelihood support for acute food-insecure communities, with a long-term strategy working towards zero hunger and more sustainable development.

Through this Emergency Appeal, community-led vulnerability and capacity assessments will be carried out to design long-term plans to address the root causes of hunger and break the cycle of aid dependency. These plans and the interventions under this Appeal will be articulated in multi-year objectives in 2023 through the IFRC Ethiopia plan and lead to proposals for longer-term funding requirements, to maximize the impact of funds available for the emergency through this Appeal and long-term resilience programming.

Through this Appeal, ERCS will engage relevant Government and development partners to prioritize longer-term resilience activities within existing programmes. This response is aligned with the Ethiopian Government's policies and strategies to address climate change, such as the *Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE)* and its *Climate Resilient Strategy*, which highlight options for building resilience in agriculture and forestry. Livelihood protection and adaptation activities supported by this Appeal will consider the goals set out in the *Productive Safety Net Program*<sup>5</sup>, which guides expanding mitigation actions for drought impacts and for alleviating food insecurity.

**Enabling approaches**

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	<p><b>National Society strengthening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening capabilities of ERCS branches located in the intervention areas, linking with the Africa Red Ready programme, as well as strengthening ERCS capacity on risk reduction and climate adaptation. Volunteer duty of care will be emphasized through appropriate management services, provision of equipment, training, and insurance.</li> </ul>
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<sup>5</sup> PSNP increased ability of Ethiopian institutions and communities to react to the signs of drought in 2015, significantly reducing exposure and vulnerability – Ethiopia Drought Risk, 2021 – United Nations University

	<p><b>Coordination and partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitating engagement and coordination among partner National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the design of the operational strategy, leveraging the expertise and resources available through a Red Pillar approach, and ensuring alignment with relevant external actors, including government, development actors, UN agencies and NGOs.</li> <li>Linking the response with existing Government-led response mechanisms for climate and drought, social safety nets, and food security, emphasizes the auxiliary role of ERCS. Implementation of a robust humanitarian diplomacy and communication plan, with appropriate linkages to national, pan-African, and international climate and humanitarian policies.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>IFRC Secretariat Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFRC coordination services will be strengthened through a programme coordinator, focusing on facilitating an effective Federation-wide response, including Information Management, Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), and operations coordination. In the field, an operations manager will support ERCS and partners in the implementation of activities.</li> </ul>

The planned operation reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy, to be released in the coming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

## RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN-COUNTRY

### Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS)

	<p><b>ERCS core areas of operation</b></p>	<p>Number of staff:</p>	<p><b>1,562</b></p>
		<p>Number of volunteers:</p>	<p><b>44,138</b></p>
		<p>Number of branches:</p>	<p><b>37</b></p>

**ERCS is a key national humanitarian actor and is present in all the regions of Ethiopia, through its network of branches and 44,138 volunteers, including 215 staff and volunteers trained in cash and voucher assistance, and five million members and 6,000 Red Cross committees at the community level. ERCS has representation at regional and zonal branches, with a total of 11 regions and 37 branches. In its auxiliary role to the Government, ERCS has been called upon to respond to the hunger crisis in the Southern regions.**

At the national headquarters, programmes are led by the Deputy Secretary-General and by an experienced technical team in the Disaster Preparedness and Response Department. **ERCS has 16 trained National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs) and 229 Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRTs).** ERCS auxiliary status ensures faster access and outreach to areas that are relatively sensitive and where other humanitarian actors cannot easily access. The organization is privileged to have a local network, which fosters wide acceptance in different communities and has not been constrained in terms of access across the entirety of affected regions in Ethiopia.

ERCS has been implementing a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) funded response to the drought in the country since August 2021, and has the structural capacity, skills, and systems capacity to implement the Emergency Appeal operation, with the support of IFRC and the wider Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. ERCS is one of the first National Societies to be validated for the Working with Project Partners (WWPP) funding mechanism, after rigorous assessment and capacity development by IFRC, and has been successful in applying the funding partnership model adopted by IFRC.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) maintains equal, independent and neutral responsibility to reach all people in need in Ethiopia, as enshrined in the amended charter of 26 January 2018, for assisting people affected by natural disasters and conflict throughout the country. As an auxiliary to the Government, the ERCS's mandate is to supplement the government in the fulfillment of its responsibility to address the vulnerabilities that exist in the country. The Geneva Conventions and additional protocols and International Humanitarian Law, are other legal bases for Red Cross engagement in such kinds of humanitarian interventions, being impartial, neutral, and independent, as outlined in the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles.

## **IFRC Membership coordination**

This Emergency Appeal promotes a Federation-wide approach to the response, inclusive of all Partner National Societies present in Southern Ethiopia. These are the Austrian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross. It builds on their expertise, capacities, and resources as active members in the targeted areas and supports ERCS. In coordination with the ICRC, a specific drought task force was set up by the Movement Emergency Operation Coordination (MEOC), which conducted a drought assessment, and is working on a joint response strategy to support ERCS. The ERCS will develop one operational response plan, and a Federation-wide approach to resourcing and implementation will be adopted. The IFRC will emphasize building a holistic approach to programming, reporting, risk management, information management, external communications, resource mobilization, and peer-to-peer exchange between National Societies.

## **Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Coordination**

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination and cooperation in Ethiopia is governed jointly by Movement partners, with a central role given to the ERCS and active participation of representatives from IFRC, ICRC, and in-country Partner National Societies. Strategic and operational meetings are held regularly to plan and coordinate Movement support to ERCS's emergency response operations and longer-term programming in Ethiopia. This structure will be used for planning and coordinating the operations for this IFRC Emergency Appeal, to ensure effective operational coordination, as well as strategic complementarity in Movement resource mobilization to collectively respond to the needs of vulnerable people and communities affected by the climate-induced food crisis in Southern Ethiopia.

The ICRC is planning to mobilize additional resources for activities in Southern Ethiopia as part of a wider scale-up for responding to food insecurity in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa regions. This response is closely coordinated with the ERCS and the IFRC Appeal, to mount a strong Red Cross Red Crescent Movement response to food insecurity in the country.

## **External coordination**

ERCS coordinates with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) in the planning and implementation of emergency response actions and is a member of the National Operations Centre. ERCS and NDRMC lead the national early warning task force and Cash Working Group. ERCS is also part of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and participates in inter-agency working group meetings for various sectors (Cash, Food Security, Nutrition, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items, Protection and Education). Numerous international organizations are active in the response to the drought, operating under robust coordination from the Federal Government and Regional Governments on strategy and planning. Authorities have developed a

drought response plan, which serves as the basis for partner engagement in emergency, recovery, and resilience-building activities.

## Contact information

**For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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