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COAFR 337
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ALIM 11
CLIMA 327
ENV 954
PROCIV 80
RELEX 1146
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	12 September 2024
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Humanitarian situation in Ethiopia – special focus on WASH - presentation by Oxfam

Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) of 12 September 2024, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by Oxfam¹².

¹ OXFAM INTERNATIONAL EU ADVOCACY OFFICE, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 46856801604-90.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

ADDRESSING ETHIOPIA'S TRIPLE CRISIS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE WATER

COHAFA Meeting, Brussels, 12 September 2024



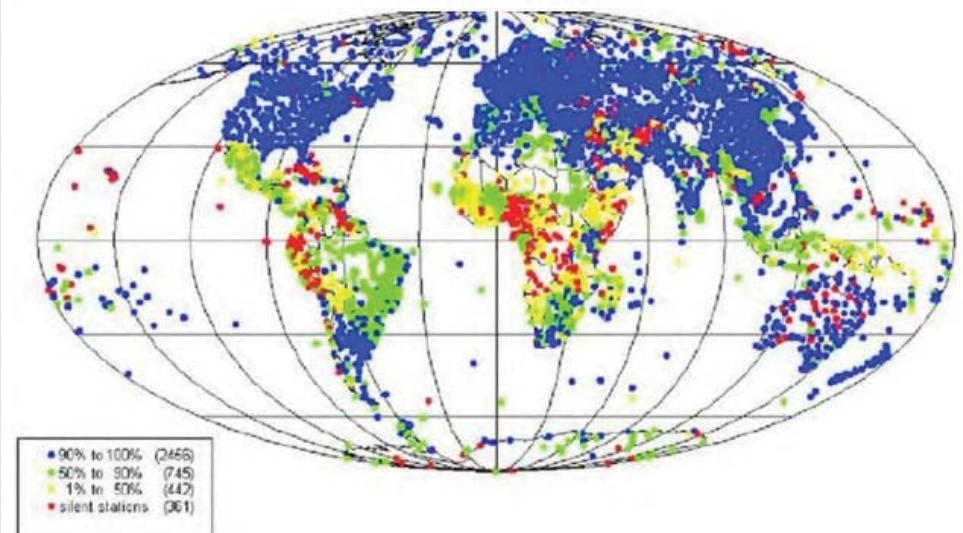
KEY HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES

Country	Water Security score (1-100)	Water Security	% of all freshwater withdrawals (FAO)	Water Stress (FAO)	Most recent % of the population facing IPC3+
Ethiopia	32	Critical insecure (4 th globally, after Solomon Islands, Eritrea and Sudan)	32.26	stress	21%

- Conflict, displacement, and economic challenges create a vicious cycle, complicating **the link between water and food crises**
- **Poverty, inequality, and lack of access to basic services**, especially in rural and informal urban settlements
- Immediate humanitarian aid saves lives, but sustainable solutions require development **investments to protect livelihoods**

WHAT IS NEEDED?

- **Integrated Approaches:** political will to focus on adaptation, mitigation, and addressing loss/damage measures.
- **Coordinated Initiatives:** we need to work on food and water insecurity together and provide better quality assistance.
- **Data-Driven Implementation:** reliable hydro-meteorological data is crucial for anticipating and responding crises





SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES

- Oxfam's initiatives in the Somali region have provided over 192,000 people food and water assistance
- **Long-term solutions:**
 - ✓ Water harvesting and soil conservation techniques
 - ✓ More community owned and led metrological data and better early warning systems (Oxfam's pilot)
 - ✓ More public private partnerships to be more responsive – working with insurance schemes (disaster-indexed insurance)

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RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EU

- Increase **both the quantity and quality of the EU's main humanitarian aid budget**, by ensuring that at least €2.6 billion annually is dedicated to humanitarian assistance; encouraging EU Member States to devote 10% of their ODA to humanitarian action; maintaining an additional Emergency Aid Reserve to reinforce the main humanitarian budget during unforeseen crises; and allocating at least 25% of humanitarian funding to be localised, multi-year and flexible.
- **Ensure EU development assistance continues to be provided at appropriate levels to support people in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.** Development aid is a crucial tool to address the underlying causes of fragility and to coordinate with humanitarian efforts to ensure access to basic services across the triple HDP nexus.
- **The EU should support the WASH Road Map and climate adaptation initiatives** in Ethiopia by promoting best practices in climate-resilient WASH. This should encompass not only infrastructure but also community health and gender impact, specifically by improving women's access to essential services.

- **Increase investments in essential public services and infrastructure in Ethiopia**, particularly in the regions of Tigray, Afar, and Somali, to meet basic needs (prioritize areas such as WASH, health, and education). Support public works for flood control, soil and water conservation, re-naturalization and **promote community initiatives aimed at improving water and food security** by investing in local communities, especially women, and humanitarian leaders' capacities to ensure projects meet local needs.
- **Increase investment in Disaster Risk Management and Anticipatory Action**, particularly to address floods and storms, through social safety net initiatives for the most vulnerable populations. Support the growing populations relocating from drought- and flood-affected rural areas to urban and peri-urban settings by providing essential services and promote local leadership in disaster response by leveraging traditional knowledge and community networks.
- **Promote and support water security analysis**, particularly in crisis situations, by advancing the development and broader adoption of the Water Severity Scale (WSC) through the Global WASH Cluster. Encourage the use of indicators, such as the Household Water Insecurity Experiences (HWISE) scale, which can be easily correlated and compared with food security data to highlight issues related to water access.

