



MALNUTRITION



WATER-BORNE  
DISEASES



COMMUNICABLE  
DISEASES



DISRUPTION OF  
HEALTH  
SERVICES

## EL NIÑO FORECAST AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

- El Niño has already created drought conditions that will last until March 2016. Widespread and prolonged drought will continue to create crop failures, especially in the “dry corridors” of Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. 4.2 million people are currently affected in the sub-region. It is unlikely that households will be able to recover quickly from their current and future losses.

## CURRENT AND PROJECTED HEALTH CONDITIONS

- The poorest households most affected by the drought are expected to be severely food insecure with increased acute and severe malnutrition, until the next harvest in August 2016.
- Water scarcity is also leading to deterioration of sanitary conditions and water quality with possible increases in skin diseases, and water-borne diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea.
- In Guatemala, 1.5 million people are affected by the drought and 500 000 are expected to face moderate-to-severe food insecurity.
- In Honduras, 1.3 million people are affected and 400 000 people are reported to be in immediate need of humanitarian assistance.
- In El Salvador 192 000 households are facing severe acute malnutrition.

## HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

- State of emergency has been declared in Guatemala and Honduras due to drought and food insecurity. Honduras and Nicaragua are implementing El Niño Drought Action Plans. Governments of Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador, are providing support to food production with seeds and water pumps distributions to farmers.
- PAHO/WHO is working with these countries by strengthening epidemiological surveillance, undertaking health promotion campaigns at the community level and providing essential medicines in affected areas.
- PAHO/WHO is also providing support to the Ministries of Health for 600 children with acute malnutrition and the prevention of malnutrition for approximately 10 000 people.
- A sub-regional Humanitarian Response Plan for USD 101.8 million will be launched for Guatemala and Honduras to ensure the delivery of coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to drought-affected people.

\*INFORM (Index for Risk Management) is a global risk assessment index for humanitarian crises and disasters: <http://www.inform-index.org/>

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