



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

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El Niño Rains in Arizona = Major Drought in Ethiopia

Phoenix-Based Food for the Hungry Helping Feed 10 Million Affected

PHOENIX (February 1, 2016) –While Arizonans may be enjoying today’s dreary and rainy weather brought by El Niño, Food for the Hungry is busy helping some of the more than 10 million Ethiopians suffering from extreme drought and food scarcity brought on by the same weather pattern. Based in Phoenix, the international humanitarian non-profit, is working to distribute food in 15 communities experiencing the worst drought in nearly 50 years.

“With our partners, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, Food for the Hungry is tirelessly supporting families suffering the devastating effects of this drought caused by El Niño,” said Food for the Hungry CEO Gary Edmonds. “The drought which is expected to continue for many more months is greatly affecting the women and children in the area who are now traveling nearly 12 hours round-trip to gather water. This has a domino effect on the entire family, as maintaining clean homes and sending children to school becomes nearly impossible without access to water and food. Along with malnutrition and dehydration, we are also beginning to see disease outbreaks due to the lack of the water.”

Distributions of wheat, beans and cooking oil are currently taking place in Ethiopia. Continuing needs include funding for large water tanks and trucks to bring water closer to villages, purchase of donkeys to help ferry water to areas inaccessible to vehicles, and distribution of water purification kits. Food for the Hungry will also be buying feed for agriculture as well as seeds for planting in the hopes that future harvests will be more abundant in helping to feed families.

“Arizonans can help those affected by this drought by visiting our website at www.fh.org and making a tax-deductible donation,” said Edmonds. “We continue to pray for rain in Ethiopia but until it begins, Food for the Hungry, with support from our donors, will be there to help families survive this tough time.”

About Food for the Hungry

Founded in 1971, Food for the Hungry provides emergency relief and long-term development programs with operations in more than 20 countries to help the world’s most vulnerable people. Learn more by visiting fh.org. Social connections include [facebook.com/foodforthehungry](https://www.facebook.com/foodforthehungry) and twitter.com/food4thehungry.

EDITORS- High-resolution photographs and more than three minutes of raw video of these efforts are available via Dropbox. Please contact Suzanne Treviño at 602-618-7857 for access.

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