

Recent Disasters and Conflicts: El Niño and the Development of La Niña

Ajay Markanday

September, 7, 2016





Overview

- El Niño Background
- The Development of La Niña
- Food & Agriculture Organization

Strategic Objectives

- FAO's Response
- Key Messages

El Niño Current Situation:

- El Niño is a naturally occurring phenomenon characterized by the abnormal warming of sea surface temperature in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean
- During El Niño episodes, normal patterns of tropical precipitation and atmospheric circulation are disrupted, triggering extreme climate events around the globe
- As a result:



+60 million
people affected by El Niño
related droughts, floods and
extreme weather



80%
of total humanitarian aid
(US\$ 4 billion) needed for food
security and agriculture



+40 million
people are projected to
be food insecure in
Southern Africa



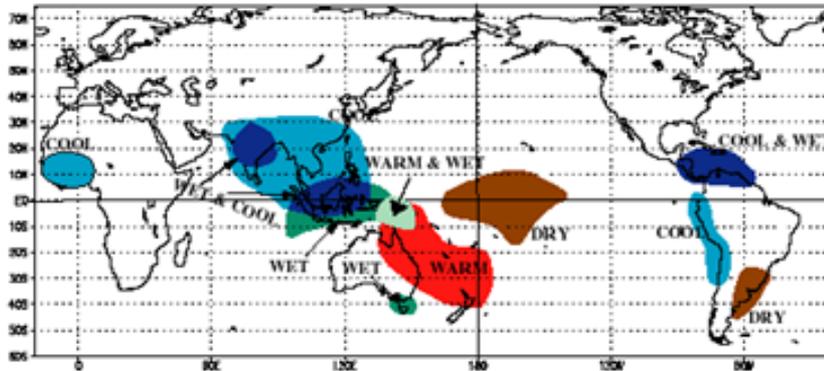
50-100%
failed harvest,
(maize and bean) in the
dry corridor



\$288 million
funding required for
23 countries most affected
by El Niño

El Niño

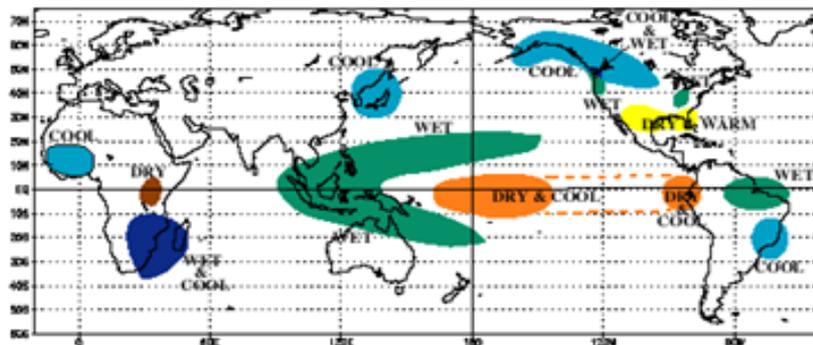
COLD EPISODE RELATIONSHIPS JUNE - AUGUST



- [La Niña impacts](#) tend to be opposite those of [El Niño impacts](#)
- El Niño events are associated with a warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific, while La Niña events are the reverse, with a sustained cooling of these same areas.

The Development of La Niña

COLD EPISODE RELATIONSHIPS DECEMBER - FEBRUARY



FAO's Strategic Objectives

FAO Strategic Objective 1

Help
eliminate hunger,
food insecurity
and malnutrition



FAO Strategic Objective 2

Make agriculture,
forestry and fisheries
more productive
and sustainable



FAO Strategic Objective 3

Reduce
rural poverty



FAO Strategic Objective 4

Enable
inclusive and efficient
agricultural
and food systems



FAO Strategic Objective 5

Increase
the resilience
of livelihoods
to threats and crises



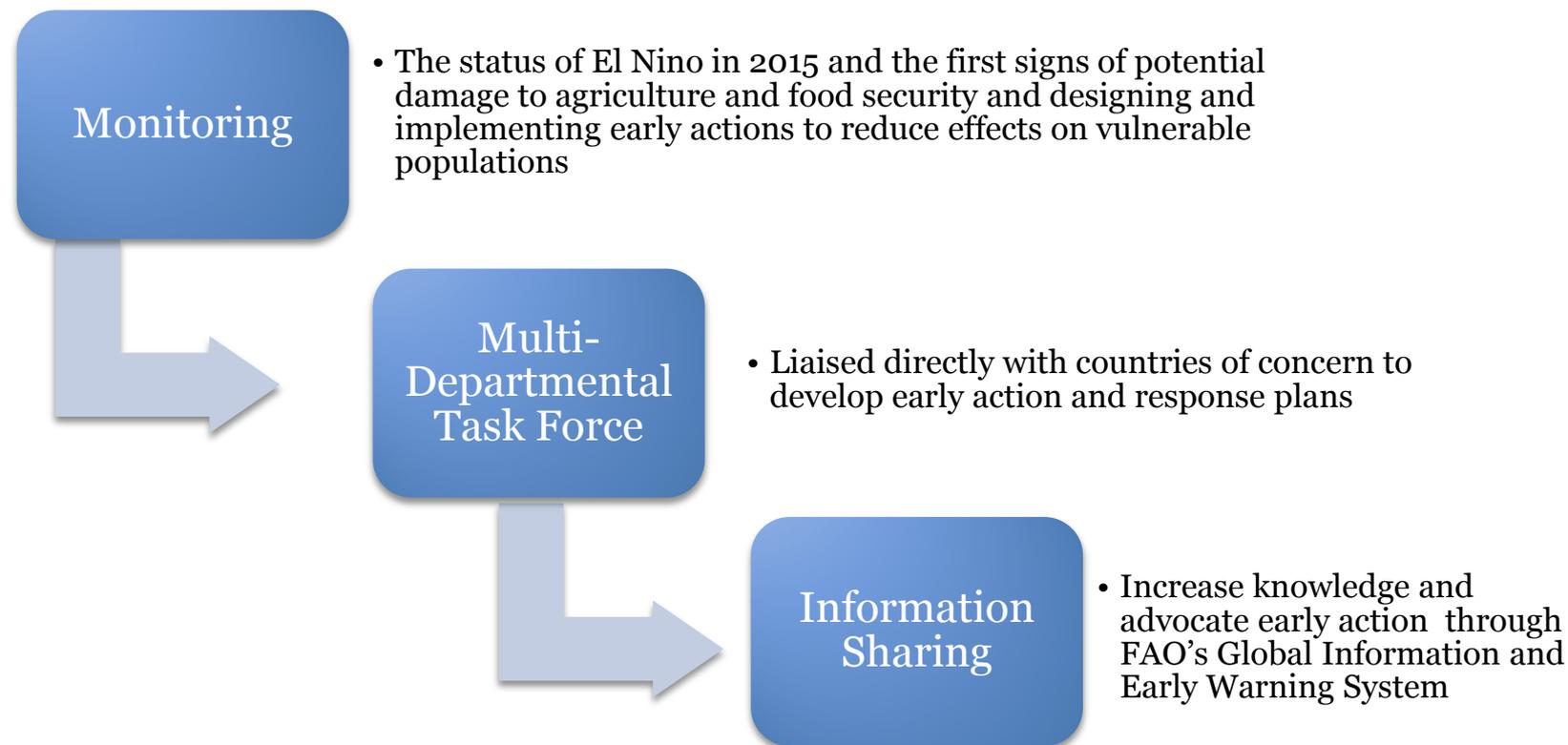
FAO Strategic Objective 5

**Increase
the resilience
of livelihoods
to threats and crises**



FAO helps countries to prepare for natural and human-caused disasters by reducing their risks and enhancing the resilience of their food and agricultural systems

FAO's Response



FAO's Response Continued...



In Somalia, riverbanks are being reinforced and sandbagged and plastic is being distributed to protect seed stocks.



In Zimbabwe, FAO is providing support to 40,000 smallholder households to engage in commercial livestock production, and responding to the foot and mouth disease outbreak.



FAO is supporting the countries of the dry corridor in Central America to increase the resilience of households, communities and institutions to prevent and address disaster risks that affect agriculture and food nutrition security in a timely manner.



In Ethiopia, FAO has supported the Government in developing the El Nino response plan on behalf of the Agricultural Task Force, a body co-chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO, which is spearheading the response in the agricultural sector.

Key Messages

- With the likely onset of La Niña, we must act immediately, so that we can reduce negative impacts on communities already affected by El Niño while capitalizing on potential positive effects
- However, the impact of the current El Niño is overwhelming for any one agency or government and requires concerted and decisive assistance from the international community
- This is primarily a food and agriculture crisis, without joint action, the economic and social gains made by the affected countries will be diminished and progress against the Sustainable Development Goals will falter





Thank you!