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Aligned climate drivers and potential impacts on food security in Ethiopia in 2024

This brief recommends that the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission, supported by international partners, establish a specialist ENSOâ□□IOD facility to plan for the impact of a drought in 2024.

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By Adrian Cullis Solomon Bogale
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El NiÃ±oâ□□Southern Oscillation (ENSO)Â and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) climate phenomena drive global seasonal rainfall anomalies. In Ethiopia, these anomalies are most pronounced when negative or positive ENSO and IOD phases align. The current El NiÃ±o and positive IOD phase alignment threatens heavy spring rains and flooding in Ethiopiaâ□□s southern pastoral areas and drought in the central and northern highlands.

Millions of people in the country already need humanitarian assistance because of multiple conflicts, drought and floods. Ethiopia can ill-afford a further spike in numbers. Given the strong association between such spikes and previous ENSO and IOD alignments, this policy brief recommends that the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission establish a specialist ENSOâ□□IOD facility. Supported by its international partners, this facility can plan for the impact of a drought in 2024 in the central and northern highlands and estimate and resource the additional amount of humanitarian assistance required.

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