



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

June 23, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated May 21, 2010.

BACKGROUND

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, a rapidly growing population, increased inflation, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in large areas of Ethiopia, including Somali Region and parts of Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. In addition, populations in many areas of the country confront significant humanitarian challenges, including conflict, malnutrition, and delayed food assistance deliveries. In Somali Region, insurgent activity and security operations have disrupted trade networks, and restrictions on the movement of people and livestock, combined with the failure of past rains, have exacerbated food insecurity.

On February 2, 2010, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) released the 2010 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), identifying 5.2 million people in need of emergency food assistance in 2010. In addition, an estimated 7.5 million chronically food-insecure beneficiaries currently receive food assistance and/or cash transfers from the GFDRE-managed Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). The GFDRE is expanding the PSNP in 2010 to assist a planned 8.3 million people per year through 2014.

On October 5, 2009, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Tulinabo Mushingi reissued a disaster declaration in response to the ongoing complex emergency in Ethiopia. USAID/OFDA supports a range of humanitarian programs, including rapid-response capacities in nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as more sustained interventions to address health, nutrition, water, and food security needs countrywide. USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia in order to identify evolving needs and recommend further assistance. In addition, USAID/OFDA supports improved humanitarian coordination mechanisms and works to facilitate humanitarian access to affected populations in Somali Region. USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) continues to respond to humanitarian needs in Ethiopia through the provision of emergency food assistance.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
GFDRE PSNP Targeted Beneficiary Caseload	8.3 million	GFDRE MoARD ¹ – February 2010
Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	5.2 million	GFDRE MoARD – February 2010

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$13,954,747
USAID/FFP Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$307,910,000
State/PRM² Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$8,800,000
Total USG³ Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia	\$330,664,747

CURRENT SITUATION

The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates food security improvements in *belg* crop-producing areas, including much of SNNP Region, following the June to July *belg* harvest. Normal to above-normal *belg* rains have also improved water and pasture availability in southern and eastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. However, FEWS NET expects food security to continue to deteriorate in eastern Ethiopia from June to September as populations consume available food supplies from the below-normal 2009/2010 *meher* harvest.

On June 19, the GFDRE, U.N. agencies, and humanitarian partners, including USAID, commenced the 2010 *belg* season assessment in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray regions; assessments in Somali Region are scheduled to begin June 28, as some areas are currently inaccessible due to flooding. Over a period of three weeks, 17 teams will evaluate humanitarian conditions in *belg* crop-producing areas, as well as pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). Relief agencies and the GFDRE will use assessment findings to inform

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

³ U.S. Government (USG)

estimated humanitarian needs in Ethiopia for the second half of 2010.

The June to September 2010 *kiremt* rain season commenced on time, according to USAID field staff. On June 3, the GFDRE National Meteorological Agency (NMA) indicated that the *kiremt* rains will likely be of normal duration. The GFDRE NMA expects normal to above-normal rainfall in southwestern, western, central, and eastern areas of Ethiopia, improving *meher* crop production conditions. In addition, the forecast heavy rainfall may result in localized flooding, particularly in low-lying and riverine areas. However, the GFDRE NMA anticipates normal to below-normal *kiremt* rains in southern and southeastern Ethiopia.

Agriculture and Food Security

FEWS NET anticipates food security improvements following the June to July *belg* harvest in areas of Ethiopia where a large proportion of Ethiopia's food-insecure population resides, including most areas of SNNP Region, agro-pastoral areas of southern Somali Region, and lowland areas of Bale and Borena districts in Oromiya Region. Improved availability of sweet potatoes and other root crops, as well as green maize and haricot beans, may also contribute to food security improvements in SNNP Region in June.

However, WFP notes that flooding, hailstorms, and landslides resulting from heavy rainfall in May and June have damaged pasture and agricultural land in localized areas of Oromiya, SNNP, and Somali regions. In particular, excessive rainfall has damaged coffee crops in SNNP Region, currently at the flowering stage.

Humanitarian organizations have reported crop damage due to armyworm infestations in eastern Amhara and Oromiya regions, northern Somali Region, southern Tigray and SNNP regions, and areas of Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella regions, according to WFP. Local authorities have commenced control measures; however, WFP notes that shortages of pesticides and spray equipment have constrained operations in some areas.

FEWS NET reported normal to above-normal February to May *belg* rainfall in most eastern *meher* cropping areas, including much of Tigray Region, as well as eastern Amhara and Oromiya regions, improving water and pasture availability. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that farmers in southern Tigray Region and eastern Amhara Region had commenced harvesting short-cycle crops, such as teff and barley, as of June 21. However, long-cycle crops, such as maize and sorghum, had begun to wilt following the cessation of the *belg* rains in late May.

Despite adequate *belg* rainfall, the normal June to September hunger season in *meher* cropping areas commenced in May this year, as food supplies from the below-normal 2009/2010 harvest were depleted earlier than usual. As a result, FEWS NET expects populations in these areas to remain food-insecure and reliant on

relief food assistance through September. However, FEWS NET anticipates that food insecurity in these areas will be less severe than during the 2009 hunger season.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.6 million to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems activities in Ethiopia. USAID/OFDA-funded activities are designed to respond to immediate needs and strengthen resilience to shocks that negatively affect food security.

Nutrition and Health

Although malnutrition remains a concern in many areas of Ethiopia, humanitarian organizations have noted improvements in the nutritional situation following the 2009/2010 *meher* harvest and 2010 *belg* rains. The GFDRE Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) reported the admission of approximately 76,000 malnourished children to therapeutic feeding programs (TFPs) between January and April, representing 28 percent fewer admissions than projected. During April, the GFDRE ENCU noted fluctuating TFP admission trends in SNNP Region and decreasing TFP admissions in Oromiya Region. Decreasing admission trends are particularly notable, as TFP admissions normally increase from June to August, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

During April and May, several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) conducted nutrition surveys in Amhara, Gambella, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray Regions, according to OCHA. The survey conducted in SNNP Region indicated a normal nutritional situation, while assessments in Tigray Region, Oromiya Region, and three areas of Amhara Region indicated poor nutritional situations. Four additional surveys—two in Amhara Region, one in Gambella Region, and one in Somali Region—classified the nutrition situation as serious, while one survey in Oromiya Region rated conditions as critical. All surveys reported crude and under-five mortality rates as below national and Sphere standard emergency thresholds.

Health officials noted increasing cases of measles in Afar, Somali, and SNNP regions in May and June. Between June 6 and 13, the GFDRE Ministry of Health (MoH) reported 1,682 new measles cases in SNNP Region and Addis Ababa, with no reported deaths. In response, the MoH and partner organizations have increased immunizations in affected areas, according to OCHA. In addition, the MoH and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) plan to conduct a mass immunization campaign in October.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$8.6 million to support health and nutrition activities in Ethiopia, including funding for mobile health teams and support for the GFDRE's community-based management of acute malnutrition through funds provided to UNICEF and NGOs.

Relief Food Assistance

WFP and other organizations continue to distribute relief food assistance to food-insecure populations throughout Ethiopia despite logistical constraints. The GFDRE Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) reported the completion of the fourth round of food allocations in Harar, Gambella, and Afar regions as of May 31, while allocations remained ongoing in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray regions. As of May 31, WFP and the GFDRE DRMFSS had dispatched 40,161 metric tons (MT) of allocated third-round relief food supplies, as well 68,815 MT allocated in the second round. In addition, DRMFSS has pre-positioned more than 21,000 MT of relief and PSNP food assistance in Amhara and Tigray regions in preparation for the *kiremt* rainy season, expected to commence in July.

According to WFP, delays in offloading food assistance at Djibouti Port and shortages of available warehouse space continue to hinder provision of food assistance to populations in need. In addition, impassable roads as a result of recent heavy rains, limited availability of military escorts for food trucks, and other access challenges have delayed food assistance distributions in some areas of Somali Region, including Kebridehar and Korahe zones.

In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided more than 478,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II relief food assistance, valued at nearly \$308 million, for distribution to vulnerable populations in Ethiopia.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

On June 21, the U.N. World Health Organization noted continuing incidence of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in Ethiopia, with 86 AWD cases reported countrywide between June 6 and 13, including 68 cases with 3 deaths in Somali Region, and 18 cases in Oromiya Region. In response, UNICEF and other humanitarian partners have provided technical support to regional health bureaus, as well as distributed water treatment chemicals and emergency relief supplies to populations in affected and high-risk areas.

As localized flooding continues in many areas of Ethiopia, particularly in Somali Region, humanitarian agencies continue response efforts. As of June 14, UNICEF and other agencies had distributed water treatment chemicals and emergency relief supplies to flood-affected populations in Gode, Kebridehar, Shilabo,

and Warder zones, Somali Region, and planned similar assistance for additional areas. However, humanitarian agencies note that flood-related damage to roads has hindered the provision of assistance to some areas in Somali Region.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.7 million to support WASH activities throughout Ethiopia, including support for programs to prevent and mitigate the spread of waterborne diseases, as well as assistance for provision of safe drinking water in drought-affected areas. Through a USAID/OFDA-supported rapid response mechanism, NGO partners are responding to flooding by distributing emergency relief supplies and water treatment equipment in SNNP, Somali, and Oromiya regions.

Population Movements

Heightened insecurity in Somalia in early 2010 has resulted in increased refugee flows into Ethiopia. According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ethiopia hosted more than 72,000 Somali refugees as of June 16, including nearly 10,000 refugees who arrived in Ethiopia in 2010. The GFDRE Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs, UNHCR, and WFP plan to conduct a joint assessment of refugee conditions in mid-August. The assessment team plans to visit refugee camps housing Somali and Eritrean refugees to evaluate the food, health, nutrition, and socio-economic needs of refugees in Ethiopia, identify operational gaps, and develop response strategies.

To date in FY 2010, State/PRM has provided \$8.8 million to UNHCR to support refugees and conflict-affected populations in Ethiopia.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

To date in FY 2010, the USG has provided nearly \$331 million for nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, agriculture and food security, WASH, emergency food assistance, and refugee assistance programs throughout Ethiopia, as well as logistics and relief commodities, and humanitarian coordination and information management. Of the total, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$14 million for humanitarian assistance programs to date in FY 2010. In addition, many FY 2009 USAID/OFDA-funded activities remain ongoing.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2010			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Adventist Development and Relief Organization (ADRA)	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$550,000

CARE and Save the Children U.K. (SC/UK)	Agriculture and Food Security; WASH	Afar Region	\$248,751
CHF International	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; WASH	Somali Region	\$799,991
Concern	Nutrition	Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray Regions	\$1,000,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray Regions	\$1,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Nutrition	SNNP and Oromiya Regions	\$800,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Somali Region	\$164,802
Mercy Corps	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$977,638
Merlin	Nutrition	Oromiya Region	\$500,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$700,000
Samaritan's Purse	Nutrition; WASH	Gambella Region	\$505,850
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$350,000
UNICEF	Health; Nutrition; WASH	Countrywide	\$5,250,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Somali Region	\$350,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$757,715
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$13,954,747
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	227,870 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance for the Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP)	Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, Afar, and SNNP Regions	\$127,483,900
WFP	250,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$180,426,100
TOTAL USAID/FFP RELIEF ASSISTANCE			\$307,910,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$8,800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$8,800,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2010			\$330,664,747

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 23, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance as of June 23, 2010.



Carol Chan
Deputy Director
USAID/OFDA