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

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

May 21, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated April 22, 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 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 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.....\$11,245,357
USAID/FFP Assistance to Ethiopia.....\$309,915,400
Total USG² Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia\$321,160,757

CURRENT SITUATION

As a result of normal to above-normal February to May *belg* rains in most parts of Ethiopia, the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates an adequate June to July harvest in *belg* crop-producing areas of Ethiopia, particularly in SNNP Region. Southern and southeastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas have also experienced improved food security due to above-normal rainfall in recent months. However, FEWS NET expects food security to continue to deteriorate in eastern parts of Ethiopia from June to September, typically a hunger season in these areas. As of late April, FEWS NET noted that food insecurity

remains high in areas of Amhara, Tigray, and Oromiya regions.

Above-average rainfall has resulted in localized flooding during April and May in southern Ethiopia. As of May 3, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) identified Koraha and Warder zones in Somali Region, West Arsi Zone in Oromiya Region, and Dire Dawa Administration as the most-affected areas. On April 22, floods in Shinile Zone, Oromiya Region, killed two people, damaged approximately 3,600 hectares of cultivated land and 16 irrigation channels,

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD)

² U.S. Government (USG)

and contaminated local water supplies. On May 3, OCHA reported that U.N. agencies, non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, and GFDRE and local government agencies had commenced assessments and provision of emergency relief supplies to affected populations. However, damage to roads has limited humanitarian access to some flood-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. USAID/OFDA staff in Addis Ababa continue to monitor the situation.

Agriculture and Food Security

Average to above-average *belg* rains to date have resulted in food security improvements in many southern *belg* crop-producing areas, particularly highland and midland areas of SNNP Region, according to USAID field staff; however, lowland areas which experienced several seasons of low rainfall remain food insecure. In *meher* crop-producing areas, including Gambella Region and eastern marginal agricultural areas, many households remain dependant on food assistance due to the below-normal 2009/2010 *meher* harvest. FEWS NET anticipates increased humanitarian needs in these areas from June to September, as the poor harvest will likely result in an extended hunger season.

FEWS NET reported improved livestock conditions in most pastoral areas due to increased pasture and water availability. Milk availability remains low in most pastoral areas due to poor conception rates during previous dry seasons, but USAID field staff expect improvements in coming months as new calves are born. In addition, northern areas of Afar and Somali regions have received below-normal rainfall in early 2010 and remain food insecure. FEWS NET expects food security improvements to continue through September in most pastoral areas; however, full pastoral livelihood restoration will require several consecutive seasons of good rains.

As of May 7, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that adequate *belg* rains had supported root crop production—particularly sweet potatoes in SNNP Region—contributing to the stabilization of food prices. Sweet potatoes serve as an important transitional crop in many areas of Ethiopia, providing households with food supplies until the *belg* harvest begins in June or July. However, USAID field staff noted that cereal prices had begun to rise as of mid-May as available supplies from the below-normal 2009/2010 *meher* harvest decreased.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$600,000 to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems activities in Ethiopia, including seed multiplication and pastoral livelihoods programs.

Nutrition and Health

Despite food security improvements, malnutrition remains a concern in many areas of Ethiopia. The GFDRE Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) decreased the number of hotspot woredas from 568 in October 2009 to 385 as of March 2010, representing a 32 percent reduction. However, the number of highest-priority woredas increased by 20 percent, from 171 to 205 over the same time period. ENCU also noted overall increases in therapeutic feeding program (TFP), targeted supplementary feeding (TSF), and general food distribution coverage in hotspot woredas from February to March 2010. During the same period, TFP and TSF coverage in the highest-priority woredas decreased slightly from 96 percent to 90 percent, primarily due to the increased numbers of woredas falling under this classification.

The results of eight GFDRE Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector-conducted assessments in Amhara, Oromiya, and SNNP regions during February and March indicated varying nutritional conditions in the surveyed areas. The assessment team reported normal nutrition indicators in one woreda of Oromiya Region and all three surveyed woredas of SNNP Region; poor indicators in two woredas of Oromiya Region and one woreda in Amhara Region; and serious indicators in one woreda of Oromiya Region. In all surveyed areas, mortality rates for children under five years of age and the population as a whole were below international and Sphere standard emergency levels.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$7 million to support health and nutrition activities in Ethiopia, including emergency health interventions and support for the GFDRE's community-based management of acute malnutrition through funds provided to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and NGOs.

Relief Food Assistance

On May 14, WFP reported 35 percent completion of the third round of food allocation in most regions. However, WFP had completed only 10 percent of planned food dispatches in Somali Region due to several operational constraints, including impassable roads due to heavy rains, lack of security escorts for food convoys, and localized insecurity. Following delays, which exceeded one month in some areas, WFP redirected several trucks to other locations in Somali Region to avoid food spoilage.

The third round of food distribution aims to deliver approximately 89,000 metric tons (MT) of food assistance to 4.8 million food-insecure individuals throughout Ethiopia. As of May 14, WFP had almost completed the first distribution round and the second round remained ongoing, with dispatches and distributions occurring simultaneously.

In addition to difficulties transporting food assistance, WFP noted that bureaucratic obstacles at Djibouti Port

continued to hinder food distribution as of May 14. According to WFP, the GFDRE has authorized only one company at the port to move commodities into or out of shipping containers, resulting in a backlog of food supplies awaiting transport to Ethiopia. In FY 2010 to date, USAID/WFP has provided more than 478,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II relief food assistance, valued at nearly \$310 million, for distribution to vulnerable populations in Ethiopia.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

On May 10, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) noted that health officials continue to report incidence of acute watery diarrhea (AWD), with 25 AWD cases reported in Oromiya and SNNP regions between April 26 and May 2. In addition, USAID/OFDA partners reported 30 AWD cases and two deaths in Jijiga town, Somali Region from May 11 to 17. During April, joint U.N.–GFDRE teams traveled to several high-risk areas in Afar and Oromiya regions to train health workers in detection and response to epidemic diseases, with particular emphasis on AWD prevention and treatment.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2.3 million to support WASH activities throughout Ethiopia, including support for programs to prevent and mitigate the spread of AWD and other waterborne diseases.

Population Movements

Intensifying conflict in Somalia in 2010 has increased refugee flows to Ethiopia and other neighboring countries. As of late April, OCHA estimated that Ethiopia hosted nearly 136,000 refugees—primarily from Eritrea and Somalia—an increase of more than 32,000 people since September 2009.

On May 12, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP launched a joint appeal for approximately \$60 million in additional funding to assist individuals displaced within and from Somalia. UNHCR and WFP based the appeal on jointly-developed most-likely scenario planning figures for 2010, which project that an additional 315,000 Somalis will be newly displaced during the year, including 50,000 people displaced to Ethiopia.

In mid-April, the GFDRE announced plans to construct a new refugee camp near Adi Harush town in Tigray Region to accommodate increasing numbers of refugees from Eritrea. According to OCHA, more than 5,000 Eritreans registered as refugees in Ethiopia between January and April 2010.

During FY 2009, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration provided nearly \$16.6 million to UNHCR, WFP, and NGO partners to support refugees and conflict-affected populations in Ethiopia.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

To date in FY 2010, the USG has provided more than \$321 million for nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, agriculture and food security, WASH, and refugee assistance programs throughout Ethiopia, as well as logistics and relief commodities, emergency food assistance, and humanitarian coordination and information management. Of the total, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$11 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			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Adventist Development and Relief Organization (ADRA)	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$550,000
CARE/Save the Children (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
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Nutrition	SNNP and Oromiya Regions	\$800,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Somali Region	\$164,802
Merlin	Nutrition	Oromiya Region	\$500,000
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	\$725,963
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$11,245,357
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	227,870 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance for the Joint Emergency Operations (JEOP) and Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) Consortium for Emergency Relief	Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, Afar, and SNNP Regions	\$127,483,900
WFP	250,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$182,431,500
TOTAL USAID/FFP Relief Assistance			\$309,915,400
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2010			\$321,160,757

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 21, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance as of May 21, 2010.



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