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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 #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

March 19, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated February 16, 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 Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. 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 plans to expand the PSNP to assist 8.3 million people 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 to address non-food needs, 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.

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.....	\$8,430,816
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$305,825,800
Total USG³ Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia	\$314,256,616

CURRENT SITUATION

Below-normal performance of the June to September 2009 *kiremt* rains, particularly in eastern Ethiopia, resulted in below-average October to January *meher* crop production, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). While the *meher* harvest has temporarily improved food availability in some areas, FEWS NET expects the poor *meher* crop production levels to result in deteriorating food security in most of eastern Ethiopia between April and September.

On March 5, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that March to May *belg* rains had commenced in northern Oromiya Region and much of Harar, Dire Dawa, and SNNP regions. The GFDRE National Meteorological Agency (NMA) anticipates normal to above-normal March to June rains in most of Ethiopia, with the exception of southern SNNP and Oromiya regions and the majority of Somali Region, where the NMA expects normal to below-normal rains. Based on this forecast, FEWS NET anticipates normal June to July harvests in *belg*-crop producing areas, such as northeastern highlands. FEWS NET also predicts food

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Government (USG)

security improvements in pastoral areas of Afar and Shinile zones in Somali Region as a result of above-normal *gu* rainfall.

On February 24, the GFDRE announced the commencement of the 2010–2014 PSNP, which assists chronically food-insecure households through the provision of food supplies and/or cash transfers. Building on lessons learned from the 2005–2009 program, the new PSNP targets a larger population—approximately 8.3 million people across Ethiopia, including pastoral areas in Somali and Afar regions—and places greater emphasis on household asset-building, promoting eventual graduation from the assistance program.

Agriculture and Food Security

Most areas of eastern Ethiopia continue to experience high levels of food insecurity due to poor June to September 2009 *kiremt* rainfall. As of mid-February, FEWS NET indicated that East Haraghe, West Haraghe, Arsi, and Bale zones of Oromiya Region, Wag Hamra District in Amhara Region, and Eastern and Southern districts in Tigray Region were areas of particular concern. In mid-March USAID/OFDA staff reported that most *belg*-crop producing areas were experiencing normal rainfall. However, heavy rainfall in southeastern Tigray Region and areas of SNNP Region have damaged some crops.

According to FEWS NET, food insecurity has resulted in unusual population migration in eastern Ethiopia. In Oromiya Region, local officials recorded more than 2,000 food-seeking migrants in the last quarter of 2009. According to USAID/OFDA staff, a GFDRE-led multi-agency assessment in early February reported more than 100 people moving from Wag Hamra Zone in Amhara Region in search of food, including women and children. The GFDRE and humanitarian partners have begun relief interventions in the affected areas.

As of mid-February, FEWS NET reported that most of western Ethiopia—except areas within Gambella Region—remains food-secure following adequate *meher* crop production. FEWS NET notes temporary food security improvement in most of SNNP Region resulting from an adequate *meher* harvest after several consecutive seasons of drought. However, food insecurity remains high in southern areas of SNNP Region, where both the *belg* and *meher* harvests performed poorly in 2009. FEWS NET expects food security in these areas to continue to deteriorate until the *belg* harvest begins in June or July.

FEWS NET reports that below-normal October to December 2009 *deyr* rains resulted in poor water and pasture availability in Somali Region and pastoral areas of Oromiya Region. As of mid-February, pastoral populations and livestock had converged into areas that received relatively more rainfall, depleting remaining pasture and increasing the risk of disease spreading

among livestock. According to USAID/OFDA staff, early March rains in much of Somali Region have begun to replenish pasture and water sources; however, livestock body condition remains poor.

In January, cereal prices declined following normal seasonal trends as crops from the *meher* harvest reached markets, according to FEWS NET. However, prices remain above long-term averages. WFP reported considerable variation in pastoralist terms of trade in January, with improved terms of trade for pastoralists in Dire Dawa Region and Jijiga Zone in Somali Region and declines in Gode Zone, Somali Region. Terms of trade remain below four-year averages in all markets, according to WFP.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$600,000 to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems programs in Ethiopia, including emergency livestock interventions and additional assistance to food-insecure pastoral populations in Afar and Somali regions.

Nutrition and Health

A joint WFP–U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) food security assessment released on February 26 indicated continuing high malnutrition rates in Somali Region, despite increased provision of food assistance. The report attributes the high malnutrition rates to poor livestock conditions, acute water scarcity, low coverage of measles immunization programs, poor access to markets resulting from movement restrictions, and limited access to food assistance in some areas.

Due to reduced crop production and poor rainfall, FAO and WFP anticipate increasing malnutrition rates in Somali and Afar regions, eastern areas of Amhara, Tigray, and Oromiya regions, and eastern and southern areas of SNNP Region in the coming months. In addition, the report notes signs of malnutrition in Gambella Region, where malnutrition does not typically occur.

As of March 8, the GFDRE Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) reported continuing measles incidence in SNNP Region. However, the SNNP Regional Health Bureau noted declining numbers of reported cases in early March. In response, the FMOH and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) have distributed emergency medical kits in affected areas and plan to conduct an immunization and Vitamin A distribution campaign.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided \$5 million to support health and nutrition activities including a countrywide rapid-response nutrition program, and support for the GFDRE's community-based management of acute malnutrition.

Relief Food Assistance

On March 1, WFP reported that allocations for the first round of 2010 food distributions were nearing

completion. As of March 1, allocations had begun in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Dire Dawa regions. WFP plans to commence allocations in Tigray and Benishangul-Gumuz regions following requests from regional authorities. The total allocation of 99,700 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance is expected to meet the needs of approximately 5.2 million people.

USAID staff reported that the GFDRE extended a previously-granted waiver exempting humanitarian food assistance imports from a biosafety law that prohibits import of genetically modified food items. The waiver extension ensures continuing acceptance of food assistance from the United States. The waiver will remain valid through March 2011.

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 \$306 million. In FY 2009, USAID/FFP provided 418,200 MT of P.L. 480 Title II relief food assistance to Ethiopia, valued at nearly \$267 million. USAID/OFDA also provided \$10 million to WFP for the local purchase and distribution of food assistance in FY 2009.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Due to poor June to September 2009 *kiremt* rains and October to December 2009 *deyr* rains, FEWS NET reported serious water shortages in eastern *meher* agricultural areas and southern pastoral districts of Ethiopia as of late February. Shortages are particularly severe in lowland areas of eastern Amhara and Oromiya regions, resulting in school closures in some locations.

As of March 19, WFP noted that unseasonable rainfall had mitigated water shortages in much of Somali and Afar regions, although water and pasture shortages continue in isolated areas of Somali, Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions. According to WFP, heavy rainfall during early March resulted in flooding along the Wabishebele River in Gode Zone, Somali Region, damaging agricultural land and affecting more than 10,000 people. USAID/OFDA and humanitarian partners continue to monitor humanitarian conditions in flood-affected areas.

On March 8, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported continuing incidence of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in Somali and SNNP regions. Between February 15 and 21, health officials recorded 100 AWD cases and one death in affected areas. According to WHO, the disease spread to new areas during February. U.N. agencies, non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, and federal and local government agencies continue to conduct response and prevention activities in

affected and neighboring areas.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.9 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.

Population Movements

Ongoing insecurity in southern and central Somalia continues to result in population movements to neighboring countries, including Ethiopia. As of March 10, nearly 66,000 Somali refugees—including some people displaced during the 1990s Somalia refugee crisis—resided in camps in Ethiopia, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNHCR reported that an estimated 200 Somali refugees currently arrive in Ethiopia each day.

According to UNHCR, the Bokolmayo refugee camp near Dolo Odo town in Somali Region opened in mid-2009 to accommodate the increase in arrivals from Somalia and reached the camp's maximum capacity of nearly 20,000 people at the end of 2009. On February 16, UNHCR reported the opening of Melkadida camp, a new refugee camp near Dolo Odo town intended to accommodate additional Somali refugees. UNHCR plans to transport approximately 500 people per week to the camp from a refugee transit center in Dolo Odo town, where nearly 9,000 newly registered refugees are awaiting placement. The new camp is expected to accommodate up to 20,000 refugees. According to USAID/OFDA staff, UNHCR is developing plans to construct a third camp in the Dolo Odo area if needed.

In 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, including individuals in Boqolmayo camp.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, the USG has provided nearly \$659 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 nearly \$70 million for humanitarian assistance programs in FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010. At present, the majority of FY 2009 USAID/OFDA-funded activities remain ongoing.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2010			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Somali Region	\$164,802
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$350,000
UNICEF	Health; Nutrition; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$5,250,000
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$617,272
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$8,430,816
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	250,150 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$178,341,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP Relief Assistance			\$305,825,800
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2010			\$314,256,616

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 19, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance as of March 19, 2010.



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