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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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

February 16, 2010

*Note: The last situation report was dated January 7, 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 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) for 2010, 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).

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.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>GFDRE PSNP Beneficiary Caseload</b>	7.5 million	GFDRE MoARD <sup>1</sup> – January 2009
<b>Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance</b>	5.2 million	GFDRE MoARD – February 2010

### **FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Ethiopia</b> .....	<b>\$305,556,100</b>
<b>Total USG<sup>3</sup> Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia</b> .....	<b>\$305,556,100</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

According to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), below normal performance of the June to September 2009 *kiremt* rains, particularly in eastern Ethiopia, has resulted in below-average October to January *meher* crop production. While the ongoing *meher* harvest has temporarily improved food availability and resulted in decreased food prices in some areas, FEWS NET expects the poor *meher* harvest to result in an earlier than normal hunger period in eastern *meher* crop-producing areas of the country, resulting in deteriorating food security and nutrition conditions among affected populations. In northeastern pastoral areas of Afar Region and northern Somali Region, poor July to October 2009 rains have led to decreased water and pasture availability, expected to

contribute to further deterioration in food security until the expected onset of the *gu* rains in March 2010.

On February 2, the GFDRE released the 2010 HRD, identifying the estimated humanitarian requirements in Ethiopia for the coming year. Based on a November to December 2009 multi-agency assessment, the GFDRE expects approximately 5.23 million people to require emergency food assistance in 2010. Compared to previous documents, the GFDRE notes that the current HRD represents a shift in beneficiary targeting, with populations falling under the survival threshold targeted for food aid interventions and populations falling under the livelihood protection deficit addressed through activities in non-food sectors.

<sup>1</sup> GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

<sup>2</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Government

In total, the GFDRE requested nearly \$286.4 million in humanitarian assistance to cover food needs from January to December 2010 and non-food needs from January to June 2010, subject to a mid-year assessment. Noting available resources, the GFDRE request includes nearly \$187.8 million for emergency food aid, \$43.5 million for supplementary feeding programs, and nearly \$55.1 million for health, nutrition, agriculture, livestock, education, and WASH interventions.

### ***Agriculture and Food Security***

According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the ongoing *meher* harvest is expected to temporarily improve food security in several locations, with cereal prices stabilizing or slightly declining due to the impact of increased food availability on the market. However, WFP notes that several areas have already begun demonstrating signs of food insecurity as a result of the below-average harvest, including the lowlands of eastern Oromiya Region, parts of eastern Amhara Region, eastern and southern Tigray Region, Gambella Region, and the southern lowlands of SNNP Region. In these areas, FEWS NET expects the hunger gap period to commence in March or April—two to three months earlier than normal. Unless relief agencies provide immediate assistance to individuals in affected areas, FEWS NET anticipates that populations will adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as selling productive assets, and that acute malnutrition will increase in the coming months.

Despite the overall below-average performance of the 2009 *kiremt* rains, FEWS NET notes that unseasonable rains in mid-November and December replenished water and pasture resources, supported the cultivation of transitional crops including roots and tubers, and benefited land preparation for the upcoming *belg* season in some locations. However, FEWS NET notes that the rains also damaged late-maturing *meher* crops ready for harvest.

In pastoral areas of Afar Region and northern zones of Somali Region, FEWS NET notes that inadequate July to October rains have resulted in deteriorating water and pasture conditions, leading to decreased milk production and increased and early livestock migrations. During the January to March dry season, FEWS NET anticipates further loss of livestock, widespread shortages of drinking water, and increased levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in affected areas unless appropriate food and non-food interventions are implemented.

### ***Nutrition and Health***

According to the 2010 HRD, reports from 27 standard nutritional surveys conducted between July and December 2009 indicated global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates ranging from 4.9 percent to 21.7 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates ranging from 0.0 to 2.0 percent. Despite critical nutrition conditions reported throughout Ethiopia, humanitarian agencies noted decreasing admissions to therapeutic feeding

programs (TFPs) in some locations in January. However, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) notes that nutrition partners continue to report increased admissions to TFPs in Kebredehar and Degehabur zones, Somali Region, and locations in South Wollo Zone, Amhara Region. In addition, USAID/OFDA staff report increased concern and new TFP programs commencing in Gambella Region.

According to the 2010 HRD, the GFDRE and humanitarian partners project that more than 106,000 severely malnourished children in 371 woredas will require treatment at TFPs from January to June 2010. In the next six months, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) plans to provide therapeutic food and medicines to severely malnourished children and improve access to therapeutic feeding through the continued rollout of community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) services. As of December 24, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that 77.6 percent of health centers in SNNP, 41.4 percent in Oromiya, 35 percent in Amhara, and 27.7 percent in Tigray were providing CMAM services, compared to 70.7 percent, 36.6 percent, 15.5 percent, and 11.8 percent in September 2009, respectively. However, humanitarian agencies note that reporting rates from emergency therapeutic feeding programs remain low, with approximately 40 percent of CMAM sites providing reports in 2009.

In early February, UNICEF noted reports of increased measles cases in SNNP Region. In response, UNICEF has deployed an interagency team, including representatives from the Regional Health Bureau (RHB), UNICEF, and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), to Sidama, Gamo Gofa and Dawro zones and Konso special woreda to assess the situation, evaluate the ongoing response, and provide technical assistance. A second RHB and UNICEF team also travelled to Bench Maji Zone to verify reports of a similar epidemic and to provide technical assistance. In addition, UNICEF has provided eight emergency drug kits including essential drugs to treat 2,500 people for three months. According to OCHA, U.N. staff continue to monitor the overall situation as well as provide technical assistance for response activities.

USAID/OFDA provided more than \$13 million in FY 2009 to support health and nutrition activities in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions, including a rapid-response nutrition capacity and CMAM.

### ***Relief Food Assistance***

According to the 2010 HRD, WFP and non-governmental organization (NGO) consortium partners completed seven rounds of food distributions across Ethiopia and eight rounds of food distributions under the hubs and spokes system in Somali Region in 2009, targeting a total of 6.2 million people.

While insecurity and logistical issues continue to pose a challenge for delivery of food assistance in Somali Region, WFP noted that transportation difficulties appeared to be easing in late January, with WFP continuing efforts to secure additional trucks to move commodities from Djibouti to Ethiopia. In addition, WFP noted the recent expansion of the hubs and spokes system in January 2010 to include Afder and Liben zones, increasing the distribution network to cover all zones in the region.

According to the 2010 HRD, the GFDRE and humanitarian agencies have identified approximately 5.23 million people requiring emergency food assistance in 2010, including nearly 1.4 million people in Somali Region, nearly 1.1 million individuals in Oromiya Region, and nearly 1 million others in Amhara Region. Taking into account available resources, the GFDRE reports a net food requirement of 246,771 metric tons (MT) for 2010, valued at approximately \$187.8 million.

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 more than \$305 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.

### **WASH**

According to FEWS NET, woredas in eastern Amhara, Tigray, Afar, Oromiya, and Somali regions continue to experience critical water shortages for human and livestock consumption due to poor rain performance. Although availability of water marginally improved in southern Somali Region, lowland areas of Oromiya Region, and South Omo Zone in SNNP Region following the October to December 2009 *deyr* rains, FEWS NET notes that improvements are short-term and households will likely continue to rely on humanitarian assistance for water needs until the subsequent rains in March or April. In response to the shortages, regional water bureaus and humanitarian organizations continue to conduct water trucking to most-affected areas.

Despite ongoing water shortages, WHO reported an overall decline in the number of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases across Ethiopia in early February, according to OCHA. However, the FMOH notes that 10 woredas in Oromiya and SNNP regions have reported AWD cases to date in 2010, necessitating close monitoring and ongoing AWD response activities to prevent spread of the disease. Between January 4 and 17, the Ethiopia Health and Nutrition Research Institute reported 44 new AWD cases and no resulting deaths in Oromiya and SNNP regions, according to OCHA. According to the 2010 HRD, the GFDRE anticipates AWD to remain a challenge between January and June 2010 due to unseasonal rains, limited access to safe drinking water, poor sanitation conditions, and potential

flooding, as well as population movements. As a result, the GFDRE has requested more than \$2.3 million for AWD-related activities in 104 high-risk woredas in eight regions. Ongoing AWD response activities include strengthening surveillance and early warning systems and training federal and regional health workers. Between July and December 2009, health partners reported a total of 16,452 AWD cases and 162 deaths in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Afar, Somali, and Tigray regions, according to the HRD.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$8 million to support WASH activities in Somali, SNNP, Oromiya, Gambella, Afar, and Amhara regions, including support for hygiene education and other programs to prevent and mitigate the spread of waterborne diseases, as well as assistance for provision of safe drinking water and rehabilitation of water systems.

### **Population Movements**

According to WFP, insecurity and ongoing conflict in Somalia, as well as the recent withdrawal of WFP from areas in southern Somalia, continue to result in population movements to neighboring countries, including Ethiopia. As of February 2, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had recorded approximately 59,010 Somali refugees in Ethiopia—the third largest population of Somali refugees in the region.

To accommodate ongoing population movements into Ethiopia, UNHCR and the GFDRE Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) announced plans to establish a new refugee camp in Somali Region at Melkadida. According to an ARRA, UNHCR, and WFP visit to the site, plans for camp establishment have proceeded adequately, with temporary reception structure construction and land demarcation underway as of mid-January. UNHCR and ARRA plan to open the new camp in February. According to UNHCR, the Boqolmayo refugee camp in Somali Region—opened in mid-2008 to accommodate the increase in arrivals from Somalia—reached the camp's maximum capacity of 20,000 people at the end of 2009.

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 more than \$650 million for nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, agriculture and food security, and WASH programs throughout Ethiopia, as well as logistics, relief commodities, refugee assistance, emergency food assistance, and humanitarian coordination and information management. Of the total, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$61 million in FY

2009 funding for humanitarian assistance programs, including initiatives to protect, build, and diversify productive household assets as a means of strengthening

resilience to shocks that negatively impact food security. At present, nearly all of FY 2009 USAID/OFDA-funded activities remain ongoing.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA**

<b>FY 2010</b>			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
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	\$178,072,200
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP RELIEF ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$305,556,100</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2010</b>			<b>\$305,556,100</b>

<sup>1</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.




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