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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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

December 2, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated October 30, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, combined with 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 areas of Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. The USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates that the delayed onset and poor performance of the June to September *kiremt* rains, combined with the widespread failure of the previous four rains, will result in a below-normal October to January *meher* harvest in crop-producing areas of Ethiopia. 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 October 22, 2009, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) released the revised Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) outlining the results of a June and July 2009 multi-agency assessment and identifying humanitarian needs for June to December 2009. According to the HRD, an estimated 6.2 million people will continue to require emergency food assistance between October and December 2009. 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. In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$488 million for nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs throughout Ethiopia, as well as logistics, relief commodities, refugee assistance, emergency food assistance, and humanitarian coordination and information management.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
GFDRE PSNP Beneficiary Caseload	7.5 million	GFDRE MOARD ¹ – January 2009
Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	6.2 million	GFDRE MOARD – October 2009

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia.....\$133,072,200
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....\$133,072,200

CURRENT SITUATION

Some populations in *meher* crop-producing areas have experienced minor food security improvements as a result of the October to January *meher* harvest, according to FEWS NET. However, due to the late onset, erratic performance, and early cessation of the June to September *kiremt* rains, FEWS NET anticipates a below-normal *meher* harvest in many parts of Ethiopia. As a result, relief agencies expect that the current improvements in food security will be temporary, with an earlier than normal commencement of the 2010 June to September hunger season. FEWS NET and other

humanitarian organizations note the potential for a significant deterioration in food security early in 2010, resulting in increased incidence of malnutrition and a need for humanitarian assistance in greater amounts and for a longer time period than normal.

USAID/OFDA staff members continue to closely monitor the situation in Ethiopia and address identified humanitarian needs through targeted interventions and flexible response programs.

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD)

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

Agriculture and Food Security

According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), food security increased in some areas of Oromiya, Tigray, and Amhara regions during October and November as *meher* harvest crops became available. WFP reported ongoing harvesting of short-cycle crops, including barley, teff, and sweet potatoes as of November 15. However, WFP expects a below-normal production of long-cycle crops, including maize and sorghum, due to the late onset and erratic performance of *kiremt* rains and the substitution of short-cycle crops as a coping strategy. As a result of the combined effects of below-normal *kiremt* rainfall and several previous seasons of poor or failed rains, FEWS NET projects a below-normal *meher* harvest, which accounts for 90 percent of the total annual cereal crop production in Ethiopia. WFP anticipates particularly low *meher* harvest production in Gambella, Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP regions. In Gambella Region, internal clan conflicts, lack of planting in riverine areas, and cattle raiding by tribes from neighboring Sudan are likely to further decrease food security, according to FEWS NET.

Food security improved in areas of southern Somali Region during October and November due to above-normal *deyr* rainfall. As a result of an increase in pasture and water availability in most areas of East Africa, FEWS NET anticipates that Kenyan and Somali pastoralists who migrated to Ethiopia during the dry season in search of grazing land may return to areas of origin, which could further improve pasture and water availability for Ethiopian livestock. However, FEWS NET reports continuing food insecurity in Afar Region and northern Somali Region resulting from repeated seasons of failed rains.

According to WFP, staple food prices in Ethiopia remained stable during the third quarter of 2009. FEWS NET reported average October cereal prices below October 2008 levels. However, food prices remain high as compared to five-year averages.

The GFDRE and humanitarian organizations commenced a food security assessment in late November in *meher*-crop producing areas and pastoral areas of Ethiopia. Participating agencies plan to use the assessment results to estimate needs and inform potential response options for January to June 2010.

USAID/OFDA provided more than \$11 million in funding for agriculture and food security programs in FY 2009, the majority of which remain ongoing. USAID/OFDA-funded activities include seed distribution, livestock disease mitigation, and other initiatives designed to strengthen resilience to shocks that negatively affect food security.

Health and Nutrition

Despite improving food security in some parts of Ethiopia, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) notes that nutrition

remains a concern in drought-affected areas, including East Hararaghe, West Hararaghe, and Borena districts, Oromiya Region; South Gondor District, Amhara Region; and Fik District, Somali Region. As of November 16, humanitarian organizations reported increasing outpatient therapeutic program admissions in East Hararaghe and West Hararaghe districts and areas of Tigray Region.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$13 million to support health and nutrition activities, including a countrywide nutrition rapid response capacity and mobile clinics in rural pastoral areas of Somali and Afar regions.

Emergency Food Assistance

As of November 15, WFP reported ongoing delays in the transport of food assistance attributed to increased imports of other goods through the Port of Djibouti, resulting in congestion in the port and a shortage of available trucks. WFP anticipates that the transportation shortage will persist through January 2010, hindering emergency food assistance distribution. WFP continues to transport food supplies through Port Sudan and Berbera Port in Somalia to reduce congestion and meet food assistance needs.

As of November 30, WFP had completed the sixth round of emergency food distribution in Ethiopia during 2009 in Tigray, Afar, and Oromiya regions and continued distribution in Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, and SNNP regions. WFP and partner organizations plan to commence a seventh round of food distribution in early December, targeting approximately 6.2 million beneficiaries.

In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided an additional 162,220 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency relief assistance, valued at more than \$133 million. In FY 2009, USAID/FFP provided 418,200 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency relief assistance to Ethiopia, valued at nearly \$268 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

To date, above-normal October to January *deyr* rains have improved pasture and livestock conditions and replenished water sources in southern areas of Somali Region, according to FEWS NET. However, heavy rainfall resulted in mild seasonal flooding in the Wabishebbelle River basin in Somali Region in mid-October, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), damaging agricultural production and reducing access to safe drinking water among affected populations. WFP reported that floodwaters had abated as of November 15.

Although above-normal *deyr* rainfall has increased water availability in parts of southern Ethiopia, on November 23, OCHA reported continuing critical water shortages

in areas of Oromiya, Tigray, Somali, and Afar regions where rainfall has remained below-average.

According to WHO, the total number of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases in Ethiopia continues to decline from the peak in August. However, WHO noted continuing reports of new AWD cases among migrant laborers and in charcoal-producing communities in Afar Region as of November 16. OCHA also reported increased AWD incidence in South Omo District, SNNP Region, on November 30. The GFDRE Regional Health and Water Bureaus and humanitarian partners are responding through the provision of medical and water treatment supplies. Humanitarian organizations remain

concerned regarding possible incidence of AWD in several regions of the country due to flooding, migration, and poor hygiene and sanitation practices.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$8 million to support ongoing WASH activities in Somali, SNNP, Oromiya, Gambella, Afar, and Amhara regions, including \$3 million for countrywide rapid-response programs. Activities include treating water supplies, providing potable water to areas experiencing significant shortages, and conducting WASH education programs to mitigate the spread of AWD among affected populations.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2010			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
CRS (on behalf of the consortium of private voluntary organizations implementing relief operations)	44,460 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Relief Assistance	Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, Afar, and SNNP Regions	\$25,000,000
WFP	157,760 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Relief Assistance	Countrywide	\$108,072,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP Relief Assistance			\$133,072,200
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2010			\$133,072,200

² Estimated value of food assistance.