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

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

May 12, 2011

Note: The last fact sheet was dated January 12, 2011.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As of early May, drought conditions intensified across much of Ethiopia, leading to deteriorating food security as water and pasture resources diminish. To date, the February to May *gu/genna* and *belg* rains have produced below normal precipitation. Scarce rains compound the poor food security situation in southern and southeastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) expects the current food security situation to persist through June and deteriorate from July to September. On April 12, in response to the developing drought in the south and southeastern portions of the country, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) issued a revised version of the February 2011 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD). The revised HRD increased the estimated number of beneficiaries requiring food and other relief assistance in Somali Region and parts of lowland Oromiya and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People’s (SNNP) regions. Approximately 3.1 million people require emergency food assistance throughout Ethiopia from January through June 2011, including more than 2 million individuals in Somali, Oromiya, and SNNP regions, according to the GFDRE. The revised HRD identifies \$75 million in food and other humanitarian needs during April and May in the southern and southeastern drought-affected regions. In addition, the GFDRE announced plans to conduct a multi-agency national needs assessment in early May instead of July as previously scheduled.
- More than 12,200 Somali refugees crossed into Ethiopia from January through March, an increase when compared to the same period in 2010, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Both refugee camps hosting Somalis near Dolo Odo town were nearing the 30,000 person maximum capacity as of early April, and UNHCR has appealed for resources to construct a third camp, according the U.N. World Food Program (WFP).
- From March 24 to 26, USAID representatives conducted a field assessment in Somali Region, documenting significant water shortages. During a separate March 29 to April 1 fact-finding visit to Somali Region, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) staff confirmed the efficiency of WFP’s food relief operation and identified the need for additional food aid resources if drought conditions continue to worsen.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$9.6 million to support nutrition, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, as well as logistics and relief commodities and humanitarian coordination and information management in Ethiopia.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
GFDRE PSNP¹ Targeted Beneficiary Caseload	8.3 million	GFDRE MoARD ² – February 2010
Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance through June 2011	3.1 million	GFDRE – April 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE TO ETHIOPIA

USAID/OFDA Assistance	\$9,674,485
USAID/FFP Relief Assistance.....	\$101,328,700
State/PRM ³ Assistance.....	\$3,850,000
Total FY 2011 USAID Humanitarian Assistance	\$114,853,185

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO ETHIOPIA

USAID/OFDA Assistance	\$23,239,313
USAID/FFP Relief Assistance.....	\$318,982,900
State/PRM Assistance.....	\$21,257,387
Total FY 2010 USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance	\$363,479,600

¹ Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)

² GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD)

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

CONTEXT

- Successive 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 areas of Ethiopia, including Somali Region and parts of Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and SNNP regions. In addition, populations throughout Ethiopia have confronted other humanitarian challenges, including conflict and malnutrition.
- On October 25, 2010, U.S. Ambassador Donald E. Booth reissued a disaster declaration in response to the ongoing complex emergency in Ethiopia.
- Failure of the October to December 2010 *deyr* rains due to *La Niña* weather patterns resulted in water shortages throughout Ethiopia, particularly affecting Somali and Oromiya regions, as well as Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP regions. Decreased water availability for human and animal consumption adversely affected livestock health, crop yield, and food security, negatively impacting health and nutrition conditions among affected populations. The poor performance of the February to May 2011 *belg* and *gu/genna* rains has exacerbated conditions in southern and southeastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas and raised food security concerns in *belg*-dependent highland agricultural areas.
- On February 4, 2011, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Tulinabo S. Mushingi declared a disaster due to the effects of the drought.

Agriculture and Food Security

- According to the Somali Region Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB), the *gu* rains, which typically begin in late March and early April, commenced during the week of April 25 with below-normal coverage. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) expects the arrival of the rains to raise morale among drought-affected populations but lead to renewed livestock movements and concentration in areas receiving rain, increasing the risk of disease among livestock. FEWS NET predicts minimal impact of the late-April rains on the poor food security situation in Somali Region.
- As pasture has diminished to the point of depletion in certain zones, the condition of livestock in Somali Region has deteriorated due to shortages of food and water, leading to increased livestock mortality, according to OCHA. Pastoralists have resorted to slaughtering or selling animals, while the recent unrest in the Middle East and North Africa has led to a temporary decline in the demand for livestock exports from Ethiopia, reducing the incomes of the affected pastoral communities, OCHA reports.
- Prices of maize and wheat have continued to increase since December 2010, with the commodities exceeding the five year average price by 36 percent for wheat and 13 percent for maize, according to WFP. FEWS NET reports that price increases for staple cereals have mainly affected pastoral, agro-pastoral, and agricultural areas in southern Ethiopia, despite an adequate 2010 main harvest season, and predicts that continued poor rain performance and increased fuel costs may raise cereal prices further. Livestock-to-cereal terms of trade are deteriorating, according to FEWS NET.
- Overall food security in Gambella Region remains stable due to the good *meher* harvest in 2010, according to FEWS NET. However, conflict-affected areas of Gambella, as well as areas that experienced flooding in 2010, confront a poorer food security situation than the region as a whole.
- In addition to ongoing interventions designed to improve food security in Ethiopia, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$400,000 to date in FY 2011 to support agriculture and food security activities targeting nearly 150,000 beneficiaries in Oromiya and Somali regions.
- During FY 2011, USAID/FFP has provided 96,430 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 relief food assistance, valued at approximately \$101.3 million, to respond to humanitarian needs arising from late 2010 flooding; the effects of *La Niña*; drought, particularly in the lowland pastoral areas; and the underperformance of the current short cropping *belg* rains.

WASH

- As of April 18, drought had affected approximately 1.2 million people in East Hararghe, West Hararghe, Bale, West Arsi, Borena, and Guji zones, Oromiya Region, and an estimated 1.1 million individuals across Somali region, according to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF). In addition, OCHA reported on April 18 that the drought-affected population in Tigray Region had increased to approximately 54,000 individuals, and water shortages in Afar Region had forced people to move in search of water and pasture.
- Since mid-January 2011, regional governments, U.N. agencies, and non-governmental organizations have continued to augment support for water trucking in Somali and Oromiya regions as needs have increased sharply. As of April 18, partners had deployed 262 trucks in Somali Region, but the number of trucks required to meet the needs of the population had reached 373 vehicles by April 25, while prices to rent water trucks increased dramatically, according to OCHA. In Oromiya Region, humanitarian agencies had deployed 97 vehicles by April 18, with an additional 27 trucks prepared to deploy shortly thereafter, according to OCHA. The governments of Tigray and SNNP regions have also deployed water trucks to affected areas, according to USAID/OFDA staff.

- As of April 27, OCHA reported that the GFDRE and humanitarian agencies had supplied water to more than 2 million people in Somali, Oromiya, and Afar regions.
- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.9 million to UNICEF to support improved access to safe water and proper sanitation and hygiene, targeting more than 365,000 drought and flood-affected people throughout Ethiopia. In addition, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) continues to respond to drought-related WASH needs through a FY 2010 USAID/OFDA-funded rapid response program.

Health and Nutrition

- As of late March, admissions to Therapeutic Feeding Programs (TFPs) were increasing in most drought-affected areas of Somali and Oromiya regions and in certain areas of SNNP Region, according to OCHA. TFP admissions during the first three months of the year usually do not rise.
- Humanitarian agencies conducted six nutrition surveys in various areas of Oromiya and Afar regions during March, according to the GFDRE Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS). The two surveys in Afar Region and one of the four surveys in Oromiya Region reported “serious” or “poor” nutrition situations, while the remaining surveys in Oromiya Region found “normal” conditions. Both the crude and under-five mortality rates in all six surveys remained within national standards. A mid-February OCHA, UNICEF, and CARE assessment of Borena Zone—the most drought-affected zone of Oromiya Region—found a deteriorating nutrition situation.
- On April 18, DRMFSS released an updated list of nutrition hotspot *woredas*, or districts. The number of priority one hotspot *woredas* increased by 62 percent between December 2010 and March 2011 from 77 to 128. The largest increase occurred in Oromiya and Somali regions, and all *woredas* in Somali Region affected by the *La Niña*-induced drought received the priority one designation.
- As of May 2, the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute continued to report new cases of measles in SNNP, Tigray, Oromiya, Somali, and Amhara regions. Health officials recorded 894 new cases of measles, including two deaths, between April 18 and 24. In response, health actors have initiated case management and health education activities, continued case detection, and strengthened routine immunization activities in the affected areas.
- In addition to ongoing activities funded in FY 2010, including a nutrition rapid response initiative, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$4.8 million to support nutrition interventions in Ethiopia to date in FY 2011. USAID/OFDA supports UNICEF to provide both immediate response to severe acute malnutrition and outreach to prevent deterioration of nutritional status among children. USAID/OFDA also supports Mercy Corps to implement an emergency nutrition intervention in Somali Region, targeting more than 55,000 beneficiaries, and International Medical Corps (IMC) to strengthen emergency nutrition response capacity and reduce vulnerability to malnutrition in communities in Oromiya Region.

FY 2011 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2011 TO DATE			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IMC	Nutrition	Oromiya Region	\$500,000
Mercy Corps	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$749,026
Merlin	Nutrition	Oromiya Region	\$825,148
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Agriculture and Food Security and WASH	Oromiya and Somali regions	\$497,546
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Gambella and Somali regions	\$350,000
UNICEF	Nutrition and WASH	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Somali Region	\$350,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$402,765
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$9,674,485
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	76,430 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$76,674,500
Catholic Relief Services/Joint Emergency Operations	20,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$24,654,200

TOTAL USAID/FFP Relief Assistance			\$101,328,700
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,850,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$3,850,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2011			\$114,853,185

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 12, 2011.

² Estimated value of food assistance for FY 2011.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int