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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 #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

September 17, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated August 12, 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 parts 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.

In July 2009, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) increased the projected number of people requiring emergency food assistance between June and December 2009 to 6.2 million people. From January to June 2009, approximately 4.9 million people required emergency food assistance. In addition, an estimated 7.5 million chronically food-insecure beneficiaries currently receive assistance from the GFDRE-managed Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) through employment opportunities or food assistance and cash transfers.

On October 6, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Deborah R. Malac reissued a disaster declaration in response to humanitarian conditions in Ethiopia. To date in FY 2009, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$355 million for logistics, relief commodities, refugee assistance, emergency food assistance, and humanitarian coordination and information management, as well as nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, and agriculture and food security programs throughout Ethiopia.

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

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$61,276,990
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$277,328,200
State/PRM³ Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$16,585,504
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$355,190,694

CURRENT SITUATION

Consecutive seasons of failed rains continue to exacerbate food insecurity in Ethiopia. According to the GFDRE’s July post-*belg* assessment, 6.2 million Ethiopians will require emergency food assistance through the end of 2009, representing an increase of 1.3 million people from January to June 2009. On August 25, FEWS NET reported that despite improved rainfall in August the June to September *kiremt* rains have been below normal in most of the country. The official

GFDRE post-*belg* report was expected in August; however, as of September 14 the report had not yet been released.

USAID continues to monitor food insecurity in Ethiopia and respond to identified needs with targeted interventions in health, agriculture and food security, nutrition, and emergency food assistance.

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD)

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

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

Agriculture and Food Security

Poor performance of the 2009 February to May *belg* rains, combined with several consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall, has resulted in water shortages, decreased pasture availability, and significantly reduced *belg* crop performance in southern and northeastern Ethiopia. According to FEWS NET, poor *belg* rains led farmers to plant short-cycle, lower-yield crops during the *kiremt* rain season as a coping strategy. By planting crops that mature quickly, such as wheat, barley, peas, beans, and flax, farmers can use an earlier harvest to replenish dwindling food supplies. However, this strategy reduces the supply of long-cycle crops such as maize and sorghum, which normally constitute approximately 50 percent of Ethiopia's total cereal production.

FEWS NET reported that the *kiremt* rains started up to three weeks late in surplus-producing areas in Tigray, Afar, Amhara, and Oromiya regions. FEWS NET indicated that rainfall increased in August, but *kiremt* rains remained below normal as of August 25, increasing the likelihood of a significantly reduced *meher* harvest, the source of more than 90 percent of Ethiopia's annual crop production. Farmers require adequate rainfall through September and early October to produce a normal crop. However, in early September, USAID/OFDA noted reports of slowing or early cessation of rains in some areas. As a result of poor rains and the exhaustion of coping strategies, USAID/OFDA staff anticipate a significant increase in the need for humanitarian assistance the remaining months of 2009 and into 2010.

Due to the effects of intensifying food insecurity and drought conditions in neighboring countries, The U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports increased movement of pastoralists and livestock from Kenya and Somalia to Ethiopia seeking access to water and grazing land and straining limited resources in pastoral areas of Ethiopia. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that more than 200,000 livestock have moved across the border into Oromiya Region since June 2009. The influx of livestock increases the risk of livestock disease and conflict over scarce resources, according to FEWS NET. On August 24, OCHA noted an increase in the number of reported cases of the livestock diseases *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia in Somali Region.

Although meteorologists forecast normal to above-normal October to December *deyr* rains, FEWS NET does not expect short-term food security to improve in pastoral areas of Oromiya and Somali regions. Pastoral livelihood recovery requires two to three consecutive good rainy seasons for new breeding to replace livestock lost during drought.

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported increased occurrences of weather-related shocks such as heavy

rains, flash floods, and hailstorms in August in parts of SNNP, Oromiya, and Amhara regions, resulting in crop damage. According to FEWS NET, flooding also increases the likelihood of human and livestock diseases in affected areas.

FEWS NET reported in August that food prices in Ethiopia remain higher than five-year average levels. Following anticipated seasonal patterns, prices began to increase in June and are expected to continue to rise until the beginning of the *meher* harvest in October. High food prices increase food insecurity among populations that rely on trade to meet food needs, particularly in urban areas.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$11 million to support agriculture and food security programs in Ethiopia. The total includes initiatives funded through the USAID/OFDA Horn Food Price Crisis Response Strategy that are designed to protect, build, and diversify productive household assets as a means of strengthening resilience to shocks that negatively affect food security, such as below-normal crop production or food price increases.

Health and Nutrition

According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the number of admissions to therapeutic feeding programs (TFPs) continues to increase, particularly in SNNP, Oromiya, and Somali regions. OCHA attributes the increase in part to improved access and service coverage with the implementation of the GFDRE's outpatient therapeutic programs, which provide children with therapeutic food in the household rather than requiring stays at feeding centers. On August 7, UNICEF estimated that 242,000 children under the age of five years will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) during 2009. However, admission reporting rates at TFPs remain low throughout Ethiopia, hindering accurate nutrition assessment.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$13 million to support health and nutrition activities in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions, including community-based management of acute malnutrition.

Emergency Food Assistance

In early September, WFP reported an ongoing break in the food relief pipeline. According to WFP, the break, initially reported in June, has resulted from significant funding shortages and delays unloading and transporting food commodities from the Port of Djibouti. In response, WFP increased trucking capacity in August and has begun transporting some emergency food supplies through Port Sudan and Berbera, Somalia, to reduce the shortfall. WFP representatives visited Port Sudan and the Port of Djibouti in August and September to assess the ports and discuss possible methods to improve emergency food delivery.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 418,200 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to Ethiopia, valued at more than \$277 million. In addition, approximately \$150 million of USAID/FFP FY 2008 funding continues to support the GFDRE-managed PSNP in FY 2009. USAID/OFDA has also provided \$10 million to WFP for the local purchase and distribution of food assistance in FY 2009.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Prolonged drought conditions continue to result in critical water shortages in Somali Region, particularly in Afder, Warder, Gode, Shinille, and Degehabur zones, according to OCHA. OCHA expects the shortages to persist until the beginning of the next rainy season in mid-October. Regional authorities have appealed for resumption of emergency water tankering interventions to prevent a further deterioration of the situation.

On September 8, WHO reported a significant increase in acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases in all sub-cities of Addis Ababa and at least 61 districts in Afar, Amhara, Somali, Oromiya, and SNNP regions. The GFDRE Ministry of Health (MoH) reported a total of 6,821 AWD cases and 135 deaths between January 1 and August 16. In addition, the MoH reported 3,089 new AWD cases and four deaths from August 16 to 27, increasing the total

number of reported cases by almost 50 percent within a two-week period. Media reports place the number of AWD cases at approximately 18,000 to date. WHO expects the number of AWD cases to continue to increase due to the effects of the rainy season and increased vulnerability to infection among food-insecure populations.

In response to the increase in AWD cases, the GFDRE and humanitarian partners established a central command center to improve treatment and containment efforts. Regional health bureaus in Addis Ababa and Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, SNNP, and Tigray regions have prepared contingency plans, including strategies to prevent and control the spread of AWD.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$8 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in Somali, SNNP, Oromiya, Gambella, Afar, and Amhara regions, including \$3 million for rapid-response programs. Activities include treating water supplies, providing potable water to areas experiencing critical shortages, and conducting water, sanitation, and hygiene education programs to mitigate the spread of AWD to additional populations.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$870,235
CHF International	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,018,915
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture and Food Security and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP, Oromiya, and Tigray Regions	\$1,500,136
Food for the Hungry (FH)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems and Agriculture and Food Security	SNNP Region	\$3,717,476
GOAL	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$740,713
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Nutrition	SNNP and Oromiya Regions	\$979,015
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,481,845
IRC	Logistics and Relief Commodities and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$2,000,000

Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Nutrition, and Logistics and Relief Commodities	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$18,954,018
Merlin	Health, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$897,095
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$800,000
Samaritan's Purse	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Agriculture and Food Security	Gambella and Somali Regions	\$706,502
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$344,607
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya Regions	\$2,094,600
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Health, and Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray Regions	\$8,000,000
UNHAS	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$393,156
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement and Distribution	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP Region	\$630,000
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$1,148,677
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$61,276,990
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	249,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$180,828,200
CRS (on behalf of the consortium of private voluntary organizations implementing relief operations)	168,790 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$96,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$277,328,200
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$20,000
IMC	Psychosocial Services and Gender-Based Violence	Tigray and Somali Regions	\$771,146
IRC	Multi-Sectoral Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,828,311
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,104,017
WFP	Refugee Feeding Operations	Countrywide	\$2,200,000
ZOA	Livelihoods for Somali Refugees	Somali Region	\$662,030
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$16,585,504
TOTAL USAID			\$338,605,190
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2009			\$355,190,694

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 17, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.