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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 #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

August 12, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated July 8, 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 March to May 2009 *belg* rains, combined with the widespread failure of the previous three rains, will result in a below-normal October to January *meher* harvest in eastern crop-producing areas of Ethiopia. Significant humanitarian challenges, including flooding, conflict, malnutrition, and delayed food deliveries, confront populations in many areas of the country. 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. Previous January to June 2009 emergency food assistance beneficiary figures totaled 4.9 million people. 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 \$349 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.....	\$59,195,847
USAID/FFP ² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$277,238,200
State/PRM ³ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$12,699,698
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia	\$349,223,745

CURRENT SITUATION

The late and erratic performance of the 2009 *belg* rains have resulted in below-average harvests in *belg* crop-producing areas of Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray regions, compounding the negative effects of consecutive seasons of below-normal crop production and contributing to increased food insecurity and malnutrition in affected areas, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Based on preliminary findings of the joint GFDRE, non-governmental organization (NGO), and U.N. agency 2009 *belg* assessment, the GFDRE Disaster Risk Management Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) reported that a projected 6.2 million people countrywide will require emergency food assistance between June and December 2009. The revised figure represents an increase of 1.3 million people from the

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)

previous January to June 2009 projected total of 4.9 million emergency food assistance beneficiaries. According to OCHA, the GFDRE is scheduled to release the final results of the 2009 *belg* assessment in the coming weeks.

USAID/OFDA continues to monitor humanitarian conditions in affected areas and coordinate with implementing partners to prioritize critical assistance programs for affected populations. In response to increased humanitarian needs countrywide, USAID/OFDA has provided an additional \$15 million in humanitarian assistance programming during the month of July. Recent funding supports augmented agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market system, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities, as well as the provision of emergency relief supplies.

Agriculture and Food Security

The increased humanitarian needs identified as a result of the preliminary findings of the mid-year national *belg* assessment are attributed to significantly reduced *belg* crop levels and water and pasture shortages associated with the poor performance of the *belg* rains. The most affected areas include *belg* crop-producing areas of Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray regions and pastoralist areas of Afar and Oromiya regions. OCHA reports crop losses ranging from 75 to 90 percent in some areas of Amhara and Tigray regions, as well as significant crop failure in East and West Hararghe Zones in Oromiya Region. In addition, an August 10 OCHA report noted critical water shortages in Somali Region, resulting in population migrations from the most affected areas.

In response to current regional drought conditions, Kenyan pastoralists have moved more than 200,000 livestock across the border into the Oromiya Region of Ethiopia since June 2009, according to the U.N Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Although seasonal migration represents a normal pattern in the region, recent figures represent the largest recorded influx of Kenyan livestock in the last ten years, prompting concerns regarding competition for limited pasture and water resources and the potential spread of livestock diseases.

On August 3, the GFDRE MOARD noted new reports of desert locust swarms in areas of Amhara and Tigray regions. The August 3 report follows earlier late June confirmed reports of locust swarms in seven regions of the country. According to MOARD, locusts have not caused significant damage to crops in affected areas to date. Humanitarian agencies continue to monitor the situation, and the MOARD, in collaboration with USAID/OFDA-funded partner FAO and the Desert Locust Control Office for East Africa, has conducted aerial and ground containment operations in some affected areas.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$11million 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 building resilience to shocks that negatively affect food security, such as below-normal crop production or food price increases.

Health and Nutrition

As of August 7, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) had reported six confirmed cases of H1N1 influenza in Ethiopia since the initial confirmation of two H1N1 cases on June 19. In response to concerns regarding the potential spread of H1N1 influenza in Ethiopia, the GFDRE Federal Ministry of Health (MoH) has pre-positioned medical supplies in affected areas.

In July, humanitarian agencies continued to report increased admission rates of acutely malnourished children into outpatient therapeutic programs (OTPs) and stabilization centers (SCs), particularly in SNNP, Oromiya, and Somali regions. In SNNP Region, the number of admissions to therapeutic feeding programs (TFPs) increased by more than 58 percent between April and May, from 9,392 cases to 17,795 cases, according to OCHA. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) also highlighted deteriorating nutrition conditions in Amhara, Tigray, and Afar regions and noted that admissions are expected to further increase through the July to September hunger season.

In an August 7 report, UNICEF projected that an estimated 242,000 children under the age of five will require treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) countrywide in 2009, due predominantly to the effects of increased food insecurity.

The final results from a joint GFDRE, U.N., and NGO nutrition survey conducted in Somali Region in late April and early May 2009 and released in mid-July indicated global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates in the region ranging from 14.5 to 21.9 percent and SAM rates ranging from 0.8 to 2.3 percent, approaching or exceeding the emergency thresholds of 15 and 1 percent, respectively. The final report cited multiple contributing factors to elevated malnutrition levels, including acute water shortages, sub-optimal immunization coverage, and food assistance dependency, as well as the depletion of household coping mechanisms resulting from successive years of drought. Humanitarian agencies have expressed particular concern regarding increased malnutrition reports in Gode Zone, Somali Region.

Ongoing challenges continue to impede effective monitoring and response efforts. A July 27 OCHA report highlighted low reporting rates of malnutrition

admissions and inadequate monitoring associated with limited GFDRE MoH capacity and delays in the supply of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF). However, between January and July 2009, USAID/OFDA implementing partner UNICEF provided 1,897 metric tons (MT) of RUTF to GFDRE and NGO-run TFPs in SNNP, Oromiya, Somali, Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions to support malnutrition treatment, according to UNICEF. Between January and May 2009, UNICEF estimates that 126,000 children received treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$11.8 million to support nutrition activities in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions, including community-based management of acute malnutrition.

Emergency Food Assistance

As of mid-July, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported a continued break in the relief food pipeline, initially reported in June. According to WFP, the break is a result of significant funding shortages and delays unloading and transporting food commodities from the Port of Djibouti.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 418,200 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

Poor sanitation and hygiene conditions associated with water shortages resulting from the poor performance of annual rains continue to contribute to increased health risks. On August 10, WHO reported that the national

average case fatality rate (CFR) for acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in Ethiopia continues to exceed the emergency threshold of 1.1 percent. In Somali Region, the CFR currently exceeds 2 percent. Between January 1 and mid-June, the GFDRE MoH reported a total of 4,254 AWD cases and 101 deaths from Addis Ababa and six regions, including Afar, Somali, Oromiya, Harar, SNNP, and Amhara. In addition, the GFDRE MoH reported further increased admissions to AWD case treatment centers in July and 736 new cases of AWD and eight deaths during the week of July 27.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$8.3 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in Somali, SNNP, Oromiya, Gambella, Afar, and Amhara regions, including rehabilitation of water systems and support for hygiene education programs.

Population Movements and Displacement

As of July 15, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had registered 10,346 Somalia refugees at a transit center in Dolo Odo Woreda, Somali Region, and transferred nearly 7,000 individuals to the recently opened Boqolmyo refugee camp northwest of Dolo Odo. However, UNHCR has temporarily suspended additional refugee relocations to Boqolomayo camp, due to inadequate shelter provisions. UNHCR is also reviewing options regarding the establishment of a second camp to accommodate the projected arrival of additional refugees, expected to surpass the Boqolomayo camp capacity of 20,000 individuals by December 2009.

To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided nearly \$12.7 million to UNHCR and NGO partners to support refugees and conflict-affected populations in Ethiopia, including individuals in Boqolmyo camp.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE ¹			
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	SSNP, 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	\$3,000,000
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	Gambella and Somali Regions	\$706,502
U.N. Development Program (UNDP)	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	Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray Regions	\$2,000,000
UNICEF	Health and Nutrition	Somali Region	\$6,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$10,393,156
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP Region	\$630,000
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$1,067,534
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$59,195,847

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	249,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$180,828,200
CRS	168,790 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance for the Joint Emergency Operations (JEOP) and Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) Consortium for Emergency Relief	Countrywide	\$96,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$277,328,200
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$20,000
IRC	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,258,653
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$8,759,015
ZOA	Refugee Assistance in Boqolmyo Camp	Somali Region	\$662,030
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$12,699,698
TOTAL USAID			\$336,524,047
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2009			\$349,223,745

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 12, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance. USAID/FFP FY 2008 funding continues to support the GFDRE-managed PSNP in FY 2009.