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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 #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

July 8, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated June 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 short season 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 January 2009, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) released the Humanitarian Requirements Document for 2009 identifying a projected 4.9 million people in need of emergency food assistance between January and June 2009, including nearly 1.6 million people in Somali Region. 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 \$212 million for logistics, relief commodities, refugee assistance, emergency food assistance, and humanitarian coordination and information management, as well as nutrition, economy 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	4.9 million	GFDRE MOARD – January 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$45,003,933
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$154,522,100
State/PRM³ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$12,699,698
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia	\$212,225,731

CURRENT SITUATION

Due to consecutive seasons of below-normal crop production in affected areas, relief agencies reported increasing levels of food insecurity and high malnutrition rates in several areas of Ethiopia during June, including southern agro-pastoral areas of Somali Region, lowland areas of Oromiya Region, eastern SNNP Region, and the northeast highlands of Tigray and Amhara regions. In addition, humanitarian agencies expect poor long season *kirmet* rains,

typically occurring between June and September, to affect planting for the main October to January *meher* crop season, which constitutes between 90 and 95 percent of total crop production in Ethiopia, according to FEWS NET. Compounding the situation, the GFDRE National Meteorological Authority (NMA) predicts below-average *kirmet* rains in northwestern, eastern, and central crop-producing areas, as well as in northeastern pastoral areas of the country.

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)

On June 8, the GFDRE, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and U.N. agencies commenced the mid-year national *belg* assessment to determine humanitarian assistance needs for July to September 2009. Based on the previous *meher* assessment, the GFDRE currently estimates that 4.9 million people require emergency assistance in Ethiopia. However, preliminary *belg* assessment findings indicate significantly reduced *belg* crop levels, including 75 to 90 percent crop loss in some areas, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). As a result, humanitarian agencies expect food insecurity to increase above currently elevated levels in the coming months.

In response to increased food security and malnutrition concerns throughout Ethiopia, USAID/OFDA continues to monitor and conduct assessments of affected areas to examine health, nutrition, and food security conditions and identify priority interventions.

Agriculture and Food Security

According to OCHA, the GFDRE commenced mid-year assessments in *belg* crop-producing areas of the country on June 8 and *gu* rain-receiving areas of Somali Region on June 22 to determine humanitarian assistance needs in the coming months. Preliminary results from the *belg* assessment indicate a below-average harvest in *belg* crop-producing areas of Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray regions, with significant crop failure reported in East and West Hararge Zones in Oromiya Region and some areas of Tigray Region.

On June 24, FEWS NET reported a third consecutive season of below-average rainfall in pastoral areas of Afar Region following the poor performance of the March to May short rains. According to FEWS NET, associated pasture and water shortages in Afar have resulted in livestock migration to neighboring areas.

According to OCHA, recent NMA projections indicate normal to above-normal June to September *kirmet* rains in central-western and southwestern crop-producing parts of the country, but normal to below-normal crop performance in northwestern, eastern, and central crop-producing areas, as well as northeastern pastoral areas of the country. If the rains perform as projected, FEWS NET anticipates a second consecutive season of below-normal production in eastern *meher* crop-producing areas, as well as water and pasture shortages in northern pastoral areas. Humanitarian agencies note that poor performance of the *kirmet* rains could lead to a more widespread deterioration of food security in the coming months.

On June 22, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported confirmation of 12 large locust swarms in seven regions of the country, including areas not previously affected by locust

infestations. In late April and early June, small locust swarms crossed from northern Somalia to eastern Ethiopia, with several swarms continuing northwest into the southern highlands of Amhara Region and southern Tigray Region in mid-June. 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 partner FAO and the Desert Locust Control Office for East Africa, has conducted aerial and ground containment operations, treating 552 hectares (ha) of land in May and 2,207 ha in June.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$8.7 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 building resilience to shocks that negatively affect food security, such as below-normal crop production or food price increases.

Health and Nutrition

On June 19, the GFDRE Ministry of Health (MOH) confirmed two cases of H1N1 influenza in Ethiopia, with a third H1N1 case confirmed on June 29. In response to concerns regarding the potential spread of H1N1 influenza in Ethiopia, the Federal MOH has pre-positioned medical supplies and medicines in hospitals in affected areas.

During June, U.N. agencies and NGOs continued to report increased admissions of severely malnourished children into outpatient therapeutic programs (OTPs) and stabilization centers (SCs), particularly in parts of SNNP, Oromiya, Amhara, Tigray, and Somali regions. Due to consecutive years of poor *belg* performance, FEWS NET reports significant and increasing levels of malnutrition in *belg*-dependent areas in the northeastern highlands, including North Wello, South Wello, and North Shewa zones of Amhara Region. Further compounding the situation, FEWS NET reports that late and sporadic *belg* rains in some southern *belg* crop-producing areas, such as Hadiya, Wolayita, and Sidama woredas in SNNP Region, have delayed the *belg* harvest or caused crop failure in some areas. As a result, FEWS NET anticipates the hunger season in SNNP Region—typically occurring from March to May—to persist for at least two additional months, or until the beginning of the *meher* harvest.

In response to reports of increasing malnutrition, USAID/OFDA and the U.K. Department for International Development conducted a joint assessment and monitoring trip to Wolayta, Hadiya, and Dawro zones in SNNP Region in late May. The assessment team noted significant increases in severely

malnourished children admissions to OTPs and SCs, in some cases to levels higher than reported during the same time period in 2008. The assessment team noted contributing factors to increased malnutrition, including poor seasonal rains in 2008 exacerbated by the delayed onset and poor distribution of the 2009 *belg* rains, insufficient sweet potato harvest, and increased incidence of malaria and acute watery diarrhea (AWD). In Boloso Sorie Woreda, SNNP Region, USAID/OFDA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) reported that admissions to IMC-supported OTPs increased from 133 admissions in January to 1,033 in May. Although malnutrition rates typically increase during the June to September hunger season, the team expressed concern regarding the significant increase in severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in affected areas early in the year, as consecutive seasons of poor rains have eroded populations' ability to cope with multiple shocks.

To strengthen the nutrition response, the GFDRE, with support from the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), has developed a National Community Management of Acute Malnutrition program. The program includes establishing one OTP to manage uncomplicated SAM in every kebele health post and a minimum of one to two SCs per woreda for the treatment of complicated SAM cases. As of June 28, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the GFDRE had initiated the strategy in all 67 hotspot woredas in Oromiya Region, with ongoing preparations in 78 hotspot woredas in SNNP Region and 66 hotspot woredas in Amhara Region.

According to a July 2 WHO report, the GFDRE has shared findings from a recent Somali Region nutritional survey with the Nutrition Steering Committee. Based on the survey, the committee plans to develop a comprehensive, multi-sectoral response plan to malnutrition in Somali Region in the coming weeks. Unofficial reports from the assessment, initiated in mid-April, indicate global acute malnutrition rates in the region ranging from 14.5 to 21.9 percent, approaching or exceeding the emergency threshold of 15 percent. Relief agencies have expressed particular concern regarding the nutrition situation in Gode town due to reports of significant and increasing malnutrition rates during May and June. Humanitarian agencies note that malnutrition rates are typically lower in June, with significant seasonal increases occurring during the July to October dry season.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$4.4 million to support nutrition activities in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions, including community-based management of acute malnutrition.

Emergency Food Assistance

During June, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported a break in the relief food pipeline due to significant funding shortages and delays unloading and transporting food commodities from the Port of Djibouti. WFP notes that the continuing provision of emergency food assistance to beneficiaries remains contingent on resolution of transportation delays. To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 88,000 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$51.5 million, to the NGO consortium Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP) for use during the fourth and fifth rounds of food distribution.

According to the GFDRE Disaster Management and Food Security Sector (DMFSS), the high-level Government Transport Committee has agreed to prioritize the transportation of emergency food assistance at the Port of Djibouti through July to ease delays in the delivery of emergency assistance to affected populations. To expedite transportation, the GFDRE agreed to authorize companies to provide 100 trucks per day to transport food commodities from the Port of Djibouti to Ethiopia. However, as of late June, WFP reported continuing transportation challenges, with an average of 12 trucks transporting food commodities per day. In response, WFP continues to divert vessels carrying food assistance to the Port of Sudan and the Port of Berbera in Somaliland, where trucking companies plan to transport food aid to Ethiopia. WFP also continues to liaise with DMFSS and other GFDRE agencies to ensure the availability of trucks and facilitation of port operations.

USAID continues to monitor the implementation of the WFP hubs and spokes distribution system in Somali Region. On July 2, WFP reported improvement in food deliveries through the hubs and spokes system due to the opening of the Berbera corridor and improved coordination with transporters and joint committee members within the region.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 231,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to Ethiopia, valued at nearly \$155 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

According to FEWS NET, the early onset of the dry season and poor performance of the February to June *gu* rains have resulted in significant water and pasture shortages in southern areas of Somali Region, particularly in water-insecure Warder, Gode, and Aferd zones, as well as parts of Liben Zone. As a result of

limited water availability, FEWS NET notes early and extensive livestock movement to neighboring areas. Without sufficient September to November short rains, humanitarian agencies expressed concern that current water shortages could result in further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in affected areas.

Humanitarian agencies continue to note poor sanitation and hygiene conditions throughout Ethiopia due to significant water shortages. Between June 22 and 26, the Federal MOH received reports of 199 new AWD cases and nine deaths in Oromiya, SNNP, Afar, and Harari regions. According to OCHA, during the same time period, the Somali Regional Health Bureau also recorded 95 new AWD cases and 12 deaths in Afdem and Mieso woredas in Shinile Zone, Somali Region. In response, UNICEF reported ongoing measures to prevent the spread of AWD through public health messages and provision of water treatment chemicals.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$5.6 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

The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to register Somali refugees at a transit center in Dolo Odo Woreda, Somali Region, and relocate registered refugees to the newly opened Boquolmyo refugee camp northwest of Dolo Odo. As of June 26, UNHCR had registered nearly 10,000 new and existing refugees in Dolo Odo, including nearly 7,000 individuals in Boquolmyo refugee camp and more than 3,000 others temporarily residing in the Dolo Ado transit center. According to U.N. agencies, lack of adequate shelter remains a significant constraint to accommodating the total refugee caseload in Boquolmyo.

According to WFP, transportation difficulties are delaying food distributions to refugee camps, including Boquolmyo. On June 28, WFP reported inadequate food stocks in Ethiopia to meet full ration distributions for refugees in July and August. In response, WFP, UNHCR, and the GFDRE Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs held preliminary discussions on the possibility of reducing rations for July to ensure adequate food stocks for August distributions.

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 Boquolmyo camp.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2009			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CHF International	Economy 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	Economy and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security	SNNP Region	\$3,717,476
German Agro Action	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP Region	\$630,000
GOAL	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
IMC	Nutrition	SNNP and Oromiya Regions	\$979,015
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Economy and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,481,845
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Nutrition, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$17,757,903
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	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$344,607
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray Regions	\$2,000,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$1,067,534
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$45,003,933
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	142,720 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$103,022,100
CRS	88,280 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance for the NGO Consortium JEOP and NGO Consortium for Emergency Relief	Countrywide	\$51,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$154,522,100
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Orthodox Christian Charities	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	Countrywide	\$662,030
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$12,699,698
TOTAL USAID			\$199,526,033
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2009			\$212,225,731

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 8, 2009.

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