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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 #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

June 12, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated May 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 delayed onset and poor performance of the March to May 2008 *belg* rains, combined with the widespread failure of the previous two rains, resulted 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 nearly \$201 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.....	\$38,854,882
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$154,522,100
State/PRM³ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$7,620,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia	\$200,996,982

CURRENT SITUATION

Increasing levels of food insecurity and high malnutrition rates continue to affect populations throughout Ethiopia. According to the GFDRE, an estimated 4.9 million people will require emergency assistance between January and June. However, the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) estimates that 6.9 million people currently require emergency food assistance. In addition, FEWS NET and U.N. agencies expect food security conditions to deteriorate in the coming months

due to the delayed and erratic onset of the March to May 2009 *belg* rains. The poor rains will likely result in another season of failed crop production in *belg* crop-dependant areas of Ethiopia, including the northeast highlands of Amhara and Tigray regions, large areas of SNNP Region, and parts of Oromiya Region. Nutrition conditions have also significantly declined in some areas of the country, particularly in SNNP Region and East Hararghe, West Hararghe, and West Arsi zones of Oromiya Region.

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)

According to the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the GFDRE, non-government organizations (NGOs), and U.N. agencies plan to begin the GFDRE-led mid-year national assessment on June 8 to identify humanitarian assistance needs for July through September.

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

Due to early indications of a below-normal August harvest resulting from the late and sporadic *belg* rains, humanitarian agencies expect food insecurity to increase above currently elevated levels in the coming months. In addition, inadequate soil moisture resulting from the below-normal *belg* rains has hampered planting and germination of long-cycle maize, sorghum, and millet crops, which typically mature during the October to January *meher* season and constitute 50 percent of the total annual crop production in Ethiopia. In May, FEWS NET reported that the early season long-cycle crop damage could potentially result in the second consecutive below-average *meher* harvest production in eastern Ethiopia.

According to FEWS NET, wage labor constitutes an important source of income among households in *belg*-dependant regions of the country. In some areas of SNNP Region, poor households obtain approximately 70 percent of total annual income from wage labor, particularly agricultural labor. A below-normal *belg* harvest will result in decreased labor opportunities for poor households, further reducing income generation and food security.

In pastoral areas of Afar Region, OCHA reported a below-normal performance of the March to May *sugum* rains, resulting in poor livestock conditions. In SNNP Region, delays in the green maize harvest and poor performance of beans, both typically consumed during the July to September hunger season, have resulted in the adoption of negative coping strategies among affected populations, including the consumption of immature enset crops, selling of livestock and household property, and significant out-migration in search of labor opportunities.

During a May 25 Somali Region humanitarian coordination meeting attended by USAID/Ethiopia and USAID/OFDA staff, local authorities highlighted the poor performance of the main April to June rains, resulting in planting disruptions in agro-pastoral areas.

Although relatively stable since the beginning of 2009, food prices remain significantly above the five-year average and continue to negatively affect populations

that spend a high proportion of income on food purchases, including urban poor, market-dependent farmers, and pastoral and agro-pastoral populations. In May, FEWS NET reported that the current price of maize, an important staple crop for poor households in Ethiopia, remains 72 percent above the 2004–2008, five-year average. According to OCHA, food prices will likely rise seasonably between July and September, as households deplete food stocks from the previous harvest season.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$7.8 million to support agriculture and food security programs in Ethiopia, as part of the USAID/OFDA Horn Food Price Crisis Response Strategy designed to increase resiliency to shocks that negatively impact food security, such as below-normal crop productions or food price increases.

Health and Nutrition

The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue to report increased admission rates of acutely malnourished children into outpatient therapeutic programs (OTPs) and stabilization centers (SCs), particularly in SNNP and Oromiya regions. GFDRE regional and zonal health authorities recently completed nutritional screenings of 184,670 children in West Arsi Zone, Oromiya Region, and identified more than 4,614 children as severely malnourished. In addition, the GFDRE Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit reported increased admission rates into therapeutic feeding centers in Oromiya Region between January and March 2009, compared to 2008 admission rates.

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) expects nutrition conditions in SNNP to continue to decline during the July to September hunger season. In response, WHO and UNICEF have requested additional funding for therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs in order to prevent a further deterioration in nutrition conditions. In mid-May, UNICEF distributed 5.8 metric tons (MT) of ready-to-use therapeutic food to approximately 580 severely malnourished children in West Arsi, Borena, East Hararghe, and West Hararghe zones, Oromiya Region.

Results from a recent Somali Region nutritional survey, initiated in mid-April and coordinated by the Ethiopia Health and Nutrition Research Institute with technical and logistical support from U.N. agencies and NGOs, remain pending, awaiting GFDRE MOH review.

According to FEWS NET, increased reports of malaria cases in lowland and midland areas of SNNP Region have exacerbated nutrition conditions. Between March 31 and April 28, WFP reported 44,687 cases of malaria in Boloso Sore Woreda, SNNP Region, and 19,059 cases in Damot Pulassa Woreda, SNNP Region,

between April 7 and 28. A recent USAID/OFDA monitoring trip to Tigray Region also identified the presence of malaria as a contributing factor to increased malnutrition rates in the area.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.3 million to support nutrition activities in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions, including community-based management of acute malnutrition.

Emergency Food Assistance

Due to limited food aid resources beginning in August 2008, WFP has been providing full food rations to approximately 3.7 million severely food-insecure individuals throughout Ethiopia and three-quarter rations without blended food to approximately 1.2 million moderately food-insecure people. WFP recently reported a break in the relief pipeline, which will likely result in additional food aid reductions.

In addition, the GFDRE continues to prioritize the transportation of government goods, including cement and fertilizer, over emergency food assistance, resulting in insufficient trucking assigned to food deliveries, congestion at the Port of Djibouti, and subsequent delays in the delivery of emergency assistance to affected populations. On May 30, WFP reported that approximately 11,800 MT of mixed food commodities remained at the Port of Djibouti. In response, WFP diverted one vessel carrying food assistance to the Port of Sudan and another to the Port of Berbera in Somaliland, where trucking companies plan to transport the food aid to Ethiopia.

According to FEWS NET, approximately 31 percent of the GFDRE-identified population requiring emergency assistance resides in Somali Region, where reduced security-related market access continues to negatively affect livestock sales and food purchases. Although food aid distributions have improved under the WFP-implemented hubs and spokes system, food deliveries continue to arrive approximately three months later than planned.

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

Humanitarian agencies continue to express concern regarding poor sanitation and hygiene conditions due to significant water shortages throughout Ethiopia. FEWS NET reported significant water and pasture shortages in some areas of Ethiopia, including in Afar,

Tigray, Somali, and Oromiya regions. On May 25, OCHA reported critical water shortages in chronically water-insecure areas of Warder and Fik zones, Somali Region. In response to water shortages in Afar Region, U.N. agencies continue to provide rations of water to affected populations.

Between April 13 and May 17, the GFDRE Federal Ministry of Health (MOH) reported 649 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and 20 deaths in Somali, Oromiya, Afar, and SNNP regions. In Afar Region, the spread of AWD occurred among day laborers working private cotton farms during April. On June 1, OCHA reported that GFDRE and U.N. agency interventions, including the mobilization of private investors to improve hygiene and sanitation facilities, successfully controlled the spread of AWD among affected populations.

According to OCHA, both UNICEF and WHO plan to revise existing regional emergency preparedness and response plans to improve coordination between partners and centralize assistance requirements. Between June 1 and 5, UNICEF and WHO planned to conduct emergency preparedness and response assessments in Somali, Oromiya, Afar, and SNNP regions.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$4 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. Although Boquolmyo refugee camp has the capacity to accommodate 20,000 individuals, UNHCR had only relocated 2,500 refugees as of late April. On May 22, WFP reported that UNHCR planned to send additional vehicles to accelerate the relocation process.

In May 2009, UNHCR increased the Somalia Situation Supplementary Program budget to meet the needs of increasing refugee populations from Somalia residing in the Dolo Odo area. According to the revised program update, UNHCR plans to assess and respond to host community needs in Dolo Odo Woreda in the coming weeks, in addition to rehabilitating an airstrip and repairing access roads in order to avoid delays in relief supply delivery.

To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided more than \$7.6 million to UNHCR to support refugees and conflict-affected populations in Ethiopia.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Food for the Hungry (FH)	Economy and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security	SNNP Region	\$3,717,476
International Medical Corps (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	Nutrition, Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$822,975
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$16,934,928
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
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			\$38,854,882
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	142,720 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$103,022,100
Catholic relief Services (CRS)	88,280 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	\$51,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$154,522,100
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$7,620,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$7,620,000
TOTAL USAID			\$193,376,982
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2009			\$200,996,982

¹ USAID/OFDA and State/PRM funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 12, 2009.

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