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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 #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

May 8, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated April 9, 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 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 \$153 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
Additional Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	4.9 million	GFDRE MOARD – January 2009
Oromiya and Somali Region IDPs²	200,000	U.N./NGO ³ Joint Assessment Mission – April 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$37,348,380
USAID/FFP⁴ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$113,336,300
State/PRM⁵ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$2,650,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia	\$153,334,680

CURRENT SITUATION

Consecutive seasons of below-normal crop production and high food prices continue to contribute to nutrition and food security concerns in Ethiopia. According to the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), 7.5 million chronically food insecure people currently receive assistance through

the GFDRE-managed PSNP. The GFDRE also identified an additional 4.9 million people in need of emergency food assistance through June. In total, food insecurity affects an estimated 12.4 million people throughout Ethiopia. In addition, resource and clan-related conflict in Oromiya and Somali regions in

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD)

² Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

³ Non-governmental Organization (NGO)

⁴ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁵ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

February has displaced an estimated 200,000 people that require immediate humanitarian assistance.

The delayed and erratic onset of the March to May 2009 *belg* rains has negatively affected populations in *belg* crop-dependant areas of Ethiopia, including the northeast highlands of Amhara and Tigray regions, most of SNNP Region, and parts of Oromiya Region. As a result, FEWS NET anticipates a below-normal crop production and a subsequent deterioration in food security and nutrition conditions in the coming months.

In response to evolving needs throughout Ethiopia, USAID/OFDA continues to monitor humanitarian conditions in affected areas and coordinate with implementing partners to prioritize critical assistance programs. USAID/OFDA programs also support livelihoods rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction activities countrywide.

Agriculture and Food Security

Humanitarian agencies have noted increased concern regarding food security conditions in Ethiopia. According to FEWS NET, populations in the northeast highlands of Tigray and Amhara regions will be most affected by the below-normal March to May *belg* rains, as the *belg*-dependant August harvest typically contributes 85 percent of the regions' total annual crop production. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), 40 percent of cropping areas in southern Tigray Region and in the North Wollo and South Wollo zones of Amhara Region remained uncultivated as of mid-April. As a result, affected populations will likely experience a fourth consecutive season of below-normal crop production, further exacerbating already elevated food insecurity levels.

In response to the delayed onset of the *belg* rains, many households in SNNP Region substituted higher yielding, long-cycle crops with lower yielding, short-cycle beans and maize in an effort to mitigate long-cycle crop loss. However, even with short-cycle crop production, FEWS NET notes that SNNP populations will continue to experience high food insecurity in the coming months due to the below-normal crop production, as well as the 60 percent reduction in coffee production and 50 percent reduction in sweet potato production between 2008 and 2009.

While the April to June *gu* rains in southern Somali Region, lowland areas of Oromiya Region, and South Omo Zone of SNNP Region will not provide sufficient water to completely regenerate pasture availability or restore livestock conditions, FEWS NET expects a temporary improvement in food security conditions.

However, continued humanitarian assistance and several seasons of adequate rainfall will be required for pastoral and agro-pastoral populations to recover from significant livestock losses experienced during 2008.

According to the results of a December 2008 to February 2009 livestock survey conducted in Somali Region by USAID/OFDA implementing partner Mercy Corps, individual owners lost an average of 50 percent of livestock during 2008. Cattle owners reported a 65 percent loss, while goat and sheep owners reported a 47 percent loss and a 52 percent loss, respectively.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$7.7 million to support agriculture and food security programs in Ethiopia, targeting more than 800,000 beneficiaries, as part of the USAID/OFDA Horn Food Price Crisis Response strategy designed to increase resiliency to shocks that negatively impact food security.

Health and Nutrition

The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) and NGOs report increasing malnutrition rates and admissions to outpatient therapeutic programs (OTPs) and stabilization centers (SCs) throughout drought-affected and highly food-insecure regions of Ethiopia. On May 6, WHO reported significant increases in OTP and SC admission rates in West Arsi Zone, Oromiya Region, including 1,000 children during the week of April 27. U.N. agencies dispatched emergency food assistance for approximately 68,000 beneficiaries in West Arsi Zone and continue to monitor the situation.

Between April 20 and 26, a USAID/OFDA implementing partner reported increased child admission rates to OTPs and SCs in parts of Sidama Zone, SNNP Region, and East Hararghe Zone, Oromiya Region. In addition, preliminary results of a recent rapid nutrition survey conducted in West Hararghe Zone, Oromiya Region, indicate global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates above 20 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates above 3.5 percent, significantly higher than GAM and SAM emergency thresholds of 15 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

A Somali Region nutritional survey, coordinated by the Ethiopia Health and Nutrition Research Institute with technical and logistical support from U.N. agencies and NGOs, began on April 16. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) expects the release of preliminary results in mid-May.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.3 million to support nutrition activities in Ethiopia, including programs designed to strengthen community-based services for the prevention and management of malnutrition and improve household nutritional practices in drought-affected areas of Oromiya and SNNP regions.

Emergency Food Assistance

USAID continues to monitor implementation of the WFP hubs and spokes distribution system in Somali Region. On May 4, FEWS NET reported that

improved food aid deliveries through the hubs and spokes system have contributed to increased food security and cereal price stabilization in the region.

However, limited trucking capacity at the Port of Djibouti has hampered food aid deliveries to affected populations throughout Ethiopia. According to WFP, the GFDRE continues to prioritize transportation of government goods, including cement and fertilizer, over emergency food assistance. On April 30, WFP reported that nearly 10,000 metric tons (MT) of mixed food commodities remain at the Port of Djibouti. According to USAID/FFP staff, WFP requires 150 trucks per day to deliver food from the Port of Djibouti to affected populations in Ethiopia. However, during the week of April 23, an average of only 18 trucks per day remained available for transportation of WFP food deliveries.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 91,510 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to Ethiopia, valued at more than \$113 million, including 19,820 MT of food assistance to a GFDRE-managed pilot safety net program targeting pastoralist populations in Ethiopia. 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

Between March 23 and April 26, the GFDRE Federal Ministry of Health (MOH) reported 476 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and 13 deaths in Somali, Oromiya, and SNNP regions. In addition, the GFDRE MOH reported 87 cases of AWD from SNNP Region during the week of April 27, according to OCHA. In response to concerns regarding the spread of waterborne diseases, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues to provide technical assistance to the GFDRE MOH, as well as support the provision of water treatment chemicals to affected populations.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$3 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene activities throughout Ethiopia, including programs designed to improve access to safe drinking water and support hygiene education.

Displacement and Population Movements

Between March 22 and 31, a joint U.N./NGO team conducted a humanitarian assessment of the situation in areas of Oromiya and Somali regions, where resource-related conflict displaced more than 200,000 people in February. The assessment indicated severe water and food shortages among affected populations, as well as increased malnutrition rates and the presence of diarrheal diseases. The team highlighted the need for prevention activities to reduce the spread of waterborne diseases, including latrine construction, health worker training, open well treatment, household chemical distribution, and technical support.

In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided emergency relief assistance, as well as return and rehabilitation support, to more than 41,000 previously displaced populations in Somali and Oromiya regions. In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA continues to provide emergency response and return assistance to IDPs in Somali and Oromiya regions.

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. Designed to accommodate 20,000 refugees, Boquolmyo camp hosted approximately 2,500 refugees as of May 1, with an additional 4,000 in the Dolo Odo transit center awaiting transfer to the camp and 430 new arrivals awaiting registration. UNHCR expects to relocate all refugees from the Dolo Odo transit center to Boquolmayo camp by mid-May.

To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided nearly \$2.7 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	Economy and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security	SNNP Region	\$3,717,476
International Medical Corps	Nutrition	SNNP and Oromiya Regions	\$979,015
International Rescue Committee	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
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			\$37,348,380
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	71,690 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$97,522,100
Save the Children/UK	6,050 MT of PSNP Pastoral Pilot Food Assistance	Afar Region	\$4,341,400
Save the Children/US	12,420 MT of PSNP Pastoral Pilot Food Assistance	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$10,248,400
CARE	1,350 MT of PSNP Pastoral Pilot Food Assistance	Afar Region	\$1,224,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$113,336,300
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,650,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$2,650,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2009			\$153,334,680

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

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