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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 #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

April 9, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated March 10, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, exacerbated by 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 large areas 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, delayed food deliveries, and locust and armyworm infestations 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 7.2 million beneficiaries currently receive food or cash assistance from the GFDRE-managed Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP).

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 \$111 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	7.2 million	GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau – September 2008
PSNP Caseload Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	5.6 million	GFDRE MOARD ¹ – September 2008
Additional Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	4.9 million	GFDRE MOARD – January 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$32,483,518
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$76,245,000
State/PRM³ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$2,650,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia	\$111,378,518

CURRENT SITUATION

Populations in Ethiopia continue to experience high levels of food insecurity and declining nutrition conditions. In addition, resource-related conflict between ethnic groups residing in Oromiya and Somali regions has resulted in significant population displacement, estimated at 200,000 people.

The delayed and erratic onset of the March to May *belg* rains has exacerbated existing food security concerns among *belg* crop-dependent populations in Ethiopia, including SNNP, Oromiya, eastern Amhara, and southern Tigray regions. In addition, high food prices, drought conditions resulting from the failure of the

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD). As of August 8, 2008, the responsibilities of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) were officially transferred to the MOARD Disaster Management and Food Security Sector (DMFSS) as part of a planned restructuring process.

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 two rains, and associated below-average crop production have contributed to decreased food security and nutrition conditions in Ethiopia.

As part of the President's \$770 million Food Security Response Initiative, USAID/OFDA has implemented the Horn Food Price Crisis Response (HFPCR) strategy designed to increase household and community resiliency to shocks that negatively impact food security. The HFPCR strategy combines humanitarian activities with longer-term recovery interventions to create and diversify household assets, as well as improve economic opportunities for vulnerable populations in the Horn of Africa.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$20 million to Mercy Corps and Food for the Hungry International (FHI) to support agriculture and food security and economy and market systems programs in Ethiopia through the HFPCR strategy, targeting more than 800,000 beneficiaries. The programs aim to preserve livelihood assets through reducing post harvest losses, diversifying income and asset sources, and promoting longer-term agricultural initiatives, including seed quality improvement.

USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor nutrition, food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions in affected areas. USAID/OFDA also continues to work with USAID/Ethiopia to support livelihoods rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction activities.

Agriculture and Food Security

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), *belg* rains began during the week of March 30, approximately one month later than expected, in SNNP, Afar, Amhara, western Oromiya, and central and eastern Tigray regions. However, humanitarian agencies remain concerned over potential food security declines associated with the delayed onset and short rainfall duration due to the significant role of the *belg* rains in crop production and water replenishment.

According to FEWS NET, nearly one million people in the *belg* crop-producing areas of Amhara and Tigray regions rely on the *belg* rains to produce nearly 85 percent of the regions' total annual crop production. Similarly, populations in SNNP and Oromiya regions rely on the *belg* rains to produce nearly 80 percent of the regions' total annual crop production. In addition, long-cycle maize and sorghum crops planted with residual moisture from the *belg* rains constitute nearly 50 percent of the total annual crop production in Ethiopia. According to FEWS NET, partial or total *belg* harvest failure could result in deteriorating food security conditions and high levels of acute malnutrition.

Market access restrictions, low milk production, and livestock production declines continue to contribute to food insecurity in Somali Region, according to FEWS NET. However, pastoral areas of Somali Region received isolated rainfall during the week of March 30, potentially alleviating water shortages resulting from the December to March *jilaal* dry season.

Food security conditions in most areas of Oromiya Region have improved in recent months due to a normal *meher* harvest and continued food assistance programs. However, Bale, Arsi, and Guji zones, Oromiya Region, continue to experience limited food availability due to a below-normal *meher* harvest.

According to FEWS NET, high and rising staple food prices also continue to negatively affect urban poor and market-dependent farmers, as well as pastoral and agro-pastoral populations. The GFDRE Central Statistics Agency reported a 61 percent food inflation rate and a 24 percent non-food inflation rate in February 2009. According to FEWS NET, the current price of maize, an important staple crop for poor households in Ethiopia, represents a 130 percent increase from the 2004–2008 average and a 47 percent increase compared to the February 2008 price.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$7.5 million to support agriculture and food security programs in Ethiopia. As part of the HFPCR, USAID/OFDA has contributed more than \$2.2 million to support a FHI Market-led Livelihood Recovery and Enhancement Program designed to protect, diversify, and increase assets of food-insecure households in SNNP Region through the promotion of marketable agricultural production. In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5 million to support a Mercy Corps Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Incomes and New Markets initiative, targeting nearly 700,000 beneficiaries in Oromiya and Somali regions.

Health and Nutrition

According to OCHA, humanitarian agencies have reported declining nutrition conditions in recent weeks in Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambella, SNNP, and Amhara regions. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also reported significant increases in severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in parts of Tigray Region.

Following a request from the Somali Regional government, the GFDRE plans to conduct a nutrition survey coordinated by the Ethiopia Health and Nutrition Research Institute with assistance from the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and NGOs. The survey teams are scheduled to conduct assessments in seven districts of Somali Region between April 7 and 26.

On March 16, the GFDRE DMFSS, WFP, Save the Children/United Kingdom (SC/UK), CARE, and the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit identified 151 districts in Gambella, Benishangul Gumuz, Tigray, Oromiya, Somali, and Afar regions as hotspot districts, representing a 30 percent decrease from the number of hotspot districts identified in October 2008.

The multiagency team utilized 2009 GFDRE Humanitarian Requirements Document, and U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization crop production results as the basis for re-classification. According to OCHA, the U.N. Nutrition Cluster plans to use the updated hotspot list for resource allocation and humanitarian intervention prioritization.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$800,000 to support nutrition activities in Ethiopia, including the establishment of supplementary feeding programs in Oromiya and Somali regions.

Emergency Food Assistance

On March 24, WFP reported a total food aid shortfall of 373,000 metric tons (MT) for relief, PSNP, and supplementary feeding programs in 2009, valued at more than \$314 million. Due to limited food aid resources, WFP plans to provide 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.

According to WFP, limited trucking availability at the Port of Djibouti has delayed food aid distributions to Ethiopia. As a result, WFP has offered transport companies a premium to dedicate trucks to emergency food delivery until the end of April. On April 3, WFP reported that 12 transport companies had accepted the offer. However, trucking companies had only provided 40 out of a proposed 170 trucks as of April 7.

WFP expects the availability of additional trucks to reduce costs related to high storage fees and avoid food commodity deterioration. In addition, the GFDRE authorized food commodity importation through Berbera Port in Somaliland, Somalia, due to the back log at Djibouti Port. As of March 26, 16 trucks had entered Ethiopia from Somalia and offloaded food in Somali Region warehouses.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 807,810 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to Ethiopia, valued at more than \$614 million, including 19,820 MT of food assistance to a GFDRE-managed pilot safety net program targeting pastoralist populations in Ethiopia. Approximately \$150 million of USAID/FFP FY 2008 funding continues to support the GFDRE-managed PSNP in FY 2009. In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided \$10 million to WFP for

the local purchase and distribution of food assistance in FY 2009.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Between March 19 and 26, the GFDRE Federal Ministry of Health (MOH) conducted official health assessments in Oromiya and Somali regions. According to OCHA, the GFDRE MOH reported 61 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in Borena Zone, Oromiya Region, and 276 AWD cases in Liben Zone, Somali Region.

During the week of March 30, the Emergency Health and Nutrition Task Force reported that AWD continues to spread to new districts in Oromiya and Somali regions due to inadequate access to safe drinking water and poor sanitation. In response, humanitarian agencies are developing a response action plan to mitigate the spread of AWD. On April 6, WHO reported that affected regions will require technical assistance, medication, and water treatment chemicals, as well as logistics and coordination support.

In FY 2008 and in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$4.7 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene activities throughout Ethiopia, including improved access to safe drinking water and support for hygiene education designed to reduce the spread of waterborne diseases.

Displacement and Population Movements

During February, an escalation in conflict between ethnic groups in Somali and Oromiya regions caused by resource-related tensions, as well as land and boundary disputes, resulted in significant population displacement. Local government officials from Liben Zone, Somali Region, and Borena Zone, Oromiya Region, have requested assistance for an estimated 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Humanitarian organizations conducted a multiagency assessment in Somali and Oromiya regions between March 22 and 31. Assessment findings indicated water and food shortages, increased malnutrition risks, and the presence of AWD and other diarrheal diseases among affected populations. The assessment also identified additional conflict-affected populations in surrounding areas, increasing the total number of displaced to approximately 200,000.

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, including life-saving nutrition interventions and the provision of non-food items, AWD treatment centers, and livelihood supplies.

On April 30, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began relocating Somali refugees from a transit center in Dolo Odo Woreda, Somali Region, to the newly opened Boquolmyo refugee camp northwest of Dolo Odo. The first bus convoy departing Dolo Odo transported nearly 160 refugees to Boquolmyo camp, designed to accommodate up to 20,000 refugees. WFP has dispatched food to Boquolmyo camp for approximately 5,000 refugees

and continues to provide wet food distributions to 2,000 refugees at the reception center in Dolo Odo. As of April 3, UNHCR had registered nearly 4,500 Somali refugees in Dolo Odo, exceeding the March planning figure of 3,000 refugees. In FY 2009, State/PRM has provided nearly \$2.7 million to UNHCR to meet the needs of 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			
FHI	Economy and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security	SNNP Region	\$3,717,476
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
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$663,532
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$32,483,518
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	71,690 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$59,699,400
SC/UK	6,050 MT of PSNP Pastoral Pilot Food Assistance	Afar Region	\$4,257,800
SC/US	12,420 MT of PSNP Pastoral Pilot Food Assistance	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$11,083,400
CARE	1,350 MT of PSNP Pastoral Pilot Food Assistance	Afar Region	\$1,204,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$76,245,000
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			\$111,378,518

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 9, 2009.

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