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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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

February 6, 2009

*Note: The last situation report was dated January 8, 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 Ethiopia. The delayed onset and poor performance of the March to May 2008 *belg* rains, combined with the widespread failure of the previous two consecutive rains, have resulted in below normal harvests and diminished pasture throughout Somali Region and large areas of Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. Significant humanitarian challenges, including flooding, conflict, malnutrition, delayed food response, 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.

On January 30, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) released the Humanitarian Requirements Document outlining the results of a November and December 2008 assessment and identifying humanitarian needs in the coming months. According to the GFDRE, an estimated 4.9 million beneficiaries are in need of assistance between January and June 2009. 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 \$74.5 million for emergency food assistance, nutrition, logistics and relief commodities, and agriculture and food security interventions. The USG also provided nearly \$608 million in FY 2008 for humanitarian assistance, including more than \$35 million from USAID/OFDA, \$561 million from USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), and \$9.5 million from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). Ongoing FY 2008 USAID/OFDA programming includes support for logistics and relief commodities, health, nutrition, risk reduction, agriculture and food security, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>GFDRE PSNP Caseload</b>	7.2 million	GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau – September 2008
<b>PSNP Caseload Requiring Emergency Food Assistance</b>	5.6 million	GFDRE MOARD <sup>1</sup> – September 2008
<b>Additional Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance</b>	4.9 million	GFDRE MOARD – January 2009

### **FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....</b>	<b>\$1,106,722</b>
<b>USAID/FFP Assistance to Ethiopia.....</b>	<b>\$70,782,800</b>
<b>State/PRM Assistance to Ethiopia.....</b>	<b>\$2,650,000</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia .....</b>	<b>\$74,539,522</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

On January 30, the GFDRE released the Humanitarian Requirements Document identifying the estimated humanitarian requirements in Ethiopia for 2009. Based on a November and December 2008 assessment, the GFDRE expects 4.9 million people to require

emergency assistance between January and June, including nearly 1.6 million people in Somali Region. The GFDRE decreased the total estimated number of beneficiaries in need of assistance by 1.5 million, or 23 percent, since October 2008. However, the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network

<sup>1</sup> GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD). As of August 8, 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.

(FEWS NET) indicates that food security is likely to deteriorate in Afar, SNNP, and Somali regions between January and June.

In total, the GFDRE requested more than \$454 million in humanitarian assistance to cover food needs for 4.9 million beneficiaries in 2009, subject to a mid-year assessment. In addition, the request covers non-food needs for the first six months of 2009. The GFDRE request includes \$389 million for emergency food aid, more than \$26 million for supplementary food programs targeting approximately 1.2 million children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women, and nearly \$39 million for health, nutrition, agriculture, livestock, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

On January 31, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released results from the initial phase of the Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM). Based on the CFSAM findings, WFP and FAO predict a 10 percent increase in *meher* season cereal and pulse production in 2009 compared to 2008. According to WFP and FAO, the projected increase is based on proper use of fertilizer, improved seeds, low pest and disease pressures, and an enlarged area of cultivation. However, USAID/Ethiopia staff note that other estimates have indicated poor maize crop yields in *belg*-dependent areas of Ethiopia.

On January 30, FEWS NET reported that eastern crop producing areas of Ethiopia, including eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, eastern Oromiya, Harari, Dire Dawa, and northern Somali regions, experienced below-average crop production caused by failed or poor rains, exacerbating food insecurity.

In addition, FEWS NET anticipates that food security could deteriorate further between April and June 2009 in the eastern *meher* crop producing areas, as well as in SNNP and Afar regions, as a result of the poor harvest season. FEWS NET also reported that despite normal October through December *deyr* rains in most areas of Somali Region and lowland areas of Oromiya Region, food security is unlikely to improve in Somali and eastern Oromiya regions due to previous droughts, significant livestock mortality, market access restrictions, and delayed food aid deliveries.

USAID/OFDA staff continue to conduct assessments of affected areas to monitor food security, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions. USAID/OFDA also supports critical livelihood rehabilitation activities throughout Ethiopia.

#### ***Agriculture and Food Security***

Below average crop production caused by consecutive seasons of failed or poor rains continues to exacerbate food insecurity and water shortages in Ethiopia.

According to FEWS NET, poor or uneven 2008 rains caused nearly 60 percent of the coffee crop production to fail in SNNP Region, affecting approximately 500,000 people. In addition, FEWS NET reported an estimated 50 percent reduction in anticipated sweet potato production in 2009 compared to 2008 due to a lack of sweet potato cuttings for planting, decreasing coping mechanisms of vulnerable populations and further exacerbating food security conditions.

From December 14 to 20, a USAID/OFDA program monitor visited eight *woredas* in southern and eastern Tigray Region to assess the impact of drought conditions on food security, as well as the nutritional status of children and pregnant and lactating women. The USAID/OFDA staff member noted deteriorating food security in the southern and southeastern Tigray Region, reporting that failed and uneven 2008 rains had resulted in poor crop production and a lack of water for human and animal consumption. In addition, lowland areas of Tigray lacked sufficient feed and pasture for livestock. The program monitor highlighted the need for continued relief assistance in order to sustain food insecure populations in the region.

From December 30 to January 5, a USAID/OFDA program monitor assessed humanitarian conditions in northeastern Amhara Region. The program monitor noted that limited water and pasture availability in Tselemet Woreda resulted in the movement of livestock to neighboring areas. Humanitarian organizations working in Amhara Region have reported that without continued food aid, drought-affected individuals in northeastern Amhara Region are likely to relocate to areas with improved water availability.

On January 14, WFP reported that depleted water and pasture availability in Jijiga Zone, Somali Region, had caused livestock migration to neighboring areas and population movement to urban areas and food distribution points. On January 30, FEWS NET reported that poor rains resulted in significant livestock mortality and water shortages in Afar Region, limiting milk availability and increasing food insecurity and malnutrition.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$4 million to support food security and agriculture programs in Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya regions. With USAID/OFDA support, Mercy Corps is providing livelihood supplies and materials to assist an estimated 18,000 beneficiaries in Oromiya and Somali regions. In addition, to prevent the spread of parasitic diseases and to increase animal survival rates, Save the Children/United Kingdom provided animal health care to more than 521,000 animals in Fik Zone, Somali Region, in FY 2008.

### **Nutrition**

Humanitarian organizations continue to monitor nutrition conditions throughout Ethiopia. The non-governmental organization (NGO) GOAL reported increased admissions to nutrition centers in SNNP, Oromiya, and Amhara regions between December 26 and January 9 compared to mid-December. According to GOAL, reduced *meher* crop production and disease outbreaks, including diarrhea, measles, and malaria, continue to deteriorate nutrition conditions.

According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the GFDRE Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit reported a total of 971 new admissions to therapeutic feeding programs in SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions between January 12 and 18, a decline from 1,256 admission between December 14 and 21. Recently released results from an October 2008 GFDRE Regional Health Bureau (RHB) nutrition assessment in Tigray Region indicated that global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates had reached 18 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates had reached nearly two percent, representing a nearly 10 percent increase in GAM rates and a nearly one percent increase in SAM rates since June 2008.

According to the 2009 Humanitarian Requirements Document, the GFDRE projects that nearly 34,400 children under five years of age will require treatment for SAM in 2009. Populations in drought-prone areas, including Afar, Amhara, SNNP, Oromiya, Somali, and Tigray regions, remain particularly vulnerable to malnutrition. However, the GFDRE's SAM projections are based on the number of food insecure individuals in emergency and PSNP *woredas* and do not include chronic malnutrition cases or SAM cases affecting populations in all *woredas* at risk.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$12 million to support nutrition activities in Ethiopia, including health interventions designed to prevent the deterioration of nutritional levels among populations in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions.

### **Emergency Food Assistance**

On January 12, WFP reported that the 2009 food aid shortfall for relief, PSNP, and supplementary feeding programs will be 44,500 metric tons (MT), valued at more than \$370 million. On January 21, WFP reported that GFDRE logistical constraints continue to impede

food distribution efforts in Somali Region, including implementation of the hubs-and-spokes distribution system.

However, from January 25 to 31, the USAID/FFP regional logistics officer traveled to Somali Region to monitor the WFP hubs-and-spokes system and noted that distributions to Somali Region under the system have significantly increased in some areas, particularly in Gode and Degehabur zones. According to the USAID/EA/FFP staff member, WFP had distributed 76 percent of the October to December food allocation, compared to 25 percent during the same time period in 2008. WFP continues to face challenges in Fik Zone and Kebredehar District, Somali Region, due to insecurity and poor road conditions. However, WFP plans to establish a new hub in Kebredehar District during the week of February 9.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 819,250 MT of Title II emergency food assistance to Ethiopia, valued at more than \$632 million. USAID/OFDA has provided \$3.9 million to WFP for the local purchase and distribution of food assistance in FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009.

### **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

According to WFP, water access remains a significant concern in arid areas of Somali, Afar, Tigray, and Oromiya regions. From January 12 to 16, USAID/OFDA staff members visited USAID/OFDA-funded water projects in SNNP Region. The staff noted that water shortages remain a concern for communities in eastern SNNP Region, resulting in many individuals collecting water from contaminated streams and rivers.

According to WHO, health officials reported no new cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) between January 1 and January 18. The 2009 Humanitarian Requirements Document requested that health partners continue to implement AWD outbreak preparedness and prevention activities in high-risk areas previously affected by AWD outbreaks.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$8 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in Somali, SNNP, Oromiya, Gambella, Afar, and Amhara regions, including rehabilitation of water systems in order to improve access to safe drinking water.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<b>FY 2009</b>			
<b><i>Implementing Partner</i></b>	<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Amount</i></b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Mercy Corps	Nutrition, Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$822,975
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$283,747
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$1,106,722</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	71,690 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$59,699,400
Save the Children	12,420 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Somali Region	\$11,083,400
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$70,782,800</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,650,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$2,650,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$74,539,522</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 6, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.