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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 #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

January 8, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated December 4, 2008.

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 *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 October 14, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) revised the number of people in need of emergency assistance from 4.6 million to 6.4 million, including nearly 1.9 million people in Somali Region. In addition to the 6.4 million people in need of emergency assistance countrywide, an additional 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. In FY 2009 to date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$72 million for emergency food assistance, logistics and relief commodities, health, nutrition, 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 \$10.5 million from 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.

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	6.4 million	GFDRE MOARD – October 2008

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$978,052
USAID/FFP Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$69,699,400
State/PRM Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$1,850,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$72,527,452

CURRENT SITUATION

Food security has improved in crop-producing areas of western Ethiopia as a result of the October to January *meher* season harvest. However, below average crop production in eastern Ethiopia caused by failed or poor rains has exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition.

During the first week of December, WFP and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) completed the initial phase of the Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission. According to WFP, the assessment indicated above average harvest production

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD). As of July 8, the responsibilities of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) were officially transferred to the MOARD Early Warning and Response Department (EWRD) as part of a planned restructuring process.

in parts of Tigray, Oromiya, Amhara, SNNP, Gambella, and Benishangul Gumuz regions. However, below average crop production is expected in areas of eastern and southern Tigray, eastern Amhara, Harar, Somali, and southern parts of SNNP regions.

On December 29, the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that despite increased pasture and water availability associated with normal October through December *deyr* rains in large parts of eastern and southern Ethiopia, food security is unlikely to improve due to the effects of previous droughts, as well as significant livestock mortality and commercial trade restrictions in Somali Region. Results from a GFDRE-led multi-stakeholder Emergency Needs Assessment, previously referred to as the *Meher* Assessment, conducted during November and December to inform the scale and extent of humanitarian needs in 2009 remain pending.

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

Nutrition

Malnutrition remains a significant concern in areas of Ethiopia, including Somali and Amhara regions. WFP has reported high levels of malnutrition in Somali Region among children under five years of age and lactating mothers. In addition, non-governmental organization (NGO) Concern reported high malnutrition rates in Amhara Region, according to the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

In December, at least two NGOs transitioned responsibility for therapeutic feeding programs in SNNP Region to the GFDRE due to decreased malnutrition rates. However, failed coffee production, an important cash crop in the region, has increased concerns that nutrition conditions will start to decline in January as a result of associated livelihood disruptions and increased food insecurity. In addition, between December 15 and 21, the GFDRE Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) reported more than 1,200 new admissions to therapeutic feeding centers in SNNP, Amhara, Somali, and Tigray regions, according to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO). However, ENCU reported an eight percent increase in emergency nutrition intervention coverage in hot spot districts of Amhara, Tigray, SNNP, Oromiya, Afar, and Somali regions from November to mid-December. As of December 22, approximately 78 percent of the 200 identified hot spot districts contain emergency nutrition interventions.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$12 million to support nutrition activities, including community-based management of acute malnutrition and health interventions to reduce vulnerabilities to illness and prevent malnutrition in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions.

Agriculture and Food Security

According to WFP, the *meher* harvest improved food access and availability in some parts of Ethiopia during December. The supply of food crops to local markets has increased resulting in decreased food prices in parts of Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Tigray, Oromiya, and SNNP regions, although prices remain significantly above the five-year average. However, on January 5, WFP reported increased cereal prices in parts of SNNP Region and Borena zone in Oromiya Region. On January 3, FEWS NET also noted high rates of food insecurity in urban areas of Somali Region due to increased food prices. In addition, crop failure associated with failed or poor rains in eastern Oromiya, eastern and southern Tigray, eastern Amhara, Dire Dawa, and Harar regions has increased food security concerns.

Above normal October to December *deyr* rains have improved water and pasture availability in some areas of Somali, Tigray, Afar, and SNNP regions. However, on January 6, WHO reported decreasing water and pasture availability in parts of Oromiya Region. Full recovery of drought-affected households in pastoral areas of Afar, Somali, Oromiya, and SNNP regions will require several seasons of adequate rainfall, according to WFP. Additionally, FEWS NET reports that heavy or unseasonable rains caused crop damage in Somali, Oromiya, SNNP, Amhara, Afar, and Gambella regions.

From December 18 to 20, USAID/OFDA and USAID/Ethiopia staff visited Somali Region to assess humanitarian conditions. The team noted a continuing deterioration of food security in the five conflict zones of Somali Region. Successive failed rains have caused significant livestock mortality, resulting in limited milk availability and increased milk prices, which are expected to exacerbate malnutrition conditions. In addition, poor crop production, commercial trade restrictions, and insecurity combined with delayed food distribution have contributed to food insecurity in the region. The assessment team highlighted the need for improved food assistance distribution to avoid a further deterioration in humanitarian conditions, including addressing delays hindering the hubs-and-spokes distribution system.

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, including livelihood rehabilitation for vulnerable populations. USAID/OFDA partner Mercy Corps is implementing programs to support food insecure households through the promotion of marketable agricultural production.

Emergency Food Assistance

OCHA reports a total food aid shortfall for relief, PSNP, and supplementary feeding programs for 2009 of more than 588,000 metric tons (MT), valued at more than \$508 million. Previous delays in food arrivals resulted in the exclusion of pulses and oil from the November relief ration. According to WFP, remaining December relief rations are scheduled to include all commodities, but at a reduced ration.

USAID staff report that GFDRE logistical constraints continue to impede food distribution efforts in Somali Region, including implementation of the hubs-and-spokes distribution system. According to WFP, GFDRE has concluded November allocations for Afder and Liben zones in Somali Region. However, allocations to Amhara, Oromiya, and Tigray regions, as well as other parts of Somali Region remain ongoing.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided \$3.9 million to WFP for the local purchase and distribution of food assistance in Ethiopia.

USAID/FFP has provided 819,250 MT of Title II emergency food assistance to Ethiopia in FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, valued at more than \$631 million.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

According to WHO, the GFDRE Ministry of Health (MOH) reported 58 new cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in SNNP Region between December 15 and 28. However, the MOH reported no new cases of AWD from other regions between November 24 and December 28, according to WHO. From January 1 to December 21, health officials reported more than 3,862 AWD cases from 55 districts in 6 regions and Addis Ababa Municipality, resulting in 23 deaths. WHO reports that although AWD outbreaks have been controlled in some areas of Ethiopia, SNNP, Somali, and Afar regions remain vulnerable to outbreaks. WHO staff continue to monitor conditions and highlight the need for prevention programs to avoid further 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 improved access to safe drinking water and support for hygiene education designed to reduce the spread of waterborne diseases such as AWD.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Mercy Corps	Nutrition, Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$822,975
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$155,077
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$978,052
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	71,680 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$59,699,400
SC/US	12,420 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Somali Region	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$69,699,400
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IOM	Health	Countrywide	\$1,850,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$1,850,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2009			\$72,527,452

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

² Estimated value of food assistance



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