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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

November 5, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated October 1, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, exacerbated by a rapidly growing population, rising 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 failure of the previous two consecutive rains, have resulted in below normal harvests and diminished pasture throughout Somali, Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. Significant humanitarian challenges, including flooding, conflict, malnutrition, acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreaks, 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 onset of drought conditions have exacerbated food insecurity.

In April 2008, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE), the U.N., and humanitarian partners launched an appeal for \$67.7 million to assist approximately 2.2 million people. On October 14, the GFDRE revised the number of people in need of emergency assistance from 4.6 million to 6.4 million, including nearly 1.9 million 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 2008 and to date in FY 2009, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$668 million for logistics and relief commodities, health, nutrition, risk reduction, agriculture and food security, humanitarian coordination and information management, economy and market systems, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions targeting drought-affected populations throughout the country. The assistance includes \$3.9 million for the local purchase of food assistance to support U.N. World Food Program (WFP) operations.

| 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 AND FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia..... | \$36,005,374 |
| USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia | \$621,191,200 |
| State/PRM³ Assistance to Ethiopia | \$10,522,676 |
| Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia..... | \$667,719,250 |

CURRENT SITUATION

On October 14, the GFDRE, in partnership with the in-country humanitarian community, released the Revised Humanitarian Requirements Document which updated the estimated humanitarian requirements in Ethiopia through December 2008. In total, the GFDRE and

partners requested more than \$265 million in humanitarian assistance for 6.4 million emergency beneficiaries, including more than \$225 million for emergency food aid and targeted supplementary food (TSF) programs and nearly \$40 million for health, nutrition, agriculture, livestock, and water, sanitation,

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.

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)

and hygiene interventions.

On October 31, the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that since October 24, nearly all areas of Ethiopia have received rain. Due to near normal October through December *deyr* rains to date, water and pasture availability have increased in the southeastern pastoral areas of Somali Region, Borena and Guji zones in Oromiya Region, and Arsi and South Omo zones in SNNP Region, mitigating some food security concerns. However, rains have also negatively impacted existing and recently harvested crops, especially in lowland areas. Heavy rains have damaged existing teff crops and recent maize harvests in SNNP Region and the eastern lowlands of Amhara Region.

FEWS NET expects that food insecurity in southeastern and northern areas of Ethiopia will increase from already high levels based on forecasts indicating below-normal *deyr* rains through the end of the year. While *deyr* rains to date have been near normal for much of the country, forecasts indicate the possibility of below-normal rains among food-insecure pastoral and agropastoral populations in Somali, Oromiya, Afar, and SNNP regions. On November 4, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) indicated that, given food security forecasts, vulnerable populations in Ethiopia are likely to require emergency assistance well into 2009.

On September 30, the USAID/OFDA Horn of Africa Response Management Team based in Washington, D.C., and the Disaster Assistance Response Team based in Nairobi, Kenya, stood down and reverted coverage of the regional food security crisis to the Regional Team in Washington, D.C., and the East and Central Africa Regional Office in Nairobi. USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor conditions and address evolving needs related to the regional drought and food security crisis, in addition to facilitating coordination and information sharing among international relief organizations.

To inform future USAID humanitarian interventions, the USG Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) continues to conduct humanitarian assessments of affected areas to examine health, nutrition, food security, livelihood, and water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions. The USG HAT is also working with USAID/Ethiopia to support critical livelihood rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction activities and address the needs of internally displaced persons countrywide.

Nutrition

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that the GFDRE is leading one of the largest humanitarian responses to severe acute malnutrition worldwide, with more than 137,500 children treated to date in 2008.

On October 30, UNICEF identified more than 200 districts in Somali, SNNP, Oromiya, Amhara, Afar, and Tigray regions as "hot spot" districts due to a combination of high food insecurity, moderate to high malnutrition rates, epidemic outbreaks, natural disasters, or conflict. UNICEF reports that global acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition rates range from 8 to 23 and 2 to 5 percent, respectively, in hot spot districts.

UNICEF reports that the number of therapeutic feeding program sites has increased from fewer than 200 in early 2008 to more than 1,200 at present. As of November 2, the number of new admissions to feeding centers had stabilized in most of the country, according to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO).

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$12 million to support nutrition activities in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions.

Agriculture and Food Security

From October 22 to 24, USG HAT staff visited livestock, agriculture, health, and nutrition projects implemented by USAID/OFDA partners International Medical Corps (IMC), GOAL, and Mercy Corps in East Hararghe Zone, Oromiya Region. The team observed that due to delayed rainfall, farmers planted June through September *meher* crops late in the planting season. Many maize and sorghum fields have matured too late as a result and will fail if the region does not receive additional rainfall in the coming weeks, according to the USG HAT. While the planting season is not a total failure, the poor harvest will likely contribute to continuing food insecurity in the months to come.

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 mobile veterinary services and support for enhanced Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) monitoring capacity in Somali Region. With USAID/OFDA and Norwegian Aid funds, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has supplied short-cycle seeds in North Wollo, South Wollo, and North Shewa zones, Amhara Region.

Emergency Food Assistance

From October 8 to 10, the USG HAT food aid specialist visited the Port of Djibouti with officials from WFP, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and the GFDRE to inspect port operations and discuss logistics issues related to the importation of food aid destined for Ethiopia. According to WFP, 230,000 metric tons (MT) of bulk cereals will arrive at the Port of Djibouti in November. The port possesses adequate capacity to import and transport the significant amount of food aid over the next two peak months of operations as long as

trucks dedicated to the GFDRE emergency program are not diverted for other uses, according to USG HAT staff.

The USG HAT continues to assist with the implementation of the hub-and-spoke food aid distribution system in Somali Region. According to WFP, from October 9 to November 4, implementing partners dispatched approximately 9,002 MT of food aid to hubs in Degehabur, Gode, Jijiga, Korahe, and Shinile zones. Of this total, 4,962 MT of food aid reached final distribution points (FDPs) in Jijiga, Korahe, Shinile, and Warder zones. To date, food has not reached FDPs in Degehabur or Gode zones.

According to the USG HAT, WFP and the EWRD have developed a three-month food aid allocation plan for the emergency relief caseload of 6.4 million beneficiaries countrywide in October and November and 5.7 million beneficiaries countrywide in December, replacing the previous one-month plan. On October 28, OCHA reported that the total food assistance shortfall for emergency and TSF programs for October through December is more than 93,000 MT, valued at nearly \$82 million, while PSNP requirements through the end of 2008 are met. On October 27, WFP predicted an emergency, TSF, and PSNP food assistance shortfall of more than 340,000 MT for the first quarter of 2009. As a result of current shortfalls, pipeline breaks have led to reduced rations since July 2008.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$3.9 million for the local purchase of food assistance to support WFP operations in Ethiopia. USAID/FFP has provided more than 806,830 MT of food assistance to Ethiopia in FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, valued at more than \$621 million.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

According to UNICEF, severe water shortages continue in Warder, Korahe, Gode, and Afder zones, Somali Region, where an estimated 600,000 people currently rely on water supplied through water tankering. UNICEF notes that the current *deyr* rainy season is the first rainy season in seven years during which continued water tankering is required in these zones.

From September 30 to October 4, USG HAT staff visited districts in the lowlands of Bale Zone, Oromiya Region, and observed large-scale livestock losses and the widespread use of coping mechanisms, such as seed stock consumption and migration in search of water, due to inadequate rainfall over the past two years. USAID/OFDA partner Merlin is operating water and nutrition programs in the area, and USG HAT staff continue to monitor the situation.

On October 28, OCHA noted that AWD continues to spread to new areas, and 18 districts in four regions are currently reporting active cases. However, delayed and incomplete reporting continues to hinder case management. As of October 5, WHO reported 3,675 cases of AWD, including 22 AWD-related deaths. WHO, UNICEF, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are supporting the GFDRE Ministry of Health in outbreak control.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2 million to NGO partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) for a water, sanitation, and hygiene rapid response program countrywide to benefit approximately 390,000 people.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

| FY 2009 | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Implementing Partner | Activity | Location | Amount |
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹ | | | |
| Mercy Corps | Nutrition, Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities | Oromiya and Somali Regions | \$822,975 |
| | Administrative Support | Countrywide | \$30,985 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$853,960 |
| USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE² | | | |
| WFP | 71,680 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance | Countrywide | \$59,699,400 |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP | | | \$59,699,400 |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2009 | | | \$60,553,360 |
| FY 2008 | | | |
| Implementing Partner | Activity | Location | Amount |
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹ | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------|
| Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) | Nutrition | Somali Region | \$800,000 |
| CHF International | Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Somali Region | \$1,449,973 |
| Concern | Nutrition | Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and SNNP Regions | \$2,580,737 |
| CRS | Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | SNNP and Oromiya Regions | \$750,000 |
| DPPA | Logistics and Relief Commodities | Countrywide | \$418,625 |
| GOAL | Nutrition | Countrywide | \$3,000,000 |
| International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP) | Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Oromiya Region | \$175,000 |
| IMC | Health, Nutrition, Risk Reduction | Oromiya and SNNP Regions | \$1,150,199 |
| IRC | Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Countrywide | \$4,317,516 |
| Merlin | Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Oromiya Region | \$628,569 |
| Mercy Corps | Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition, Logistics and Relief Commodities | Oromiya and Somali Regions | \$1,355,887 |
| Samaritan's Purse | Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | SNNP, Gambella, and Somali Regions | \$652,967 |
| Save the Children/U.K. (SC/UK) | Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Somali Region | \$1,724,436 |
| U.N. Development Program (UNDP) | Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management | Somali Region | \$363,051 |
| FAO | Agriculture and Food Security | Amhara Region | \$1,000,000 |
| FAO | Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management | Somali Region | \$309,678 |
| UNICEF | Nutrition | Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya Regions | \$5,000,000 |
| UNICEF | Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Amhara, Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya Regions | \$800,000 |
| UNICEF | Health | Somali Region | \$1,536,442 |
| OCHA | Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management | Somali Region | \$500,000 |
| WFP | Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Emergency Relief Supplies | Somali Region | \$510,680 |
| WFP | Local/Regional Food Procurement and Distribution | Countrywide | \$3,900,000 |
| CARE | Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Afar and Oromiya Regions | \$150,000 |
| SC/US | Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security | Afar and Somali Regions | \$750,000 |
| Tufts University | Risk Reduction | Somali Region | \$100,000 |
| FEWS NET | Agriculture and Food Security | Countrywide | \$483,232 |
| | Administrative Support | Countrywide | \$744,422 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$35,151,414 |
| USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE² | | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------|
| WFP and NGO Partners | 351,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance and Emerson Trust | Countrywide | \$259,940,800 |
| WFP and NGO Partners | 383,730 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the Productive Safety Net Program) | Countrywide | \$301,551,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP | | | \$561,491,800 |
| STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE | | | |
| IMC | Refugee Assistance in Aw Barre and Sheder Camps | Somali Region | \$610,024 |
| IRC | Refugee Assistance in Shimelba, Aw Barre, Kebribeyah, Sheder, My Ayni, and Sherkole Camps | Somali, Tigray, and Beneshangul Gumuz Regions | \$2,644,052 |
| Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | Refugee Protection and Assistance | Countrywide | \$5,848,600 |
| Somali Cultural Literacy Center | Refugee Assistance | Addis Ababa Region | \$2,222 |
| Africa Humanitarian Action | Refugee Assistance in Shimelba Camp | Tigray Region | \$8,378 |
| WFP | Refugee Food Assistance | Countrywide | \$1,400,000 |
| ZOA | Refugee Assistance in Shimelba Camp | Tigray Region | \$9,400 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM | | | \$10,522,676 |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008 | | | \$607,165,890 |
| FY 2009 AND FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE | | | |
| USAID/OFDA | | | \$36,005,374 |
| USAID/FFP | | | \$621,191,200 |
| STATE/PRM | | | \$10,522,676 |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA | | | \$667,719,250 |

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 5, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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