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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) 2008

October 1, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated September 4, 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. Approximately 7.2 million people receive food or cash assistance through the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE)-managed Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which is funded by multiple donors. The delayed onset and poor performance of the March to May *belg* rains, combined with the failure of the previous two consecutive rains, has resulted in below normal harvests and diminished pasture throughout Somali, Oromiya, Afar, 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 GFDRE, the U.N., and humanitarian partners launched an appeal for \$67.7 million to assist approximately 2.2 million people. On September 19, the U.N. reported that GFDRE numbers of people in need of emergency assistance has increased to 6.4 million.

On October 15, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Donald Y. Yamamoto redeclared a disaster in response to ongoing humanitarian needs in Ethiopia. To date in FY 2008, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$610 million for emergency food assistance, risk reduction, health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs throughout the country. The assistance includes \$3.9 million for the local/regional purchase of food assistance to support U.N. World Food Program (WFP) operations in Ethiopia.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Ethiopian Government PSNP Caseload	7.2 million	GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau - August 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 - September 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....\$35,974,389
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia\$558,899,500
State/PRM³ Assistance to Ethiopia\$9,494,076
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....\$604,367,965

CURRENT SITUATION

Ongoing drought conditions, increasing food and fuel prices, and flooding continue to exacerbate the current food security crisis in Ethiopia, including Somali, SNNP, Oromiya, Afar, Gambella, and Amhara regions.

On September 19, the U.N. released a Horn of Africa Alert citing updated GFDRE figures identifying 6.4 million people in need of emergency assistance based on the March to May *belg* assessment. The revised

emergency caseload reflects an increase of 1.8 million people from the previously reported 4.6 million people, in addition to 5.7 million out of the total 7.2 million participants in the GFDRE PSNP who will require emergency assistance through December 2008.

In Somali Region, particularly, the overall humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. According to the August USAID-funded Food Security Update by the former Somali Region Disaster

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 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)

Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) and Save the Children/UK (SC/UK), the situation is due to lack of food, water, and animal fodder, rising livestock mortality, and increasing rural-urban migrations in Warder, Fik, Degehabur, Korahe, and Gode zones, as well as parts of Afder Zone. The government has increased the number of beneficiaries in need of emergency relief assistance in Somali Region from more than 1 million to nearly 1.9 million persons, due to the acute impact of drought in the region.

From September 15 to 19, USAID/DCHA Assistant Administrator Michael Hess and USAID/FFP Director Jeff Borns traveled to Somali and SNNP regions and the capital city Addis Ababa to observe USAID-funded programs and to meet with national and regional officials and USAID partners. Meeting with GFRDE officials, Assistant Administrator Hess and Director Borns highlighted the need for improved food assistance distribution and monitoring mechanisms.

To inform future USAID humanitarian interventions, the USG Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) in Ethiopia continues to conduct humanitarian assessment trips to affected areas to examine health, nutrition, food security, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions. The USG HAT is also working with USAID/Ethiopia to support critical livelihoods rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction activities.

Nutrition

According to WFP, malnutrition rates in SNNP Region appear to be stabilizing, predominantly attributed to the onset of the green harvest of maize, beans, and potatoes in parts of the region. However, WFP reports that the nutritional status in some areas of Gedio, Gamo Gofa, and South Omo zones in SNNP Region is deteriorating. In addition, the U.N. reports that the nutritional status of rural populations in affected areas of SNNP, Oromiya, Somalia, Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions is expected to remain critical through December 2008.

On September 23 and 24, USAID/OFDA staff, including a USAID/OFDA nutrition specialist, traveled to East Hararghe, Oromiya Region, to assess current nutrition conditions and meet with USAID/OFDA implementing partners. USAID/OFDA staff reported a positive trend in the nutrition status, although recent new admission reports from Oromiya and SNNP regions indicate sustained levels of high admissions. During the week of September 24, the Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) reported 1,650 new admissions in outpatient therapeutic programs (OTPs) in Oromiya Region. In SNNP Region, the ENCU reported 2,177 new OTP admissions during the week of September 19.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports projected shortages of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) in October and November, due to current customs and

pipeline delays. According to UNICEF, the average RUTF requirement per month is 1,000 metric tons (MT) and current pipeline orders for approximately 2,900 MT of RUTF are not expected to arrive until November at the earliest.

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

Emergency Food Assistance

As of September 23, the WFP shortfall for food assistance programs countrywide amounted to 107,493 MT, valued at \$86.7 million. The shortfall includes 66,362 MT for emergency relief programs, valued at \$53.6 million; 36,148 MT of mixed commodities for the PSNP, valued at \$28.7 million; and an additional 4,983 MT of blended food and oil to support therapeutic supplementary feeding programs, valued at \$4.4 million. However, the shortfall may be adjusted based on the revised emergency relief beneficiary caseload.

As a result of limited available food commodities, WFP has reduced cereal rations by one third in September, from 15 to 10 kilograms, for the third consecutive month for all emergency and PSNP beneficiaries.

On September 12, the GFDRE officially endorsed the hub-and-spoke logistics program for food aid distribution in Somali Region, and WFP is moving forward with implementation. WFP reports that the hub-and-spoke program will likely be operational in the coming weeks to facilitate the dispatch of October allocations from forward hubs in Degehabur and Gode towns in Somali Region.

In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$3.9 million for the local/regional purchase of food assistance to support WFP operations in Ethiopia.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided more than 735,000 MT of food assistance to Ethiopia, valued at nearly \$559 million. In total, USAID/FFP assistance is benefiting nearly 5.6 million Ethiopians in FY 2008.

Flooding

On September 25, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that flooding had displaced approximately 40,000 people in Gambella Region out of more than 94,000 flood-affected people in the region identified by regional authorities. WFP reports that 94 metric tons (MT) of food assistance has been dispatched to the region and efforts to expedite the release of additional assistance are ongoing. Through USAID/OFDA rapid response funds, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has provided non-food items in response to the flooding, including blankets and kitchen supplies valued at \$25,000.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the number of woredas reporting active cases of AWD continues to increase. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that Amibara woreda in Afar Region, Goncha, Dejen, Takusa, Ebenat and Fogera woredas in Amhara Region, Ada'a, Gimbichu and Lome woredas in Oromiya Region, and Asegede Tsembila, Tahtay

Adiyabo, and Tahtay Koraro woredas in Tigray Region have reported cases of AWD in the past month.

USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2 million to non-governmental organization (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 IN FY 2008

USG ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$800,000
CHF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,449,973
Concern	Nutrition	Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and SNNP Regions	\$2,580,737
Catholic Relief Services (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
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Risk Reduction	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$1,150,199
IRC	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$4,217,516
Merlin	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$628,569
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$2,178,862
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
USAID's Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative	Risk Reduction	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
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			\$35,974,389
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP and NGO Partners	351,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance and Emerson Trust	Countrywide	\$260,692,200
WFP and NGO Partners	383,808 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the Productive Safety Net Program)	Countrywide	\$298,207,300
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$558,899,500
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	\$2,664,052
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Refugee Protection and Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,800,000
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			\$9,494,076
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008			\$604,367,965

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

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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