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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 #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 6, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated July 9, 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) 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, 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. As of June 12, the GFDRE and relief organizations report that the number of people in need of emergency assistance has increased to 4.6 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 nearly \$426 million for emergency food assistance, risk reduction, health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs throughout the country.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Ethiopian Government PSNP Caseload	7.2 million	GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau
Additional Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	4.6 million	GFDRE DPPA ¹ - June 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$31,164,948
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$386,922,200
State/PRM³ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$7,751,890
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$425,909,038

CURRENT SITUATION

The impact of drought, rising food prices, and crop failure continues to exacerbate the current food security crisis in Ethiopia, resulting in reduced food and water access, livelihood disruptions, and increased malnutrition rates. According to an August 4 U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) report, the focus of the food security crisis has expanded to include SNNP, Oromiya, Afar, Amhara, and Somali regions.

Preliminary findings from the March to May *belg* rains assessment conducted in June and July indicate that the number of beneficiaries requiring assistance countrywide in the next six months is likely to increase, according to OCHA. Official results of the assessment are expected to be released in the coming weeks. However, current DPPA estimates identify an emergency food assistance caseload of 4.6 million

¹ GFDRE Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA). As of July 8, the responsibilities of the DPPA were officially transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD) Early Warning and Response Department as part of a planned restructuring process. However, pending implementation of the revised structure, USAID/DCHA reporting will continue to reference the DPPA.

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)

people, in addition to 7.2 million people targeted for assistance through the GFDRE-supported PSNP.

In response to deteriorating food security conditions and delays in food assistance delivery in Somali Region, a joint GFDRE, U.N., and donor humanitarian coordination committee was established in mid-July to facilitate emergency response efforts, including USAID/Ethiopia and USG Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) staff.

The USG 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 to inform future USAID humanitarian interventions. The USG HAT is also working with USAID/Ethiopia to support critical livelihoods rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction activities.

Health and Nutrition

According to OCHA, humanitarian agencies report a continuation of negative malnutrition trends in recent weeks, including an increasing number of adults and adolescents suffering from severe acute malnutrition and readmission of children treated for malnutrition to community-based therapeutic centers (CTCs) in all affected regions, including Amhara, Oromiya, and SNNP. As of July 17, the GFDRE's Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) data indicated that approximately 30,000 children were receiving treatment in Oromiya Region alone.

The ENCU has reported new emerging nutrition hotspot woredas in Arsi, West Arsi, Guji, Borena, East Hararghe, and West Hararghe zones, Oromiya Region, as well as in 21 woredas in North Wollo, South Wollo, North Gonder, South Gonder, North Shewa, and Oromiya zones in Amhara Region in recent weeks. In addition, a joint non-governmental organization (NGO) and GFDRE rapid health, nutrition, and food security assessment conducted in late June identified high levels of malnutrition in Burji, Basketo, and Konso woredas, SNNP Region.

During a USG HAT assessment to SNNP Region on July 18 and 19, the Kambata Tambora Zonal Health Office reported that a rapid assessment of 33,000 children under five years of age indicated a 22 percent global acute malnutrition rate. Since beginning a nutrition program in Kambata Tambora Zone in June, one NGO reported that out of 6,000 children to receive treatment in outpatient therapeutic feeding programs and stabilization centers, 28 have died, representing a mortality rate of 5.6 percent.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$12 million to support nutrition interventions in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions, including the procurement of ready-to-use therapeutic

Plumpy Nut food supplies, and the operation of CTCs to treat malnutrition.

Emergency Food Assistance

On August 2, OCHA reported that critical shortages in resources and relief commodities continue to undermine response efforts. As of July 29, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) shortfall for food assistance programs countrywide amounted to 232,000 metric tons (MT), valued at \$190 million. The shortfall includes 147,000 MT for emergency relief programs, valued at \$119 million; 68,000 MT of cereals for the PSNP, valued at \$54 million; and an additional 17,000 MT of blended food and oil to support therapeutic supplementary feeding programs, valued at \$17 million.

As a result of limited available food commodities, WFP has temporarily reduced cereal rations by one third from 15 to 10 kilograms for the month of July in order to maintain the full caseload of 4.6 million identified beneficiaries in need of emergency assistance. In coordination with DPPA and food aid donors, WFP is working to identify priority areas for relief assistance.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided nearly 495,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II and Emerson Trust emergency food assistance valued at nearly \$387 million in response to food needs throughout Ethiopia. In total, USAID/FFP assistance is benefiting approximately 5.6 million Ethiopians in FY 2008.

Agriculture and Food Security

Drought conditions and increasing food prices continue to threaten food security in affected regions. Preliminary findings from the *belg* assessment indicate that between 2006 and 2008, prices of staple foods such as maize and wheat increased by up to 397 percent in Tigray Region. In addition, prices of basic grain and imported food in Somali Region have doubled, and in some instances tripled, since January 2008, according to OCHA.

In July, USG HAT staff traveled to Babile, Goro Gutu, Gursum, and Meta woredas of East Hararghe Zone, Oromiya Region, and Jijiga Zone, Somali Region, to assess current drought conditions. USG HAT staff report that sporadic June to October *meher* rains in Oromiya Region and June to September *karen* rains in Somali Region are negatively affecting maize and sorghum crops and contributing to current armyworm infestations.

According to the GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD), large-scale armyworm infestations beginning in May 2008 severely affected more than 2.2 million acres in 8 of the 10 regions countrywide, as well as Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa administrations. In some areas, crops were completely

destroyed, requiring farmers to re-plant their fields, including Dire Dawa administration and Somali Region where approximately 20,000 acres were destroyed. As of July 18, the MOARD reported that control operations in most armyworm-infested areas had concluded. However, due to the seasonal armyworm migration pattern, the MOARD notes the potential for new infestations in northern areas of Ethiopia through early September, particularly in Tigray Region.

To date in FY 2008, 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.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

The poor performance of the 2008 seasonal rains has significantly reduced access to clean water, resulting in an increase in water-related diseases in drought-affected areas. As of July 24, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported a total of 1,145 cases of AWD countrywide, including 11 deaths, representing a mortality rate of 1 percent. More than 90 percent of all reported AWD cases occurred in Oromiya and Amhara regions. In mid-July, USAID/OFDA committed nearly \$430,000 in support of rapid water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions through implementing partner Samaritan's Purse.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

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
International Rescue Committee (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	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
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$1,309,678

U.N. Children's (UNICEF)	Health, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya Regions	\$7,336,442
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
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	\$657,956
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$31,164,948
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	280,070 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance and Emerson Trust	Countrywide	\$210,678,200
WFP and NGO Partners	214,210 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the Productive Safety Net Program)	Countrywide	\$176,314,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$386,992,200
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IMC	Refugee Assistance in Aw Barre and Sheder Camps	Somali Region	\$250,000
IRC	Refugee Assistance in Shimelba, Aw Barre and Kebribeyah Camps	Somali and Tigray Regions	\$1,281,890
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			\$7,751,890
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008			\$425,909,038

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 6, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



Ky Luu
Director
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance