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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 #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

July 21, 2010

*Note: The last situation report was dated June 23, 2010.*

### **BACKGROUND**

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, a rapidly growing population, increased inflation, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in large areas of Ethiopia, including Somali Region and parts of Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. In addition, populations in many areas of the country confront significant humanitarian challenges, including conflict, malnutrition, and delayed food assistance deliveries. In Somali Region, armed combatant 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 February 2, 2010, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) released the 2010 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), identifying 5.2 million people in need of emergency food assistance in 2010. In addition, an estimated 7.5 million chronically food-insecure beneficiaries currently receive food assistance and/or cash transfers from the GFDRE-managed Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). The GFDRE is expanding the PSNP in 2010 to assist a planned 8.3 million people per year through 2014.

On October 5, 2009, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Tulinabo Mushingi reissued a disaster declaration in response to the ongoing complex emergency in Ethiopia. USAID/OFDA supports a range of humanitarian programs, including rapid-response capacities in nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as more sustained interventions to address health, nutrition, water, and food security needs countrywide. USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia in order to identify evolving needs and recommend further assistance. In addition, USAID/OFDA supports improved humanitarian coordination mechanisms and works to facilitate humanitarian access to affected populations in Somali Region. USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) continues to respond to humanitarian needs in Ethiopia through the provision of emergency food assistance.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
<b>GFDRE PSNP Targeted Beneficiary Caseload</b>	8.3 million	GFDRE MoARD <sup>1</sup> – February 2010
<b>Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance</b>	5.2 million	GFDRE MoARD – February 2010

### **FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....</b>	<b>\$17,877,393</b>
<b>USAID/FFP Assistance to Ethiopia.....</b>	<b>\$318,910,000</b>
<b>State/PRM<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Ethiopia.....</b>	<b>\$11,025,000</b>
<b>Total USG<sup>3</sup> Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia .....</b>	<b>\$347,812,393</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

As of July 9, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that a successful June to July harvest—resulting from normal to above-normal February to May *belg* rains—had contributed to improved food security in north-central Ethiopia, including much of SNNP Region. Ample April to May *gu* rainfall also improved water and pasture availability in southern and eastern pastoral and agropastoral areas, leading to enhanced livestock milk production. In addition, WFP and the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) expect the early arrival of July to September main *kiremt*

rains to improve food security in eastern and central parts of the country, as 90 to 95 percent of Ethiopia’s crops are produced during the main rainy season.

However, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that as of July 19, flooding, water-logging, and delayed rainfall had contributed to food insecurity in localized areas of Borena, Guji, and West Arsi zones, Oromiya Region; Gamo-Gofa, Sidama, Hadiya, and South Omo zones, SNNP Region; and South Wollo, South Shoa, and North

<sup>1</sup> GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Government (USG)

Wollo zones, Amhara Region. In addition, FEWS NET expects food security to deteriorate in marginal *meher* cropping areas of eastern Ethiopia from June to September, as populations consume available food supplies from the below-normal 2009/2010 *meher* harvest and await the next harvest in October.

On July 19, OCHA reported the release of the Gambella Region Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan (EPRP). The EPRP seeks more than \$8.5 million for preparedness and response activities across eight sectors and delineates coordinated regional response mechanisms, identifies key risks in the region, such as flooding, and recommends humanitarian response actions. In addition, U.N., GFDRE, and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives have formed the Gambella Response Task Force to respond to conflict, flooding, and displacement in the region.

The *belg* multi-agency needs assessment team—comprising the GFDRE, U.N. agencies, USAID, and NGOs—began debriefing regional government officials on July 9, according to WFP. The assessment teams expect to complete fieldwork and commence national level data analysis on July 16. Assessment findings scheduled for release in mid-August will inform estimated humanitarian needs in Ethiopia for July to September 2010.

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

According to a July 9 WFP report, normal to above-normal *belg* rainfall resulted in increased crop production in typically food insecure areas in SNNP Region, agro-pastoral areas of southern Somali Region, and lowland areas of Bale and Borena districts in Oromiya Region. On July 2, WFP predicted a reduction in emergency needs in SNNP Region from July to December compared to January to June emergency assistance requirements.

WFP expects vulnerability to food insecurity to increase during the June to September hunger season for populations in marginal *meher* crop-dependent areas. As a result, WFP plans to continue regular food assistance provision and monitor areas relief agencies identify as particularly food insecure, including northern Afar Region, northern and eastern Amhara Region, eastern and southern Tigray Region, eastern Oromiya Region, Gambella Region, and Somali Region, as well as the lowland areas of SNNP Region.

In July, the GFDRE lifted sorghum and maize export bans originally instituted to stem price increases in 2007, according to international media sources. WFP posited that lifting restrictions may increase local food grain market prices. However, food commodity prices in Somali Region had slightly declined as of July 9 due to new commercial truck arrivals from Somalia.

In May 2010, FEWS NET conducted a regional assessment of the livestock trade across the Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti borders. Findings indicated that

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's November 2009 lifting of the export ban on livestock originating from the Horn of Africa—imposed in 2000 to prevent the spread of Rift Valley Fever—has increased income levels for pastoralists in Somali Region, Ethiopia.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.6 million to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems activities in Ethiopia. For example, assistance directed through the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to the GFDRE MoARD aims to improve pastoralist livelihoods in Somali Region by strengthening livestock disease surveillance, monitoring, and reporting systems.

#### **Floods**

According to WFP, heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in June and July in parts of Somali, SNNP, Amhara, Gambella, and Oromiya regions hindered the delivery of food assistance, submerged houses, and damaged crops and other infrastructure. On July 19, impassable roads prevented an interagency assessment team comprising GFDRE, International Organization for Migration (IOM), U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and NGO representatives from accessing Lare town, Gambella Region. According to OCHA, flooding in the area has resulted in displacement, and affected populations require emergency assistance. To date, UNICEF has pre-positioned water tanks, water treatment chemicals, and other relief items in the area, and the WASH cluster continues to assess the situation and identify humanitarian needs.

In early June, the GFDRE's National Meteorological Agency (NMA) forecast normal to above-normal *kiremt* rainfall. During the week of July 5, GFDRE Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) activated the Flood Task Force to develop a Flood Risk Alert and update contingency flood plans. According to OCHA, the task force comprises representatives from the NMA, GFDRE ministries, the U.N., and NGOs. On July 9, the task force released the first bi-weekly flood early warning information update forecasting flooding in western, northwestern, and southwestern parts of Ethiopia from the end of July to early August. Central areas are expected to continue receiving normal rainfall.

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

Health officials continued to report new cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) in Somali, Oromiya, and SNNP regions as of July 12, where heavy rains and subsequent flooding contaminated water sources and created reservoirs of stagnant water, according to OCHA. In response, the federal-level AWD Working Group, led by the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI), reactivated in early July and deployed for two weeks to support AWD control and prevention activities in AWD-affected areas in Oromiya and SNNP regions.

Humanitarian agencies continue preparedness efforts to respond to potential disease outbreaks associated with

heavy rainfall and prolonged flooding in western and central Ethiopia. As of July 12, UNICEF had pre-positioned relief supplies in Somali, Oromiya, SNNP, and Amhara regions, and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) had distributed diarrheal disease kits to requesting regional health bureaus (RHBs), according to OCHA.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2.4 million to support WASH activities throughout Ethiopia, including support for programs to prevent and mitigate the spread of waterborne diseases such as AWD, as well as assistance to provide safe drinking water in drought-affected areas.

#### ***Emergency Food Assistance***

According to OCHA, food aid partners reduced the amount of dispatched food in June and early July due to lack of available escorts, road inaccessibility resulting from heavy rains, and insufficient transport capacity. As of June 13, the DRMFSS had dispatched 89 percent of the approximately 39,500 metric tons (MT) of food assistance allocated for the latest food distribution, but only 9 percent of the estimated 32,000 MT allocated for the current distribution, according to OCHA. In addition, the NGO consortium Joint Emergency Operation Plan had dispatched 7 percent of the emergency food assistance allocated for the current round of distribution as of June 13, while the WFP hubs and spokes system had only dispatched 31 percent of the approximately 22,000 MT allocated for distribution as of July 5.

WFP reported that two food aid ships arrived at the Port of Djibouti in June carrying 53,170 MT of food assistance. However, WFP noted delayed land transport of food stocks from the port in early July due to high transport tariffs that compelled trucking companies to carry primarily export cargo.

In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$318 million in P.L. 480 Title II relief food assistance to vulnerable populations in Ethiopia.

#### ***Population Movements***

Heightened insecurity in Somalia in 2010 has resulted in increased refugee flows into Ethiopia. Between June 28 and July 1, approximately 2,500 Somali refugees arrived in Dolo Ado town in southeastern Ethiopia, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As a result, the GFDRE Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) and UNHCR are considering expanding the capacities of Boqolomayo

and Melkadida refugee camps to accommodate an additional 5,000 people per camp. As of July 2, Ethiopia hosted more than 74,000 Somali refugees, including more than 12,000 individuals who arrived in Ethiopia in 2010, according to UNHCR.

ARRA, UNHCR, and WFP intend to assess refugee conditions in Ethiopia in mid-August. The assessment team plans to visit refugee camps to evaluate the food, health, nutrition, and socio-economic needs of refugees in Ethiopia; identify operational gaps; and develop response strategies. In the short-term, the organizations plan to support wet feeding programs at screening sites.

To date in FY 2010, State/PRM has provided more than \$11 million to support refugees and conflict-affected populations in Ethiopia.

#### ***Nutrition and Health***

Although malnutrition remains a concern in many areas of Ethiopia, humanitarian organizations have recorded overall nutrition improvements following the 2009–2010 *meher* harvest and above-average 2010 *belg* rains.

According to OCHA, health officials confirmed 644 new measles cases between July 5 and July 11 in SNNP and Oromiya regions, adding to the more than 10,000 cases confirmed in SNNP Region alone between January 1 and July 5. In response, WHO and humanitarian agencies continue to support the GFDRE Ministry of Health and RHBs in managing measles cases in affected areas.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$9.8 million to support health and nutrition activities in Ethiopia, including funding for rapid response initiatives and support for the GFDRE's community-based management of acute malnutrition through funds provided to UNICEF and NGOs.

#### **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

To date in FY 2010, the USG has provided nearly \$348 million for nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, agriculture and food security, WASH, emergency food assistance, and refugee assistance programs in Ethiopia, as well as logistics and relief commodities, and humanitarian coordination and information management. Of the total, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$18 million for humanitarian assistance programs to date in FY 2010. In addition, many FY 2009 USAID/OFDA-funded activities remain ongoing.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2010			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Adventist Development and Relief Organization	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$550,000
CHF International	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, and WASH	Somali Region	\$799,991
Concern	Nutrition	Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray Regions	\$1,000,000
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray Regions	\$1,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Nutrition	SNNP and Oromiya Regions	\$800,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Protection, Logistics and Relief Commodities, and WASH	Countrywide	\$1,999,999
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security and Nutrition	Somali Region	\$1,142,440
Merlin	Nutrition	Oromiya Region	\$500,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Samaritan's Purse	Nutrition and WASH	Gambella Region	\$505,850
SCF/UK	Agriculture and Food Security and WASH	Afar Region	\$248,751
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$350,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, and WASH	Countrywide	\$6,750,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Somali Region	\$350,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$880,362
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$17,877,393</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	227,870 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance for the Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP)	Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, Afar, and SNNP Regions	\$127,483,900
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$191,426,100
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP Relief Assistance</b>			<b>\$318,910,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$8,800,000
WFP	Refugee Food Programs	Countrywide	\$2,200,000
Abraham's Oasis	Child Protection	Tigray Region	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$11,025,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2010</b>			<b>\$347,812,393</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 21, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance as of July 21, 2010.



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