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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 #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

April 22, 2010

*Note: The last situation report was dated March 19, 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 deliveries. 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 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 plans to expand the PSNP in 2010 to assist 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 to address non-food needs, 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 food needs in Ethiopia through the provision of emergency relief assistance.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<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**

**USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....\$9,651,697**  
**USAID/FFP Assistance to Ethiopia.....\$309,907,900**  
**Total USG<sup>2</sup> Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia .....\$319,559,597**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Ongoing normal to above-normal February to June *bel/gu* rains have replenished water sources, contributed to pasture regeneration, and enabled farmers to commence planting in *belg* crop-producing areas, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Although good rainfall may result in adequate *belg* crop production, potential food security improvements are unlikely to occur until the beginning of the harvest season in June. In addition, FEWS NET expects poor 2009/2010 *meher* crop production levels to result in deteriorating food security in most of eastern Ethiopia between April and September.

In March, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that fires in Gambella and Tigray regions had destroyed houses, displacing approximately 4,000 people in Gambella Region and 3,500 people in Tigray Region. Following the displacement, humanitarian agencies conducted needs assessments in both areas and assisted affected populations through the provision of emergency relief supplies. The causes of the fires remain unknown.

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

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Government (USG)

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

According to late March FEWS NET reports, farmers were planting crops in *belg* crop-producing areas, including areas of Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray regions. In addition to planting short-cycle crops, farmers use the *belg* rains—which account for 5 to 10 percent of total annual crop production—to prepare land for long-cycle crops to be harvested following the June to September *meher* rains. *Belg* rainfall also contributes to the life cycle of cash crops, such as coffee and *chat*.

In March, FEWS NET also reported new vegetation growth in pastoral areas due to the early onset and adequate quantity of rainfall. However, FEWS NET cautioned that full pasture regeneration will require several weeks of continuous good rains. Despite overall improvement, areas of Afar, Amhara, and Tigray zones reported continuing pasture shortages.

As a result of the poor 2009 *meher* harvest, FEWS NET noted continuing high levels of food insecurity among vulnerable populations in Gambella Region and eastern agricultural areas. In the coming months, FEWS NET anticipates increased need for humanitarian assistance in affected areas as the reduced harvest leads to earlier than usual depletion of household food stocks and subsequent potential reliance on negative coping strategies.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$600,000 to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems programs in Ethiopia. USAID/OFDA-funded activities are designed to respond to immediate needs and strengthen resilience to shocks that negatively affect food security.

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

In early April, the GFDRE Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) reported that therapeutic feeding program (TFP) admissions in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions increased from 15,842 children in January to 18,569 children in February. ENCU attributed the increase primarily to improved reporting rates from local TFP centers and improved beneficiary access to TFP sites. In addition, ENCU reported that the nutrition situation remained stable in SNNP and Tigray regions and showed improvement in Somali Region as of early April.

TFP monitoring assessments at selected sites in Oromiya Region in February and March indicated the need for increased supervision and mentoring of health extension workers to improve quality of services, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). Assessment teams also noted acute water shortages and sanitation concerns at all visited sites. Humanitarian agencies continue to monitor the nutrition situation in Ethiopia and respond in areas of highest need.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided \$5.8 million to support health and nutrition activities in Ethiopia, including a countrywide rapid-response

nutrition program and support for the GFDRE's community-based management of acute malnutrition through funds provided to UNICEF and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

### ***Relief Food Assistance***

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and humanitarian partners continue to respond to emergency food needs in Ethiopia. The second round of food distributions in 2010 remains ongoing. As of April 5, WFP, the GFDRE Disaster Risk Management Food Security Sector (DRMFSS), and the Joint Emergency Operations Program had dispatched approximately 12 percent of the planned total 93,733 metric ton (MT) allocation to regional centers for distribution, according to WFP. In order to avoid delayed or skipped distribution rounds in 2010, WFP has commenced preparation for the third round of distributions while the second round remains ongoing.

Despite plans for a third round of food aid distributions, WFP notes that resources for the targeted supplemental feeding program remain limited, with recent donations expected to support the program only through the third round of food distribution. In addition, WFP plans to increase anticipated resource requirements for refugee operations in Ethiopia due to growing refugee flows from Eritrea and Somalia. At present levels, WFP anticipates a pipeline break for refugee assistance in June.

In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided more than 478,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II relief food assistance, valued at nearly \$310 million, for distribution to vulnerable populations in Ethiopia.

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

The early arrival and adequate precipitation of the *gu/belg* rains have replenished water sources and relieved water shortages in drought-affected areas, particularly in Afar, Amhara, Somali, and Tigray regions, according to FEWS NET. However, UNICEF noted that isolated areas within the regions received poor rainfall and remained dependant on water trucking as of April 5.

Conversely, heavy late March rainfall in Borena Zone, Oromiya Region, has resulted in flooding that displaced approximately 1,000 people, according to OCHA. In addition, floods killed livestock, damaged houses, and contaminated local water supplies. DRMFSS, UNICEF, and NGOs have responded to current humanitarian needs through the provision of food assistance and emergency relief supplies.

During March, the GFDRE Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) reported continuing cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in Oromiya and Somali regions. Health officials recorded 1,008 AWD cases and 18 deaths in Oromiya Region between January 1 and March 28; official data for Somali Region had not been reported as

of April 5. On April 10, a multi-agency assessment team—including representatives from the GFDRE FMoH, the U.N. World Health Organization, UNICEF, and NGO partners—deployed to Afar Region to assess the AWD caseload and local response capacity. Relief organizations note that the increasing number of AWD cases is consistent with seasonal patterns at the onset of the rainy season.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.9 million to support WASH activities throughout Ethiopia, including support for programs to prevent and mitigate the spread of waterborne diseases, as well as assistance for provision of safe drinking water in drought-affected areas.

### ***Population Movements***

Insecurity in neighboring countries continues to result in population movements into Ethiopia. As of March 31, Ethiopia hosted approximately 130,000 refugees, including individuals from Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In order to accommodate increasing refugee flows from Somalia, UNHCR opened two camps near Dolo Odo town in Somali Region—Bokolmayo Camp in mid-2009 and Melkadida Camp in early 2010. As of March 26,

Bokolmayo Camp hosted approximately 17,500 people and Melkadida Camp housed nearly 7,300 people, with an additional 1,200 individuals awaiting transfer to Melkadida from the Dolo Odo transit center. UNHCR plans to increase the maximum capacity of each camp from 20,000 people to 30,000 people in order to accommodate additional refugees continuing to arrive from Somalia.

During FY 2009, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration provided nearly \$16.6 million to UNHCR, WFP, and NGO partners to support refugees and conflict-affected populations in Ethiopia, including individuals in Bokolmayo Camp.

### **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

To date in FY 2010, the USG has provided nearly \$320 million for nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, agriculture and food security, WASH, and refugee assistance programs throughout Ethiopia, as well as logistics and relief commodities, emergency food assistance, and humanitarian coordination and information management. Of the total, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$9.7 million for humanitarian assistance programs to date in FY 2010. At present, the majority of FY 2009 USAID/OFDA-funded activities also 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>			
CARE/Save the Children (SC/UK)	Agriculture and Food Security; WASH	Afar Region	\$248,751
CHF International	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; WASH	Somali Region	\$799,991
Concern	Nutrition	Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray Regions	\$1,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Nutrition	SNNP and Oromiya Regions	\$800,000
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Somali Region	\$164,802
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$350,000
UNICEF	Health; Nutrition; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$5,250,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Somali Region	\$350,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$688,153
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$9,651,697</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 Operations (JEOP) and Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) Consortium for Emergency Relief	Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, Afar, and SNNP Regions	\$127,483,900
WFP	250,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$182,424,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP Relief Assistance</b>			<b>\$309,907,900</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2010</b>			<b>\$319,559,597</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 22, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance as of April 22, 2010.



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