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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 #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

January 7, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated December 2, 2009.

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 Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. The USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates that the delayed onset and poor performance of the June to September *kiremt* rains, combined with the widespread failure of the previous four rains, will result in increased humanitarian needs during the first half of 2010. 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 December 7, 2009, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) released a Multi-Sectoral Contingency Plan (MSCP) identifying an estimated 4.8 million people in need of emergency food assistance from January to June 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).

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. In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided support for nutrition, economic recovery and market systems, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs throughout Ethiopia, as well as logistics, relief commodities, refugee assistance, emergency food assistance, and humanitarian coordination and information management.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
GFDRE PSNP Beneficiary Caseload	7.5 million	GFDRE MoARD ¹ – January 2009
Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	4.8 million ²	GFDRE MoARD – December 2009

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/FFP³ Assistance to Ethiopia\$203,072,200
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia\$203,072,200

CURRENT SITUATION

In most of Ethiopia, food insecurity in the first half of 2010 will likely worsen compared to the same period in 2009, according to a late December FEWS NET report. Areas of particular concern include Gambella Region and parts of Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya, Afar, Somali, and SNNP regions. FEWS NET expects food security to further deteriorate in eastern marginal cropping areas between July and September 2010.

On December 7, the GFDRE released a MSCP based on joint GFDRE, non-governmental organization (NGO), and U.N. agency mid-*meher* assessments conducted

between September 28 and October 11, 2009. Taking into account the poor performance of the March to May 2009 *belg* rains and the delayed onset and below-normal performance of the June to September *kiremt* rains, the GFDRE estimates that approximately 4.8 million people will require emergency food assistance to meet survival needs between January and June 2010. However, the report also notes that additional populations will require emergency humanitarian assistance in order to avoid adopting negative coping strategies that exhaust household and livelihoods assets. International relief organizations are preparing for significant humanitarian

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD)

² This figure reflects the number of Ethiopians whose level of need meets the survival threshold, defined in the MSCP as the amount of food and cash income required to cover minimum food and non-food needs to ensure survival in the short term.

³ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

needs in Ethiopia during the first half of 2010, and note that beneficiary caseloads may increase.

The GFDRE and humanitarian partners completed a *meher* assessment in late December 2009. The assessment results will form the basis of the 2010 Humanitarian Requirements Document, expected to more accurately estimate population needs from January to June 2010.

USAID/OFDA supports rapid-response programs throughout Ethiopia to quickly and flexibly address identified humanitarian needs. USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia in order to identify evolving needs and recommend further assistance.

Agriculture and Food Security

Despite extended rainfall in localized areas of Ethiopia, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) expects a below-normal *meher* harvest due to the late onset and erratic performance of the *kiremt* rains. WFP anticipates below-normal crop production in lowland areas of Oromiya and Amhara regions, parts of Benishangul Gumuz Region, and large areas of Tigray and Gambella regions.

As of December 28, unseasonal extended rains in parts of SNNP, Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and Afar regions had contributed to additional crop production and the recovery of pasture and water sources, according to WFP. However, heavy rains have also damaged houses, crops, and grazing lands, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

Although the October to December *deyr* rains commenced early and showed adequate performance in southern Somali Region, food security remains a concern in many pastoral areas of Ethiopia. Somali Region disaster officials indicated food security levels were in line with seasonal trends in pastoral areas of the region as of November, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). However, early cessation of the rains in many areas of Somali Region may result in earlier than usual decreased food security. On December 7, OCHA reported poor pasture and livestock condition in pastoral areas of Afar Region due to insufficient rainfall.

FEWS NET reported seasonal cereal price declines in November 2009 due to the commencement of the *meher* harvest season. Reports indicated average food prices 16 percent lower than prices during the same period in 2008. However, prices remained 65 percent above five-year averages, reducing purchasing power for the urban and rural poor.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$11 million in Ethiopia for agriculture and food security programs, the majority of which remain ongoing in FY 2010. USAID/OFDA-funded activities are designed to

respond to immediate needs and strengthen resilience to shocks that negatively affect food security.

Nutrition

On December 21, OCHA reported that outpatient therapeutic feeding program implementation continues in malnutrition-affected areas of Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and SNNP regions. The program is designed to provide children with therapeutic food in the household rather than requiring stays at feeding centers. Reporting rates for therapeutic feeding programs (TFP) remain low, with 39 percent of facilities reporting in October, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). The reports indicate adequate program performance, with an average 85 percent recovery rate and 0.6 percent mortality rate. However, OCHA identifies continuing nutrition needs in Afar and Gambella regions, where TFP resources and coverage remain low.

USAID/OFDA provided more than \$13 million in FY 2009 to support health and nutrition activities in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions, including a rapid response nutrition capacity and community-based management of acute malnutrition.

Relief Food Assistance

Despite logistical challenges, WFP and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), together with its consortium members, continue to distribute emergency food assistance to food insecure populations in Ethiopia. WFP had completed the seventh round of food distribution in 2009 for Amhara and Oromiya regions as of December 28. While WFP reports adequate resources to meet estimated emergency food assistance needs for the first quarter and part of the second quarter of 2010, the organization notes that resources for the targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) program remain insufficient. According to WFP, unless additional resources are provided, WFP may need to reduce TSF coverage and rations, negatively affecting malnourished women and children.

Due to limited resources and transport difficulties, WFP also continues to provide reduced rations to food insecure individuals in Ethiopia. According to a recent WFP post-distribution monitoring survey, provision of reduced food rations since June 2008 has resulted in the adoption of negative coping mechanisms among affected populations, including reduced food intake and increased livestock sale, school drop outs, rural to urban migration, and charcoal production.

WFP reports that security concerns in Somali Region continue to result in delays in emergency food deliveries, particularly from hubs in Kebriheddar and Degehabur, as transporters are unwilling to deliver food assistance to some areas without a security escort. Despite ongoing challenges, WFP notes that the establishment of the hubs and spokes food delivery system increased the success rate of food deliveries to 80 percent in 2009, compared with a 30 percent success rate prior to implementation.

Congestion at the Port of Djibouti and a shortage of available trucks to transport food continue to hamper delivery of emergency food assistance in Ethiopia. As of December 31, WFP reported that two WFP vessels remained at the port waiting to offload approximately 72,000 metric tons (MT) of food supplies. WFP continues to import emergency food assistance through Port Sudan and Berbera Port in Somalia and work with the GFDRE to address transport issues.

In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided 294,610 MT of P.L. 480 Title II relief food assistance valued at more than \$203 million. In FY 2009, USAID/FFP provided 418,200 MT of P.L. 480 Title II relief food assistance to Ethiopia, valued at nearly \$267 million. USAID/OFDA also provided \$10 million to WFP for the local purchase and distribution of food assistance in FY 2009.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

On December 7, OCHA reported continuing critical water shortages in areas of Afar, Somali, Tigray, and Oromiya regions. According to WFP, October to December *deyr* rains ended up to six weeks early in parts

of Oromiya and Somali regions. In response to the shortages, regional water bureaus and humanitarian organizations commenced water trucking to most-affected areas.

The GFDRE Ministry of Health reported 233 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in Oromiya and SNNP regions from December 13 to 20. Humanitarian organizations expressed concern that ongoing rains in some areas and high pastoralist mobility may contribute to the spread of AWD in affected areas. The U.N. World Health Organization and other humanitarian partners have started implementation of a coordinated response plan, including distribution of water purification supplies, improvement of sanitation facilities, and community AWD prevention education.

USAID/OFDA provided more than \$8 million in FY 2009 to support WASH activities in Somali, SNNP, Oromiya, Gambella, Afar, and Amhara regions, including \$3 million for rapid-response programs. USAID/OFDA-funded WASH programs include the provision of safe drinking water and AWD response and mitigation activities.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2010			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE¹			
CRS	44,460 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	\$25,000,000
WFP	250,150 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$178,072,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP RELIEF FOOD ASSISTANCE			\$203,072,200
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2010			\$203,072,200

¹ Estimated value of food assistance.



Carol Chan
Deputy Director
USAID/OFDA