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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

January 12, 2011

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 30, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As of late December 2010, a confirmed La Niña weather event has caused below-average October to December *deyr* rainfall, resulting in pasture and water shortages throughout southeastern pastoral and agro-pastoral regions in Ethiopia. The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) predicts that the October to January *meher*, or main, harvest will be normal to above-normal, except in areas affected by adverse weather conditions and yellow wheat rust. Overall, FEWS NET predicts an improvement in food security in *meher* crop-producing areas of Ethiopia until March 2011.
- An epidemic of yellow wheat rust, a form of wheat fungus, is infecting wheat crops in Oromiya, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. The wheat rust fungus destroys crops due to the fungus' ability to infect crops at all stages of growth, and rapidly spread and kill or stunt crops. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), wheat rust had infected more than 1 million acres of cropland as of November 2010. Wheat rust, in addition to flooding, pests, and drought in pastoral areas, may potentially offset the average to above-average 2010 *meher* harvest. During November, USAID/OFDA staff conducted an assessment of infected cropland in Oromiya Region and met with the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) and FAO officials to discuss epidemic levels and possible interventions to lower the risk of possible future outbreaks.
- The GFDRE plans to issue the next Humanitarian Requirements Document in early 2011, incorporating results from the *meher* pre-harvest assessment. The GFDRE continues to provide relief food assistance on a monthly, but ad-hoc basis.
- Ongoing USAID/OFDA programs support populations in Ethiopia through a range of humanitarian assistance activities, including rapid-response programs in nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as longer-term interventions that address health, nutrition, and food security needs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
GFDRE PSNP¹ Targeted Beneficiary Caseload	8.3 million	GFDRE MoARD ² – February 2010
Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance through June 2010	5.2 million	GFDRE MoARD – February 2010

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE TO ETHIOPIA

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$76,214
 USAID/FFP³ Relief Assistance\$22,551,600
Total FY 2011 USAID Humanitarian Assistance\$22,627,814

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO ETHIOPIA

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$23,239,313
 USAID/FFP Relief Assistance.....\$318,982,900
 State/PRM⁴ Assistance.....\$21,257,387
Total FY 2010 USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance\$363,479,600

CONTEXT

- Successive 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 regions of Ethiopia, including Somali

¹ Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)

² GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD)

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

⁴ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Region and parts of Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and SNNP regions. In addition, populations throughout Ethiopia have confronted other humanitarian challenges, including conflict and malnutrition.

- On October 25, 2010, U.S. Ambassador Donald E. Booth reissued a disaster declaration in response to the ongoing complex emergency in Ethiopia.

Agriculture and Food Security

- According to FEWS NET, food security in Ethiopia typically improves between November and March due to the October to January *meher* harvest, which accounts for 90 to 95 percent of total annual crop production in Ethiopia.
- However, weather conditions throughout Ethiopia continue to vary greatly due to La Niña. Unseasonal rains are affecting portions of Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromiya, and SNNP regions, while dry weather conditions persist in western Tigray, western Amhara, and Somali regions, according to the GFDRE Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector. To date, the October to December *deyr* rains are below-average in southern zones of Somali Region, raising concerns for livestock health, the potential for livestock to migrate due to stress, and the possible need for emergency interventions to help protect livelihoods.
- Overall, Gambella Region has experienced a good *meher* harvest, except in areas heavily affected by floods. Food security has improved in eastern *meher* crop-producing areas in Oromiya Region due to a strong start of the *meher* harvest, continuing relief food assistance, and PSNP programs. FEWS NET forecasts that household food access will stabilize food security among poor households through March 2011 in eastern *meher* crop-producing areas.
- Ongoing USAID/OFDA interventions continue to provide affected populations with essential tools to improve food security during FY 2011. For example, USAID/OFDA supports two FAO programs—a root and tuber multiplication program in SNNP, Oromiya, and Amhara regions and a livestock disease surveillance program in Somali Region—that benefit a total of more than 1.4 million people.
- During FY 2011, USAID/FFP has provided 27,910 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 relief food assistance, valued at approximately \$22.6 million, to respond to refugee needs and humanitarian needs arising from late 2010 flooding and the effects of La Niña.

WASH

- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Oromiya, Somali, Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP regions continued to experience water shortages at the end of December 2010. OCHA reports that pastoral communities are particularly affected by the water shortages, including pastoral areas in Borena, Bale, and East Hararghe zones, Oromiya Region; *deyr*-receiving areas of Somali Region; and Konso and South Omo zones, SNNP Region.
- Authorities in Somali Region recently appealed to the international community, including non-governmental organizations and U.N. agencies, to begin water trucking in affected zones to respond to acute water shortages in the region.
- GFDRE regional authorities in Oromiya Region recently conducted a rapid assessment of affected areas in the region and are currently formulating a contingency plan to address humanitarian needs that may arise due to water shortages. As of December 27, the Regional Water Bureau had begun water trucking in Borena and Bale zones. The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau in Somali Region is providing affected populations in the most-affected woredas, including Gerbo, Gashama, and Aware, with water services through a U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)-supported emergency water trucking program.
- Nearly \$2 million in USAID/OFDA funding provided in FY 2010 continues to support WASH interventions for vulnerable populations throughout Ethiopia. For example, USAID/OFDA grantee International Rescue Committee (IRC) focuses on improving WASH conditions for more than 100,000 affected individuals through the rehabilitation of wells, construction of roof rainwater harvesting systems aimed at increasing access to safe drinking water, and the construction of emergency latrines.

Health and Nutrition

- The GFDRE Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) released the findings of recent nutrition surveys at the end of November, indicating poor nutrition conditions in Somali and Amhara regions and normal nutrition conditions in Oromiya Region. As of November 22, humanitarian agencies and the GFDRE had planned to initiate emergency nutrition interventions through the Humanitarian Response Fund in four woredas in Somali Region.
- As of November 22, the GFDRE ENCU reported that new admissions to Therapeutic Feeding Programs (TFP) in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions continued to decrease between August and November 2010.
- As of December 20, UNICEF had conducted joint monitoring assessments of TFPs in Amhara and SNNP regions. The joint assessment recommended that health centers improve mentoring and support services for health staff in order to improve the quality of health care and services in health centers for children with severe acute malnutrition.

- As of December 27, health officials in SNNP Region had continued to report new cases of measles. Between December 13 and 19, health officials registered approximately 547 cases of measles. Between December 13 and 17, a joint assessment team—including GFDRE, U.N. World Health Organization, and USAID staff—traveled to South Gomo and Gamo Gofa zones in SNNP to assess the increased cases and provide assistance to local authorities on control and prevention techniques.
- Through grantee Merlin, approximately \$500,000 in USAID/OFDA FY 2010 funding continues to support nutrition interventions for nearly 34,000 people in Oromiya Region. USAID/OFDA nutrition interventions focus on improving mother and child health through supporting the national nutrition framework and increasing local capacity for community management of acute malnutrition activities. In addition, a USAID/OFDA \$5.5 million cooperative agreement with GOAL is enabling sub grantee Concern Worldwide to implement a second phase of a nutrition intervention in Ebinat Woreda, South Gonder Zone in Amhara Region. In total, USAID/OFDA-funded nutrition programs continue to assist at least 196,000 affected individuals throughout Ethiopia.

FY 2011 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2011 TO DATE			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$76,214
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$76,214
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
U.N. World Food Program (WFP)	27,910 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Relief Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$22,551,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP Relief Assistance			\$22,551,600
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2011			\$22,627,814

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of January 12, 2011.

² Estimated value of food assistance for FY 2011.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/