

ETHIOPIA

USAID Humanitarian Assistance in Review, 1991 – Present

Cyclical droughts, exacerbated by a rapidly growing population and limited government capacity, have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in Ethiopia. Major drought and famine episodes in 1984/1985, 1993 to 1999, 2002/2003, and 2005 have rendered several areas of Ethiopia increasingly vulnerable to emergencies, while the cumulative effects of multiple crises have exhausted many household coping mechanisms. The recent repeated failure of the short rains has adversely affected crop production and resulted in significant livestock losses due to severe shortages of water and pasture.



Since the 2002/2003 emergency, USAID/OFDA has adopted a more comprehensive approach to saving lives and alleviating human suffering in Ethiopia, focusing on livelihood interventions that complement emergency assistance, while promoting economic resilience and diverse strategies to break the cycle of famine and poverty. In a shift towards more sustainable solutions to address recurrent emergency problems, USAID/OFDA assists vulnerable families in undertaking a variety of activities to enhance coping mechanisms at the household level to improve food security. Current USAID/OFDA interventions, including cash-for-work programs, livestock health activities, and livelihoods fairs, meet immediate emergency needs while helping to develop household and community assets for the long-term benefit of drought-affected regions—energizing local markets and yielding more lasting solutions to Ethiopia's complex challenges.

However, communities in Ethiopia remain vulnerable due to endemic poverty, chronic malnutrition, high cereal prices, limited access to water and pasture, conflict, localized agricultural failure, and other shocks. Approximately 8 million chronically food-insecure people receive support through cash and food transfers from the Government of Ethiopia's (GOE) Productive Safety Net Program. In April 2008, the GOE, the U.N., and humanitarian partners launched an appeal for \$67.7 million for Ethiopia, requesting emergency assistance for approximately 2.2 million people.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA (FISCAL YEARS 1991–2007), IN MILLIONS

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
OFDA	\$9.2	\$6.6	\$6.7	\$0.9	-	-	<\$0.1	\$1.1	\$1.5	\$14.7	\$3.9	\$1.3	\$31.9	\$21.2	\$32.9	\$17.0	\$12.4
FFP¹	\$3.1	\$128.2	\$58.1	\$67.1	\$55.7	\$44.5	\$40.4	\$65.1	\$69.3	\$140.7	\$106.9	\$63.9	\$485.9	\$286.9	\$478.5	\$144.5	\$180.2
Other USG²	\$43.7	\$8.9	\$2.7	-	-	\$5.5	-	\$2.0	\$25.1	\$66.7	\$38.3	\$43.8	\$32.0	\$10.6	\$4.3	\$4.6	\$9.0
Total	\$55.9	\$143.8	\$67.4	\$68.0	\$55.7	\$50.0	\$40.4	\$68.2	\$95.9	\$222.1	\$149.1	\$108.9	\$549.8	\$318.7	\$515.7	\$166.1	\$201.6

¹ USAID's Office of Food For Peace.

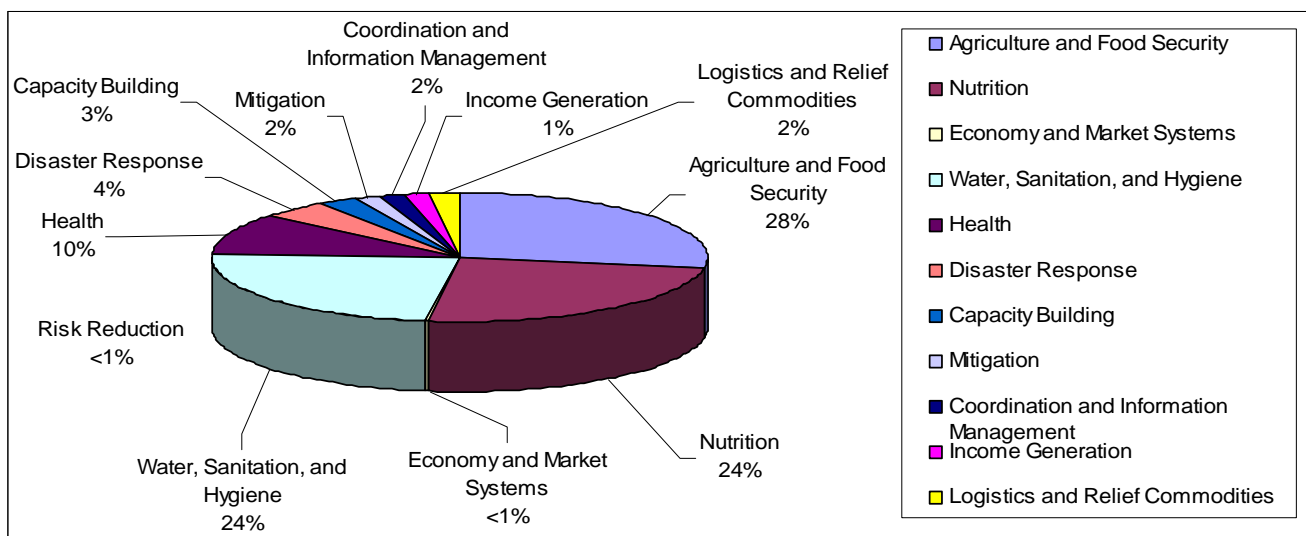
² Includes humanitarian assistance from USAID's Bureau for Africa, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

Since 1991, USAID has provided more than \$2.85 billion in humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia, including \$161.2 million in USAID/OFDA emergency interventions. USAID has deployed humanitarian assessment teams, including Disaster Assistance Response Teams, to Ethiopia in 2000, 2003, 2005, and 2006. On December 18, 2007, a U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) was deployed to respond to the crisis in Somali Region. During the first 45 days of operation, the USG HAT was able to field a USG humanitarian team recognized by the GOE, gain access to conflict-affected areas that were previously inaccessible to NGOs, the U.N., and others, and provide an analysis of the humanitarian situation based on primary assessment/observation. A six-person USG HAT continues to monitor the ongoing humanitarian situation throughout Ethiopia, which is currently exacerbated by the drought.

Since 2002, USAID/OFDA Ethiopia programming has reflected an expanded focus on sustainable interventions in response to systemic vulnerabilities and cyclic emergencies, including the 2002/2003 and 2005 drought crises. USAID/OFDA activities focus on agriculture and food security, nutrition, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. In 2007, USAID/OFDA prioritized support to chronically vulnerable populations, as well as drought and flood recovery activities in pastoralist areas. To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$10.5 million in non-food assistance, the majority targeting drought-affected areas, including Somali Region. In addition, the USG is the largest donor of food assistance to Ethiopia, consistently providing up to 50 percent of food aid requirements per year. Since 1991, USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$2.4 billion in food aid. To date in FY 2008, the USG has contributed approximately \$203 million in P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, not including a recent pledge of over 80,000 metric tons (MT) of emergency relief commodities to be distributed countrywide.

To address recurrent emergencies and promote sustainable solutions in Somali Region, USAID/OFDA and USAID/Ethiopia have developed a relief-to-development transition strategy. The USG transition strategy focuses on critical livelihoods rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction activities to secure current and rehabilitate disrupted livelihoods.

USAID/OFDA NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA BY SECTOR (FISCAL YEARS 2002–2007)³



³ Approximate percentage of assistance by sector, excluding administrative and support costs.