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

Ethiopia – Complex Food Security Crisis

Situation Report #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

September 28, 2007

Note: The last situation report was dated August 2, 2007.

BACKGROUND

In early 2006, consecutive seasons of failed rains resulted in a humanitarian emergency across pastoralist areas of the Horn of Africa, affecting 2.8 million people in southern and southeastern Ethiopia. In October and November 2006, unusually heavy rainfall caused widespread flooding, which affected 362,000 people in Somali Region and resulted in population displacements, loss of life and livelihoods, and increased incidence of disease. Despite these setbacks, the the main 2006 *meher* rainy season, which largely determines the food security outlook for the coming year, resulted in above average agricultural production in many regions, indicating an improvement in the food security situation for 2007. However, poor 2007 *belg* rains resulted in below normal harvests in areas of eastern Ethiopia, and throughout the country some communities remain vulnerable due to endemic poverty, chronic malnutrition, drought conditions, flooding, and localized agricultural failure. In addition, military operations have disrupted trade networks, and restrictions on the movement of people and livestock in Somali Region are exacerbating food insecurity for vulnerable populations. In February 2007, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE), the U.N., and humanitarian partners released the 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia requesting emergency assistance for nearly 1.4 million people, representing a reduction of approximately 50 percent from the previous year.

On December 7, 2006, U.S. Ambassador Donald Y. Yamamoto redeclared a disaster in response to ongoing humanitarian needs resulting from food insecurity. On August 16, 2007, Ambassador Yamamoto declared a disaster due to the complex emergency in Ethiopia’s Somali Region. In response, in FY 2007, the U.S. Government (USG) provided more than \$202 million for emergency food assistance, refugee assistance, and air operations, as well as health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Emergency Food Assistance Caseload	1.4 million	February 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal
Ethiopian Government PSNP ¹ Caseload	7.3 million	February 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal
Total Population in Need of Assistance	8.6 million	February 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal

FY 2007 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$13,232,914
USAID/FFP ² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$180,229,500
State/PRM ³ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$8,986,011
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$202,448,425

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian agencies continue to express concern regarding humanitarian conditions in Ethiopia. Flooding has displaced residents, destroyed crops, and increased incidence of waterborne diseases. At the same time, insecurity and declining humanitarian access, coupled with poor rains and harvests, have led to deteriorating humanitarian conditions, particularly in Somali Region and the lowlands of Oromiya Region. As a result, the 8 million people identified as at-risk in Ethiopia, including safety net beneficiaries, are increasingly vulnerable, according to USAID’s Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

Flooding

Since July 2007, heavy rains and overflowing lakes and rivers have led to flooding throughout Ethiopia. As of September 21, flooding had affected approximately 226,000 people, including more than 70,000 residents, in Amhara, Gambella, Afar, SNNP, Tigray, and Somali regions, according to OCHA. Flooding continues to pose a significant risk as increases in dam and river water levels have been reported. Although numbers continue to rise, the death toll from flooding has reached 17 people, while 4,000 head of livestock have been drowned or washed away, and 45,000 hectares of crops have been damaged. Floods have rendered roads impassible in the most affected areas.

¹ Productive Safety Net Program

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

To prepare for additional flooding, the GFDRE led the development of a Regional Flood Contingency Plan, released in August. In August, USAID/OFDA funded two commercial airlifts of 1,100 rolls of plastic sheeting, 2,500 wool blankets, and 16 Zodiac boats to facilitate distributions of emergency relief supplies in flood-affected areas. In addition, as of September 21, the GFDRE Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) had dispatched 1,800 metric tons (MT) of food assistance, assisting more than 83,000 flood-affected Ethiopians. According to USAID field staff, early warning and preparedness efforts, improved since the 2006 floods, have mitigated greater loss of lives. However, it is too early to ascertain overall flood impact, as additional flooding may occur through November.

Security and Access

In August 2007, FEWS NET reported that current restrictions on trade and movement in Somali Region could lead to a large-scale humanitarian crisis among pastoral and agro-pastoral populations in Warder and Korahe zones, as well as areas in Fik, Degehabur, and Gode zones. In addition, ongoing military operations in these areas have resulted in reduced humanitarian access across the region, limiting timely reporting on humanitarian conditions and hampering relief efforts. Recent reports of new landmines laid along main roads have further concerned relief agencies.

GFDRE military operations and bureaucratic reorganizations have restricted trade, delayed food distributions, and limited movement of pastoralists and livestock. Ogaden National Liberation Front targeted harassment of civilians and relief staff has also negatively affected the humanitarian situation. According to Médecins Sans Frontières and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the GFDRE is denying access to both organizations, despite urgent humanitarian needs. USAID field staff have noted that pre-famine conditions have been reported in Somali Region, and the situation has the potential to deteriorate very rapidly.

Food Security and Agriculture

Somali Region

Humanitarian agencies continue to express concern regarding a potential food security crisis in Somali Region, particularly in the five zones under military operations—Warder, Korahe, Gode, Fik, and Degehabur. From August 30 to September 6, the GFDRE facilitated a U.N. assessment mission to Somali Region to survey the current humanitarian situation and determine needs of affected populations. To date, the U.N. has conducted assessments in most zones, although Korahe and most of Fik zones have yet to be assessed. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), preliminary results from non-restricted areas indicate that the overall performance of *gu* rains was below average, and food and cash income is lower than last year. Moreover, trade restrictions have led to shortages of basic commodities and price inflation.

To meet the needs of approximately 1.5 million people in restricted areas of Somali Region, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and DPPA estimate that 30,000 MT of food aid per month is required for several months. As of September 4, WFP had allocated 5,396 MT of food aid through the DPPA programs to the five zones under military operation. Distributions have begun in Warder, Korahe, and Degehabur zones, and on September 13 food convoys departed for areas in Fik and Gode zones, according to WFP. However, given the scale of need and challenges to distribution, the impact of these distributions is expected to be limited, according to Save the Children/U.K.'s (SC/UK) August 2007 Food Security and Early Warning Update. As of September 14, WFP estimated that the dispatched food that has arrived to date covers the needs of approximately 300,000 people, far less than the 1.4 million to 1.8 million identified as living in the five conflict-affected zones.

In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA programs benefited approximately 508,000 people in Somali Region through agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. For example, USAID/OFDA supported CHF International to increase agricultural production and restore household assets, while simultaneously increasing household purchasing power through income-generating activities, benefiting 175,000 people.

Afar Region

Due to the late onset and poor performance of the *sugum* rains in mid-April, the food security situation in Afar Region remains a significant concern, according to OCHA. In the predominantly pastoral region, localized water shortages have negatively impacted the productivity and marketability of livestock, jeopardizing pastoralist livelihoods. According to FEWS NET, recent flooding has not yet revived pastures, although in August, normal to above normal *karma* rains improved pasture and water availability in most areas, increasing the availability of milk and other livestock products at the household level, according to the SC/UK Food Security and Early Warning Update. PSNP continues to supply food aid to 472,000 beneficiaries. Multi-agency assessment missions have also deployed to identify remaining needs and response mechanisms.

Amhara Region

Despite flooding in areas of Amhara Region, overall the 2007 *meher* season rains have to date been favorable for crop planting and development. According to OCHA, the rainfall situation has been particularly good in the mid and lowland areas, resulting in normal growth for most crops. However, livestock conditions remain poor due to insufficient grazing lands, and many residents of Amhara continue to recover from below average 2006 *meher* and 2007 *belg* crop production. As a result, the DPPA recommended emergency assistance for more than 95,000 people from the PSNP contingency fund, in addition to 690 MT of emergency food aid.

Oromiya and SNNP Regions

Food insecurity in Oromiya and SNNP regions continues to raise concern among relief agencies. According to an August 2007 FEWS NET report, an estimated 650,000 people in Oromiya Region and 180,000 others across Afar, Amhara, and SNNP regions will require emergency food assistance through December 2007. Residents of Oromiya Region remain particularly vulnerable to food insecurity due to the poor performance of the *meher* season, which contributes between 90 and 95 percent of Ethiopia's total crop production, as well as emergency food assistance not reaching identified households. In some areas, families have implemented extreme coping strategies, including selling livestock, renting farmland, and increasing consumption of wild food.

In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA-funded programs aimed to increase farming system profitability and resilience to future shocks for targeted households in Oromiya and SNNP regions. In addition, USAID/OFDA partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) implemented programs to increase household assets and coping mechanisms through seeds and agricultural inputs, providing assistance to more than 23,000 food insecure people in these two regions.

In response to food needs throughout Ethiopia, in FY 2007, USAID/FFP provided 289,520 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for distribution through the PSNP. In addition, USAID/FFP contributed 60,010 MT of food assistance to WFP for relief programming. In total, USAID/FFP assistance has benefited approximately 8.6 million Ethiopians.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Heavy rains and floods have increased vulnerability to waterborne diseases, leading to new outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea (AWD). In Oromiya Region, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society reported 3,680 AWD cases and 63 related deaths from June 25 to August 21, or an average rate of 64 cases per day. In Tigray Region, health workers reported 3,040 cases and 26 deaths, with the majority of cases among laborers in Kaft Humera woreda. Although the caseload is decreasing, USAID field staff report are concerned about the spread of AWD as migrant workers travel during the harvest season. AWD also remains a primary health challenge in Amhara, Afar, and SNNP regions. According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), shortages of medical and transport facilities, operational funds, and skilled physicians remain barriers to deterring AWD's spread.

In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA water, sanitation, and hygiene programs increased access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene facilities, rehabilitated boreholes, constructed latrines, and supported local capacity-building efforts. In addition, USAID partners worked to reduce the risk of morbidity and mortality from waterborne illness such as AWD. For example, USAID/OFDA funded German Agro Action (GAA) to

construct and rehabilitate 30 water systems, support community management, and provide sanitation and hygiene education, assisting approximately 20,680 people in SNNP and Oromiya regions. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA also funded CARE, CHF International, Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli (CISP), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and IRC to contribute to water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions across the Oromiya, Somali, and SNNP regions.

Health and Nutrition

The nutrition situation remains fragile in areas of Oromiya and SNNP regions, where gaps in health services continue to negatively impact affected populations. According to OCHA, USAID/OFDA implementing partner GOAL and the U.N.'s Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (RDPPB) and Regional Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (RENCU) are conducting a joint nutrition survey in Daro Lebu woreda, West Hararghe zone, Oromiya Region, in response to high levels of malnutrition identified by a rapid assessment in July. SC/UK, Samaritan's Purse, RDPPB and RENCU are conducting a separate nutrition survey in Sankura woreda, Silti zone, SNNP Region, following reports of high malnutrition rates in the area.

In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA programs assisted more than 800,000 Ethiopians in vital need of health and nutrition services. To address a shortage of active health facilities, staff, and supplies, USAID/OFDA partner the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported networks of mobile health and nutrition teams in Somali Region, as well as conducted rapid nutrition assessments across affected regions. In addition, USAID/OFDA-funded programs integrated the community-based therapeutic care (CTC) approach to treat acute malnutrition, bringing nutrition services closer to the household and community through decentralized sites at existing community health facilities. USAID/OFDA funded Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA) to provide CTC and nutrition education in Gode Zone of Somali Region for approximately 33,000 beneficiaries.

Refugees

In 2007, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported nearly 100,000 refugees in Ethiopia, predominantly from Sudan but also from Eritrea and Somalia. To meet the needs of refugees and victims of conflict in Ethiopia, State/PRM provided more than \$8.9 million in FY 2007 to support health services, food commodities and stoves, water and sanitation facilities, and protection and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities. State/PRM also supported HIV/AIDS prevention activities, pre-primary education, business skills training and livelihoods support, and an urban refugee project in Addis Ababa. In addition, State/PRM administered more than \$1.25 million in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) on behalf of the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator for programs benefiting refugees in Ethiopia.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ADRA	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$699,994
CARE	Agriculture and Food Security; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$458,382
CHF	Agriculture and Food Security; Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$883,412
CISP	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$976,372
Concern	Nutrition	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$420,115
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$940,000
GAA	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP Region	\$580,000
GOAL	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health; Nutrition	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$1,683,411
IRC	Agriculture and Food Security; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$1,051,013
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Oromiya Region	\$649,375
Multiple	16 Zodiac Boats; Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$825,354
UNICEF	Health; Nutrition; Relief Commodities; Logistics	Somali Region	\$1,847,904
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$250,000
WFP	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$150,000
WFP ²	Air Operations	Somali Region	\$467,290
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$350,292
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$13,232,914
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	60,010 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (for relief programming)	Countrywide	\$30,237,700
WFP and NGO Partners	289,520 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the Productive Safety Net Program)	Countrywide	\$149,991,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$180,229,500
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IMC	Refugee Health	Somali Region	\$202,082
IRC	Refugee Assistance	Somali, Tigray, and Beneshangul Gumuz Regions	\$1,682,229
IRC/Gaia Association	Somali Refugee Assistance	Addis Ababa/Somali Region	\$20,000
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,081,700
WFP	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$8,986,011
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2007			\$202,448,425

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 28, 2007.² Through a standing agreement with WFP, USAID/OFDA approved the use of \$467,290 for flood-affected Ethiopians.³ Estimated value of food assistance



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