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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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 16, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated November 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND

Cyclical droughts, exacerbated by a rapidly growing population, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity, have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in Ethiopia. Approximately 8 million people continue to receive food or cash assistance through the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which is funded by multiple donors. The delayed onset and poor performance of the March to April *belg* rains, combined with the failure of the previous two consecutive rains, has resulted in below normal harvests and diminished pasture throughout Somali, Oromiya, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. Significant humanitarian challenges, including flooding, conflict, malnutrition, acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreaks, delayed food response, and locust infestations, confront populations in many areas of the country. In Somali Region, insurgent activity and security operations have disrupted trade networks, and restrictions on the movement of people and livestock, combined with the onset of drought conditions, have exacerbated food insecurity for vulnerable populations. In April 2008, the GFDRE, the U.N., and humanitarian partners launched an appeal for \$67.7 million for Ethiopia, requesting emergency assistance for approximately 2.2 million people.

On October 15, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Donald Y. Yamamoto redeclared a disaster in response to ongoing humanitarian needs in Ethiopia. To date in FY 2008, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$300 million for emergency food assistance, risk reduction, health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs throughout the country.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Emergency Food Assistance Caseload	2.68 million	Humanitarian Requirements for 2008: Government-Partners Joint Document – April 2008; GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau – April 30, 2008
Ethiopian Government PSNP Caseload	7.2 million	GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau
Total Population in Need of Assistance	9.88 million	Humanitarian Requirements for 2008: Government-Partners Joint Document – April 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$10,456,437
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$282,089,400
State/PRM² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$5,302,222
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$297,848,059

CURRENT SITUATION

On December 18, the USG deployed a Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) to Ethiopia to assess conditions and determine the humanitarian needs of affected populations in Somali Region. The USG HAT includes technical experts from USAID and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). From December to January, in coordination with USAID/Ethiopia and the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, the USG HAT conducted multiple humanitarian assessment trips to conflict-affected areas of Somali Region to examine health, nutrition, food security, livelihoods, and water and sanitation conditions. During the first 45 days of

operation, the USG HAT was able to gain access to conflict-affected areas previously inaccessible to relief agencies, provide an analysis of the humanitarian situation based on primary observation, and make recommendations on appropriate USG response. A six-person USG HAT continues to monitor the ongoing humanitarian situation throughout Ethiopia, which is currently exacerbated by drought.

In January 2008, the USG HAT reported that no large-scale crisis was observed within areas visited in Somali Region. However, the USG HAT cautioned that as the

¹ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

dry season progressed, the humanitarian and food security conditions could significantly deteriorate in the following weeks as a result of the cumulative impact of poor food aid delivery mechanisms, restrictions on commercial trade and livestock movement, reduced access to and delivery of essential health services, restricted humanitarian access and movement, and the poor performance of the 2007 rains.

Late, sporadic, and failed March to May 2008 *belg* rains and resulting severe drought conditions throughout the southern and eastern parts of Ethiopia, as well as areas in the highlands, could lead to a humanitarian crisis. Severe drought conditions prevail in Somali, Oromiya, Amhara, and SNNP regions, and also in parts of Tigray Region.

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.

Food Security and Agriculture

According to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), food security is normal in western Ethiopia as the main *meher* 2007 season production from October to December, which represents 90 to 95 percent of total crop production countrywide, was 45 percent higher than the recent five-year average. In southern and eastern Ethiopia, however, the poor March to May *belg* rains threaten the food security of agricultural, pastoral, and agro-pastoral households. The late, erratic, and sporadic rains have negatively affected the planting of short- and long-cycle crops in the northeastern highlands of Amhara and Tigray regions, most of SNNP Region, and parts of Oromiya Region. The expected poor harvest from the *belg* rains will impact the market availability and prices of cereals during the hunger period from June to September, according to FEWS NET. Drought conditions will also likely impact coffee and chat harvesting, which are important sources of cash income in areas of east and west Hararghe, parts of SNNP Region, and western areas of Oromiya Region.

In the Sidamo, Wolayita, Kenbata, and Hadiya zones of SNNP Region, the sweet potato harvest failed due to the failure of the early *belg* rains in February, according to FEWS NET. Households in these areas depend on the sweet potato crop and other transitional root crops to bridge the March to May hunger period until the next harvest. Relief agencies reported that the absence of sweet potato is leading to a rise in malnutrition rates.

According to FEWS NET, extreme food insecurity continues in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Somali and Oromiya regions and South Omo Zone of SNNP Region due to the poor performance of the long and short rains in 2007, followed by the late and insufficient March to May 2008 long rains. Populations in these areas will

continue to experience pasture and water shortages and will likely experience significant livestock migration, reduced livestock productivity, increased livestock deaths, and failure of the main March to May *gu* season crops for agro-pastoral households.

During an assessment in April in the lowland Bale Zone of Oromiya Region, USAID/OFDA staff found large numbers of livestock deaths and lack of seed. Woreda officials reported more than 8,000 cattle deaths during the previous two months. In addition, woreda officials stated that farmers had no seed to plant due to the failure of the past harvest and noted that many oxen were too weak to plow the fields. USAID/OFDA partner CHF International reported that communities recently visited in Gode Zone, Somali Region, were adopting negative coping mechanisms, including the slaughtering of calves and reduction of food consumption by 60 percent or more. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), U.N., and USAID assessments note rapidly rising malnutrition rates, especially in SNNP and Oromiya regions.

Chronically food insecure households in most woredas of Somali Region are not yet covered by the PSNP due to insufficient capacity in the region to implement the program. USAID/FFP is working with the GFDRE to pilot the PSNP in four woredas that will be receiving food assistance.

On April 10, the GFDRE Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) presented an appeal document in response to drought conditions in Ethiopia. While the appeal states that 2.18 million Ethiopians are in need of immediate food assistance, the consensus among U.N. agencies, USAID, and other donors estimate the actual caseload at approximately 3.6 million emergency beneficiaries countrywide. USAID staff reported that the DPPA has announced plans to issue an amended appeal. On April 30, the GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau increased the number of people needing immediate food assistance by adding 500,000 in SNNP Region.

Ongoing FY 2008 USAID/OFDA agriculture and food security programs benefit more than 315,000 people, including approximately 164,000 pastoralists who are able to better cope with and recover from shocks through strengthened animal health services.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided 357,260 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II and Emerson Trust emergency food assistance, valued at approximately \$282 million, in response to food needs throughout Ethiopia. In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided 214,210 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and NGOs for distribution through the PSNP. In addition, USAID/FFP contributed 143,050 MT of food assistance to WFP for relief programming. In total, USAID/FFP assistance is benefiting approximately 5.5 million Ethiopians in FY 2008. In Somali Region, USAID/FFP provided

approximately 19,230 MT of emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$12.1 million, in FY 2007 and 2008.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Beginning on March 31, several cases of AWD have been reported in Amhara Region, first in south Gondar Zone's Dera Woreda and subsequently in both Denbecha and Ankesha woredas. GFDRE and U.N. World Health Organization staff are deploying to affected areas to assess the AWD situation.

Through the rehabilitation of water sources and latrine construction, ongoing USAID/OFDA programs provide improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities. In addition, USAID/OFDA interventions promote hygiene education to reduce the spread of waterborne diseases such as AWD. To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.2 million for water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in Somali Region and \$175,000 in Oromiya Region.

Health and Nutrition

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), sporadic cases of meningococcal meningitis continue to be reported in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray regions. OCHA noted that vaccination campaigns to contain and prevent additional cases are occurring in affected areas.

In response to concerns regarding a potential measles outbreak in Somali Region resulting from low vaccination coverage and increased rates of malnutrition associated with the onset of the January to March dry season, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.5 million to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) in support of an emergency measles campaign to immunize a targeted 784,000 children from 6 to 59 months of age in the region. On February 8 and 9, UNICEF, in coordination with the Somali Regional Health Bureau, initiated the regional campaign in Jijiga and Gode zones and expanded coverage to conflict-affected areas. On May 5, OCHA reported that the number of measles cases had decreased significantly.

OCHA reports a rapid increase in cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and kwashiorkor in SNNP and Oromiya regions with high admission rates for treatment in community-based therapeutic care (CTC) programs. Between April 6 and 12, Samaritan's Purse, in

coordination with the Regional Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit and DPPA's Food Security Office, conducted a nutrition assessment conducted in Wolayta Zone, SNNP Region. The assessment found global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates of 12.4 percent and SAM rates of 3.2 percent. In June 2007, GAM and SAM rates for Wolayta were 2.2 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively. In Damot Woyde and Dugna Fango woredas of SNNP Region, USAID/OFDA partner Concern reports 823 admissions to seven outpatient centers on March and April 2008, compared to 100 during the same time period last year. WFP has identified parts of Amhara, Afar, and Tigray regions as emerging nutritional hot spot areas. International NGOs and U.N. agencies are concerned with the lack of nutritional data in areas such as Bale Zone of Oromiya Region.

USAID/OFDA-funded programs also improve the health and nutrition of disaster-affected individuals in Ethiopia. With USAID/OFDA support, the International Medical Corps (IMC) is implementing health interventions to reduce vulnerabilities to illnesses and improve the health and nutritional status of drought-affected populations in East Hararghe Zone of Oromiya Region, and Welayita and Dawro zones of SNNP Region. USAID/OFDA is also supporting Concern to provide community-based management of acute malnutrition.

Refugees

As many as 20,000 refugees fleeing escalating violence in neighboring Somalia have arrived in Somali Region since December 2006, bringing the total number of Somali refugees in Ethiopia to 48,000, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Eritrean refugees also continue to arrive in Ethiopia at a rate of 3,000 to 4,000 per month for a total of 20,000. Many of the remaining 35,000 Sudanese refugees are expected to repatriate to Southern Sudan in 2008. To meet the needs of refugees and conflict-affected populations in Ethiopia, State/PRM has provided \$4.8 million in FY 2008 to UNHCR to support protection and assistance programs. State/PRM has provided \$500,000 to International Rescue Committee (IRC) to assist Eritrean refugees in Shimelba Camp. In addition to these earmarked contributions, State/PRM has provided \$31 million to the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and \$38 million to UNHCR for Africa-wide programs in 2008, a portion of which supports programs in Ethiopia.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2008			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Concern	Nutrition	Oromiya, Tigray, and Amhara regions	\$1,096,416
International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$175,000
IMC	Risk Reduction, Health, Nutrition	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$650,470
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$1,355,887
IRC	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,218,721
Save the Children/U.K. (SC/UK)	Economy and Market Systems; Agriculture and Food Security; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,724,436
U.N. Development Program	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$363,051
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$309,678
UNICEF	Health	Somali Region	\$1,536,442
USAID's Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative	Risk Reduction	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Tufts University	Risk Reduction	Somali Region	\$100,000
FEWS NET	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$483,232
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$443,104
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$10,456,437
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	143,050 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance and Emerson Trust	Countrywide	\$105,768,300
WFP and NGO Partners	214,210 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the PSNP)	Countrywide	\$176,321,100
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$282,089,400
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IRC	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$500,000
Somali Community Literacy Center	Education	Addis Ababa	\$2,222
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,800,000
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Somali Region	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$5,302,222
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008			\$297,848,059

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 16, 2008.² Estimated value of food assistance.


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