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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) 2008

June 11, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated May 16, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, exacerbated by a rapidly growing population, rising inflation, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity, have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in Ethiopia. Approximately 7.2 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 to assist approximately 2.2 million people. As of June 2, the GFDRE and relief organizations report that the number of people in need of emergency assistance has increased to 4.5 million.

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 more than \$308 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	
Ethiopian Government PSNP Caseload	7.2 million	GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau
Additional Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	4.5 million	GFDRE DPPA ¹ - June 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$11,451,376
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$291,348,000
State/PRM³ Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$5,300,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$308,099,376

CURRENT SITUATION

Late, sporadic, and failed March to May 2008 *belg* rains and resulting severe drought conditions throughout the southern and eastern Ethiopia, as well as areas in the highlands, have resulted in an unfolding humanitarian crisis. Most affected regions include areas of Somali, Oromiya, Amhara, and SNNP regions, and also parts of Tigray Region. As a result of the existing drought conditions, projected normal June to September *meher* rains in northwestern areas will not significantly impact the growing crisis in southeastern regions.

As of June 2, the number of people requiring emergency assistance in Ethiopia has increased from 3.4 million to 4.5 million. This figure is in addition to 7.2 million people targeted for assistance through PSNP, of whom approximately 5.4 million people currently require an additional two to three months of assistance.

The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has characterized the present situation in Ethiopia as the most severe food crisis since 2003, when approximately 13.2 million people required emergency humanitarian assistance.

¹ GFDRE Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA)

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)

GFDRE officials and WFP staff are working to address a 295,000 metric ton (MT) shortfall in food commodities for 2008 by prioritizing the procurement and transportation of additional food supplies.

A USG Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) in Ethiopia continues to conduct humanitarian assessment trips to affected areas to examine health, nutrition, food security, livelihoods, and water and sanitation conditions to inform future USAID humanitarian interventions. The USG HAT is also working with USAID/Ethiopia to support critical livelihoods rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction activities.

Health and Nutrition

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports increasing malnutrition rates and admissions to therapeutic feeding programs throughout affected areas, particularly in Oromiya and SNNP regions. DPPA estimates that approximately 75,000 children in drought-affected areas suffer from severe acute malnutrition. However, UNICEF estimates that 126,000 children in affected woredas of Oromiya, Somali and SNNP regions are currently severely acutely malnourished. Relief agencies anticipate the number of severely acutely malnourished children to increase pending rapid nutrition assessments in Amhara, Tigray, and Afar regions.

USG HAT field assessments in SNNP Region confirm the significant increase in admissions to therapeutic feeding programs in Bolosso Sore and Damot Fulassa woredas, with more than 60 percent of admissions exhibiting edema. As of May 30, relief agencies reported that nearly 5,000 children were receiving treatment for severe acute malnutrition in Gurage, Kembata Tembaro, Selti, Sidama, and Wolayita zones. In addition, the USG HAT reports that health officials predict an increase in admissions to supplementary and therapeutic feeding programs over the next three months. Health staff cite shortages of therapeutic foods and limited resources as impediments to managing the high caseloads.

Although the health and nutrition situation in North and South Wollo zones of Amhara Region has not yet reached a critical stage according to a joint-OCHA and DPPA mission in late May, the team warned that current conditions resemble those at the onset of the humanitarian emergency in SNNP Region in February. Furthermore, the combined effects of drought, a failed *belg* harvest, and high food prices indicate a likely deterioration of nutrition conditions in Amhara Region over the next several months. Local officials throughout the region have identified 400,000 additional beneficiaries in need of food assistance starting in June.

On May 21, UNICEF received \$5 million in additional funding from the U.N. Humanitarian Response Fund

and plans to procure additional therapeutic food and medical supplies to respond to increased malnutrition rates throughout affected regions.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$3 million for critical health and nutrition interventions in Oromiya, Tigray, Amhara, Somali, and SNNP regions. Since March 2008, a USAID/OFDA implementing partner operating in drought-affected areas of Oromiya and SNNP regions has provided treatment for 2,866 severely malnourished children under the age of five and provided more than 60 MT of ready-to-use therapeutic food to relief agencies operating in the area.

Emergency Food Assistance

As of early June, the increase in targeted beneficiaries for emergency food assistance to 4.5 million people has increased the shortfall of food commodities to 295,000 MT for 2008, valued at approximately \$250 million, according to WFP. GFDRE and WFP are working to prioritize the procurement and transport of additional food commodities to Ethiopia.

WFP has secured sufficient stocks of corn-soya blend (CSB) for distributions scheduled in June and is working to procure supplies for July rations. However, WFP is concerned that the limited global supply of CSB and transportation challenges may hinder the timely delivery of commodities to meet required food needs in July.

Due to the projected pipeline breaks, USAID/FFP is contributing 6,700 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$8.1 million, for immediate delivery of CSB and vegetable oil from pre-positioned stocks in Djibouti. To date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided 362,260 MT of P.L. 480 Title II and Emerson Trust emergency food assistance valued at more than \$291 million in response to food needs throughout Ethiopia. In total, USAID/FFP assistance is benefiting approximately 5.5 million Ethiopians in FY 2008.

Agriculture and Food Security

Areas of SNNP that depend on early *belg* rains to produce green maize and root crops such as sweet potato are facing a significant reduction in harvests. Root crops are an important food staple during the normal hunger season from June to September and the failure of transitional crops can result in a rapid increase in acute malnutrition, according to FEWS NET. A recent assessment has verified the failure of transitional crops resulting in more than 800,000 people requiring immediate food assistance in Sidama, Wolayita, Kembata, and Hadiya zones.

In order to address critical food security among pastoralists and agro-pastoralists impacted by the failed *belg* rains and diminished pasture availability,

USAID/OFDA supports multiple agriculture and food security interventions such as livestock disease control activities. Since early March, a USAID/OFDA implementing partner in Somali Region has treated 533,408 livestock for a number of diseases, including parasitic diseases, and continues to provide emergency livestock feeding interventions. Support for livestock enables pastoralists to restock herds following improved water and pasture availability and to generate income through the sale of animals.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

UNICEF reports that the threat of water-related diseases such as acute watery diarrhea has substantially increased in eight woredas in Amhara, Oromiya, and SNNP regions, of which six woredas are reporting active cases. In order to mitigate against future drought-induced vulnerability and to prevent the spread

of water-related diseases, USAID/OFDA supports water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions targeting the most affected zones in Oromiya, SNNP, and Somali regions, as well as vulnerable populations including individuals in health centers and therapeutic feeding programs.

In Borena Zone, Oromiya Region, USAID/OFDA funding supports the expansion and rehabilitation of water supply schemes and school reservoirs, benefiting more than 24,000 people and 92,000 livestock. In rural areas of Gurage and Selti zones in SNNP, USAID/OFDA partners have worked since the onset of the drought in January to rehabilitate community water systems, construct rainwater harvesting systems, and mobilize water teams to rehabilitate water systems at community therapeutic and supplementary feeding centers.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CHF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$450,000
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
International Medical Corps	Risk Reduction, Health, Nutrition	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$650,470
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$1,355,887
International Rescue Committee	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
United Nations Development Program	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$363,051
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$309,678
UNICEF	Health	Somali Region	\$1,536,442
UNWFP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Somali Region	\$510,680
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	Countrywide	\$483,232
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$477,363
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$11,451,376

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	148,050 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance and Emerson Trust	Countrywide	\$113,466,700
WFP and NGO Partners	214,210 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the Productive Safety Net Program)	Countrywide	\$177,881,300
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$291,348,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IRC	Refugee Assistance	Tigray Region	\$500,000
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,800,000
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Somali Region	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$5,300,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008			\$308,099,376

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 11, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance



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