



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

ETHIOPIA – Drought

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

April 29, 2003

Note: This Fact Sheet updates USAID/OFDA Ethiopia Fact Sheet #4, dated March 20, 2003.

Background

- In 2002, below-average *belg*, or secondary rains (March through May) coupled with delayed and sporadic *meher*, or main rains (July through September) led to widespread food insecurity in Ethiopia affecting pastoral and agricultural areas, particularly the lowlands and midlands of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP), Tigray, Oromiya, and Amhara regions. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’s (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission, along with the U.N.’s Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (EUE), issued an appeal on the food security situation in the country on September 30, 2002.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimate that Ethiopia’s food deficit in 2003 will be more than 2.3 million metric tons (MT), with increased food aid, commercial imports, and internal production needed to meet the deficit. It is currently estimated that 12.6 million people will require more than 1.5 million MT of food aid in 2003 and an additional three million people require close monitoring.
- As many rural households dependent on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods had not yet fully recovered from the drought of 1999/2000, the capacity of the affected population to cope with the current food shortages has been greatly reduced. The severity and duration of Ethiopia’s current food security emergency have left people in an extreme state of vulnerability where coping strategies have been exhausted. Along with the perilous food security situation, the ensuing deterioration in health, nutrition, and sanitation conditions have made this a full blown humanitarian crisis.

Numbers at a Glance

Total Affected Population in 2003	12.6 million	Source: GFDRE
Total Food Aid Requirements in 2003	1.5 million MT	Source: WFP/FAO

Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date)	\$11,141,025
Total USAID/Ethiopia Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date).....	\$17,000,000
Total USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date)	\$288,900,000
Total State/PRM Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date).....	\$5,120,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date)	\$322,161,025

Current Situation

- Since mid-2002, the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia has deteriorated into a full scale food and humanitarian crisis. The outlook is dire, and extreme food insecurity is present in parts of Afar, Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya and Somali and SNNP Regions. USAID field assessments in February, March, and April 2003 indicated that the impact of the drought is spreading to a widening area, increasing the number of people in need of assistance from 11 to 14 million in FY 2003 due to lack of food production and poor rains from the current *belg* season.
- Although there have been adequate rains in a few pocket areas, in March 2003, USAID’s Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) reported that the *belg* rains were unevenly distributed and significantly below average in the parts of the eastern portion of Ethiopia, including the SNNP Region.
- While large-scale WFP food aid distributions since July 2002 have stabilized the situation in some areas, pockets of global and severe acute malnutrition are growing at the household and village levels in a number of districts. Of particular concern are reports of pellegra and other micronutrient deficiencies by UNICEF nutrition experts traveling in the North Wello district. Since early February 2003, measles outbreaks have been reported in Bale Zone in Oromiya, Silti Zone in SNNP Region and the Wag Hamra Zone in Amhara Region. In addition, cases of meningitis have been reported in Tigray, SNNP region, Afar, Benishangul and Amhara Regions. USAID/Ethiopia also reports that malaria cases are increasing as people move to the lowlands and near rivers in search of water and pasture for livestock.
- WFP expects a possible break in the food aid pipeline as early as May unless commodities are mobilized quickly. This is particularly worrisome for some of the worst drought-affected areas due to inadequate road access during the peak rainy season in July. According to USAID field reports, pre-positioning of approximately 80,000 MT of food aid is required in May and June for the northern regions of Ethiopia.

- A mid-April USAID assessment concluded that insufficient rainfall has severely affected food production in eastern Ethiopia, particularly in lowland areas where losses range from 70 to 100 percent. However, food production has also decreased in surplus areas in the West, which will limit the timely local purchase of food. Shortages of seeds on the commercial market in some areas have left hundreds of thousands of farmers without the necessary inputs to plant crops to harvest after the current short rains. The EUE has warned of a secondary food crisis unless there is immediate delivery of seeds and farming inputs.
- WFP reports that severe water shortages are being felt in many areas of the country with people having to walk up to 10 kilometers to find fresh water sources. The water table has dropped several meters in some areas and shallow wells are drying up. Water rationing is being implemented in some towns and some residents are constructing water catchments in preparation for the rainy season. In addition to addressing emergency water needs, the long-term development of safe water supplies is critical to maintaining sanitary conditions and reducing the risk of water borne disease.
- Further exacerbating the crisis is the increased border tension between Ethiopia and Eritrea following the latest ruling by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) that the disputed village of Badme is in Eritrean territory. Badme was the flashpoint of the bitter two-year border conflict which flared up in May 1998.
- EUE reports that the GFDRE Office of Emergency Recovery Programs (ERP) has been established in Mekele to support recovery assistance programming for internally displaced persons in Tigray Region. To date, ERP has registered a total of 60,806 families as war-affected IDPs, and provided 35,637 families with assistance. USAID is also supporting the IDP recovery program by financing a low-cost housing project in Dawhan for affected IDP families.

U.S. Government Response

- On October 29, 2002, the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia declared a disaster in response to the continuing drought situation. In FY 2003 to date, USAID/OFDA has committed funds of more than \$11.1 million to support emergency water and sanitation, health and nutrition, and agricultural recovery activities in drought-affected areas of Oromiya, Afar, Amhara, Somali, Tigray and SNNP regions.
- USAID/Ethiopia has been very responsive to the drought situation in Ethiopia. To date, the Mission has channeled \$17 million of Development Assistance (DA) funds for emergency health and nutrition programs, as well as devoted considerable personnel resources to the emergency situation.
- The USG has contributed 535,000 MT valued at \$231 million and \$28 million in non-food assistance since January through WFP and non-governmental organizations. The USG is the largest donor of food aid to Ethiopia. Total U.S. food contributions since the onset of the emergency are more than 715,000 MT (\$320 million), one third of the needs announced since July 2002 and over 50 percent of the total contributions to date.
- USAID/FFP has pledged or committed more than 643,750 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance in FY 2003 to date, valued at more than \$291,200,200 million. USAID/FFP has also deployed personnel to augment USAID/Ethiopia's Food and Humanitarian Assistance Unit.
- In FY 2002, USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, and USAID/Ethiopia contributed more than \$71 million in humanitarian assistance to drought-affected populations. In addition, USDA contributed \$34.4 million of section 416(b) emergency food assistance and State/PRM provided \$11.1 million towards assistance to refugees in Ethiopia.
- Since the onset of the crisis, USAID/OFDA has deployed several technical and program personnel to Ethiopia to augment the efforts of USAID/Ethiopia. These personnel include an Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC), based in Addis Ababa, to continually monitor USAID/OFDA programs and a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) epidemiologist to provide technical assistance in the sectors of health and nutrition. At USAID/OFDA's request, the Feinstein International Famine Center (FIFC) at Tufts University is examining current surveillance systems and looking at short to medium term response needs. The Tufts team arrived in country on April 2.
- During April 1-3, 2003, a USAID/EUE assessment team visited IDPs in the Meda Welabou Wereda, where the GFDRE had relocated displaced persons from the Bale Zone in March. The team found that the 15,000 IDPs were resettled without any apparent prior planning, leading to critical shortages of water, food and shelter and severe malnutrition and vulnerability.
- The Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$5.1 million in FY 2003, including more than \$2.9 million to UNHCR for refugee assistance, protection, education, and environmental programs in Ethiopia and \$2.2 million to WFP for its refugee feeding operation in Ethiopia.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2003 (TO DATE)				
USAID/OFDA				\$11,141,025
	ACF	Nutrition	Afar	\$438,700
	AmRC	Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$430,278
	CARE	Water/Sanitation, Seeds	Oromiya, East/West Hararghe	\$1,596,733
	CISP	Seeds, Tools, Water/Sanitation	Tigray	\$621,843
	CRS	Agriculture, Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,554,983
	FHI	Agriculture	Amhara	\$453,749
	IMC	Primary Health, Nutrition	Oromiya	\$1,689,390
	IRC	Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,122,535
	SAVE	Water/Sanitation, Livelihoods, Health	Somali	\$1,124,226
	WorldVision	Health, Livelihoods, Seeds	Afar, SNNPR	\$1,449,546
	UN FAO	Coordination	Countrywide	\$118,975
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Afar, Somali	\$350,000
	USAID	Administrative	All	\$190,067
USAID/Ethiopia				\$17,000,000
USAID/FFP				\$288,900,000
	WFP	251,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$116,000,000
	JEOP	363,050 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$156,800,000
	ICRC	29,700 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,100,000
State/PRM				\$5,120,000
	UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,920,000
	WFP	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,200,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE)²				\$317,041,025
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE)				\$322,161,025

¹ USAID/OFDA funding figure represents planned or obligated amounts as of April 24, 2003.

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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their drought response efforts in Eritrea can be found at <http://www.interaction.org/eastafrica/index.html>. Information on other organizations responding may be available at www.reliefweb.org.
- 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; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering services can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov -> "Disaster Assistance" -> "How Can I Help?"
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or 703-276-1914
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org -> "Guide to Appropriate Giving"
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.org.

