



**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 #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

May 23, 2003

*Note: This Fact Sheet updates USAID/OFDA Ethiopia Fact Sheet #6, dated May 16, 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 Region, (SNNPR), Tigray, Oromiya, and Amhara Regions. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC), 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 1.4 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 was greatly reduced. The severity and duration of Ethiopia's current food security emergency have left people in an extreme state of vulnerability and coping strategies have been exhausted. In addition to the perilous food security situation, the ensuing deterioration in health, nutrition, and sanitation conditions have made this a full scale humanitarian crisis.
- Despite ongoing drought conditions throughout most of Ethiopia, heavy rains in May caused flooding in localized areas of Somali, Oromiya, and SNNP Regions. The flooding displaced 104,000, and damaged homes, schools, and health clinics, which further strained the government's overstretched disaster response capacity.

**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) .....	\$13,666,892
Total USAID/Ethiopia Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date).....	\$17,000,000
Total USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date) .....	\$340,112,775
Total State/PRM Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date).....	\$5,087,233
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date).....</b>	<b>\$375,866,900</b>

**Current Situation**

- Since mid-2002, the situation in Ethiopia has developed into a humanitarian crisis. The outlook is dire, and extreme food insecurity is present in parts of Afar, Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, and SNNP Regions. USAID field assessments indicate that the number of people in need of assistance will increase to 14 million in FY 2003 due to inadequate food production. Current conditions suggest that intensified efforts are required in the next few weeks to prevent further deterioration in health and nutrition and increases in excess mortality.
- Despite above normal rainfall in April, FEWS NET reports that uneven and insufficient rains during February and March in some southern areas lessened the potentially beneficial effects of the recent rains. There is also growing concern regarding southeastern pastoral and crop dependent lowland areas, where rainfall has been patchy. Although the erratic localized rainfall has allowed for some crop growth, little reproductive growth has occurred, suggesting a minimal *belg* harvest.
- Although the overall seed requirements are still unclear, FAO suggests that 78 percent of the country's seed needs are met. USAID/OFDA field assessments and UN OCHA's evaluations, however, report that there is a lack of seeds in many woredas of SNNPR. The shortfall may be due to the fact that seeds have been sourced for the region but have not been distributed to local farmers.
- Water and sanitation needs remain a priority. UNICEF estimates that 4.2 million people are currently in need of emergency water interventions. The Regional Water Bureau reports that only 33 percent of the population in SNNPR has access to safe water, and 40 percent of the water systems in the region are inoperable.

- While food aid distributions have helped to save lives and protect household resources from further depletion, the food security situation in the country is worsening. USAID field assessments report deteriorating conditions in areas of SNNPR, especially in the districts of Wolayita, Sidama, Gurage, Silti, Konso and Hadiya, and in Fik zone of Somali region.
- The GFDRE is working closely with donors, U.N. agencies, and NGOs to coordinate implementation efforts to meet the needs of the drought-affected population. Due to the complexity of the emergency and limited local capacity, greater efforts are needed in the areas of coordination and information-sharing. Improved communication is also needed between the central authorities and regional and zonal governments.
- Although the GFDRE recently announced that the worst affected areas of SNNPR will receive a 15 kilogram ration per person per month, this has just begun, and ration dilution remains a critical issue. In addition, the rations are comprised primarily of cereals and lack sufficient diversification to provide necessary protein, fat, and micronutrients. UN OCHA reports that Global Acute Malnutrition rates are soaring, reaching 27.5 percent in some of the worst affected woredas in Wolayita and Sidama. The nine therapeutic feeding centers currently in operation lack sufficient capacity to treat the growing numbers of severely malnourished children.
- In the current situation, measles, malaria, meningitis, diarrheal and other diseases are a growing threat to vulnerable populations. In collaboration with UNICEF and international NGOs, the GFDRE is implementing a nationwide measles campaign, with priority given to drought-affected and vulnerable populations; however additional rapid response capacity is urgently needed to save lives.
- According to the WFP, there is currently an estimated shortfall of 300,000 tons towards the revised 2003 total needs for Ethiopia of 1.5 million tons. With present confirmed pledges, the pipeline will cover needs only until early August. Timely delivery of pledges remains crucial to avoiding a break in the food aid pipeline.
- According to UN OCHA, an estimated 188,000 people are displaced throughout Ethiopia, as a consequence of the border conflict or the drought conditions. An additional 104,000 are displaced by the recent flooding in southern Ethiopia. The U.S. Department of State reports that there are 129,000 refugees in Ethiopia mainly from Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea.

#### **U.S. Government Response**

- On October 29, 2002, the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia declared a disaster in response to the continuing drought situation. Heavy flooding in localized areas from concentrated rains prompted the U.S. Embassy to issue a second disaster declaration on May 9, 2003.
- On May 9, USAID/OFDA deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to enhance the non-food response to the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. Since their arrival, the DART has made site visits to address the emergency health, nutrition, agriculture, and water and sanitation needs of the drought-affected population in SNNPR. Following the DART's assessments, USAID/OFDA funded two water and sanitation projects in SNNPR. In the coming weeks, the DART will visit other regions throughout Ethiopia to address the humanitarian situation.
- In FY 2003 to date, USAID/OFDA has committed funds of more than \$13.6 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. USAID/Ethiopia's programs at the national and regional levels center on building organizational capacity as well as, supporting food security initiatives, rapid response, measles campaign, food assistance, nutritional surveillance, and therapeutic feeding. USAID/Ethiopia also provides ongoing support to the DPPC and the Ministry of Health.
- The USG has contributed 628,000 MT valued at approximately \$289 million and \$30.6 million in non-food assistance since January 2003 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 800,000 MT (\$370 million), over 50 percent of the total contributions to date.
- USAID/FFP has pledged or committed more than 735,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance in FY 2003 to date, valued at more than \$340 million. USAID/FFP has also deployed personnel to augment USAID/Ethiopia's Food and Humanitarian Assistance Unit.
- In response to the recent flooding in southern Ethiopia, USAID/OFDA provided \$110,000 in assistance through ICRC for the purchase of emergency supplies, jerry cans, cooking pots, plastic sheeting, and blankets.
- The Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$5.1 million in FY 2003, to support refugee assistance and protection programs, feeding operations, and literacy programs.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA**

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>FY 2003 (TO DATE)</b>				
USAID/OFDA .....				\$13,666,892
	ACF	Nutrition	Afar	\$438,700
	AmRC	Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$430,278
	CARE	Water/Sanitation, Seeds	Oromiya	\$1,596,733
	CISP	Seeds, Tools, Water/Sanitation	Tigray	\$621,843
	CRS	Agriculture, Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,554,983
	FHI	Agriculture	Amhara	\$453,749
	GAA	Water/Sanitation	SNNPR	\$140,599
	IMC	Primary Health, Nutrition	Oromiya, SNNPR	\$2,566,130
	ICRC	Disaster Support	Somali	\$110,000
	IRC	Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,122,535
	Oxfam	Water/Sanitation	SNNPR	\$298,528
	SC/US	Water/Sanitation, Livelihoods, Health	Somali	\$1,124,226
	WorldVision	Health, Livelihoods, Seeds	Afar, SNNPR	\$1,449,546
	UN FAO	Coordination	Countrywide	\$118,975
	UNICEF	Health/Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,050,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Afar, Somali	\$350,000
	USAID	Administrative	All	\$240,067
USAID/Ethiopia .....				\$17,000,000
	Carter Center	Health/Nutrition	Multiple	\$1,754,841
	GOAL	Health/Nutrition	Afar, Oromiya	\$807,380
	Other NGOs	Health/Nutrition	Multiple	\$6,153,727
	UNICEF	Health/Nutrition	Multiple	\$4,000,000
	WFP	Nutrition	Multiple	\$1,655,000
	WHO	Health/Nutrition	Multiple	\$1,539,052
	World Learning	Nutrition	Amhara, SNNPR	\$1,090,000
USAID/FFP .....				\$340,112,775
	WFP	344,230 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$164,508,100
	JEOP	363,050 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$157,203,575
	ICRC	29,740 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,401,100
State/PRM .....				\$5,087,233
	Embassy Addis Ababa	Refugee Literacy Program	Countrywide	\$20,000
	IRC	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$217,233
	UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,650,000
	WFP	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,200,000
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE)* .....</b>				<b>\$370,779,667</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE).....</b>				<b>\$375,866,900</b>

\* USAID/OFDA funding figure represents committed and/or obligated amounts as of May 23, 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 Ethiopia can be found at <http://www.interaction.org/eastafrica/index.html>. Information on other organizations responding may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) -> “Disaster Assistance” -> “How Can I Help?”
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or 703-276-1914
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) -> “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).
- USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.htm](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.htm).