



**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 #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

May 30, 2003

*Note: This Fact Sheet updates USAID/OFDA Ethiopia Fact Sheet #7, dated May 23, 2003.*

**Background**

- In 2002, below-average *belg*, or secondary rains that occur from March through May, coupled with delayed and sporadic *meher*, or main rains that occur from 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 United Nations World Food Program (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimate that Ethiopia’s food deficit in 2003 will reach more than 2.3 million metric tons (MT), with increased food assistance, commercial imports, and internal production needed to meet the deficit. Current estimates indicate that 12.6 million people require more than 1.5 million MT of food assistance in 2003 and an additional 1.4 million people require close monitoring.
- As the livelihoods of many rural households dependent on agriculture and livestock 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 SNNPR, Somali, and Oromiya, Regions. The flooding displaced 104,000, and damaged homes, schools, and health clinics, further straining 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 the onset of the crisis, the humanitarian situation has worsened. Current conditions require intensified efforts in the next weeks to prevent further deterioration in food security, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and increases in excess mortality.
- According to the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), the late start and erratic precipitation during the recent *belg* season led to long-term rainfall deficits in areas of northern Ethiopia. Persistent dryness over northern and northwestern Ethiopia may affect long cycle crops in the region.
- The overall seed requirements remain unclear. According to USAID’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) field assessments, seed needs in Oromiya appear to be met. However, this is not true of most other regions. Overall seed needs have been drastically underestimated and some regions are waiting for FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) seed deliveries.
- The U. N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that even under normal circumstances, 75 percent of the population lacks access to safe water. USAID/DART reports that recent *belg* rains in Oromiya provided temporary relief by filling shallow wells and ponds and increasing the quantity of water available. However, the quality of the water is very poor and a potential source of disease outbreak, as drinking water from surface sources is a widespread practice.

- USAID/DART reported significant water and sanitation deficiencies in temporary feeding centers (TFCs) in SNNPR and Oromiya Region.
- In localized districts of SNNPR, global acute malnutrition levels range from 18 to 27 percent. According to UNICEF, approximately 60,000 to 80,000 children in Ethiopia are severely malnourished and additional TFCs are urgently needed. Without operational supplementary feeding programs, children treated at TFCs do not receive the necessary follow-up care and are likely to return for further assistance.
- With rapidly declining health status among the vulnerable population, immediate interventions are required to avert potential disease epidemics and excess mortality. UNICEF, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the GFDRE have initiated a nationwide measles campaign to vaccinate all children aged six months to 15 years by 2004, with priority to drought-affected populations. Previous campaigns have had uneven coverage, and additional rapid response capacity and broader outreach is critical to save lives. Malaria prevention and treatment activities must be improved, especially as levels are expected to spike at the beginning and end of the rainy season.
- While food distributions have helped to save lives and protect household resources from further depletion, the food security situation in the country is worsening. The WFP is concerned that without additional donor assistance a potential pipeline break may occur in September.
- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 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 Addis Ababa 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's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) deployed a DART to enhance the non-food response to the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. Since arrival, the DART met with government ministries, U.N. agencies, and NGOs as well as conducted site visits to assess and coordinate the emergency health and nutrition, agriculture, and water and sanitation needs of the drought-affected population in SNNPR, Oromiya and Tigray Regions. Following the DART's assessments, USAID/OFDA has funded two water and sanitation projects thus far in SNNPR. In the coming weeks, the DART will visit all six of the drought-affected regions in Ethiopia and make further recommendations.
- In FY 2003 to date, USAID/OFDA 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 SNNPR, Oromiya, Afar, Amhara, Somali, and Tigray Regions.
- USAID's Mission in Ethiopia (USAID/Ethiopia) has been very responsive to the drought situation. To date, the Mission has channeled \$17 million of Development Assistance (DA) funds for health and nutrition programs, as well as devoted considerable personnel resources, to the drought 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, the measles campaign, food assistance, nutritional surveillance, and therapeutic feeding. USAID/Ethiopia also provides ongoing support to the DPPC and the Ministry of Health.
- The United States Government (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 assistance to Ethiopia. Total U.S. 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's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided 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 the International Committee of the Red Cross for 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	Oromiya	\$20,000
	IRC	Refugee Assistance	Tigray	\$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).