



**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 #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

June 9, 2003

Note: This Fact Sheet updates USAID/OFDA Ethiopia Fact Sheet #8, dated May 30, 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 people, 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) \$15,358,103
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date)..... \$409,888,141

Current Situation

- The EUE reports deteriorating conditions in southern parts of the country, particularly in SNNPR. The situation requires intensified efforts and immediate interventions in agriculture, health and nutrition, and water and sanitation to prevent further increases in excess mortality.
- On June 4, the GFDRE’s Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) reported an estimated \$8 to \$10 million seed shortfall countrywide. The MOA indicated that past reports of seed availability were based on United Nations (UN) appeals that only requested an estimated 25 to 40 percent of total requirements. While the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) and USAID Mission (USAID/Ethiopia) are working closely with other donors, U.N. agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure that seeds are distributed immediately in time for the *meher* planting season, assistance may arrive too late for many farmers in southern Ethiopia to fully benefit from the long rains.
- According to USAID’s Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), poor performing *belg* rains may negatively impact long season crops in parts of northern Ethiopia. FEWS NET expects significant rains with the onset of the *meher* season in late June or early July, but insufficient seed distribution is likely to disrupt the forthcoming agricultural season and food production.
- DPPC, MOA, and UN FAO estimate seed shortfalls in Tigray Region of approximately \$2.9 million. USAID/DART assessments indicate that productivity in the region is chronically difficult due to a shorter rainy season than in other parts of Ethiopia. Near the border with Eritrea, approximately 30 percent of farmland reportedly contains landmines.

- With inadequate food rations and deteriorating nutritional status throughout the country, emergency water interventions are critical. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), current water sector emergency activities are only reaching 50 percent of the estimated beneficiaries. Priorities are to provide clean water for health centers and temporary feeding centers (TFCs).
- Even under normal circumstances, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that 75 percent of the population lacks access to safe water. USAID/DART field assessments report that Afar Region faces acute water shortages exacerbated by three years of continuous drought conditions, with NGO tankering meeting only a portion of the total needs. The water shortage is adversely impacting the livestock situation by weakening cattle and eliminating milk production, a food staple and significant economic resource.
- While TFCs are providing vital care to vulnerable children, the USAID/DART and Centers for Disease Control field assessment in Oromiya Region identified several critical areas of concern: staff shortages, lack of motivation and follow-up medical care, lack of medicines, insufficient and/or poor quality water supply, and infrequent availability of selective feeding programs for discharged children.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that Ethiopia has one of the lowest child immunization rates in the region. Elevated rates of malnutrition suggest that children in drought-affected areas are especially susceptible to infectious diseases. On June 5, the Ministry of Health (MOH), UNICEF, and WHO launched a joint measles immunization and Vitamin A distribution campaign, targeting nearly 5.2 million children between the ages of six months and 15 years in seven different zones in SNNPR, Amhara, Oromiya, and Somali Regions.
- Despite positive donor response to the crisis in Ethiopia, substantial efforts continue to be required due to increased needs in the country. WFP is concerned that without additional donor assistance a potential break in the food pipeline may occur in September.
- 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 90,000 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 has conducted field assessments in all six of the drought-affected regions. Thus far, USAID/OFDA has funded additional water and sanitation and supplementary feeding projects in SNNPR, nutritional programs in Afar Region, water and sanitation and agricultural assistance projects in Oromiya Region, and an agricultural assistance project in Tigray Region. In the coming weeks, the DART will make further recommendations based on field assessments of current needs.
- In FY 2003 to date, USAID/OFDA committed funds of more than \$15.3 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/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 alleviate the effects of the emergency. USAID/Ethiopia's programs at the national and regional levels focus on building organizational capacity as well as supporting food security initiatives, rapid response, food assistance, nutritional surveillance, therapeutic feeding, and the measles campaign. USAID/Ethiopia also provides ongoing support to the DPPC and the MOH.
- The United States Government (USG) is the largest donor of food assistance to Ethiopia, contributing 698,230 MT valued at approximately \$321.6 million since January 2003 through WFP and NGOs. Total U.S. contributions since the onset of the emergency are more than 878,000 MT (\$400 million), representing more than 50 percent of the total contributions to date.
- USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided more than 806,430 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance in FY 2003 to date, valued at more than \$372.4 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, feeding, 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>
FY 2003 (TO DATE)				
USAID/OFDA				\$15,358,105
	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	\$1,277,534
	CRS	Agriculture, Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,954,130
	FHI	Agriculture	Amhara	\$453,749
	GAA	Water/Sanitation	SNNPR	\$140,599
	GOAL	Health/ Nutrition	Afar, SNNPR	\$636,378
	IMC	Primary Health, Nutrition	Oromiya, SNNPR	\$2,566,125
	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				\$372,442,800
	WFP	408,030 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$194,012,300
	JEOP	368,660 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
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE)*				\$404,800,908
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE).....				\$409,888,141

* USAID/OFDA funding figure represents committed and/or obligated amounts as of June 9, 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/eastafrika/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.
- USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.htm.