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

ETHIOPIA – Complex Health/Food Insecurity Emergency

Situation Report #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

May 5, 2005

Note: This report updates situation report #2 dated April 1, 2005.

BACKGROUND

In 2002, failed *belg*, or secondary rains from March through May, combined with delayed and sporadic *meher*, or main rains from July through September, led to severe drought conditions and widespread food insecurity in Ethiopia, affecting more than 13.2 million people during 2003. Humanitarian conditions improved in 2004, but the destitution that accompanied the crisis of the previous year complicated recovery efforts. Although relatively good *meher* rains improved harvest prospects in western parts of Ethiopia, most of the eastern lowlands experienced a poor *meher* harvest due to below average and erratic rainfall. Further, the situation in some *belg*-producing areas remained precarious due to poor rains and failed crops. In September 2004, USAID’s Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) reported signs of growing distress in pastoral lowland areas due to drought conditions and shortages of water, pasture, and food in affected areas. The arrival of the *deyr* rains in October mitigated a widespread disaster in Somali Region; however, overall humanitarian conditions in the region remain concerning. Similarly, inadequate *Karan/Karma* (July-September) rains have not improved the situation in Afar Region, where conditions continue to deteriorate. This year’s sporadic *belg* rains have exacerbated the already volatile humanitarian situation throughout the country. Since March, Ethiopia has been inundated by worsening food insecurity, rapidly increasing malnutrition rates, distress migration, and inclement weather. On May 4, 2005, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’s (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) and the U.N. issued a flash update to the December 2004 joint humanitarian appeal, estimating that 3.8 million people will require emergency assistance in 2005. In addition, 5.1 million chronically food insecure people are expected to be covered by the GFDRE’s Productive Safety Nets Program (PSNP), which officially began in mid-February 2005.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Emergency Affected Population in 2005	3.8 million	DPPC, May 4, 2005
Chronically Food Insecure Population in 2005	5.4 million	DPPC, May 4, 2005
Total Food Aid Requirements in 2005	464,385 metric tons (MT)	DPPC, May 4, 2005

Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia \$8,830,450
Total FY 2005 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia..... \$188,146,040

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian situation worsens. Since March, Ethiopia has seen a dramatic increase in emerging areas of concern throughout the country. Ethiopia is experiencing famine indicators in some areas as the impact of erratic *belg* rains has been exacerbated by the delayed implementation of the PSNP. According to the DPPC, 136,000 children in Ethiopia are severely malnourished, and this figure could grow to 370,000 over the next eight months. The current situation is consistent with the patterns of the 2002-2003 crisis, which began with hotspots in Afar Region, then Tigray Region, followed by East Hararghe, West Hararghe, and Arsi zones in Oromiya Region, and finally in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNPR) Region.

In Afar, where signs of the current crisis first appeared, malnutrition rates are approaching emergency levels. In an April nutrition survey in Abala Woreda, USAID/OFDA implementing partner GOAL measured global acute

malnutrition (GAM) rates of children under five years of age at nearly 15 percent. Below average rainfall has also aggravated the precarious situation in Tigray Region, disrupting agricultural and pastoral activities in many woredas. In April, the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), a USAID/OFDA implementing partner, reported over 2,500 cases of marasmus and 300 cases of kwashiorkor in six woredas in Tigray. In Oromiya Region, a recent USAID/Ethiopia assessment in East Hararghe concluded that distress migration is on the rise in the region. In Girawa woreda, several villages have been totally abandoned as entire families have migrated in search of food. The current crisis is particularly acute in SNNPR, where health centers lack the capacity to respond to the rapidly increasing number of women and children suffering from severe malnutrition. From March 28 to 30, USAID/OFDA and USAID/Ethiopia staff visited Boricha Woreda and parts of Gamo Gofa Zone, and corroborated reports by the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) that the patterns of acute food insecurity that occurred in 2002-2003 are recurring in 2005. In addition, the USAID team reported that lowland areas in both Boricha and Gamo Gofa

had no food stores from last year's poor harvest and were not expecting a harvest until June or July.

GFDRE response to humanitarian concerns. In a meeting with international donors on April 7, the GFDRE's Food Security Coordination Bureau (FSCB) recognized the growing humanitarian emergency in Ethiopia, and confirmed that the parts of Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, and Tigray and required immediate assistance.

The DPPC dispatched rapid assessment teams to hotspots in eight regions from April 20 to 25. In response to the initial assessments, the DPPC updated the emergency appeal beneficiary numbers in Afar Region by 70,000 and in SNNPR by 37,000 and increased shipments of food aid to the most affected woredas. In addition, on April 7, the DPPC requested a blanket three-month supplementary feeding program for children in approximately 30 of the most critical safety net woredas.

GFDRE and humanitarian partners issue flash appeal. The DPPC field assessment teams identified significant increases in the number of vulnerable people requiring both food and non-food humanitarian assistance throughout the country. From the assessments, the DPPC concluded that the growing crisis is due to a combination of an increase in the number of vulnerable people requiring assistance and delays in the implementation of the PSNP during the first three months of 2005.

On May 4, the GFDRE and U.N. agencies issued a flash update to the 2005 Joint Humanitarian Appeal, asking for \$320 million to address the deteriorating conditions in the country. According to the appeal, food aid beneficiaries have increased from 3.1 million to 3.8 million. The additional 687,470 beneficiaries will increase food aid requirements by 66,198 MT, raising the total requirement to 464,385 MT. The appeal also increased the non-food requirements to \$136.5 million, of which, only 22 percent has been met.

U.S. government issues drought alert for Ethiopia. On April 20, U.S. government weather forecasters issued a drought alert for southeastern Ethiopia. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), weather satellites detected areas of stifling drought condition in the region for the sixth consecutive year. At the midpoint of the *belg* season, the performance of the current *belg* rains has been mixed. Despite a promising start in January, much of the country experienced below-normal rainfall in February, which led to the disruption of planting of *belg* crops and also affected water and pasture availability in some areas. During the first week of March, the rains returned, but were followed by dry spells through early April. In mid-April, the rains resumed in most of the *belg* crop-producing areas throughout the country. If intermittent dry spells continue, however, farmers who are heavily dependent on *belg* crop production will suffer significant crop losses. In a Food Security Update on April 28, FEWS NET reported that even if the current pastoral rains continue long enough to replenish water sources and pasture,

economic recovery after the prolonged drought will be very slow.

Floods hit Somali Region. On April 23, after two days of heavy rains, the Wabe Shabelle River flooded over its banks, causing extreme damage to more than 40 villages in Somali Region. According to the DPPC, the flooding killed nearly 100 people, and affected more than 105,000 others in Gode, Afder, Korahe, and Shinile zones. In addition, flood waters washed away approximately 50,000 livestock in the largely pastoral region. The DPPC sent relief items, including food, blankets, and plastic sheeting to the most affected areas, but high water hindered immediate relief efforts. While the GFDRE has not asked for international assistance, government officials met with U.N. agencies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Gode on April 25 to coordinate relief operations.

Meningitis outbreak. On April 14, the GFDRE Ministry of Health (MOH) reported meningitis outbreaks in Amhara, Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromiya, SNNPR, and Tigray regions. As of April 14, the MOH had confirmed 519 cases, of which, 58 were fatal. In collaboration with the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the MOH has requested \$1.6 million to support a countrywide meningitis vaccination campaign. While 70 percent of the population is potentially at risk of contracting the disease, UNICEF reported that the current outbreak is under control and is not a serious threat to the general population.

Food pipeline Situation improves. The emergency food pipeline has improved considerably in the past month and the coverage of requirements in the updated 2005 Humanitarian Appeal has reached 64 percent. Taking into account the newly-identified requirements, the shortfall in emergency food for 2005 is now 165,000 tons. There are also unmet requirements for targeted supplementary rations for malnourished children and women, essential to reduce the current prevalence of acute malnutrition. Confirmed food aid commitments can now cover requirements until mid-July. However, there are further contributions from major donors that are currently under negotiation which could extend the food aid pipeline to the end of September.

USAID/OFDA deploys team to Ethiopia. In response to the growing humanitarian emergency in Ethiopia, USAID/OFDA deployed technical advisors on May 1 to assess the water and sanitation, health and nutrition, agricultural, and livestock conditions in Ethiopia. The USAID/OFDA team will assess the current situation and will assist in defining the parameters of need in the most affected areas. USAID/OFDA is also augmenting program and field monitoring staff to facilitate the identification of partners and expedite the funding process.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 12, 2004, U.S. Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal redeclared a disaster in response to the continuing health and food insecurity emergency in Ethiopia. To date in FY 2005, USAID/OFDA has committed nearly \$9 million to support humanitarian activities in Ethiopia. Funding priorities include

food security and agriculture, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and local NGO capacity-building activities.

In response to agricultural and livelihoods recovery needs, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$460,000 to Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) for emergency water and livestock interventions in Oromiya Region. USAID/OFDA is supporting animal health and supplementary fodder interventions in Oromiya Region through a \$700,000 grant to Mercy Corps. USAID/OFDA is also funding Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with \$700,000 to support agricultural and livestock recovery initiatives in several regions. In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing \$700,000 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for seed fairs and distribution of agricultural tools in SNNP and Oromiya regions. In Tigray, USAID/OFDA is providing \$500,000 to REST for agriculture and livelihoods programs including livestock and seed distributions, improved irrigation through household ponds and hand dug wells, and cash for seeds initiatives.

In response to ongoing health and nutrition concerns, USAID/OFDA is providing \$1.9 million to support GOAL's multi-sectoral interventions, including rapid assessment and response activities throughout Ethiopia, and malaria control and emergency nutrition preparedness in SNNP and Oromiya regions. USAID/OFDA is funding community-based therapeutic care centers in SNNPR region, contributing more than \$1.5 million to the International Medical Corps (IMC) and nearly \$170,000 to Concern for community-based therapeutic care centers throughout the country. In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing nearly \$300,000 to Merlin and more than \$750,000 to IRC for water and sanitation projects in Oromiya Region. USAID/OFDA is also providing \$900,000 to Save the Children US (SC-US) to support emergency nutrition programs in SNNP Region.

The USG is the largest donor of food assistance to Ethiopia. To date in FY 2005, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) has pledged 387,210 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at approximately \$179.3 million through WFP and implementing partners to support the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal, as well as areas targeted for the PSNP. The commodities provided by USAID/FFP include a combination of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, as well as corn soya blend for therapeutic and supplementary feeding. USAID/FFP assistance is provided to vulnerable populations through direct distribution, food-for-work programs, emergency school feeding, maternal and child health programs, and therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE*			
CISP	Water and Sanitation	East Hararghe, Oromiya	\$468,988
Concern	Nutrition	SNNP	\$169,084
CRS	Food Security/Agriculture	East and West Hararghe, East Shewa, Oromiya; Hadiya, SNNP; East and South Tigray	\$700,000
GOAL	Food Security/Agriculture, Health, Capacity Building	Sidama, SNNP; West Hararghe, Oromiya	\$900,000
GOAL	Nutrition, Rapid Response	Afar, Gambella, Oromiya, SNNP, Dire Dawa, Harari	\$1,000,000
IMC	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,515,015
IRC	Food Security/Agriculture, Health	West Hararghe, Oromiya	\$700,000
IRC	Water and Sanitation	Oromiya	\$762,188
Mercy Corps	Food Security/Agriculture	West Hararghe, Oromiya	\$700,006
Merlin	Water and Sanitation	Arsi, Oromiya	\$299,929
REST	Food Security, Agriculture, Livelihoods, Water and Sanitation	South, Central, and East Tigray	\$500,000
SC-US	Health and Nutrition, Rapid Response	Silte, Sidama, and Konso Special Woreda, SNNP	\$900,000
Administrative Costs	Various	Countrywide	\$215,240
TOTAL USAID/OFDA.....			\$8,830,450
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP/ PRRO (Emergency)	87,830 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$30,396,400
WFP/ PRRO (PSNP)	120,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$57,733,900
JEOP	50,040 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$21,696,700
Multiple NGOs (PSNP)	129,340 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$69,488,590
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$179,315,590
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2005			\$188,146,040
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2005			\$188,146,040

* USAID/OFDA funding figure represents committed and/or obligated amounts as of May 5, 2005.



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