



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

## ***ETHIOPIA – Complex Food Security Crisis***

Situation Report #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 21, 2006

*Note: The last situation report was dated May 4, 2006.*

### **BACKGROUND**

In January 2006, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE), the U.N., and humanitarian partners released the Joint Humanitarian Appeal requesting food assistance for an estimated 2.6 million people. The appeal emphasized the vulnerability of 1.7 million agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in Afder, Liben, and Gode zones of Somali Region, and Borena Zone of Oromiya Region, due to successive failed rainy seasons and resulting livestock and livelihood losses. The current emergency follows closely the complex health and food insecurity of 2005, when an estimated 12 million Ethiopians faced a large-scale complex food security crisis. According to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), levels and distribution of rainfall have been declining across pastoral areas of Ethiopia since the 1980s. As drought conditions worsen across the Horn of Africa, the situation in southern and southeastern Ethiopia has become more precarious, and cross-border migration of pastoralists in search of water and pasture resources has increased.<sup>1</sup>

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>Total Vulnerable Population in 2006</b>	11 million	FEWS NET, April 2006
<b>GFDRE Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) Identified as Chronically Food Insecure</b>	8.3 million <sup>2</sup>	GFDRE – Food Security Coordination Bureau Target for 2006
<b>Emergency Food Assistance Caseload</b>	2.6 million	2006 Humanitarian Appeal, January 2006

**Total FY 2006 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia ..... \$12,475,904**  
**Total FY 2006 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia..... \$80,354,204**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

***Mixed performance of recent rainy season.*** In June and July, the GFDRE, U.N. agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) conducted the joint *belg* assessment to determine crop production from the February through May rains. On July 20, teams briefed the humanitarian community on the preliminary findings of conditions in *belg* producing zones of Somali, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions.

In general, *belg* rains were good compared to previous years. However, pockets of uneven and below average rainfall affected lowland areas of Afar, Somali, and Oromiya regions. The teams reported fair to good crop production in most areas, with the exception of areas that received limited rainfall, such as Borena Zone, and most of Somali Region. Rains replenished pasture and browse, improving the body conditions and production of livestock. Despite improvements in water and pasture, teams noted that the next *meher* season rains from June to September will be crucial for longer-term improvements. The food security situation has stabilized in most areas and the teams recommended increases in beneficiary numbers for emergency or PSNP assistance only in isolated cases.

#### ***Insecurity hampers relief operations in Somali Region.***

Ongoing insecurity continues to disrupt humanitarian activities in Somali Region. According to a recent USAID assessment, aid workers, particularly national staff, have experienced threats, harassment, and physical attacks while carrying out relief operations. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that insecurity has prevented humanitarian agencies from initiating essential nutritional interventions. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has also reported difficulties with food deliveries in the region due to insecurity, as well as flooding, which affected road conditions.

#### ***Clashes cause displacements in Oromiya Region.***

In Borena and Guji zones, inter-clan clashes have led to an unconfirmed number of deaths and large-scale population displacements. Assessments are ongoing to verify the number of people displaced, with estimates ranging from 6,000 to 125,000. Since the outbreak of violence in late May, USAID assessment team members have worked with U.N. agencies, NGOs, and GFDRE officials to gather information, identify needs, and provide appropriate assistance. Immediate needs include food, water and water containers, plastic sheeting, and blankets.

<sup>1</sup> Additional information can be found in the Horn of Africa Situation Report, available at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/).

<sup>2</sup> The emergency food assistance caseload includes 1.1 million people in Somali Region identified for the Productive Safety Net Program, but who will not enroll in the program this year due to the current drought emergency in the region.

Humanitarian organizations have been providing assistance to affected populations since June, and OCHA is coordinating with aid agencies to identify remaining gaps in coverage.

On July 11, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Vicki J. Huddleston declared a disaster in response to the emergency caused by clashes in Borena and Guji zones. In response, USAID/OFDA is providing \$50,000 through USAID/Ethiopia to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies.

***USAID Emergency interventions in Borena Zone.***

From July 2 to 7, a USAID assessment team traveled to Borena Zone to monitor emergency water and sanitation interventions. The team noted that activities are successfully increasing access to safe water in several vulnerable communities. According to the Zonal Water Resource Office, only 40 percent of the population in Borena has regular access to water. Pastoral and agro-pastoral beneficiaries interviewed by the team reported that recent rains were erratic and below average and the dry season has begun. Several farmers expected a low maize harvest due to poor rains. Despite reports of low rainfall, browse and pasture were available, and livestock appeared healthy.

***Humanitarian conditions in Bale Zone.*** From July 3 to 7, a USAID team also assessed conditions and monitored ongoing emergency programs in Bale Zone, Oromiya Region. In the highlands, the team observed plentiful crops of barley, wheat, maize, potatoes, and cabbage, as well as livestock in very good condition. Lowland agro-pastoralists who spoke with the team confirmed an abundance of rainfall and forage for livestock consumption and crop production but expressed concern about access to health care and potable water. In Bale Zone, USAID is providing latrine plates, hygiene awareness education, bed net distribution, and safe drinking water programs. In several communities, the team noted that bed net distribution and usage and latrine and hygiene interventions have increased public awareness of health concerns, particularly for many individuals who have not previously used latrines or bed nets or practiced standard hygiene.

***Diarrhea outbreak in East Shoa Zone.*** In early July, OCHA reported an outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in East Shoa (also called West Arsi) Zone, Oromiya Region, with water from a contaminated river believed to be the source of the outbreak. According to the Oromiya Regional Health Bureau, as of July 18, more than 3,900 cases of AWD have been identified in health facilities in East Shoa, with health clinics reporting 16 deaths thus far. However, an unknown number of people may have died without seeking treatment. On July 6, an interagency team from the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), Merlin, and the Ministry of Water Resources began an assessment of the area. UNICEF and the U.N. World Health Organization have sent emergency relief

supplies to the area. The Oromiya Health Bureau has established eight temporary AWD management centers and mobilized health professionals from other agencies to respond to the outbreak. With USAID/OFDA support, Population Services International (PSI) is providing water treatment products and training to zonal health officials to increase access to safe water.

***U.N. reduces UNMEE peacekeepers.*** On May 31, the U.N. Security Council adopted resolution 1681, approving the downsizing of the U.N. Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) from 3,277 to 2,300 or fewer troops. The resolution also extends UNMEE's mandate until September 30. UNMEE reported that routine troop movements continued in May on both Ethiopian and Eritrean sides of the border. The GFDRE continues to impose a ban on UNMEE helicopter flights and restrictions on patrols in certain areas of the Temporary Security Zone.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

On October 7, 2005, Chargé d'Affaires Vicki J. Huddleston redeclared a disaster in response to the continuing health and food emergency in Ethiopia. Volcanic activity in Afar Region prompted a second disaster declaration on October 13, 2005, and interclan conflict in Oromiya Region led to a third disaster declaration on July 11, 2006.

To date in FY 2006, USAID/OFDA has committed nearly \$12.5 million to address water and sanitation, health, nutrition, food security and agriculture, and provision of emergency relief supplies to drought-affected and food-insecure populations in Ethiopia. CHF International, Merlin, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IRC, and PSI have initiated water and sanitation programs in drought-affected Somali and Oromiya regions. IRC's expanded rapid response program is addressing water gaps throughout Somali Region, and German Agro Action (GAA) is providing safe drinking water in SNNP Region. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is providing health education and implementing community-based therapeutic care (CTC) programs in Somali Region. In addition, International Medical Corps (IMC) is establishing CTCs in drought-affected areas of Oromiya and Somali regions and GOAL is carrying out rapid nutritional assessments countrywide and establishing nutritional programs where necessary. CRS is implementing food security and agriculture programs in Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions.

The USG is the largest donor of food assistance to Ethiopia. To date in FY 2006, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has committed 98,340 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$65.5 million, for both emergency needs and the PSNP. USAID/FFP assistance is provided to vulnerable populations through direct distribution, food-for-work programs, emergency school feeding,

maternal and child health, and therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs.  
In FY 2006, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

contributed \$2.3 million to the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for refugee assistance programs in Ethiopia.

### U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2006

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ADRA	Health, Nutrition	Somali Region	\$1,003,335
CHF International	Water and Sanitation, Health	Somali Region	\$648,889
CISP	Water and Sanitation, Health	Oromiya Region	\$600,000
COOPI	Water and Sanitation, Health	Somali and Oromiya regions	\$498,314
CRS	Food Security and Agriculture, Water and Sanitation	Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions	\$1,602,907
GAA	Water and Sanitation	SNNP Region	\$176,000
GOAL	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,750,000
IMC	Nutrition	Somali and Oromiya regions	\$765,652
IRC	Water and Sanitation	Afar, Oromiya, SNNP, and Somali regions	\$2,179,181
Merlin	Water and Sanitation	Somali and Oromiya regions	\$984,210
PSI	Water and Sanitation, Humanitarian Relief Supplies	Somali and Oromiya regions	\$397,009
UNICEF	Health	Countrywide	\$350,000
WFP	Food Security and Agriculture	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Administrative and Support Costs	Countrywide	\$520,407
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$12,475,904</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP/PRRO	57,510 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$33,621,700
NGO Partners	21,680 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the PSNP)	Countrywide	\$22,814,300
NGO Partners	19,150 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward drought emergency)	Countrywide	\$9,142,300
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$65,578,300</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,300,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$2,300,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2006</b>			<b>\$78,054,204</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2006</b>			<b>\$80,354,204</b>

<sup>1</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 21, 2006.



Gregory C. Gottlieb  
Acting Director  
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance