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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 Food Security Crisis

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

June 6, 2007

Note: The last situation report was dated September 26, 2006.

### BACKGROUND

In early 2006, consecutive seasons of failed rains resulted in a humanitarian emergency across pastoralist areas of the Horn of Africa, affecting 2.8 million people in southern and southeastern Ethiopia. Unusually heavy rainfall in October and November caused widespread flooding, which affected 362,000 people in Somali Region and resulted in population displacements, loss of life and livelihoods, and increased incidence of disease. Despite these setbacks, Ethiopia entered 2007 with the anticipation of increased harvests and an improved food security situation. A November/December 2006 multi-agency assessment of the main *meher* rainy season, which largely determines the food security outlook for the coming year, indicated that the onset, amount, and distribution of rains were good in most regions, and forecast above average agricultural production. In February 2007, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE), the U.N., and humanitarian partners released the 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia requesting emergency assistance for nearly 1.4 million people—a reduction of approximately 50 percent from the previous year. Despite improved conditions, some communities remain vulnerable due to endemic poverty, chronic malnutrition, drought conditions, flooding, and localized agricultural failure.

On December 7, 2006, U.S. Ambassador Donald Y. Yamamoto redeclared a disaster in response to ongoing humanitarian needs resulting from food insecurity. To date in FY 2007, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$160 million to support programs in health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, emergency food assistance, refugee assistance, and air operations during flooding. In FY 2006, the USG provided nearly \$160 million for humanitarian programs in Ethiopia.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Emergency Food Assistance Caseload	1.4 million	February 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal
Ethiopian Government PSNP <sup>1</sup> Caseload	7.3 million	February 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal
Total Population in Need of Assistance	8.6 million	February 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal

### FY 2007 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$2,935,073
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup> Assistance to Ethiopia .....	\$149,386,700
State/PRM <sup>3</sup> Assistance to Ethiopia .....	\$7,208,092
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....</b>	<b>\$159,529,865</b>

### CURRENT SITUATION

#### Food Security and Agriculture

##### Overview

According to USAID/OFDA field assessments, overall food security has improved in Ethiopia as a result of concerted efforts by relief agencies in early 2006 and favorable June through September *meher* rains later in the year. However, emergency needs remain, approximately 85 percent of the nearly 1.4 million current emergency food beneficiaries reside in pastoral areas of Somali and Oromiya regions in southern Ethiopia, which were negatively affected by drought and floods in 2006. In addition, pockets of food insecurity persist in areas affected by flooding, crop pests and diseases, and erratic rains.

According to USAID’s Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), cereal production from Ethiopia’s main *meher* harvest is estimated to be nearly 50 percent higher than the recent five-year average. However, cereal prices remain above average, reducing the terms of trade and negatively affecting pastoralists as well as poorer households that purchase rather than grow most food. Although good rains across the country from October to December 2006 contributed to limited recovery in Somali Region, past droughts and flooding have eroded assets and coping strategies significantly, causing persistently high levels of food insecurity.

<sup>1</sup> Productive Safety Net Program

<sup>2</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

### *Belg Producing Areas*

In areas that rely on the July to August *belg* harvest, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that crop production prospects are below average. Contributing factors include the delayed onset of the 2007 *belg* rains coupled with prolonged dry spells, which particularly affected Oromiya and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. FEWS NET reports that dry conditions have begun to develop in the *belg* areas of Amhara and Tigray regions.

### *Afar Region*

The northern half of Afar Region has received less than half the average rainfall over the past few months, according to FEWS NET. A rapid assessment conducted by the regional Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Bureau in late May found areas of Afar Region with immediate requirements for supplementary food. USAID/OFDA regional staff are traveling to Afar to assess the situation in the region, in consultation with the GFDRE and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners.

### *Other Food Insecure Areas*

A May assessment by the federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) identified acutely food insecure groups in parts of Gambella, Oromiya, and SNNP regions. In Gambella Region, OCHA reported that populations displaced by previous conflict, many of which are now returning home, are particularly in need of food and resettlement assistance.

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) also reports deteriorating food security in chronically vulnerable midland and highland areas of East and West Hararghe zones, Oromiya Region. As a result, many farmers are migrating to neighboring areas in search of work.

In response, USAID/OFDA is funding Mercy Corps to provide livestock health interventions benefiting more than 200,000 individuals in vulnerable areas of West Hararghe Zone. NGO partners also continue to implement FY 2006 USAID/OFDA-funded agriculture and food security programs in Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions. In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA-funded programs in livelihoods rehabilitation, food security, and agricultural assistance provided support for approximately 200,000 individuals affected by both floods and drought.

### *Health and Nutrition*

USAID/OFDA-funded partners report that the nutrition situation in Ethiopia is generally stable, but note that the June to July pre-harvest period is a critical time when communities often experience a spike in malnutrition levels. GOAL and Concern are implementing programs in several zones of Oromiya and SNNP regions, where health and nutrition conditions can deteriorate rapidly.

GOAL is reducing severe acute malnutrition in food insecure communities through rapid nutrition assessments and the provision of targeted community therapeutic care (CTC) interventions. Concern is supporting the Ethiopian Ministry of Health in treating severe malnutrition in under-five children in Oromiya and SNNP regions. In addition, International Medical Corps (IMC) continues to implement health education and nutrition programs for approximately 50,000 people in Oromiya and SNNP regions.

### *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene*

According to national estimates, only 38 percent of the population in Ethiopia has access to clean water, with numbers in rural areas decreasing to as low as 13 percent. According to OCHA, an absence of clean drinking water, poor sanitation, and a lack of community education programs are contributing to continued outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in some regions of Ethiopia. In Somali Region, the Regional Health Bureau confirmed 1,361 AWD cases and 102 deaths in April, representing almost 50 percent of the total cases in that region since September 2006. However, the case fatality rate remained low at 2.5 percent for Somali Region and 1.2 percent countrywide.

Due to the far-reaching impact of access to clean water and sanitation facilities on health, nutrition, and the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, USAID/OFDA continues to prioritize interventions in historically vulnerable areas of Oromiya and SNNP regions. USAID/OFDA programs emphasize community management and sustainability. NGO partners continue to implement FY 2006 USAID/OFDA-funded water, sanitation, and hygiene programs countrywide, with a focus on Oromiya, SNNP, and Somali regions. In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA-funded programs including the distribution of sanitation supplies, the formation of water committees, and the construction of wells, water systems, and latrines, which benefited an estimated 650,000 people.

### *Coordination*

According to OCHA, flooding and an increased number of AWD cases posed coordination challenges in 2006. In 2007, the U.N. plans to implement the cluster approach in Ethiopia to further support GFDRE-led coordination at the federal and regional levels. This system will include task forces on agriculture, food aid, health and nutrition, and water and environmental sanitation, each headed by the DPPA or the appropriate ministry. Lead agencies in the U.N. and NGO community will also be clearly defined for each sector, facilitating information sharing and helping to reduce duplication of resources.

USAID/OFDA has actively contributed to increased coordination among humanitarian donors, and has encouraged partners to coordinate interventions among all sectors in areas of operations. Further,

USAID/OFDA has encouraged partners to foster linkages with existing programs, such as the PSNP and health and nutrition development programs, to ensure that beneficiaries receive the full range of assistance available.

***Relief Commodities***

In response to flooding in late 2006 and early 2007, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$630,000 to assist affected residents in Ethiopia, including support for emergency airlifts to populations inaccessible via road. USAID/OFDA staff worked closely with partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa to coordinate the airlift of emergency relief commodities to Gode Zone, Somali Region.

***Food Assistance***

According to the 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia, the PSNP is targeting an estimated 7.3 million chronically food insecure people in 2007. The program, which began in 2004, has reduced the

emergency food assistance caseload. Chronically food insecure families that previously depended on emergency relief now receive assistance from the PSNP. In addition, emergency beneficiaries identified in PSNP areas are covered via an existing contingency allocation of 20 percent of the safety net program.

To date in FY 2007, USAID/FFP has provided 259,770 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP and NGO partners for distribution through the PSNP. In addition, USAID/FFP has contributed 30,000 MT of food assistance to WFP for relief programming in FY 2007.

***Refugees***

According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ethiopia is hosting approximately 99,000 refugees from Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan. To date in FY 2007, State/PRM has provided more than \$7.2 million to IMC, IRC, UNHCR, and WFP for refugee assistance programs in Ethiopia.

## USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<b>FY 2007</b>			
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Concern	Nutrition	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$420,115
GOAL	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$500,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$883,411
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Oromiya Region	\$301,528
WFP	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$150,000
WFP <sup>2</sup>	Air Operations	Somali Region	\$467,290
	Administrative and Support Costs	Countrywide	\$212,729
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$2,935,073</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	30,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (for relief programming)	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
WFP and NGO Partners	259,770 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the PSNP)	Countrywide	\$134,386,700
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$149,386,700</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
IMC	Health	Somali Region	\$202,082
IRC	Refugee Assistance	Somali and Tigray Regions	\$906,010
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,100,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$7,208,092</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2007</b>			<b>\$159,529,865</b>
<b>FY 2006</b>			
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$16,966,430</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$138,697,700</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$4,078,907</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2006</b>			<b>\$159,743,037</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 6, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Through a standing agreement with WFP, USAID/OFDA approved the use of \$467,290 for flood affected Ethiopians.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance



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