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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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

August 2, 2007

Note: The last situation report was dated June 6, 2007.

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. In October and November, unusually heavy rainfall 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, the anticipation of increased harvests indicated an improvement in the food security situation for 2007. 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. However, some communities remain vulnerable due to endemic poverty, chronic malnutrition, drought conditions, flooding, and localized agricultural failure. 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, representing a reduction of approximately 50 percent from the previous year.

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 more than \$188.1 million for emergency food assistance, refugee assistance, air operations during flooding, and health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. 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 ¹ 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.....	\$5,569,361
USAID/FFP ² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$174,534,600
State/PRM ³ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$8,068,841
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$188,172,802

CURRENT SITUATION

Food Security and Agriculture

Humanitarian staff note the potential for a severe food insecurity crisis in Somali Region through late 2007, owing to security operations impeding the movement of commercial and relief food supplies. Food security also deteriorated in Amhara, Oromiya, and Afar regions of eastern Ethiopia in June and July, following poor *belg* rains that resulted in below normal harvests. In Oromiya and Amhara regions, distress signals such as unusual migration patterns are visible, and a recent assessment recommended immediate assistance for 38,000 people in West Arsi Zone, Oromiya Region, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The GFDRE Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) dispatched 1,276 metric tons (MT) of food assistance for 70,000 beneficiaries in Oromiya in mid-July, and allocated a one-month food ration for approximately 110,000 people in West Hararge Zone following requests for additional assistance. In addition, DPPA allocated a one-month ration for 47,360 recipients in North Shewa Zone in Amhara.

Somali Region

Security operations in central areas of Somali Region delayed post-*belg* food security assessments and have impeded the movement of commercial goods and relief food supplies to vulnerable communities since mid-June, according to USAID's Famine Early Warning

¹ Productive Safety Net Program

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Systems Network (FEWS NET). In addition, poor infrastructure, inaccessibility, and the security situation continue to prevent food distributions to approximately 1 million chronically food insecure people identified in the 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal.

Food security assessments have identified approximately 528,000 targeted beneficiaries for DPPA food distributions in Somali Region. As of July 26, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) had distributed 2,263 MT of food aid through the DPPA program to Liben, Shinile, and Afder zones. In collaboration with DPPA, WFP is currently preparing to distribute 5,400 MT of food aid for an estimated 300,000 recipients in central Somali Region. Due to the delays in food distributions and forecasts for possible heavy flooding during the *karma* rainy season, humanitarian staff note the potential for a severe food insecurity crisis in the area through late 2007.

USAID/OFDA programs support livelihoods and provide agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services for affected populations in Somali Region. To date in FY 2007, USAID/FFP has provided 288,660 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for distribution through the GFDRE Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). In addition, USAID/FFP has contributed 49,790 MT of food assistance to WFP for relief programming in FY 2007.

Afar Region

In late June, a USAID assessment of drought-affected areas of Afar Region identified the lack of adequate grazing pasture for livestock as the primary issue confronting pastoralists. As a result of insufficient grazing land, local officials report early migration, deteriorating livestock conditions, and 40 to 70 percent losses among herds remaining in the area. In addition, falling livestock prices owing to poor body conditions further decrease pastoralists' ability to purchase staple food items, contributing to global acute malnutrition rates of 11.1 percent as of May.

The upcoming *karma* rainy season is expected to improve access to pasture and water, although USAID staff note that critical concerns remain, including maintaining access to current water sources and timely distributions of food relief. USAID/OFDA partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is providing short-term water, sanitation, and hygiene services, and the International Medical Corps is implementing a nutrition program for vulnerable communities in Afar with USAID/OFDA funding. USAID/OFDA continues to monitor drought conditions, identify response activities, and coordinate with U.N. and relief agencies on drought response contingency plans in the event of poor *karma* rains.

Health and Nutrition

In June and July, six previously affected regions continued to report cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD). While the majority of cases were noted in Afar, Oromiya, and Somali regions, OCHA reported two newly-affected woredas in Oromiya and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions and the spread of AWD in previously contained areas of SNNP and Amhara regions, as of late July.

The spread of AWD throughout Ethiopia is attributed to inadequate water supply and poor sanitation and hygiene practices, according to OCHA. Ongoing USAID/OFDA programs from FY 2006 and current year funding continue to prioritize improving access to safe drinking water for pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, and vulnerable communities in AWD-affected areas. To date in FY 2007, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.4 million for water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in Oromiya and SNNP regions.

Coordination

In preparation for anticipated flooding along most major river systems in the country, U.N. agencies, USAID's FEWS NET, and DPPA coordinated to develop a flood contingency plan, which includes early response and information sharing mechanisms. In addition, WFP and DPPA have pre-positioned 726 MT of food in Gode Zone of Somali Region, and are discussing additional flood preparedness measures for Gambella Region, according to OCHA.

In July, a joint OCHA and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine evaluation of AWD response activities noted effective coordination served to prevent duplication of efforts, and timely creation of AWD taskforces facilitated appropriate water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. In addition, improved water quality has helped to minimize case transmission.

USAID/OFDA encourages coordination among partner relief organizations, and actively promotes collaboration between NGOs, U.N. agencies, and existing government relief structures, such as PSNP.

Refugees

In mid-July, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reopened Teferi Ber refugee camp in eastern Ethiopia to address the needs of Somali asylum seekers previously located in Kebribeyah camp and other areas along the Ethiopia-Somalia border. UNHCR began relocating approximately 4,000 Somali refugees from a temporary settlement in Kebribeyah, and an estimated 7,000 additional asylum seekers are awaiting processing. The new arrivals to Teferi Ber have received emergency relief supplies, including blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, water containers, and soap. State/PRM recently provided \$850,000 to UNHCR and \$500,000 to NGOs for refugee assistance programs in Teferi Ber.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2007			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CHF	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$883,412
Concern	Nutrition	Oromiya and SNNP regions	\$420,115
German Agro Action (GAA)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP Region	\$580,000
GOAL	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$500,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition	Oromiya and SNNP regions	\$883,411
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya and SNNP regions	\$1,051,013
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Oromiya Region	\$301,528
WFP	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$150,000
WFP ²	Air Operations	Somali Region	\$467,290
	Administrative and Support Costs	Countrywide	\$332,592
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,569,361
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	49,790 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (for relief programming)	Countrywide	\$24,992,300
WFP and NGO Partners	288,660 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the Productive Safety Net Program)	Countrywide	\$149,542,300
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$174,534,600
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IMC	Refugee Health	Somali Region	\$202,082
IRC	Refugee Assistance	Somali, Tigray, and Beneshangul Gumuz Regions	\$1,766,759
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,100,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$8,068,841
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2007			\$188,172,802
FY 2006			
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$16,966,430
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$138,697,700
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$4,078,907
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2006			\$159,743,037

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 2, 2007.

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

³ Estimated value of food assistance



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