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

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 4, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated August 6, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, exacerbated by a rapidly growing population, rising inflation, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity, have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in Ethiopia. Approximately 7.2 million people receive food or cash assistance through the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which is funded by multiple donors. The delayed onset and poor performance of the March to May *belg* rains, combined with the failure of the previous two consecutive rains, has resulted in below normal harvests and diminished pasture throughout Somali, Oromiya, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. Significant humanitarian challenges, including flooding, conflict, malnutrition, acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreaks, delayed food response, and locust and armyworm infestations, confront populations in many areas of the country. In Somali Region, insurgent activity and security operations have disrupted trade networks, and restrictions on the movement of people and livestock combined with the onset of drought conditions have exacerbated food insecurity. In April 2008, the GFDRE, the U.N., and humanitarian partners launched an appeal for \$67.7 million to assist approximately 2.2 million people. As of June 12, the GFDRE and relief organizations report that the number of people in need of emergency assistance has increased to 4.6 million.

On October 15, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Donald Y. Yamamoto redeclared a disaster in response to ongoing humanitarian needs in Ethiopia. To date in FY 2008, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$610 million for emergency food assistance, risk reduction, health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs throughout the country. The assistance includes \$3.9 million for the local/regional purchase of food assistance to support U.N. World Food Program (WFP) operations in Ethiopia.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Ethiopian Government PSNP Caseload	7.2 million	GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau - August 2008
Additional Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	4.6 million	GFDRE DPPA ¹ - June 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....\$35,151,414
 USAID/FFP² Assistance to Ethiopia\$566,951,800
 State/PRM³ Assistance to Ethiopia\$8,264,053
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....\$610,367,267

CURRENT SITUATION

Assessments of the March through May *belg* rains, conducted in July, confirm a near total crop failure in all *belg* producing areas, acute drought in pastoral areas depleting the livelihood base of pastoral communities, and spiraling food prices, leading to a likely doubling of the 4.6 million people in need of emergency assistance. The GFDRE has yet to release updated official figures and continues to allocate food resources based on the previous figures.

On August 27, the DPPA authorized an additional nine non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to expand relief activities in Somali Region, bringing the total number of approved NGOs to 22. The list of nine includes two new international NGOs authorized to work in the region.

As of August 26, WFP reported that flooding had affected approximately 43,000 people to date in 2008,

¹ GFDRE Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA). As of July 8, the responsibilities of the DPPA were officially transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD) Early Warning and Response Department as part of a planned restructuring process. However, pending implementation of the revised structure, USAID/DCHA reporting will continue to reference the DPPA.

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)

including 30,000 people in Gambella Region, 4,500 people in Somali Region, 3,700 people in Oromiya Region, and 1,600 people in Afar Region. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also reported localized flooding in Amhara and SNNP regions. At the same time in 2007 in Ethiopia, flooding had affected approximately 110,000 people, according to WFP.

The USG Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) in Ethiopia continues to conduct humanitarian assessment trips to affected areas to examine health, nutrition, food security, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions to inform future USAID humanitarian interventions. The USG HAT is also working with USAID/Ethiopia to support critical livelihoods rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction activities.

Health and Nutrition

OCHA reported that overall shortages of food and targeted supplementary feeding programs has exacerbated the need for ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and other therapeutic feeding supplies, and has resulted in increased admission and relapse rates in the existing programs.

Malnutrition rates remain high in Oromiya and SNNP regions, with additional areas of moderate and acute malnutrition emerging in Afar, Amhara, Tigray, and Somali regions, according to OCHA. GFDRE-led Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) data reports a total of 28,335 new admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to treatment programs in SNNP Region between June 27 and August 21. In Oromiya Region, ENCU reports that a total of 8,954 children with SAM were admitted to programs between July 23 and August 25. Accurate numbers are still not available due to gaps in reporting from outpatient therapeutic program (OTP) sites. However, ENCU reports that in a recent reporting period, 88 percent of OTPs in SNNP Region and 79 percent in Oromiya Region provided data.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that the therapeutic feeding pipeline is at risk of breaking in September. According to UNICEF, 1,000 metric tons (MT) of RUTF are needed to cover the requirements for September. In addition, an estimated \$22 million is required to procure 3,000 MT of RUTF to cover needs from October to December. UNICEF airlifts the RUTF from Europe to Ethiopia due to very limited supplies available for purchase in Ethiopia.

The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed 2,536 cases of measles countrywide between January and July 2008, including more than 2,000 cases in Oromiya Region alone. In the context of existing levels of critical malnutrition, humanitarian agencies note significant concern regarding a potential

measles outbreak and its impact on vulnerable populations.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$12 million to support nutrition activities in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions.

USAID/OFDA has also contributed more than \$1.5 million to UNICEF in support of an emergency measles campaign in Somali Region that will benefit nearly 800,000 people.

Emergency Food Assistance

As of August 26, the WFP shortfall for food assistance programs countrywide amounted to 170,000 MT, valued at approximately \$139 million. The shortfall includes 123,000 MT of mixed commodities for emergency relief programs, valued at more than \$99 million; 38,000 MT of cereals for the PSNP, valued at more than \$30 million; and an additional 9,000 MT of blended food and oil to support targeted supplementary feeding programs, valued at more than \$9 million.

Due to ongoing food commodity shortfalls, WFP has reduced cereal rations by one third from 15 to 10 kg for the second consecutive month in order to maintain the full caseload of 4.6 million identified beneficiaries in need of emergency assistance. Oil and pulses are not available due to the current pipeline break. Corn soya blend (CSB) will be provided at a ration of 3 kg instead of the planned 4.5 kg due to shortages. The supplementary food will be distributed with the relief ration to children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women in the priority hot spot woredas, starting in SNNP Region and continuing in other regions as CSB arrives in-country.

September is a busy month for cereals arriving in the Port of Djibouti. Due to other imports, only two of the three berths can be used for grain, and the daily discharge capacity is 11,000 MT. With an average round trip transit time of six days, and an average overland truck capacity of 37 MT, approximately 2,000 trucks will be needed to transport grain in the coming weeks. USAID partners and the GFDRE are negotiating allocation of transporters to ensure that there are minimal delays for humanitarian cargos.

In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$3.9 million for the local/regional purchase of food assistance to support WFP operations in Ethiopia.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided more than 732,000 MT of food assistance to Ethiopia, valued at nearly \$567 million. The relief caseload for Ethiopia remains at 4.6 million, pending release of the *belg/gu* assessment figures. In total, USAID/FFP assistance is benefiting nearly 5.6 million Ethiopians in FY 2008.

Agriculture and Food Security

Ongoing drought conditions, increasing food and fuel prices, and flooding continue to threaten food security in affected regions. WFP reports that between January and July 2008, the average price of maize in Ethiopia increased by 103 percent, the average price of wheat increased by 102 percent, and the average price of sorghum increased by 136 percent. The GFDRE has begun distributing the first allotment of an expected 300,000 MT of wheat into urban markets in an effort to stabilize wheat prices.

Heavy rainfall since August 16 has led to flash flooding and caused four rivers in western Gambella Region to overflow, killing at least 3 people, displacing 22,851 others, and affecting over 30,000 individuals and 6,700 hectares of farmland, according to WFP. WFP also reports additional flooding in Dallol Woreda, Afar Region, due to an overflowing river, which has affected approximately 1,600 people and destroyed crops and houses. Donor and partner coordination is taking place on the ground to plan the distribution of emergency supplies.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$4 million to support food security and agriculture programs in Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya regions, including mobile veterinary services and support for enhanced Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) monitoring capacity in Somali Region.

With USAID/OFDA and Norwegian Aid funds, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has supplied short-cycle seeds in North Wollo, South Wollo, and North Shewa zones, Amhara Region.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

As of August 24, WHO noted that 29 woredas have reported AWD cases, including 16 woredas in Amhara Region, 11 woredas in Oromiya Region, and one woreda from both SNNP and Somali regions, as of August 24.

The Afar Pastoralist Development Association reported that seven woredas in Afar Region have not received rain and are experiencing severe water shortages. The affected woredas include Elidar, Berhale, Erebt, Konnaba, Adgenno, Kori, and Teru. As a result, significant numbers of livestock deaths are reported in the area.

In mid-July, USAID/OFDA committed nearly \$430,000 in support of rapid water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in SNNP, Somali, and Gambella regions through implementing NGO partner Samaritan's Purse.

USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly \$2 million to NGO partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) for a water, sanitation, and hygiene rapid response program countrywide, that will benefit some 390,000 people.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$800,000
CHF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,449,973
Concern	Nutrition	Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and SNNP Regions	\$2,580,737
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP and Oromiya Regions	\$750,000
DPPA	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$418,625
GOAL	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$175,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Risk Reduction	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$1,150,199
IRC	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$4,217,516

Merlin	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$628,569
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$1,355,887
Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP, Gambella, and Somali Regions	\$652,967
Save the Children/U.K. (SC/UK)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,724,436
U.N. Development Program (UNDP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$363,051
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Amhara Region	\$1,000,000
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$309,678
UNICEF	Nutrition	Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya Regions	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Amhara, Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya Regions	\$800,000
UNICEF	Health	Somali Region	\$1,536,442
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$500,000
WFP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Emergency Relief Supplies	Somali Region	\$510,680
WFP	Local/Regional Food Procurement and Distribution	Countrywide	\$3,900,000
USAID's Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative	Risk Reduction	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Tufts University	Risk Reduction	Somali Region	\$100,000
FEWS NET	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$483,232
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$744,422
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$35,151,414
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP and NGO Partners	355,210 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance and Emerson Trust	Countrywide	\$264,160,300
WFP and NGO Partners	377,430 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the Productive Safety Net Program)	Countrywide	\$302,791,500
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$566,951,800
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IMC	Refugee Assistance in Aw Barre and Sheder Camps	Somali Region	\$250,000
IRC	Refugee Assistance in Shimelba, Aw Barre, Kebribeyah, Sheder, My Ayni, and Sherkole Camps	Somali, Tigray, and Beneshangul Gumuz Regions	\$1,794,053
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Refugee Protection and Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,800,000
Somali Cultural Literacy Center	Refugee Assistance	Addis Ababa Region	\$2,222
Africa Humanitarian Action	Refugee Assistance in Shimelba Camp	Tigray Region	\$8,378

WFP	Refugee Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,400,000
ZOA	Refugee Assistance in Shimelba Camp	Tigray Region	\$9,400
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$8,264,053
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008			\$610,367,267

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 4, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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