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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)

Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, & Somalia) – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

March 21, 2006

BACKGROUND

Several successive seasons of failed rains, including the critical October to December 2005 *deyr* season, have resulted in a humanitarian emergency across pastoralist areas of the Horn of Africa in early 2006. USAID’s Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) estimates that more than 7 million people currently face crisis conditions, with the largest numbers affected in the region spanning southern Somalia, northern Kenya, and southern and southeastern Ethiopia. Relief efforts have been hampered by insecurity, which is limiting humanitarian access throughout Somalia and parts of Somali and Oromiya regions, Ethiopia. Resource-based conflict—inter-clan, as well as cross border—has also reportedly risen in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia, as water, food, and forage supplies became depleted during the long dry season.

Numbers at a Glance		
Country	Estimated Numbers Affected	Source
Djibouti	70,000 to 150,000	FEWS NET January 2006
Ethiopia	2.6 million	FEWS NET February 2006
Kenya	3 million	FEWS NET February 2006
Somalia	2.1 million	FEWS NET February 2006

Total FY 2006 USAID/DCHA Assistance to the Horn of Africa (to date).....\$135,599,682
Total FY 2006 U.S. Government (USG) Assistance to the Horn of Africa (to date).....\$144,219,682

CURRENT SITUATION

Outlook remains grim for pastoralists. The welfare of pastoralist communities is directly related to the environment, as livestock production is highly dependent on the availability of water and pasture. Although pastoralists have developed coping strategies in response to isolated emergencies, the cumulative effects of drought, conflict, disease outbreaks, and market instability in 2006 have led to deteriorating food security in the most-affected areas. FEWS NET has reported the emergence of high malnutrition rates, distress migration, widespread livestock losses, and other pre-famine conditions.

In early March 2006, the USAID-supported Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) convened the 17th Climate Outlook Forum (COF), which indicated a significant possibility of below normal rains for the *gu* season in most of Somalia and the cross border areas with Kenya and Ethiopia. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU), COF findings were consistent with the Livestock Early Warning System’s projections of below normal forage conditions for the Somalia-Kenya-Ethiopia cross border area.

If the current rains fail, the Horn of Africa will face a large-scale humanitarian crisis. Even if the *gu* rains perform well, FEWS NET indicates that meaningful recovery will require sustained improvements over several seasons.

Somalia¹. Below normal *gu* rains from April to June 2005 in the southern Bay, Lower and Middle Shabelle, and Lower and Middle Juba Valley regions, followed by a late start and poor performance of the *deyr* rains in central and southern Somali, led to severe water shortages in agropastoral and pastoral areas. This prompted unusual movement of people and livestock toward water sources in Juba Valley and Gedo Region. The two consecutive seasons of failed rains also led to crop failure in agricultural zones in Somalia’s southern regions—former breadbasket areas that accounted for 80 percent of the country’s cereal production. As a result, sorghum prices have spiked substantially, increasing by more than 50 percent since October 2005 throughout Gedo, Bay, Bakool and Hiraan regions, according to FSAU. Malnutrition rates have also increased among pastoralist communities, estimated by FSAU to be 25 percent in critical areas. In early February 2006, a multi-agency nutrition assessment of two internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps in Wajid town, Bakool Region, recorded global acute malnutrition (GAM) of 27.1 percent, and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) of 8.6 percent in children under five.

According to FEWS NET, an estimated 1.7 million people throughout the country are facing an acute food, water, and livelihood crisis, with the humanitarian

¹Further information on the situation in Somalia and the USG response, can be found in USAID/OFDA Somalia Situation Report, located at www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance

situation particularly precarious in southern Somalia. When combined with the nearly 400,000 IDPs in the country, an estimated 2.1 million Somalis require assistance.

Kenya. Due to below average February to June 2005 rains in northeastern districts, pastoralists and livestock in Garissa, Wajir, Tana River, and Isiolo began migrating for water and pasture earlier than normal. Subsequent failure of the October to December rains in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas in the Eastern and Northeastern districts, including Mandera, Wajir, and parts of Marsabit districts, exacerbated a critical situation.

Residents of northern and eastern pastoral districts continue to face emergency conditions as pasture, browse, and water sources are depleted. Pastoralists have experienced significant livestock losses and a substantial decrease in the average price of cattle, goats, and sheep. Milk availability for all age groups has also declined, and rates of child malnutrition in most of pastoralist districts are rising. A nutritional assessment conducted by UNICEF in Wajir indicated GAM level of 30.3 percent and SAM of 4.8 percent. According to FEWS NET, reports of malaria, diarrhea, and malnutrition have increased and enrolments in supplementary and therapeutic feeding centers are on the rise, including admissions of children from neighboring Ethiopia and Somalia. FEWS NET estimates that 3 million Kenyans require emergency assistance.

Ethiopia². Although multi-sectoral emergency interventions and fairly good rains in agricultural areas improved crisis conditions in much of the country by late 2005, more than 2.6 million people still face extreme food insecurity. Triggered by failure of the October to December 2005 rains in Somali Region and Borena Zone, Oromiya Region, conditions in these predominantly pastoralist areas continue to deteriorate. According to FEWS NET, the emergence of stress signs in Somali Region, including abnormally early livestock migrations, deterioration of livestock conditions, and crop wilting in agro-pastoral areas were initial signs of a deepening crisis.

In January 2006, Save the Children US (SC-US) and Save the Children UK (SC-UK), in coordination with the regional authorities, conducted a nutrition survey in Afder and Liben zones of Somali Region. Preliminary results indicated 20.1 percent GAM and 1.6 percent SAM among children under 5 years of age. The survey also found declining livestock prices and rising cereal prices since December 2005. Aid organizations have reported similar trends throughout Somali Region.

Food aid deliveries in the affected areas have been hindered by insecurity, limited capacity, and lack of

access to remote locations. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), most of the January and February allocations have been delivered to the affected areas. Although insecurity and logistical constraints continue to hamper food distributions, the Ethiopian Government is increasing efforts to expedite the delivery of March allocations.

Djibouti. A delay in the onset of the June to October 2005 rains exacerbated an ongoing drought and led to a reduction in grazing areas, water shortages, and precarious food security in Djibouti. A mid-December field visit by USAID/OFDA's Regional Advisor confirmed that rangeland conditions were poor and access to water was limited for animal and human consumption. According to FEWS NET estimates, half of all goats and sheep in Djibouti have died as a result of drought conditions. Decreased animal productivity combined with an increase in livestock diseases have also led to declining terms of trade for pastoralists. Due to prolonged drought conditions, FEWS NET reported an increasing influx of people from rural areas to towns and the capital Djibouti City in search of food and water.

FEWS NET estimates that 70,000 to 150,000 people are seriously affected by the drought, which covers most of the country, although the hardest hit areas are the coastal regions, the north, and the northwest.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The USG's ongoing assistance programs in the Horn of Africa enabled aid agencies to respond quickly to the current emergency. To date in FY 2006, the USG has committed more than \$143.8 million for immediate life-saving interventions, targeting the most affected areas in the Horn of Africa with water and sanitation, health, nutrition, and food assistance.

Djibouti. To date in FY 2006, USAID has provided more than \$900,000 to UNICEF and WFP to support emergency health and nutrition and food assistance programs. With USAID's P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance, WFP is providing aid to 70,000 people. In addition, funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supports the Djibouti country program.

Ethiopia. The USG has contributed more than \$29.7 million thus far in FY 2006, to improve food security and agriculture, restore livelihoods in the most affected areas, and support local NGOs and government capacity. This also includes funding from State/PRM to UNHCR to assist refugees in Ethiopia.

The USG is the largest donor of food assistance to Ethiopia, committing to date, nearly 47,000 MT valued at more than \$25.7 million for emergency programs. USAID's food assistance is provided to vulnerable populations through direct distribution, food-for-work

²Further information on the situation in Ethiopia and the USG response, can be found in USAID/OFDA Ethiopia Situation Report, located at www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance

programs, emergency school feeding, maternal and child health, and therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs.

Kenya. To date in FY 2006, the USG has provided more than \$58.6 million for urgently needed water and sanitation, health, and food assistance in the most affected areas of the country. This also includes funding from State/PRM to UNHCR for refugees in Kenya.

Somalia. To date in FY 2006, the USG has committed more than \$54.9 million to support humanitarian activities in Somalia. With USAID funding, the FSAU

provides invaluable information regarding the humanitarian situation in Somalia. FSAU coordinates nutritional surveillance activities and provides a clearer picture of the economic impacts of drought, flooding, and insecurity. In addition, USAID has provided 102,350 MT of emergency food commodities through CARE and WFP.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO DJIBOUTI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE³			
UNICEF	Health and Nutrition	Countrywide	\$100,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$100,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	1,240 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$809,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$809,400
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DJIBOUTI IN FY 2006			\$909,400
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DJIBOUTI IN FY 2006			\$909,400

³ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 21, 2006.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	Food Security and Agriculture	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
MERLIN	Water and Sanitation	Somali Region	\$350,000
	Administrative and Support Costs	Countrywide	\$303,582
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,653,582
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	40,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$23,266,200
NGO partners	6,900 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$25,766,200
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$2,300,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2006			\$27,419,782
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2006			\$29,719,782

³ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 21, 2006.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE³			
German Agro-Action	Water and Sanitation	Northeastern	\$500,000

		Region	
UNICEF	Health	Countrywide	\$350,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$850,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	44,890 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	North, Northeast, and Southwest Kenya	\$31,564,800
WFP	19,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Refugee camps in northern Kenya	\$9,118,100
Consortium: Adventist Development and Relief Agency, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Food for the Hungry, and World Vision	34,650 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Development Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$11,856,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$52,539,500
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,250,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$5,250,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA IN FY 2006			\$53,389,500
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO KENYA IN FY 2006			\$58,639,500

³USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 21, 2006.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE³			
FAO	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$700,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$700,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
CARE	30,980 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Southern and Central	\$19,894,000
WFP	48,350 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$33,287,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$53,181,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,070,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$1,070,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006			\$53,881,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006			\$54,951,000

³USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 21, 2006.



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