



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

ETHIOPIA – Drought

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

October 10, 2002

Background

- In 2002, below-average *belg*, or secondary rains (March-May) coupled with delayed and sporadic *meher*, or main rains (July-September) have led to widespread food insecurity in Ethiopia. The lack of sufficient precipitation during the *belg* season failed to replenish water sources and provide pasture in the pastoral areas of Afar, northeastern Oromiya, and northern Somali Regions. Pastoralists have thus suffered increasingly over the last few months from significant losses of livestock, decreased food availability and accessibility, malnutrition, and water shortages.
- In addition, given the poor performance of the *meher* rains, food insecurity continues to spread to agro-pastoral and agricultural areas, particularly the lowlands and midlands of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP), Tigray, and Amhara Regions. USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) estimates that overall crop production will be 8-15% below average. However, in isolated areas, estimates of crop losses are significantly higher than the overall average percentage loss.
- The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) issued a special alert on the food security situation in country on July 12, 2002. The alert warned the international community that the number of people vulnerable to food insecurity would likely be higher than anticipated in the original appeal.
- In an updated appeal dated September 30, the DPPC and the U.N. revised the number of Ethiopians currently vulnerable to food insecurity to approximately 6.3 million people. Although this number is expected to decline in the short-term following the main harvest in November, under the worst-case scenario, the number of affected could reach 14.3 million people by early 2003.

Current Situation

- Findings from the GFDRE's mid-season crop assessment indicate that unless the rains continue well into October, production losses will be significant, leading to further deterioration of food security. According to the GFDRE, approximately 75% of the population relies on the main harvest for most of their cereal consumption.
- International aid agencies report that poor livestock conditions in pastoral areas have severely curtailed the production of milk, a staple of the normal diet in these regions. The lack of milk and meat has negatively impacted the nutritional status of children.
- Nutritional surveys in various parts of Ethiopia have found elevated global malnutrition rates. Although the global malnutrition rates range from 17.9 to 24.6%, the rates are believed to be higher in isolated areas. In addition, aid agencies have recommended an immediate measles vaccination and supplementary vitamin A campaign in pastoral areas where immunization rates are extremely low and malnourished children are more susceptible to disease.

U.S. Government Assistance

- On August 1, 2002, the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia declared a disaster in response to the developing drought situation. In response, USAID/OFDA contributed \$865,391 and USAID/Ethiopia provided \$460,000 toward an emergency nutrition and health program in Afar and Oromiya Regions to be implemented by GOAL, an Irish NGO. USAID/Ethiopia also provided \$400,000 for emergency agricultural inputs in SNNP Region.
- In addition to planned emergency food assistance in FY 2002, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) made two additional pledges of emergency food aid, including 45,000 MT in FY 2002 and 100,000 MT in FY 2003. This additional assistance will help meet emergency food needs during October and November 2002.
- On September 24, USAID/OFDA issued an Annual Program Statement (APS) to respond to the developing humanitarian situation in Ethiopia. Through the APS, USAID/OFDA is seeking proposals from NGOs, PVOs, and IOs to provide emergency, life-saving assistance to those populations most at risk.
- In FY 2002, USAID/FFP committed more than 111,400 metric tons (MTs) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$67 million. In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided 80,000 MT of 416(b) surplus food commodities to Ethiopia in FY 2002, valued at more than \$34.4 million.
- In FY 2002, State/PRM made earmarked contributions of more than \$7.2 million to refugee programs within Ethiopia. The earmarked assistance, channeled through UNHCR, WFP, and IRC, supports primarily Sudanese refugees in Benishangul Region, Somali refugees in Somali Region, and Eritrean refugees in Tigray Region.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2002				
USAID				\$69,325,360
USAID/OFDA				\$1,265,360
	IRC	Water/Sanitation	Somali	\$99,969
	SCF/UK	Early Warning	Somali	\$300,000
	GOAL	Health and Nutrition	Afar	\$865,391
USAID/FFP				\$67,200,000
	WFP	111,400 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$67,200,000
USAID/ETHIOPIA				\$860,000
	Bilateral Funding	Seeds and Water Rehabilitation	SNNP	\$400,000
	GOAL	Health and Nutrition	Afar	\$460,000
USDA				\$34,485,063
	WFP	80,000 MT of 416(b) Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$34,485,063
STATE/PRM¹				\$7,221,091
	UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Tigray, Benishangul	\$4,400,000
	WFP	Refugee Assistance	Tigray, Benishangul	\$2,000,000
	Ambassador's Fund	Refugee Assistance	Tigray, Benishangul	\$39,425
	IRC	Refugee Assistance	Tigray	\$231,626
	IRC	Refugee Assistance	Benishangul	\$550,040
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2002.....				\$111,031,514

¹These contributions are in addition to State/PRM's unarmarked contribution to UNHCR for Africa, totaling \$29.8 million to date in FY 2002. State/PRM has also contributed \$42.4 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its Africa programs, a portion of which is used to support ICRC programs in Ethiopia.

Public Donation Information

- In the interest of effective coordination of public response, USAID encourages the public to contact directly those private voluntary organizations (PVOs) currently working in the region in order to provide monetary donations. Cash donations are the preferred response to the emergency.
- For a list of non-governmental organizations providing disaster assistance in the region, please visit USAID's website at <http://www.usaid.gov>. Those interested in providing specific technical relief services or commodities can obtain guidelines for private voluntary organizations through Volunteers in Technical Assistance's (VITA's) Disaster Information Center at <http://www.vita.org>.
- USAID will not deviate from standard Denton Program procedures for transporting privately-donated relief supplies. USAID will prioritize delivery of essential relief commodities. For more information on the Denton Program, please refer to the USAID website at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/pvc/denton.html.
- For additional information about humanitarian relief efforts worldwide, please visit ReliefWeb at <http://www.reliefweb.int/>

*USAID/OFDA factsheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html
