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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 #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

May 4, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated March 24, 2006.

BACKGROUND

In January 2006, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE), the U.N., and humanitarian partners released the Joint Humanitarian Appeal requesting food assistance for an estimated 2.6 million people. The appeal emphasized the vulnerability of 1.7 million agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in Afder, Liben, and Gode zones of Somali Region, and Borena Zone of Oromiya Region, due to failure of the October to December 2005 rains, cumulative effects of drought conditions, and livestock losses. The current emergency situation follows closely the complex health and food insecurity of 2005, when an estimated 12 million Ethiopians faced a large-scale complex food security crisis. According to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), levels and distribution of rainfall have been declining across pastoral areas of Ethiopia since the 1980s. As drought conditions worsen across the Horn of Africa, the situation in southern and southeastern Ethiopia has become more precarious, and pastoralists from neighboring countries have begun to migrate in search of water and pasture resources.¹

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total Vulnerable Population in 2006	11 million	FEWS NET, April 2006
GFDRE Productive Safety Net Program Identified as Chronically Food Insecure	8.3 million ²	GFDRE – Food Security Coordination Bureau Target for 2006
Emergency Food Assistance Caseload	2.6 million	2006 Humanitarian Appeal, January 2006
Total Emergency Food Aid Requirements in 2006	339,090 metric tons	2006 Humanitarian Appeal, January 2006

Total FY 2006 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia \$5,868,671
Total FY 2006 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia..... \$66,746,971

CURRENT SITUATION

USAID assessment team deployed. In response to the growing emergency in primarily pastoralist areas of the Horn of Africa, members of a USAID assessment team deployed to Ethiopia in late March. The team has been working with field-based staff to assess the humanitarian situation in drought-affected areas and make recommendations for USG assistance.

Rains begin across drought-affected areas. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the onset and performance of the short rainy season have been mixed. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that overall March through May *gu* rains in Somali Region vary from good to poor, while March through May *sugum* rains in northern Afar Region have been extensive.

With the onset of the rains in the southern part of Somali Region, the crisis surrounding access to water supplies has eased. In some areas of Afder and Liben zones, water tankering operations have been temporarily suspended, ponds and reservoirs have begun to replenish, and families have begun to turn to traditional supplies of

water. As access to water supplies has improved, however, the quality of that water may deteriorate, increasing the risk of water- and sanitation-related disease outbreaks. According to the USAID assessment team, sustained rains through May will be critical to the recovery of pasture, browse, and water sources. The humanitarian community cannot yet determine whether the rains that have fallen to date during the current rainy season will be sufficient to completely replenish traditional water sources.

Heavy rains cause flooding in areas. Although March through May *gu* rains have provided relief in some drought-affected areas, heavy rainfall has also led to flooding in areas where dry ground could not absorb water quickly. In Shinile Zone, Somali Region, floods killed up to 500 people, displaced up to 3,000 others, and destroyed 190 houses, according to OCHA. WFP reported that floods in early April destroyed 45 homes and killed 4 people in Borena Zone, Oromiya Region. According to OCHA, rains caused the Awash River to flood on April 9, affecting up to 7,000 people in Dubti Woreda in Afar Region's Zone 1. According to the

¹ Additional information can be found in the Horn of Africa Situation Report, available at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.

² The emergency food assistance caseload includes 1.1 million people in Somali Region identified for the Productive Safety Net Program, but who will not enroll in the program this year due to the current drought emergency in the region.

USAID assessment team, despite improving pasture and browse, the onset of the rains and accompanying cooler temperatures will likely cause animals, already weakened by drought, to succumb to disease and hypothermia.

AA/DCHA visits Ethiopia. USAID/DCHA Assistant Administrator (AA/DCHA) Michael E. Hess concluded a five-day visit to Ethiopia on April 20, as part of a three-country tour of the drought-affected areas in the Horn of Africa. AA/DCHA Hess traveled to Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Somali Region to review the progress of USAID-funded projects and assess the current humanitarian situation. In Gode Zone, AA/DCHA Hess met with zonal authorities who estimated that 40 percent of livestock in the zone had died and predicted that agro-pastoralists would not harvest any crops this season. USAID has noted that in a normal dry season, up to 20 percent of herds die. AA/DCHA Hess also visited a U.S. Department of Defense Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa civil affairs project and observed WFP emergency and general food distributions in Gode.

According to the USAID assessment team, the drought is causing a large migration of people and livestock from Gode Zone toward Fik, Denan and Afder zones. Local officials also reported increased migration into larger towns in Afder, Liben, and Gode zones. Ongoing conflict between Ethiopian government forces and the Ogaden National Liberation Front, as well as sporadic clan and ethnic clashes, have led to widespread insecurity that has affected all aspects of relief operations.

Addressing food needs. Between March 28 and April 12, the GFDRE's Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) reassessed food needs in drought-affected areas. Preliminary results of the assessment indicated that up to 200,000 people—60,000 more than earlier estimates—will require food assistance in Borena Zone, Oromiya Region. In Somali Region, beneficiary numbers will likely increase to meet growing food needs.

As of April 24, the DPPA had dispatched 72 percent and 60 percent of food allocations for Somali Region for February and March, respectively. Dispatches for Oromiya Region are higher, at 93 and 95 percent for February and March. According to WFP, inadequate transport capacities, poor road conditions, and pervasive insecurity are major constraints affecting food deliveries in Somali Region. WFP has undertaken a number of measures, however, to reduce delays and the diversion of food. All transport issues for the drought emergency are being coordinated at the federal level and in the regional hubs of Nazareth and Dire Dawa. In addition, WFP is prioritizing transportation of food delivery to the region and informing beneficiaries of food allocations through regular radio broadcasts.

USAID assessment of Afar Region. From March 23 to 27, a USAID/OFDA assessment team traveled to Zone 2 of the remote northern Afar Region to follow up on

concerns that the pastoralist emergency in southern Ethiopia was spreading. Visiting five of the zone's seven districts, the team found poor pasture and forage conditions and limited water sources, but no significant health or nutritional concern. Despite shortages of water and pasture, animals appeared to be in fair to good condition. USAID implementing partners indicated that the current situation is relatively normal for this time of year in Afar Region. One NGO partner, which has been operating a supplementary feeding program in Zone 2, is considering closing the program due to the decreasing number of malnourished children in the coverage area.

Increasing malnutrition rates. USAID assessments in March 2006 of Sidama, Wolayita, and Gurage zones in SNNPR indicated that contrary to expectations, enrollments in community-based therapeutic care (CTC) programs were steadily increasing despite food availability and reports of a good December and January *meher* harvest. Local officials reported that multiple factors are contributing to the increase in CTC enrollments, including a lack of sufficient or appropriate food in the poorest households, high market prices, and delays with the resumption of the GFDRE Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP).

On April 16 and 17, AA/DCHA Hess visited USAID-funded projects in Silte and Gurage zones, SNNPR, focusing on emergency livelihoods recovery and income generation and diversification. The delegation also toured local CTC programs and met with community members regarding conditions in the region.

Risk of disease outbreaks. Currently, no major disease outbreak exists in Afder, Liben, and Gode zones, the most drought-affected zones of Somali Region. However, the potential remains for the current situation to deteriorate. Programs run by implementing partners in these areas are supporting water and sanitation activities, addressing water gaps, and providing CTC programs to mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks. Additionally, with USAID/OFDA support, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is deploying 16 mobile health teams throughout Somali Region to provide on-the-spot screenings and treatment for health- and nutrition-related illnesses.

In western Gambella Region, eight people died and hundreds of people are at risk from an outbreak of acute watery diarrhea, according to UNICEF. The Regional Health Bureau and Médecins Sans Frontières-Switzerland, together with UNICEF, are managing new cases and providing relief supplies.

Progress of PSNP. Families enrolled in PSNP stopped receiving general rations or the cash equivalent in August 2005 when the program year ended in anticipation of the upcoming harvest. PSNP public works activities were scheduled to resume in January 2006, followed by cash or food transfers in mid-March and early April. According to the GFDRE's Food Security Coordination Bureau

(FSCB), cash transfers through the PSNP are underway in all regions. To compensate for the one-month delay, recipients will receive two disbursements of cash at one time. The FSCB expects to have cash distributions completed by mid-May. In woredas receiving food, USAID's seven implementing partners report that first round distributions have begun throughout the country.

USAID's Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative. Through the Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative (PLI),³ implementing partners continue to manage emergency programs to reduce the impact of the drought on cattle and livestock, including destocking, vaccination, and breed maintenance activities. In addition, PLI partners are beginning to return to development activities that were suspended due to the current complex emergency. Partners are focusing on finalizing animal feed studies, performing value chain analyses, rehabilitating and constructing livestock market infrastructure, and providing training and technical assistance for community animal health workers.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 7, 2005, Chargé d'Affaires Vicki J. Huddleston redeclared a disaster in response to the continuing health and food emergency in Ethiopia. Volcanic activity in Afar Region prompted a second disaster declaration on October 13, 2005. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Ethiopia for emergency health and nutrition interventions for the affected populations in Afar.

In FY 2005, USAID/OFDA committed more than \$33.6 million through 3 U.N. agencies and 21 NGO partners for humanitarian activities in Ethiopia. This amount included support for nutrition and health programs, water and sanitation interventions, and agriculture and livelihoods recovery initiatives. USAID/OFDA also

provided funds to enhance coordination, strengthen GFDRE emergency response capacity, support pastoralist initiatives, and provide relief supplies.

To date in FY 2006, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$5.8 million to address water and sanitation, health, nutrition, food security and agriculture, and provision of emergency relief supplies to drought-affected and food-insecure populations in Ethiopia. With USAID/OFDA funding, CHF International and Merlin have started water and sanitation programs in Gode and Afder zones. The expanded rapid response program of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is addressing water gaps throughout Somali Region. In addition, International Medical Corps (IMC) is establishing CTC programs targeting 183,000 people in Somali Region's Liben and Afder zones and in Oromiya Region's Borena Zone.

The USG is the largest donor of food assistance to Ethiopia. In FY 2005, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) pledged 958,310 metric tons (MT) of assistance, valued at more than \$454 million. To date in FY 2006, USAID/FFP has committed 93,320 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$58.5 million, for both emergency and PSNP programs. USAID/FFP assistance is provided to vulnerable populations through direct distribution, food-for-work programs, emergency school feeding, maternal and child health, and therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs.

In FY 2006, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) contributed \$2.3 million to the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for refugee assistance programs in Ethiopia.

³ Additional information on the Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative can be found at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/countries/horn_of_africa/fy2005/hoa_mipc_fs02_09-30-2005.pdf.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2006

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CHF International	Water and Sanitation, Health	Somali Region	\$648,889
GOAL	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IMC	Nutrition	Somali and Oromiya Regions	\$765,652
IRC	Water and Sanitation	Afar, Oromiya, SNNPR, and Somali Regions	\$1,017,672
Merlin	Water and Sanitation	Somali and Oromiya Regions	\$534,210
Population Services International (PSI)	Water and Sanitation, Emergency Relief Supplies	Somali and Oromiya Regions	\$197,009
UNICEF	Health	Countrywide	\$300,000
WFP	Food Security and Agriculture	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Administrative and Support Costs	Countrywide	\$405,239
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,868,671
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	57,510 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$33,621,700
NGO Partners	16,660 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward PSNP)	Countrywide	\$15,814,300
NGO Partners	19,150 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward drought emergency)	Countrywide	\$9,142,300
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$58,578,300
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			\$64,446,971
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2006			\$66,746,971

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 4, 2006.



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