



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

ETHIOPIA – Complex Health/Food Insecurity Emergency

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

December 15, 2003

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 30, 2003

BACKGROUND

- According to USAID’s Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), a trend of insufficient rainfall during the past seven years in Ethiopia has adversely affected crop production. Many households are able to cope with the effects of a single poor rainy season. However, the cumulative effects of consecutive poor rainy seasons have resulted in some households experiencing chronic food insecurity while exhausting traditional coping mechanisms. The humanitarian situation for affected Ethiopians is exacerbated by a livelihoods crisis resulting from a decline in world coffee prices, decreasing labor wages, insufficient livestock production, environmental degradation, and market instability.
- On September 5, 2003, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’s (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) issued an updated appeal for emergency food assistance. An estimated 13.2 million Ethiopians face ongoing food insecurity, requiring 617,647 metric tons (MT) of food assistance between August and December 2003. Approximately 1.8 million MT of emergency food commodities will be required in 2003. According to a co-funded USAID/Ethiopia and USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) report by the Feinstein International Famine Center at Tufts University, even if the rains return to normal levels in 2004, affected populations will have significant debt, poor overall health, decreased seed stocks, and fewer livestock than in 2003.
- Ethiopia is currently facing three public health crises: malnutrition, malaria, and measles. Widespread malnutrition in Ethiopia is a public health crisis resulting from crop production failures, inconsistent distribution of food rations, single commodity cereal rations, high rates of diarrheal and infectious diseases, and lack of dietary diversity. As a result of high malnutrition rates, the Ethiopian population is increasingly vulnerable to diseases. During non-drought years, 75 percent of Ethiopians are at risk for malaria. The malaria threat increased significantly during 2003 due to the large numbers of severely malnourished children and adults. Despite an accelerated vaccination campaign, measles remains a serious health risk for unvaccinated Ethiopian children under the age of five.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Total Affected Population in 2004	7.2 million	Source: GFDRE (Dec. 10, 2003)
Total Food Aid Requirements in 2004	964,690 MT	Source: GFDRE (Dec. 10, 2003)

Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2004 (to date) \$3,145,581
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2004 (to date) \$55,506,634
 Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 \$31,713,423
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 \$516,417,162

CURRENT SITUATION

Health

- The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 15 million people in Ethiopia are at risk of contracting malaria before the end of the malaria epidemic season. According to the U.N. Country Team in Ethiopia (UNCT), malaria will be the most significant health problem in 2003/2004. Food shortages caused by the 2002/2003 drought have increased the vulnerable population’s susceptibility to malaria and other communicable diseases.
- USAID/OFDA’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) in Ethiopia continues to work with the Ministry of Health (MOH), UNICEF, USAID/Ethiopia, other donors, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to coordinate the malaria response. In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.6 million to UNICEF for malaria reduction activities. UNICEF distributed anti-malarial drugs to the zonal health bureaus in Amhara and Oromiya Regions, and to the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR). From November 19 to November 22, the USAID/DART malaria technical advisor visited East Wellega Zone in Oromiya Region, where 20 of 21 woredas (districts) are malaria affected. According to local health authorities, the number of malaria cases in the zone increased by 300 percent between July and September

2003—compared to the same period in 2002. UNICEF provided approximately 30,000 insecticide treated nets (ITNs) to East Wellega Zone.

- According to UNICEF, the joint measles and Vitamin A campaign in 2003 reached more than 11.4 million children in Afar, Oromiya, SNNPR, Somali, and Amhara Regions. From October to December 2003 in Amhara, Oromiya, and Tigray Regions, UNICEF is targeting an additional nine million children who missed the first round of vaccinations.
- Local health officials reported a significant reduction in morbidity and mortality from diarrheal disease since USAID/OFDA partner Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) began water tankering operations, sanitation promotion, and hygiene education activities in Dodota Sire Woreda, Arsi Zone, Oromiya Region, following a June 2003 outbreak of bloody diarrhea. Merlin distributed approximately 40,000 liters of potable water per day to an estimated 800 beneficiaries.
- From October 29 to November 5, members of the USAID/DART participated in interagency rapid health and nutrition assessments in drought-affected regions. The Amhara RHB reported that less than 50 percent of the region's 18 million people have access to health care. The Amhara RHB indicated that the primary cause of morbidity in the region was malaria, followed by intestinal parasites and lung diseases. The Oromiya RHB reported that several outbreaks of measles and meningitis had been contained in that region during the past six months. Overall, the interagency team found that the lack of a functioning health management information system hampered planning and resource allocation for health needs in the drought-affected regions.

Water Shortages

- On November 10, the GFDRE's Early Warning System issued an alert for Somali Region and Borena and Guji Zones in Oromiya Region due to the late onset of rains, and the resulting water and pasture shortages. The *deyr* rains, usually from October to December, have been delayed by one and a half months. From November 21 to November 29, members of the USAID/DART traveled to Jijiga, Shinile, Gode, and Afder Zones in Somali Region to assess the humanitarian situation and local and NGO response capacity. While rain in the visited areas temporarily alleviated the severity of the drought during the assessment, the zonal authorities, U.N. agencies, and NGOs reported that Korahe, Degahbour, and Warder Zones in Somali Region, which were not visited due to insecurity, are the most-affected by water and pasture shortages.
- The DPPC's Early Warning System (EWS) reported on November 10 that erratic distribution of *hageya*, or October to November rains, in Borena and Guji Zones, Oromiya Region, and South Omo Zone in SNNPR may severely reduce water and pasture availability during the coming dry season. FEWS NET warned that extensive livestock migrations and increased pressure on local resources could lead to competition between pastoralists for grazing land and cattle-raiding.

Food Security

- The USAID/DART visited beneficiaries of OFDA-funded seed fairs in East Hararghe Zone, Oromiya Region from October 3 to October 4. USAID/OFDA implementing partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) worked closely with a local NGO, Hararghe Catholic Secretariat (HCS), to provide 192 MT of seeds for 11,000 drought-affected households.
- The GFDRE's Central Statistics Authority (CSA) is predicting a countrywide 2003/2004 harvest that is approximately 60 percent more than the 2002/2003 harvest, and nearly one-fifth larger than the 2001/2002 harvest. The 2003/2004 harvest is predicted to be 11.7 million MT of cereals and pulses. According to WFP, the annual average crop harvest for the last five years is 10.5 million MT.
- In mid-November 2003, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) requested funding to provide emergency food rations to 123,000 refugees residing in camps in eastern and western Ethiopia. WFP reports that the provision of approximately 6,000 MT of cereals at an estimated value of \$5.3 million is required to meet the refugees' needs during the first quarter of 2004. The refugees are mainly from southern Sudan and Somalia.
- According to the UNCT, while potential increased food production and food availability in 2004 may decrease vulnerability to other humanitarian risks, needs in all sectors are projected to be significant for 6 to 10 million people during the year. The UNCT released the overall context and strategy for the Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia in 2004 in a planning paper at the November 18 to November 19 launch of the global U.N. Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) in Washington, DC.
- According to WFP, from October 27 to November 4, a Joint Review Team from the DPPC, the regional Disaster Prevention, Preparedness Bureau (DPPB), the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) and WFP completed an examination of the WFP emergency operation for Ethiopians internally displaced by the Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict of 1998-2000. The team worked with local authorities and other implementing partners to cover six districts from three zones. WFP will use the number of IDPs who have successfully established new livelihoods since the February 2002 assessment to determine the need for continued food assistance in 2004.

Assessment Missions

- From October 31 to November 2, USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios traveled to Ethiopia to assess the current humanitarian situation and visit USAID-funded projects. The Administrator met with Ethiopian leaders,

including the GFDRE Prime Minister, the President of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, and the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, key donors, and U.N. agencies to discuss current challenges to food security, policy reform, and measures to ensure sustainable development. The Administrator, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal and Regional President, visited a USAID/OFDA-funded therapeutic feeding center (TFC), a cash-for-relief distribution and a general food ration distribution in SNNPR. The Administrator also met with the Regional President of Oromiya Region.

- The U.N. Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, President Martti Ahtisaari, visited Ethiopia from November 5 to November 9 to review the overall humanitarian situation in Ethiopia with a focus on chronic food insecurity and strategies to reduce drought vulnerability.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

- On October 2, 2003, the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Aurelia E. Brazeal re-declared a disaster in response to the continuing drought situation and projected significant humanitarian needs in the areas of food, health, nutrition, agriculture, livestock, livelihoods, and water and sanitation during FY 2004.
- USAID/OFDA deployed a USAID/DART on May 9, 2003, to enhance the non-food response to the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. The USAID/DART continues to conduct field visits in all six of the drought-affected regions, provide coordination, and make recommendations regarding areas requiring additional humanitarian support.
- In FY 2004, USAID/OFDA will prioritize health and nutrition, agriculture, water and sanitation, livelihoods, and local NGO capacity building activities. To date in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.5 million to support water and sanitation programs through the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in drought-affected areas in Oromiya Region, and more than \$1.4 million to support Save the Children/U.S.'s (SCF/US) multi-sector rapid assessment and response activities.
- In October 2003, USAID/OFDA released Annual Program Statements (APS), soliciting proposals from implementing partners for 1) agricultural and livelihoods recovery needs resulting from complex food insecurity; 2) local capacity building cooperative agreement in response to complex food insecurity; and 3) multi-sectoral interventions in pastoralist communities in the Horn of Africa to increase resiliency to aggregate shocks. Full details on the APS can be found at http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/AID/postdate_1.html
- The U.S. Government (USG) is the largest donor of food assistance to Ethiopia. To date in FY 2004, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has contributed 98,570 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at approximately \$52,361,053 million through implementing partners CRS and WFP. Since the emergency began in August 2002, USAID/FFP's response to Ethiopia has reached more than one million MT of emergency food assistance valued at \$475 million.
- USAID/Ethiopia's programs at the national and regional levels focus on building organizational capacity, as well as supporting food security initiatives, rapid response, food assistance, nutritional surveillance, therapeutic feeding, and the nationwide measles campaign. USAID/Ethiopia also provides ongoing technical support to the DPPC and the MOH. In FY 2003, USAID/Ethiopia channeled \$21 million in Development Assistance (DA) funds for emergency-related health and nutrition and agricultural assistance programs. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM) provided more than \$6.8 million of humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia in FY 2003.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IRC	Water and Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,500,000
SCF/US	Rapid Assessment and Response	Countrywide	\$1,424,312
DART Logistics	Vehicle Transportation	Countrywide	\$9,950
Administrative Costs		Countrywide	\$211,319
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,145,581
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP/ PRRO	3,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,680,453
WFP/EMOP	27,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,234,700
CRS	68,570 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$32,445,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$52,361,053
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2004			\$55,506,634
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2004			\$55,506,634

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of **December 15, 2003**

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their drought response efforts in Ethiopia can be found at <http://www.interaction.org/estafrica/index.html>. Information on other organizations responding may be available at www.reliefweb.org
- USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org -> "How You Can Help"
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.org.

*USAID/OFDA factsheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/