



**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**

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

April 8, 2004

*Note: This report updates Situation Report #1 dated February 25, 2004.*

**BACKGROUND**

In 2002, failed *belg*, or secondary rains from March through May, combined with delayed and sporadic *meher*, or main rains from July through September, led to severe drought conditions and widespread food insecurity in Ethiopia throughout 2003. A concerted international humanitarian response provided emergency health, nutrition, water and sanitation, agriculture, and food assistance for an estimated 13.2 million people and averted widespread famine-related mortality. Although rains have improved from 2002/2003 levels, USAID’s Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) reports that a trend of insufficient rainfall during the past seven years has adversely affected crop production. Many households are able to cope with a single poor rainy season, but the cumulative effect of consecutive seasons of failed rains has led some households to experience chronic food insecurity while exhausting traditional coping mechanisms. The humanitarian situation for affected Ethiopians is further exacerbated by a livelihoods crisis due to a decline in world coffee prices, decreasing labor wages, insufficient livestock production, environmental degradation, and market instability. According to a co-funded USAID/OFDA and USAID/Ethiopia report by the Feinstein International Famine Center at Tufts University, even if the rains return to normal levels in 2004, affected populations still face significant debt, poor overall health, decreased seed stocks, and fewer livestock. In December 2003, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’s (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) issued the joint U.N./GFDRE emergency appeal, estimating that 7.2 million people will require food assistance in 2004. Although this figure represents a 45 percent reduction from 2003, Ethiopia faces ongoing challenges to recovery from the 2002/2003 complex food insecurity and health emergency.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
<b>Total Affected Population in 2004</b>	7.2 million	U.N./GFDRE, December 10, 2003
<b>Total Food Aid Requirements in 2004</b>	964,690 MT	U.N./GFDRE, December 10, 2003

**Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia (To Date) ..... \$17,474,112**  
**Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia (To Date) ..... \$140,508,207**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

**Multi-agency resettlement monitoring efforts.** In order to address food insecurity and end dependence on international food assistance, the GFDRE plans to relocate approximately 2.2 million people within three years from chronically food insecure areas to potentially more productive locations. The resettlement program began in 2003. In 2004, more than 150,000 people resettled in Amhara; Oromiya; Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP); and Tigray regions, bringing the total resettled population to approximately 350,000 for both years. In response to growing concerns over conditions in resettlement areas, a multi-agency resettlement working group consisting of donors, U.N. agencies, World Bank, and GFDRE officials formed in January to coordinate joint efforts and establish a resettlement monitoring and evaluation system.

From March 16 to 24, multi-agency teams conducted rapid assessments in Amhara, Oromiya, and Tigray in cooperation with regional government representatives using a questionnaire derived from the USAID/OFDA-funded

resettlement monitoring and evaluation framework. Resettlement sites in Tigray appeared well organized due to planning, the small scale of population movements, and the close distances to main roads and established towns.

In contrast, preliminary assessment results suggest serious humanitarian concerns in several other resettlement sites, particularly in Oromiya Region, where 121,000 people have relocated in 2004. While many residents expressed hope that conditions would improve and reportedly did not want to leave, a majority of the sites visited lacked adequate food, water, shelter, health care facilities, and essential medications, as well as seeds, farming tools, and oxen. Reports indicated elevated malnutrition levels among children, as well as incidences of bloody diarrhea, intestinal parasites, malaria, and kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis). In addition, due to the long distances to the nearest all-weather road, most resettlement sites in Oromiya, Amhara, and SNNP regions will be inaccessible during the *meher* rainy season expected to start in May/June.

On April 2, the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister stated that the DPPC dispatched a team to further assess the situation in critical resettlement areas and will assume responsibility for coordinating emergency humanitarian assistance to these sites.

**National nutritional trends.** The nutrition situation across the country has improved compared to 2003 crisis levels, and most agencies have scaled down, closed, or incorporated emergency nutrition programs into referral clinics and hospitals. However, pockets of malnutrition remain and new areas of concern continue to emerge as increased outreach and enhanced screening activities take place. In addition, the distribution and condition of the 2004 *belg* rains and subsequent harvest have not yet been fully assessed.

The nutrition situation in Somali Region remains concerning. In February 2004, Save the Children/U.S. (SCF/US) conducted a nutritional survey of Gode Woreda in Gode Zone that indicated a global acute malnutrition rate (GAM) of 21.4 percent, a severe acute malnutrition rate (SAM) of 2.8 percent, a crude mortality rate of 1.23 per 10,000 per day, and an under-five mortality rate of 3.76 per 10,000 per day. In response to these results, the federal DPPC sent 237 metric tons (MT) of grain, 25.1 MT of corn-soya blend (CSB), and 23.8 MT of pulses to be distributed in seven woredas (districts) of Gode Zone.

**Humanitarian situation in Amhara Region.** The current humanitarian situation in Amhara Region has improved significantly due to favorable *belg* and *meher* rains in 2003, seed intervention programs, and a decrease in the incidence of pest and disease outbreaks. Greater availability of water and pasture, good livestock production, and increased cultivation of long-cycle crops have enhanced food security conditions. According to a pre-harvest assessment conducted by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the federal DPPC, an estimated 4.6 million MT were harvested in 2003 in Amhara Region, considerably more than the yearly average of 32 to 37 million quintals. Likewise, the DPPC reported that the number of people in Amhara Region requiring food assistance decreased from 3.3 million people in 2003 to 2 million people in 2004. While the overall outlook for Amhara Region is improved, areas of concern remain, particularly in locations that received inadequate rainfall resulting in low crop production.

**Humanitarian concerns in Somali Region.** A delay in the main *gu* rains that normally occur from March to May put heightened pressure on scarce water and pasture resources in many areas of Somali Region. According to UN OCHA, the *gu* rains started the last week of March in some pastoralist areas, particularly in Shinile and Jijiga zones. Extreme water scarcity continues in Koraha, Fik, Degahabur, and Warder zones, as well as parts of Gode Zone; the *gu* rains have reportedly not yet arrived in these zones. Until the *gu* rains begin, the availability of pasture is limited to the few areas that received rains in December 2003 and January 2004. As a result, the pasture in these areas has attracted pastoralists from

nearby vicinities, and significant migration within and between zones continues to deplete resources.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), tensions between the local population and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Fafen and Hartishek camps in Jijiga Zone have escalated since mid-March, and substantial migrations of IDPs from Fafen to Jijiga City and back to the camp are reportedly occurring. IOM issued a U.N. alert on March 18, appealing for \$180,000 to assist in the return of the IDPs, beginning with an identified caseload of 6,000 people prepared to return to their areas of origin in Degehabur Zone.

A heightened state of insecurity in parts of Somali Region continues to hamper humanitarian access. Currently, the most seriously affected areas of the region fall within U.N. restricted security zones, and various response efforts have been repeatedly delayed due to insecurity in the region.

**Humanitarian conditions in Tigray Region.** The current overall situation in Tigray has notably improved and crop production in 2003 was generally much improved from 2002. However, chronic food insecurity persists due to recurrent droughts, low soil fertility, increasing population pressure, and asset depletion. Under normal conditions, between 800,000 and 900,000 people in Tigray require food assistance. In 2003, that number climbed to 2.2 million people. In 2004, 1.1 million people are expected to need food assistance, with an additional 315,500 people requiring close monitoring. According to the regional DPPB, the availability of pasture and water for livestock improved significantly following the *meher* rains in 2003. The DPPB reported that conditions appear normal for the 2004 livestock market and that prices are stable. Improvement in water and pasture conditions, together with general food distributions, cash-for-seed grants to vulnerable households, and better crop production have discouraged distress sales of livestock.

**Potential break in pipeline.** As of March 16, 2004, USAID's FEWS NET reported a gap of 388,068 MT, or 44 percent, between the 872,301 MT total 2004 food assistance requirement for Ethiopia and the 484,233 MT in carryover stocks and new commitments. Without additional contributions from the donor community in the near future, pipeline breaks may occur in June.

**Investigation of violence in Gambella Region.** On March 25, the Ethiopian parliament voted to establish an independent body to investigate several violent incidents that reportedly killed more than 200 people in the western region of Gambella in January and February 2004 and prompted thousands of refugees to flee to Sudan. The investigation will examine the causes of the violence as well as the role and responsibility of the GFDRE.

**DPPC launches Information Center.** On April 5, the DPPC announced the opening of an Information Center with improved website content and design, showcasing updated news, appeal documents, and early warning reports. The

Information Center will enable the DPPC to support information exchange within the humanitarian community and to effectively coordinate and manage food and non-food emergency assistance. In conjunction with the Information Center, the DPPC also launched the Information Communications Technology (ICT) project that will connect the DPPC with other federal government agencies, as well as to DPPC affiliate offices in the regions, zones, and woredas.

***U.N. Special Envoy visits Ethiopia.*** Martti Ahtisaari, former President of the Republic of Finland and the U.N. Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa, returned to Ethiopia April 2 for a four-day visit to discuss the progress made in the implementation of recovery and food security initiatives, such as the creation of the Coalition for Livelihoods and Food Security. The Special Envoy met with the Ethiopian Prime Minister, government officials, and international donors to highlight and share his humanitarian concerns for the region.

***UNMEE mandate extended.*** On March 12, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1531 extending the mandate for the U.N. peacekeeping mission for Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) to September 15, 2004, citing concerns that the lack of political progress could increase tensions between the two countries. The U.N. Security Council also called on Ethiopia and Eritrea to cooperate with the work of the U.N. Special Envoy and the Boundary Commission and to work toward the completion of the peace process.

## **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

***Non-food assistance.*** In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$31.9 million to support humanitarian needs in Ethiopia. From May 9, 2003, to January 31, 2004, a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) assessed humanitarian needs and enhanced the non-food response to the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. The USAID/DART traveled throughout the six drought-affected regions, monitored programs and humanitarian conditions, and outlined recommendations regarding areas requiring additional support. The USAID/DART has been replaced by a USAID/OFDA humanitarian team consisting of an Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC), an information officer, two local program officers, and a program assistant.

In FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$17.4 million to support humanitarian activities in Ethiopia. Funding priorities include health and nutrition, agriculture, water and sanitation, livelihoods, and local non-governmental organization (NGO) capacity-building activities.

In FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$110,000 to Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN) to increase access to potable water and improve community sanitation and hygiene practices. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$3 million through the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to support water and sanitation programs in drought-affected areas of Oromiya Region.

In response to agricultural and livelihoods recovery needs, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$860,000 to CARE for seed fair and voucher programs. Through CARE, households will each receive 27 kg of seeds and agricultural extension support to complement seed fair initiatives. USAID/OFDA also funded Catholic Relief Services (CRS) more than \$4.8 million to support supplemental irrigation systems and community-based water associations, as well as agricultural and livestock recovery initiatives and cash grant programs. In Tigray, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.7 million to Relief Society of Tigray (REST) for agriculture and livelihoods programs including livestock distribution to female-headed households, improved irrigation through household ponds and hand dug wells, cash for seeds, and vegetable seed distribution. Also, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.7 million to World Vision for seed fairs to distribute maize and vegetable seeds, agricultural tools, and lablab or pigeon pea to increase cover crops and soil conservation in SNNP and Oromiya regions, as well as more than \$280,000 to German Agro Action (GAA) to supply seed in Arsi Zone, Oromiya Region for the *meher* planting season.

In response to ongoing health and nutrition concerns, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.4 million to support SCF/US multi-sector rapid assessment and response activities throughout Ethiopia. USAID/OFDA has also provided more than \$1.4 million to International Medical Corps (IMC) to consolidate and strengthen emergency nutrition programs and support local nutrition surveillance and more than \$610,000 to GOAL to implement malaria control and emergency nutrition preparedness measures, all in SNNP and Oromiya regions. To support the countrywide measles immunization program, USAID/OFDA approved \$800,000 to UNICEF for FY 2004.

USAID/OFDA has also supported UN OCHA with \$200,000 to strengthen humanitarian coordination and to facilitate improved situation analysis, reporting, and communication of humanitarian response activities. Additionally, in order to address growing concerns regarding the GFDRE's resettlement program, USAID/OFDA funded \$25,000 to design a resettlement monitoring and evaluation framework to be used by multi-agency assessment teams.

***Emergency food assistance.*** The USG is the largest donor of food assistance to Ethiopia. In FY 2004, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) has pledged 275,160 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at approximately \$123 million through CRS, SCF/UK, and WFP. Since the emergency began in August 2002, USAID/FFP's response to Ethiopia has reached more than 1 million MT of emergency food assistance valued at more than \$500 million. The commodities provided by USAID/FFP include a combination of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, and CSB for therapeutic and supplementary feeding. USAID/FFP emergency food assistance is provided to vulnerable populations through direct distribution, food for work programs, emergency school feeding, maternal and child health programs, and therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE*</b>			
CARE	Agriculture and Livelihoods	Oromiya	\$863,805
Consultant	Resettlement Monitoring Framework	Countrywide	\$25,012
CRS	Seeds, Livestock, Livelihoods, Water and Sanitation, Cash Grants	Multiple regions	\$4,881,863
GAA	Seeds and Agriculture	Oromiya	\$280,929
GOAL	Health and Nutrition	SNNP, Oromiya	\$614,010
IMC	Health and Nutrition	SNNP, Oromiya	\$1,408,115
IRC	Water and Sanitation	Oromiya	\$2,984,025
MERLIN	Water and Sanitation	Oromiya	\$112,119
REST	Food Security, Agriculture, Livelihoods, Water and Sanitation	Tigray	\$1,751,679
SCF/US	Rapid Assessment and Response	Countrywide	\$1,424,312
World Vision	Agricultural Recovery	SNNP, Oromiya	\$1,723,891
UNICEF	Measles Vaccinations	Countrywide	\$800,000
UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$200,000
Administrative Costs	Various	Countrywide	\$404,352
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>			<b>\$17,474,112</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP/ PRRO	5,700 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,464,674
WFP/EMOP	27,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,234,700
CRS	224,830 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$94,446,025
SCF/UK	17,450 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$6,888,696
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>			<b>\$123,034,095</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2004.....</b>			<b>\$140,508,207</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2004 .....</b>			<b>\$140,508,207</b>

\* USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of **April 8, 2004**.



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