



## **ETHIOPIA – Complex Health/Food Insecurity Emergency**

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

April 1, 2005

*Note: This report updates situation report #1 dated November 2, 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, affecting more than 13.2 million people during 2003. Humanitarian conditions improved in 2004 but the destitution that accompanied the crisis of the previous year complicated recovery efforts. Although relatively good *meher* rains improved harvest prospects in western parts of Ethiopia, most of the eastern lowlands experienced a poor *meher* harvest due to below average and erratic rainfall. Further, the situation in some *belg* producing areas remained precarious due to poor rains and failed crops. In September 2004, USAID’s Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) reported signs of growing distress in pastoral lowland areas due to drought conditions and shortages of water, pasture, and food in affected areas. The arrival of the *deyr* rains in October mitigated a widespread disaster in Somali Region; however, overall humanitarian conditions in the region remain concerning. Similarly, inadequate *Karan/Karma* (July-September) rains have not improved the situation in Afar Region, where conditions continue to deteriorate. In December 2004, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’s (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) and the U.N. issued a joint humanitarian appeal, estimating that 2.2 million people will require emergency assistance in 2005. In addition, 5.1 million chronically food insecure people are expected to be covered by the GFDRE’s Productive Safety Nets Program (PSNP), which officially began in mid-February 2005.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Emergency Affected Population in 2005</b>	2.2 million	DPPC, December 23, 2004
<b>Chronically Food Insecure Population in 2005</b>	5.1 million	DPPC, December 23, 2004
<b>Total Food Aid Requirements in 2005</b>	387,482 metric tons (MT)	DPPC, December 23, 2004

**Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia ..... \$5,650,585**  
**Total FY 2005 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia..... \$155,963,375**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

**Food insecurity despite increased production.** According to a joint U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization/World Food Program (FAO/WFP) report issued on January 28, overall agricultural production from the 2004 *meher* season was approximately 24 percent above 2003 levels due to better rains, increased use of fertilizer, and improved seeds. The FAO/WFP report also indicated that good rainfall in the central highlands and western pastoral areas increased available forage and water and improved livestock conditions. In much of eastern and southern Ethiopia, however, a failed *belg* season, combined with late onset and erratic *meher* rains, resulted in significant water shortages and minimal harvests. On March 3, FEWS NET reported rapid and widespread deterioration of food security in parts of Afar; southeastern Somali; Arsi and East Hararghe zones, Oromiya; eastern Amhara; and southern and eastern Tigray. With delayed implementation of the PSNP—which was scheduled to begin in January—late arrival of food assistance in some areas, and possible underestimation of emergency requirements for 2005, FEWS NET noted that humanitarian assistance needs are likely to increase.

**Emergency situation in Afar Region.** According to FEWS NET, rainfall in Afar during 2004 was erratic and well below the annual average of 200 millimeters. Failure of the *Dedeha* rains—expected during November/December—exacerbated the precarious humanitarian situation. Currently, water shortages are acute in parts of Zones 1, 2, and 4, where ponds are dry and pasture is depleted. Livestock conditions in many areas are extremely poor with a significant number of deaths reported in Zones 1 and 2. Due to severe water and pasture shortages, pastoralists began migrating earlier and farther than normal to Amhara and Tigray regions. FEWS NET reported on March 18 that abundant rainfall during the previous two weeks eased dryness in some areas but the situation requires continued monitoring.

A November 2004 nutrition survey conducted by World Vision in Zone 1, reported global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates of 11.9 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates of 2 percent<sup>1</sup>. GOAL’s February 2005 nutrition survey of Abala Woreda (District) in Zone 2, found 13.5 and 0.4

<sup>1</sup>According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the emergency threshold for malnutrition is above 15 percent.

percent GAM and SAM rates, respectively, with aggravating factors of poor food availability and access, low coverage of measles vaccination and vitamin A supplementation, and high morbidity rates in children.

In response to the deteriorating conditions, Afar regional authorities declared an emergency situation on January 12 and increased the number of people requiring food assistance from 500,000 to 600,000. In addition, agencies in Afar reactivated the regional Crisis Management Committee, comprised of regional bureaus, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), U.N. agencies, and donors, which formed during the 2002/2003 crisis.

**Ongoing concerns in Somali Region.** According to FEWS NET, rainfall during 2004 was only 50 to 70 percent of normal levels across Koraha, Gode, and Afder zones in Somali Region, stressing pastures and reducing water supplies. Although Jijiga Zone received rain in recent days, potentially easing water shortages, the humanitarian situation in the region remains concerning. In January 2005, Save the Children UK (SC-UK) conducted nutritional surveys in East Gashamo Woreda, Degahbur Zone. For children between 6 and 59 months, SC-UK reported GAM rates of 19.7 percent, SAM rates of 3.1 percent, and under-five mortality rates of 4.87 per 10,000 per day<sup>2</sup>. In addition, SC-UK reported water scarcity in all kebeles (villages) surveyed, nearly non-existent health services, and increasing livestock deaths and asset losses.

**Rising malnutrition in Arsi Zone, Oromiya Region.** According to a USAID/Ethiopia assessment in early February 2005, rapidly deteriorating conditions due to poor rains and reduced harvests have forced households in Dodota Sire Woreda, Arsi Zone, to migrate to other towns in search of food. From February 7 to 9, Merlin conducted rapid nutritional assessments of children in the district to determine the level of needs and appropriate interventions. Results indicated GAM rates of 20 percent and SAM rates of 3.4 percent. In addition, 28.3 percent of the children surveyed were at risk of becoming malnourished due to aggravating factors such as limited or lack of access to potable water and insufficient water for bathing or domestic use. Merlin also reported malaria and diarrhea, limited sanitation facilities, crop failure, lack of food assistance, unaffordable health services, and exhausted coping mechanisms due to prolonged food insecurity.

On February 21, a three-person USAID/OFDA team traveled to Dodota Sire to meet with local officials regarding the immediate need for food and humanitarian assistance. Of the 28 kebeles in the district, woreda administrators identified 18 affected kebeles, with 4 to 6 requiring immediate, life-saving interventions.

**USAID staff monitor activities in SNNP.** From February 21 to 24, a team of USAID/OFDA regional and Washington-based staff traveled to Gurage and Sidama zones, Southern

Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) Region to monitor the progress of USAID/OFDA-funded activities, as well as assess overall humanitarian conditions. Although the situation has improved since the 2002/2003 emergency, USAID/OFDA implementing partners reported that malnutrition continues to affect children in the region and admission to community-based therapeutic feeding programs remains steady.

On March 21, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that the regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB), has requested immediate interventions to avert a critical shortage of food and water in Boricha Woreda, Sidama Zone. The Woreda's Early Warning Department identified 36 of 49 kebeles affected, and 40,000 people in need of emergency food assistance. From March 28 to 30, USAID/OFDA and USAID/Ethiopia staff visited Boricha and parts of Gamo Gofa Zone, accompanied by the European Union Food Security Advisor. The USAID team corroborated recent reports by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and NGOs operating in the area that 2002/2003 patterns of acute food insecurity are recurring in 2005. In addition, the USAID team reported that lowland areas of both Boricha and Gamo Gofa had no stores from last season's poor harvest and were not expecting a harvest until June/July. Furthermore, therapeutic feeding center (TFC) admissions are increasing, with 114 children enrolled in the Yirba TFC. In response to malnutrition concerns, USAID/OFDA partners, GOAL and Save the Children US (SC-US), are coordinating assistance efforts with WFP, UNICEF, and the regional health bureau.

**Potential food pipeline break.** According to WFP and the DPPC, current emergency food aid pledges stand at 184,647 MT, or 46 percent of the total emergency requirement. Unless additional food assistance is pledged and delivered, a partial break in the food aid pipeline is expected in May, which is the beginning of the period when emergency needs generally increase sharply.

**Polio outbreak.** On March 9, U.N. agencies issued a special alert regarding the polio outbreak in Sudan that spread to Ethiopia. WHO confirmed on February 28, that two cases of polio in Tigray Region are linked to the polio virus circulating in Sudan, which has paralyzed 132 children since May 2004. In response, WHO and UNICEF requested \$4.9 million to support a countrywide polio vaccination campaign. The GFDRE Ministry of Health, WHO, and UNICEF have accelerated plans to immunize 14.7 million children under the age of five during April and May 2005. Prior to the newly reported cases, Ethiopia had been polio-free since January 2001.

**U.N. extends UNMEE mandate.** On March 14, the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) adopted resolution 1586, extending the mandate of the U.N. Mission for Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) until September 2005. UNMEE, a 3,335-strong peacekeeping force, monitors a buffer zone along the 1,000-km border between the two countries.

<sup>2</sup> According to WHO, the emergency threshold for under-five mortality is 2 deaths per 10,000 children under five per day.

## **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

On October 12, 2004, U.S. Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal redeclared a disaster in response to the continuing health and food insecurity emergency in Ethiopia. In FY 2005, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$5.6 million to support humanitarian activities in Ethiopia. Funding priorities include food security and agriculture, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and local NGO capacity-building activities.

In response to agricultural and livelihoods recovery needs, USAID/OFDA is providing \$400,000 to Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) for emergency water and livestock interventions in Oromiya Region. USAID/OFDA is supporting animal health and supplementary fodder interventions in Oromiya Region through a \$700,000 grant to Mercy Corps. USAID/OFDA is also funding Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with \$700,000 to support agricultural and livestock recovery initiatives in several regions. In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing \$700,000 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for seed fairs and distribution of agricultural tools in SNNP and Oromiya regions. In Tigray, USAID/OFDA is providing \$500,000 to Relief Society of Tigray (REST) for agriculture and livelihoods programs including livestock and seed distributions, improved irrigation through household ponds and hand dug wells, and cash for seeds initiatives.

In response to ongoing health and nutrition concerns, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$1.4 million to support GOAL's multi-sectoral interventions, including rapid assessment and response activities throughout Ethiopia, and malaria control and emergency nutrition preparedness in SNNP and Oromiya regions. In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing nearly \$300,000 to Merlin to implement a water project in Oromiya Region. USAID/OFDA is also providing \$900,000 to Save the Children US (SC-US) to support emergency nutrition programs in SNNP Region.

The USG is the largest donor of food assistance to Ethiopia. To date in FY 2005, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) has pledged 302,310 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at approximately \$150.3 million through WFP and NGOs to support the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal, as well as areas targeted for the PSNP. The commodities provided by USAID/FFP include a combination of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, as well as corn soya blend for therapeutic and supplementary feeding. USAID/FFP 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>			
CISP	Water and Sanitation	East Hararghe, Oromiya	\$400,000
CRS	Food Security/Agriculture	East and West Hararghe, East Shewa, Oromiya; Hadiya, SNNP; East and South Tigray	\$700,000
GOAL	Food Security/Agriculture, Health, Capacity Building	Sidama, SNNP; West Hararghe, Oromiya	\$900,000
GOAL	Nutrition, Rapid Response	Afar, Gambella, Oromiya, SNNP, Dire Dawa, Harari	\$500,000
IRC	Food Security/Agriculture, Rapid Assessment and Response	West Hararghe, Oromiya	\$700,000
Mercy Corps	Food Security/Agriculture	West Hararghe, Oromiya	\$700,006
Merlin	Water	Arsi, Oromiya	\$299,929
REST	Food Security, Agriculture, Livelihoods, Water and Sanitation	South, Central, and East Tigray	\$500,000
SC-US	Health and Nutrition, Rapid Response	Silte, Sidama, and Konso Special Woreda, SNNP	\$900,000
Administrative Costs	Various	Countrywide	\$50,650
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA.....</b>			<b>\$5,650,585</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP/ PRRO (Emergency)	17,279 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,896,400
WFP/ PRRO (PSNP)	174,400 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$57,733,900
JEOP	31,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,193,900
Multiple NGOs (PSNP)	128,800 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$69,488,590
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>			<b>\$150,312,790</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2005 .....</b>			<b>\$155,963,375</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2005 .....</b>			<b>\$155,963,375</b>

\* USAID/OFDA funding figure represents committed and/or obligated amounts as of March 31, 2005.



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