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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 Health/Food Insecurity Emergency**

Situation Report #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

June 9, 2005

Note: This report updates situation report #3 dated May 5, 2005.

### **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. This year’s sporadic *belg* rains have exacerbated the already volatile humanitarian situation throughout the country. Since early 2005, Ethiopia has experienced worsening food insecurity, rapidly increasing malnutrition rates, distress migration, and erratic climatic conditions. On May 4, 2005, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’s (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) and the U.N. issued a flash update to the December 2004 joint humanitarian appeal, estimating that 3.8 million people will require emergency assistance in 2005. In addition, 5.4 million chronically food insecure people are expected to be covered by the GFDRE’s Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which officially began in mid-February.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>Emergency Affected Population in 2005</b>	3.8 million	DPPC, May 4, 2005
<b>Chronically Food Insecure Population in 2005</b>	5.4 million	DPPC, May 4, 2005
<b>Total Food Aid Requirements in 2005</b>	464,385 metric tons (MT)	DPPC, May 4, 2005

**Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia ..... \$11,032,957**  
**Total FY 2005 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia..... \$275,793,857**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

**Difficult start to the PSNP.** While cash and food distributions through the PSNP are currently underway, slow start-up and problematic implementation of the program have contributed to increased food insecurity and the emergence of humanitarian hotspot areas throughout the country. Although the PSNP officially launched on February 22, 2005, beneficiaries only began receiving cash or food distributions in April/May due to logistical and programmatic constraints. At the same time, USAID field visits found that many communities stopped receiving emergency food aid as early as October 2004, in anticipation of the PSNP. As a result, vulnerable populations did not receive food assistance for up to six months, which contributed to an overall deterioration in nutritional status.

In addition to programmatic delays, USAID field assessments suggest that PSNP beneficiary numbers are significantly lower than actual needs. In some areas, PSNP recipients account for only 30 to 50 percent of the population in need of assistance. Without support through the PSNP or the Emergency Appeal,

a large number of Ethiopians are facing serious food shortages. Although the May 4 Flash Update revised beneficiary numbers to 9.2 million, this is likely to increase further following the *belg/gu* assessment planned for the end of June.

**USAID/OFDA agricultural assessments.** In May, USAID/OFDA food security advisors traveled throughout Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Oromiya Region to assess the current drought and crop situation. In Sidama and Wolayita zones, SNNPR, the team reported that untimely *belg* rains have resulted in the loss of nearly all long-cycle sorghum and maize crops. Farmers have planted hybrid and short-cycle varieties of maize and expect fairly good production if regular and well-distributed rains continue. If the *belg* rains end too soon and *meher* rains are delayed, however, the regions may experience another poor harvest.

In Gurage Zone, SNNPR, and East Shewa Zone, Oromiya Region, the USAID/OFDA food security team reported that

rainfall has been more substantial than during this period last year. Officials were concerned, however, that if the rains continued without a period of dryness and sun, farmers will not be able to plant in the increasingly waterlogged soils. Additionally, plants that are already growing may be susceptible to diseases caused by excessive moisture. If the rain continues at the current pace, and maize and pepper—a major cash crop for farmers in this area—do not produce well, additional seed will be needed. In Ziway town in East Shewa Zone, local officials expressed a need for haricot bean, teff, and barley seeds to plant in June and July.

In East and West Hararghe zones, the USAID/OFDA team observed that *belg* rains have been erratic and unevenly distributed, leading to poor *belg* production, particularly in lowland areas. The team observed chronic needs, but noted that it was too soon to determine whether more serious emergency conditions will develop. Fairly consistent and well-distributed rains have begun across both East and West Hararghe, and crop production will depend on whether the rains are of long enough duration to take crops through flowering and seed development stages. In East Hararghe, local officials reported serious seed shortages, particularly in the lowlands and midlands, and the provision of *meher* seeds in some woredas may be required for crops such as teff, wheat, and haricot beans.

**Livestock conditions in pastoralist areas.** In early May, USAID/OFDA food security advisors traveled to Zones 1 and 3, Afar Region, to assess livestock conditions. According to several sources, the situation in most zones has stabilized somewhat with the onset of sporadic and patchy rains across pastoral areas in late April. Although the USAID/OFDA team observed that animals were skinny and pasture remained scarce, conditions were improving. The assessment team was concerned, however, by the very poor condition of pasture for this time of year. If the rains continue, pasture lands may be able to support the animals remaining in the region as their numbers have already been drastically reduced by large-scale losses. If the rains stop, however, animal deaths will likely continue, leading to further deterioration in human health and nutrition.

**Precarious health and nutrition situation.** From May 1 to 15, USAID/OFDA's Public Health Advisor traveled to hotspots in Oromiya and SNNPR to assess the health and nutrition situation, identify gaps in response activities, and prioritize emergency interventions. According to the Public Health Advisor, the nutrition situation is precarious, with some pocket areas already experiencing a severe crisis. During a May 10 to 11 field visit to Damot Gale Woreda, Wolayita Zone, USAID staff met with villagers in Bibis Olola and observed emaciated adults and cases of Marasmus and Kwashiorkor among the children. Community members reported that food distributions have not occurred in the area since October 2004. Although Médecins sans Frontières/Switzerland (MSF/CH) was operating a therapeutic feeding center in Damot Gale town, approximately 12 km from Bibis Olola, most villagers were unaware of the assistance provided as MSF/CH does not conduct outreach activities.

In East and West Hararghe, sharp increases in admissions to community-based therapeutic care (CTC) programs since January 2005 suggest a serious need for expanded nutrition activities, including regular food distributions, supplementary feeding programs (SFPs), and CTC. In East Hararghe, nutrition interventions are critically needed in Fedis Woreda, where an April 2005 nutrition survey indicated global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates of 19.21 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates of 2.96 percent. In addition, health activities such as support to measles, meningitis, and polio campaigns as well as malaria prevention and treatment activities are required.

**Effects of flooding in Somali Region.** Residents of Somali Region continue to feel the effects of the April 23 flooding caused by heavy rains and overflow of the Wabe Shabelle, Jerer, and Fafen rivers. Currently, the number of people affected remains unclear, as reports range from 23,000 to 100,000. On May 25, a joint U.N./DPPC team traveled to the region to conduct damage assessments and identify assistance gaps in affected areas of Gode, Jijiga, Kebridehar, and Degehabur zones. The team focused on water, sanitation, health, nutrition, and agriculture needs, as well as road conditions in these areas. Flood-affected woredas have reported diarrhea outbreaks and an urgent need for malaria prevention activities. The regional bureau of the DPPC reports that food aid distributions have resumed as restrictions requiring military escorts have been removed, but poor road conditions continue to hamper operations in areas.

**USAID/OFDA deploys Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART).** On May 8, USAID/OFDA Director Ken Isaacs traveled to Ethiopia to assess the scope of the crisis, identify outstanding needs, and coordinate a response strategy with the USG mission in Ethiopia, U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the GFDRE. In response to the growing humanitarian concerns, USAID/OFDA deployed a USAID/DART on May 31 to coordinate, assess, report, and respond rapidly to increasing needs. The USAID/DART will focus on enhancing health, nutrition, water and sanitation, livestock, and agriculture interventions, coordinating relief efforts, and targeting assistance.

**USG plans to provide additional aid to Africa.** On June 7, following a meeting between U.S. President George W. Bush and U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair, the USG announced an additional \$674 million in assistance to address urgent humanitarian needs in Africa. The additional resources will be focused in particular toward the Horn of Africa, and an estimated 14 million people who are at risk in Ethiopia and Eritrea. The USG has already provided nearly \$1.4 billion in FY 2005 for humanitarian needs in Africa through U.N. agencies and NGOs.

## 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. Heavy flooding in localized areas of Somali Region prompted the Ambassador to

issue a second disaster declaration for floods on May 31, 2005. On June 4, USAID/OFDA airlifted emergency relief supplies including 500 rolls of plastic sheeting, 10,000 blankets, and 5,000 jerry cans to assist residents affected by the flooding. To date in FY 2005, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$11 million to support humanitarian activities in Ethiopia. Funding priorities include food security and agriculture, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and local NGO capacity-building activities.

In response to agricultural and livelihoods recovery needs, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$460,000 to Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) for emergency water and livestock interventions; \$700,000 to Mercy Corps for animal health and supplementary fodder interventions; and \$1.8 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support agricultural and livestock recovery initiatives, as well as water and sanitation activities. In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing \$700,000 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for seed fairs and distribution of agricultural tools, and \$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 \$1.9 million to support GOAL's multi-sectoral interventions, including rapid assessment and response activities, as well as malaria control and emergency nutrition preparedness. USAID/OFDA is also contributing more than \$1.5 million to International Medical Corps (IMC) and nearly \$170,000 to Concern for CTC programs; and \$900,000 to Save the Children US (SC-US) to support emergency nutrition programs throughout the country. In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing nearly \$300,000 to Merlin and more than \$750,000 to IRC for water and sanitation projects.

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 551,440 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at more than \$264.2 million through the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and implementing partners 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 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 April 2005, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) contributed \$500,000 to WFP to ensure full rations for Sudanese, Somali, and Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia.

## 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	\$468,988
Concern	Nutrition	SNNPR	\$169,084
CRS	Food Security/Agriculture	East and West Hararghe, East Shewa, Oromiya; Hadiya, SNNPR; East and South Tigray	\$700,000
CRS	Food Security/Agriculture, Water and Sanitation	Oromiya, SNNPR, Tigray	\$1,108,383
GOAL	Food Security/Agriculture, Health, Capacity Building	Sidama, SNNPR; West Hararghe, Oromiya	\$900,000
GOAL	Nutrition, Rapid Response	Afar, Gambella, Oromiya, SNNPR, Dire Dawa, Harari	\$1,000,000
IMC	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,515,037
IRC	Food Security/Agriculture, Health	West Hararghe, Oromiya	\$700,000
IRC	Water and Sanitation	Oromiya	\$762,188
Mercy Corps	Food Security/Agriculture	West Hararghe, Oromiya	\$700,006
Merlin	Water and Sanitation	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, SNNPR	\$1,696,177
Various	Logistics and Emergency Relief Supplies	Countrywide	\$67,600
Administrative and DART Support Costs	Various	Countrywide	\$445,565
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA.....</b>			<b>\$11,032,957</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP/PRRO (Emergency)	239,330 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$116,856,900
WFP/PRRO (PSNP)	120,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$55,000,000
WFP/PRRO (Refugees)	12,730 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,235,500
JEOP	50,040 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$21,696,700
Multiple NGOs (PSNP)	129,340 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$65,471,800
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>			<b>\$264,260,900</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM .....</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2005 .....</b>			<b>\$275,793,857</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2005 .....</b>			<b>\$275,793,857</b>

\* USAID/OFDA funding figure represents committed and/or obligated amounts as of June 9, 2005.



Ken Isaacs  
Director  
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance