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

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

November 30, 2007

Note: The last situation report was dated September 28, 2007.

BACKGROUND

Cyclical droughts, exacerbated by a rapidly growing population, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity, have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in Ethiopia. Despite an overall improvement in food security in 2007, approximately 8 million people in Ethiopia continue to receive food assistance through the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). Poor 2007 *belg* rains resulted in below normal harvests in areas of eastern Ethiopia, and significant humanitarian challenges, including flooding, conflict, malnutrition, acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreaks, delayed food response, and locust infestations, confront populations in many areas of the country. In addition, security operations have disrupted trade networks, and restrictions on the movement of people and livestock in Somali Region are threatening food insecurity for vulnerable populations. In February 2007, the GFDRE, the U.N., and humanitarian partners released the 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia requesting emergency assistance for nearly 1.4 million people, representing a reduction of approximately 50 percent from the previous year.

On October 15, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Donald Y. Yamamoto redeclared a disaster in response to ongoing humanitarian needs. On August 16, 2007, Ambassador Yamamoto declared a disaster due to the complex emergency in Ethiopia's Somali Region. In FY 2007 and to date in FY 2008, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$294 million for emergency food assistance, refugee assistance, and air operations, as well as health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs throughout the country.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Emergency Food Assistance Caseload	1.4 million	February 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal
Ethiopian Government PSNP Caseload	7.3 million	February 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal
Total Population in Need of Assistance	8.6 million	February 2007 Joint Humanitarian Appeal

FY 2008 AND FY 2007 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$ 15,365,779
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$269,565,900
State/PRM² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$8,986,011
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$293,917,690

CURRENT SITUATION

Ongoing trade and access restrictions in Somali Region and recent flooding in Ethiopia have increased humanitarian needs and food security concerns. In Somali Region, insecurity and reduced humanitarian access have led to deteriorating humanitarian conditions and increased malnutrition. Limited dispatches of food aid and commercial food deliveries to date are inadequate to address the needs of affected populations, according to USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Flooding since June has affected an estimated 240,000 people in Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Somali, Gambella, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions and damaged 45,000 hectares of crops.

Food Security and Agriculture

Overall food security in Ethiopia has improved over the past year, and the main agricultural season between October and December, which represents 90 to 95 percent of total crop production countrywide, is expected to be above the recent five-year average. However an estimated 8 million chronically food insecure people in Afar, Oromiya, Amhara, Tigray, Somali, and SNNP regions receiving food assistance and cash transfers through the PSNP continue to confront a food security crisis. In addition, approximately 1.3 million people require emergency food assistance, including nearly 1 million people in Somali Region, 84,000 people displaced by recent flooding, and more than 260,000

¹ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

people in Oromiya Region affected by localized crop failures, according to FEWS NET.

Somali Region

In November, FEWS NET reported that restrictions on trade and movement in Somali Region continue to disrupt livelihoods and increase food insecurity among pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, particularly in the five zones under military operations—Warder, Korahe, Gode, Fik, and Degehabur. The inability to access markets combined with high food commodity prices has decreased food availability and dietary diversity, contributing to high levels of malnutrition in affected areas for local populations dependent on the sale and exchange of livestock for income.

On November 23, the GFDRE Regional Agricultural Bureau Task Force reported that a desert locust infestation in Somali Region has been contained, following aerial treatment of 1,700 hectares and the survey of an additional 35,000 hectares. According to FEWS NET, the infestation has destroyed pasture in parts of Korahe and Degehabur zones, as well as Gode, Fik, and Warder zones, further compounding food security concerns.

Recommendations from an August 30 to September 6 U.N. assessment mission to Somali Region included emergency food assistance to approximately 1 million people, including more than 640,000 people living in restricted areas of Warder, Korahe, Gode, Fik, and Degehabur zones, between October and December. As of November 28, humanitarian agencies had dispatched approximately 9,000 of the estimated 52,000 metric tons (MT) of food aid required to the region, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). The GFDRE has approved 19 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to operate in the five Somali zones under military operations, but to few organizations have been able to initiate programs to date, according to field reports. In addition, the GFDRE has approved 186 food distribution points—a 38 percent decrease from the previously-utilized 300 distribution points. However, delays and logistical restraints have limited actual food distributions, and the full resumption of commercial activities remains critical to improving food security in the region.

From November 23 to 26, USAID Administrator and Director of Foreign Assistance Henrietta H. Fore visited Ethiopia, including Somali Region, to discuss humanitarian conditions and efforts to facilitate emergency assistance to affected populations. In addition, from November 4 to 8, USAID staff traveled to Somali Region to monitor USAID/OFDA programs and assess the humanitarian situation. USAID staff noted limited access to commercial food and a decline in health and nutrition indicators. USAID/OFDA funding in FY 2007 and 2008 provides livelihood, agriculture and food security, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services for approximately 590,000 people in Somali Region.

Amhara Region

Despite reports of locust infestation in North Gondar zone, favorable rains have resulted in sufficient pasture and water availability in most parts of Amhara Region, improving livestock conditions and local harvest prospects, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, preliminary results from a nutrition survey conducted by Concern in South Wello zone indicate a significant reduction in GAM rates from 16 percent in January 2007 to 11.9 percent in October. However, many Amhara residents continue to recover from below average 2006 *meher* and 2007 *belg* crop production. The GFDRE Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) is preparing 3,500 MT of supplementary food for distribution to more than 125,000 people as part of the Enhanced Outreach Strategy program.

Oromiya Region

Inadequate rainfall and crop failures in parts of Oromiya Region, particularly the lowland areas of Borena and Guji zones, have resulted in deteriorating food security conditions. An October DPPA-led assessment identified approximately 91,000 people in need of emergency relief assistance in Borena zone, including food and water interventions. More than 260,000 people throughout Oromiya Region require emergency food assistance, according to FEWS NET.

Ongoing FY 2007 USAID/OFDA programs support six implementing partners to provide agriculture and food security, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services in Oromiya Region.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided 147,040 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$89 million in response to food needs throughout Ethiopia, including approximately \$25 million for relief programs largely targeting beneficiaries in Somali Region. In FY 2007, USAID/FFP provided 289,520 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP and NGOs for distribution through the PSNP. In addition, USAID/FFP contributed 60,010 MT of food assistance to WFP for relief programming. In total, USAID/FFP assistance benefited approximately 8.6 million Ethiopians in FY 2007.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) continues to report incidents of AWD in Oromiya, Tigray, Afar, Amhara, and SNNP regions, as well as in Dire Dawa. In October, WHO reported 2,663 new cases of AWD nationwide, including 32 deaths. Although the number of reported cases significantly decreased in October from 1,010 to 253 per week, the epidemic continues to spread to new districts, predominantly those located along rivers with inadequate water and sanitation services. Through the rehabilitation of water sources and latrine construction, ongoing USAID/OFDA programs provide improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities. In addition, USAID/OFDA interventions promote

hygiene education to reduce the spread of waterborne diseases such as AWD. To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.3 million for water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in Somali Region, in addition to more than \$3.4 million in FY 2007 countrywide.

Health

According to OCHA, recent reported cases of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in neighboring Sudan present a significant risk of cross border transmission to Ethiopia. As of November 22, WHO had received reports of 436 human RVF cases in Sudan, including 161 deaths. As part of preparedness measures, a joint U.N. and GFDRE assessment team is monitoring conditions in high risk border regions. In addition, USAID/OFDA

staff are monitoring the situation.

Refugees

As many as 18,000 refugees fleeing escalating violence in neighboring Somalia have arrived in Somali Region in recent months, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In addition, between August and November, nearly 1,000 refugees from Somali Region arrived in Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, according to UNHCR. To meet the needs of refugees and victims of conflict in Ethiopia, State/PRM provided more than \$8.9 million in FY 2007 to support health services, food commodities and stoves, water and sanitation facilities, and protection and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
International Rescue Committee	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,218,721
Save the Children/U.K.	Economy and Market Systems; Nutrition; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,724,436
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,943,157
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	43,920 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (for relief programming)	Countrywide	\$24,964,400
WFP and NGO Partners	103,120 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (toward the Productive Safety Net Program)	Countrywide	\$64,372,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$89,336,400
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008			\$92,279,557
FY 2007			
TOTAL USAID/OFDA³			\$12,422,622
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$180,229,500
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$8,986,011
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2007			\$201,638,133

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 30, 2007.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ Funding total does not include relief commodities provided through USAID/OFDA regional stockpiles.



Ky Luu
Director
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance