



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

**ETHIOPIA – Drought**

Fact Sheet #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

May 16, 2003

*Note: This Fact Sheet updates USAID/OFDA Ethiopia Fact Sheet #5, dated April 29, 2003.*

**Background**

- In 2002, below-average *belg*, or secondary rains (March through May) coupled with delayed and sporadic *meher*, or main rains (July through September), led to widespread food insecurity in Ethiopia affecting pastoral and agricultural areas, particularly the lowlands and midlands of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP), Tigray, Oromiya, and Amhara regions. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's (GFDRE) Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission, along with the U.N.'s Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (EUE), issued an appeal on the food security situation in the country on September 30, 2002.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimate that Ethiopia's food deficit in 2003 will be more than 2.3 million metric tons (MT), with increased food aid, commercial imports, and internal production needed to meet the deficit. It is currently estimated that 12.6 million people will require more than 1.5 million MT of food aid in 2003 and an additional 1.4 million people require close monitoring.
- As many rural households dependent on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods had not yet fully recovered from the drought of 1999/2000, the capacity of the affected population to cope with the current food shortages has been greatly reduced. The severity and duration of Ethiopia's current food security emergency have left people in an extreme state of vulnerability where coping strategies have been exhausted. In addition to the perilous food security situation, the ensuing deterioration in health, nutrition, and sanitation conditions have made this a full blown humanitarian crisis.
- Despite ongoing drought conditions throughout most of Ethiopia, extensive concentrated rains over the last three weeks caused heavy flooding in localized areas of Somali, Oromiya, and SNNP Regions. The flooding displaced 104,000, and damaged homes, schools, and health clinics, which further strained the government's overstretched disaster response capacity.

**Numbers at a Glance**

Total Affected Population in 2003	12.6 million	Source: GFDRE
Total Food Aid Requirements in 2003	1.5 million MT	Source: WFP/FAO

Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date) .....	\$13,666,892
Total USAID/Ethiopia Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date).....	\$17,000,000
Total USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date) .....	\$340,112,775
Total State/PRM Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date).....	\$5,087,233
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2003 (to date).....</b>	<b>\$375,866,900</b>

**Current Situation**

- Since mid-2002, the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia has deteriorated into a full-scale food and humanitarian crisis. The outlook is dire, and extreme food insecurity is present in parts of Afar, Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya and Somali, and SNNP Regions. USAID field assessments in April 2003 indicated that the impact of the drought is spreading to a widening area, increasing the number of people in need of assistance from 11 to 14 million in FY 2003 due to lack of food production and uneven rains from the current *belg* season.
- Although there have been adequate rains in a few pocket areas, USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) reports that the *belg* rains were unevenly distributed throughout April with below average precipitation early in the month followed by extensive rains in the latter part of the month. The patchy rains have caused concerns in the southeastern pastoral and crop dependent lowland areas. Excessive rains have disrupted the planting of long cycle crops in pockets of some lowland areas in Oromiya Zone of Amhara region. With mixed rains across the country, it is still too early to assess their impact on food security.
- While food distributions over recent months have stabilized nutritional conditions in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya and Tigray Regions and parts of Somali Region, WFP reports deteriorating conditions in some areas of SNNP Region, especially in the districts of Wolayita, Sidama, Gurage, Silti, Konso and Hadiya, and in Fik zone of Somali region, where malnutrition among children is rising far above normal levels. The GFDRE announced that the ration rate for cereal will be increased for these worst affected areas to the full planned ration of 15 kg per person per month up

from the reduced ration of 12.5 kg per person per month. This policy is effective immediately in districts where nutritional surveys have shown global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates equal to or greater than 15 percent.

- According to the WFP, there is currently an estimated shortfall of 300,000 tons towards the revised 2003 total needs for Ethiopia of 1.5 million tons. With present confirmed pledges, the pipeline will cover needs only until early August. Timely delivery of pledges remains crucial to avoiding a break in the food aid pipeline.
- FEWS NET reports increasing numbers of global and severe acute malnutrition at household and village levels in a number of districts. Afar, SNNP, and Tigray regions report Global Acute Malnutrition rates at critical levels of 15 to 20 percent. In addition to the drought affected population, UN OCHA is concerned about the effects of malnutrition on flood victims who are already weakened by the severe drought in the region and more vulnerable to disease. UNICEF is especially concerned about malnourished children who are more likely to succumb to respiratory infections, diarrhea, and waterborne diseases.
- According to UN OCHA, an estimated 188,000 people are displaced throughout Ethiopia, as a consequence of the border conflict or the drought conditions. An additional 104,000 are displaced by the recent flooding in southern Ethiopia. The U.S. Department of State reports that there are 129,000 refugees in Ethiopia mainly from Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea.

### **U.S. Government Response**

- On October 29, 2002, the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia declared a disaster in response to the continuing drought situation. Heavy flooding in localized areas from concentrated rains prompted the U.S. Embassy to issue a second disaster declaration on May 9, 2003.
- On May 9, USAID/OFDA deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) comprised of technical and regional staff to Ethiopia to enhance the non-food response to the humanitarian crisis. The DART is focusing on emergency health, nutrition, agriculture, livestock, and water and sanitation needs of the populations most affected by the drought. The DART is also responding to the recent flooding in Ethiopia.
- In FY 2003 to date, USAID/OFDA has committed funds of more than \$13.6 million to support emergency water and sanitation, health and nutrition, and agricultural recovery activities in drought-affected areas of Oromiya, Afar, Amhara, Somali, Tigray, and SNNP regions.
- USAID/Ethiopia has been very responsive to the drought situation in Ethiopia. To date, the Mission has channeled \$17 million of Development Assistance (DA) funds for emergency health and nutrition programs, as well as devoted considerable personnel resources to the emergency situation. USAID/Ethiopia's programs at the national and regional levels center on building organizational capacity and supporting food security initiatives. USAID/Ethiopia coordinates health intervention programs through UNICEF, WHO, Save the Children Fund US, and the Carter Center focusing on rapid response, measles campaign, food assistance, nutritional surveillance, therapeutic feeding, deployment of health professionals to drought affected areas, and coordination of food and health response. USAID/Ethiopia also provides ongoing support to the GFDRE's Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Commission (DPPC) and the Ministry of Health.
- The USG has contributed 628,000 MT valued at approximately \$289 million and \$30.6 million in non-food assistance since January 2003 through WFP and non-governmental organizations. The USG is the largest donor of food aid to Ethiopia. Total U.S. food contributions since the onset of the emergency are more than 800,000 MT (\$370 million), over 50 percent of the total contributions to date.
- USAID/FFP has pledged or committed more than 735,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance in FY 2003 to date, valued at more than \$340 million. USAID/FFP has also deployed personnel to augment USAID/Ethiopia's Food and Humanitarian Assistance Unit.
- In response to the recent flooding in southern Ethiopia, USAID/OFDA provided \$110,000 in assistance through ICRC for the purchase of emergency supplies, jerry cans, cooking pots, plastic sheeting, and blankets.
- The Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$5.1 million in FY 2003, including \$2.65 million to UNHCR for refugee assistance and protection programs, \$2.2 million to WFP for its refugee feeding operation, \$200,000 to IRC for Eritrean refugee assistance, and \$20,000 to a local NGO for Somali refugee literacy programs.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA**

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>FY 2003 (TO DATE)</b>				
USAID/OFDA .....				\$13,666,892
	ACF	Nutrition	Afar	\$438,700
	AmRC	Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$430,278
	CARE	Water/Sanitation, Seeds	Oromiya	\$1,596,733
	CISP	Seeds, Tools, Water/Sanitation	Tigray	\$621,843
	CRS	Agriculture, Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,554,983
	FHI	Agriculture	Amhara	\$453,749
	GAA	Water/Sanitation	SNNPR	\$140,599
	IMC	Primary Health, Nutrition	Oromiya, SNNPR	\$2,566,130
	ICRC	Disaster Support	Somali	\$110,000
	IRC	Water/Sanitation	Oromiya	\$1,122,535
	Oxfam	Water/Sanitation	SNNPR	\$298,528
	SC/US	Water/Sanitation, Livelihoods, Health	Somali	\$1,124,226
	WorldVision	Health, Livelihoods, Seeds	Afar, SNNPR	\$1,449,546
	UN FAO	Coordination	Countrywide	\$118,975
	UNICEF	Health/Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,050,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Afar, Somali	\$350,000
	USAID	Administrative	All	\$240,067
USAID/Ethiopia .....				\$17,000,000
	Carter Center	Health/Nutrition	Multiple	\$1,754,841
	GOAL	Health/Nutrition	Afar, Oromiya	\$807,380
	Other NGOs	Health/Nutrition	Multiple	\$6,153,727
	UNICEF	Health/Nutrition	Multiple	\$4,000,000
	WFP	Nutrition	Multiple	\$1,655,000
	WHO	Health/Nutrition	Multiple	\$1,539,052
	World Learning	Nutrition	Amhara, SNNPR	\$1,090,000
USAID/FFP .....				\$340,112,775
	WFP	344,230 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$164,508,100
	JEOP	363,050 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$157,203,575
	ICRC	29,740 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,401,100
State/PRM .....				\$5,087,233
	Embassy Addis Ababa	Refugee Literacy Program	Countrywide	\$20,000
	IRC	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$217,233
	UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,650,000
	WFP	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,200,000
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE)* .....</b>				<b>\$370,779,667</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2003 (TO DATE).....</b>				<b>\$375,866,900</b>

\* USAID/OFDA funding figure represents committed and/or obligated amounts as of May 16, 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 Eritrea can be found at <http://www.interaction.org/eastafrica/index.html>. Information on other organizations responding may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://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 services can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) -> “Disaster Assistance” -> “How Can I Help?”
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or 703-276-1914
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) -> “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).
- USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.htm](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.htm).