

Date: 07 August 2006

Ref: OCHA/GVA – 2006/

OCHA Situation Report No. 1 Dire Dawa Floods - Ethiopia Occurred on August 06, 2006

This report is based on information received from OCHA Ethiopia.

Situation

1) On 06 August 2006 heavy rains in East Hararghe highlands caused flooding in the region of Dire Dawa, Ethiopia (about 525 kms east of the capital Addis Ababa) reportedly displacing 10,000 people. Currently approximately 200 people are reported dead and another 300 are still missing. The flood affected six kebeles (town sub-districts). As we understand it, the death toll was largely due to the fact that the flooding took place in an urban area at night, when people are normally asleep. In addition, some 6,000 people are at risk if the rains continue over the next days. The floods follow a devastating drought that hit the east African region, threatening the lives of about 15 million people.

2) Today 07 August, a rapid assessment missions is undertaken jointly by the three agencies (OCHA, WFP and UNICEF) and the Government, in order to evaluate the extent of the casualties, damages and most immediate needs. This team is due to return to Addis sometime this evening. The government Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency and its partners will formulate their response and needs after this mission.

3) On 04 August 2006, another heavy rain was reported in Southwest and West Showa zones of Oromiya Region in southern Ethiopia. More than 15,000 people had been affected by the flooding including 1,000 who were rescued from their villages. Mortalities to date have been limited to the death of a 12-year-old boy.

National Response

- 1) An initial response, including food and non-food items from the Ethiopian Government began on 6 August. To date the DPPA has distributed 7.1 MTs of high-energy biscuits, 50 MT rice, 1.5 MT vegetable oil, 4,000 blanket, 10,000 cups, 10,000 plates, 2,000 jerry cans, 25 roll (4x50 meters) plastic sheeting, 2,000 spoons, and 10, 000 cups.
- 2) A WFP team is leaving from Jijiga to go to Shinile zone, areas close to Dire Dawa, in order to assess damage and eventual needs also in these areas. WFP will also assess damage and eventual needs outside of Dire Dawa town. WFP has stocks of cereals, CSB, oil, pulses and sugar already in store in Dire Dawa and will dispatch this under the coordination of the government according to needs identified by them.
- 2) The search for survivors continues with the assistance of the Ethiopian security forces, aid workers and residents. HCS (Hararghe Catholic Secretariat), ERC (Ethiopian Red Cross), and SC UK met today (7 August), in Dire Dawa to discuss ongoing needs. ICRC is supporting the relief

effort through its local partner ERS. ACF has sent a food security expert to the area and will reconnoitre a water and sanitation expert tomorrow. IRC has deployed two teams to respond to the situation.

- 3) UNICEF has pre-positioned 2,000 family kits in Dire Dawa DPPB (Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Bureau) warehouse. Those are in process of distribution along with blankets and plastic sheets. Immediate needs are food BP5 and NFIs.
- 4) UN OCHA summoned a coordination meeting in Addis on 9 August to coordinate response and identify needs.
- 5) The zonal government has established a taskforce consisting of DPPB, the regional council, ERC and NGOs.

International Response

- 6) OCHA Geneva will remain in contact with OCHA Ethiopia and will revert with further information as it becomes available.
- 7) This situation report, together with further information on other ongoing emergencies is also available on the OCHA Internet Website at <http://www.reliefweb.int>.

Telephone: +41-22-917 12 34 In case of emergency only:	Fax: +41-22-917 00 23 Tel. +41-22-917 20 10	E-mail: ochagva@un.org
Desk Officer:	Mr. Ousmane Watt Direct Tel. +41-22-917 22 40 Mr. Jean Charles Dougrou Direct Tel. +41-22-917 27 91	E-mail: watto@un.org E-mail: dourgrou@un.org
Press contact: (GVA) (N.Y.)	Ms. Elizabeth Byrs Ms. Stephanie Bunker	direct Tel. +41-22-917 26 53 direct Tel. +1-917-367 51 26