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**OCHA Situation Report No. 4  
Dire Dawa Floods - Ethiopia  
Occurred on 6 August, 2006 (Draft)**

This report is based on information received from OCHA Ethiopia. New inputs are underlined.

**Situation**

- 1) As a result of the floods in Dire Dawa, approximately 210 dead while about 290 people missing and 10,000 people displaced are now reported. It is possible that additional people are displaced in surrounding areas. So far 2,500 people have been registered and given ration cards -- the number will increase as registration proceeds. Assessments of the extent of flood damage and its impact on affected communities are ongoing. The UN, Government and NGOs have already begun a gap identification exercise.
- 2) Approximately 6,000 displaced people are being housed in six sites. Schools are being used as temporary shelters. Immediate action to resettle the displaced people is required as the school year is starting in less than a month. Disease risks are high due to lack of sanitation and overcrowding.
- 3) Flood History in Dire Dawa: The Dachatu, Goro and Butteji rivers flood seasonally as rain falls from the highlands of eastern Hararghe. Such rivers as the Dachatu, the Gorro, and the Butteji drain into the Dire Dawa valley. The largest river, the Dachatu, has significantly shaped the morphology of Dire Dawa city by dividing it into two major parts. On various occasions the Dachatu has flooded, causing damage to life and property. The flood damage has increased in recent years due to increased populations that have settled near the riverbanks as well as to deforestation of natural catchments. The recurrence of such events suggests the need for longer-term disaster prevention and vulnerability reduction activities.

**National and International Response**

- 4) The city council administration has formed five committees to coordinate activities: health and environmental sanitation, support and logistics, food and shelter, aid coordination, and security and infrastructure. All five committees meet daily with UN agencies and NGOs. OCHA together with the Dire Dawa city council will chair local coordination activities in the affected area.
- 5) Over the past two days, NGO's, Government and UN agencies have distributed 4,000 blankets, 10,000 plates, 10,000 cups, 76Qts of nutritional biscuits, 2000 jerry cans and 25 plastic roll. 6 water drums, 60 buckets, 200 liters of disinfectant, and 15 brooms and brushes have been distributed by NGO's, Government and UN agencies. Humanitarian partners and Government

have pledged to provide emergency resources to meet the required needs. The summary of unmet needs in this report.

- 6) Upon request from the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA), WFP dispatched one month's worth of rations for 10,000 people including: 150 MT of cereals, 15 MT of blended food, 5MT of vegetable oil, 500 Kg of salt and plastic rolls for shelter. In addition, WFP has propositioned stocks of non-food items in Dire Dawa to help fill gaps should the need arise. Thanks to rapid action by WFP and DPPA, the immediate food needs are currently being met.
- 7) Registration of flood victims continued on 10 August following the training of enumerators undertaken by WFP and DPPB. WFP, DPPB and OCHA are coordinating the exercise. WFP has deployed staff to participate in two teams doing actual registration. It is anticipated that registration will be completed on 11 August. Distributions are set to start on 13/14 August. The recently formed coordination committee comprising DPPB, WFP and OCHA set up in Dire Dawa has drafted the terms of reference for the response task force and will set up regular meetings with senior government staff in the city to report progress/problems every 3 days.
- 8) UNICEF anticipates that a significant number of children might be orphaned due to the flood. In this regard, Abebech Gobena Orphanage has committed to take care of all orphans.
- 9) The regional health bureau has deployed four mobile health teams in the affected areas. Public health education is also being provided along with medical services. IMC (International Medical Corps) provided two cars with two nurses and two health educators. MSF-Belgium, with WHO technical support, is currently carrying out an assessment of health problems and risks in the area. Meanwhile, HCS (Hararghe Catholic Secretariat) has provided six Roto-tankers.
- 10) UNDP plans to allocate US \$100,000 for relocation of the displaced and for recovery and rehabilitation activities. Initial relocation is expected to begin as early as next week. UNDP is liaising with DPPA (Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency) in this regard, and a taskforce has been formed to prepare a plan for the resettlement.
- 11) OCHA called a meeting with NGOs and other humanitarian partners on 10 August to discuss the response and how coordination could be facilitated. As co-chair of the task force OCHA will work to strengthen the flow of information, particularly regarding gaps in response.
- 12) This is the last report for this disaster unless there are unforeseen developments.
- 13) This situation report, together with further information on other ongoing emergencies is also available on the OCHA Internet Website at <http://www.reliefweb.int>.

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