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**OCHA Situation Report No. 5
Floods – Ethiopia**

This report is based on information received from OCHA Ethiopia.¹

Situation

1. The unprecedented heavy rains in Ethiopia are set to continue increasing concern that more flooding is likely to affect the country. In response to the ongoing crisis, the DPPA launched a Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners Appeal for the 2006 Flood Disaster in Ethiopia on 25 August, requesting US\$27 million for food and non-food assistance.
2. To date, 196,000 people in 8 of the 11 regions have been affected and more than 34,000 people are displaced. A further 524,400 people remain vulnerable to flood disaster in the coming weeks. The detrimental impact of the floods has resulted in loss of life, damage to property and destruction of livelihoods for tens of thousands of people. Crop damage also threatens long-term food security.
3. South Omo continues to be one of the worst affected areas but reports now indicate that Amhara region has also been severely affected. The Joint Appeal reports that the overflow of the Rib and Gomara Rivers and Lake Tana in and Fogera woredas of South Gondar, Bahirdar Zuria and Bahir Dahr town of West Gojjam and flash floods in Dewcheffa and Ansokiya woredas of Oromiya and North Shewa zones, respectively, have displaced 13,362 people. In addition, humanitarian agencies report that 74,250 people are adversely affected by the floods in Amhara.
4. The flooding crisis has occurred in parallel with an AWD epidemic gripping the country. So far, over 15,000 cases have been confirmed and the disease is spreading at an alarming rate. WHO have now confirmed new cases in Metema woreda in the previously unaffected Amhara Region. This Region has the highest Case Fatality Rate (64.23%) reported so far.

National and International Response

5. The Joint Government and Humanitarian Appeal requests US\$27,099,526 to meet the emergency food, non-food, and rehabilitation requirements of the country. It also states that

¹ The information in this document is consolidated from reports and field information from a variety of sources including UN agencies, NGOs and government partners.

the document is ‘preliminary’ because the ‘requirements and population affected could change due to the present fluid situation.’

6. The Federal Government has set up a National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, to oversee and provide guidance to the on going relief and rehabilitation efforts.
7. To date, private contributions channelled through the DPPA have exceeded US\$1 million.
8. DFID has donated £1 million sterling (US\$1.9 million) to the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) to be used for the flood response. OCHA is currently accepting proposals for the HRF.
9. As of 22 August, DPPA/WFP has delivered 437.67 Mt of food including 333.4Mt cereals, 12 Mt oil, 61.67 Mt supplementary foods and 30.6 Mt of pulses throughout the country.
10. In Amhara Region, DPPA/WFP has dispatched 44.6 MT grain, 5.9MT oil, 21.5MT supplementary food, 22.6MT pulses, 4MT biscuits, 4,132 blankets, 50 rolls of plastic sheets and 250 jerry cans.
11. In South Omo, relief items are being provided to the displaced people. As of 22 August DPPA with support from WFP and UNICEF has dispatched 44.5 MT grain, 1.3MT, 5.8MT supplementary foods, 3.8MT pulses, 13.37 MT biscuits, 1000 blankets, 30 (4x5) rolls of plastic sheets, 2500 plates, 2500 cups, 250 jerry cans, 20 ladles and 250 cooking pots.
12. At the regional coordination meeting between Governmental Organizations, NGOs and UN agencies on 24 August, in Awassa, it was decided to hold a weekly South Omo flood emergency response coordination meeting every Friday at 2.00 p.m. OCHA will continue its support to coordination efforts and temporarily act as secretary to this committee.
13. Farm Africa have provided 100 plastic sheets for shelter, 15 quintals of beans, 15 quintals of maize, 200 litres of diesel, 800 litres of petrol for rescue boats and logistic support through the use of a vehicle. Farm Africa has also developed a proposal for veterinary support to livestock health and livelihood support. They will be vaccinating and treating livestock through their community-based animal health programme to ensure that the livelihood base of the community is maintained. So far, Farm Africa has raised £25,000 sterling (US \$47, 000) for this purpose. Once the immediate danger from the floods is over, Farm Africa will support flood revival of agriculture including assessing the need for restocking of livestock as there is currently no accurate estimate of the number of livestock lost.
14. Rescue efforts are ongoing in South Omo Valley and an additional 60 people marooned by the flood waters were rescued on the 23 August. 800 more people are reported to have moved to safer ground.
15. A fact-finding mission comprising the Minister of Water Resources, OCHA, UNICEF and DFID visited South Omo on the 26 August.
16. In response to the immediate threat of flooding along the Awash River, USAID/OFDA is liaising with partners on the ground to assess the situation and to strengthen preparedness at the lowest reaches of the Awash watershed

Gaps in the Response

17. The Joint Appeal is seeking support to fill emergency multi-sector gaps, a total of 10,178 MT of emergency relief food assistance is required over the coming three months to assist 199,000 flood affected people as of August 2006. The estimated cost is just over US\$ 5 million.
18. The Appeal also requests for US\$13.8 million worth of non-food items such as plastic sheets and tents for sheltering, lifesaving jackets, plastic boats, blankets, and household utensils, such as cooking pots, ladles, jerry cans, jugs, plastic plates, cups, bowls, etc. adequate for an estimated 39,980 households. More than \$8 million was required to rebuild infrastructure and fund agricultural support and education services.
19. In Amhara Region, despite woreda officials reports that the situation is under control and there is no immediate food or non-food needs, A Save the Children Alliance assessment has raised concerns. The assessment team who visited the temporary displacement sites and affected woredas earlier this week stated in their preliminary findings that there is inadequate food and non food items available to the displaced and the temporary settlement sites continue to have fresh influxes of people.
20. Communication continues to be a problem in South Omo Valley. At the regional coordination meeting on 24 August, government admitted that information is only available on four out of 14 settlement sites in the remote Dasenech woreda.

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