USAID | ETHIOPIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

INVESTING IN PEOPLE: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

OVERVIEW

Ethiopia experiences recurrent, acute natural disasters that compound the effects of chronic food insecurity and endemic poverty. Following consecutive seasons of unfavorable rainfall and harvests in 2010 and 2011, the country also saw localized precipitation shortages during the *belg* rainy season in 2012, which hindered recovery for populations that experienced significant food insecurity and malnutrition in 2011. In response, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) provided nearly $34.6 million for Ethiopia in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 to address ongoing humanitarian needs.

HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES

Populations in Ethiopia confront significant humanitarian challenges, including food insecurity, malnutrition, conflict, inadequate public infrastructure, and limited access to health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.

Drought is a major contributor to vulnerability, particularly among pastoralist communities. In addition to food and nutritional insecurity, widespread livestock deaths can deplete the primary asset base and main source of income for pastoralists. Significant losses to both subsistence and cash crops can also have a profoundly negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of farmers and agro-pastoralists. Several areas of Ethiopia have experienced repeated failed rains and harvests, prolonging drought conditions and delaying recovery.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

USAID's OFDA mandate is to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the economic and social impact of disasters. In Ethiopia, OFDA prioritizes emergency response and disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities for both ongoing and impending shocks.

In response to emergency conditions in FY 2012, OFDA aimed to expand and improve rapid response programs in the nutrition and WASH sectors, continue support to key U.N. response and support functions, effectively monitor and evaluate OFDA's humanitarian interventions, and maintain close coordination with other donors. To prepare for and mitigate future disasters, OFDA worked to maintain and enhance effective DRR activities, collaborate with other USAID Ethiopia programs, and apply livelihoods-based programming to enhance recovery and resilience. Through a USAID Joint Planning Cell platform, OFDA helped bridge the gap between relief and development by developing integrated, sequential and layered programs with USAID Ethiopia's longer-term development programs.

USAID/OFDA Committed FY 2013 Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia	
UNICEF: Nutrition, WASH, health	$6,473,050
GOAL: Nutrition Rapid Response	$5,000,000
IRC: WASH	$4,500,000
Merlin: Health, nutrition	$999,969
WFP/UNHAS: Logistics and relief commodities	$800,000
UNOCHA: Humanitarian coordination and information management	$750,000
UNDSS: Security coordination	$350,000
FAO: Agriculture and food security	$1,125,000
SC: Agriculture and food security, economic recovery	$1,100,000
CHF International: WASH, economic recovery	$950,000
FHE: Agriculture and food security, economic recovery	$749,970
USFS: Support for NIMS/ICS	$450,000
Mercy Corps: Agriculture and food security, economic recovery, WASH	$0 (NCE)
TOTAL	**$23,247,989**

An OFDA-partner provides nutritional screening for a child in SNNP Region. (Photo by Jane Strachan, OFDA).

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Nutrition: In FY 2012*,* OFDA provided nearly a third of its funding to Ethiopia for nutrition activities*.* OFDA increased access to quality nutrition services for children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women. OFDA also supported the provision of ready-to-use therapeutic foods and training for health workers in community management of acute malnutrition, helping to detect and treat severe acute malnutrition at its earlier stages. In addition, OFDA funded national surveys and rapid assessments.

Agriculture and Food Security: In FY 2012, OFDA provided nearly a quarter of its funding to Ethiopia for food security and economic recovery and market systems activities. OFDA aimed to increase household food security, income-generating opportunities and access to financial capital for asset protection and income diversification for the most vulnerable households.

WASH: OFDA provided support for water, sanitation and hygiene and non-food relief items representing more than 30 percent of OFDA FY 2012 funding for Ethiopia. Activities included the pre-positioning of emergency water-treatment products to respond to disease outbreaks that often occur during flooding or population displacement; rehabilitation of wells and rainwater harvesting systems to improve access to safe drinking water; sanitation and hygiene education programs, and responses to emergencies resulting from internal conflicts.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Flexible Emergency Rapid Response Programs**

A beneficiary pumps water from an OFDA-supported water point. (Photo by Jane Strachan, OFDA).

  - Rapid Responses Programs allow quick and flexible responses to acute malnutrition or humanitarian needs triggered by sudden-onset emergencies including access to safe drinking water and distribution of relief items to communities or the displaced affected by drought, fires, flooding and other disasters.

- **Building Resilience**

  - Since 2009, OFDA supported Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Livelihoods and New Markets (RAIN), an intervention in Ethiopia's Somali and Oromiya regions aiming to protect, promote, and diversify livelihoods as a way of increasing household resilience to shocks. In FY 2012, the RAIN project transitioned to USAID Ethiopia's new five-year flagship Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion (PRIME) project, effectively connecting relief to development. Both RAIN and PRIME are part of the US Feed the Future Initiative.

- **Crisis Modifier (CM) Mechanism**

  - OFDA uses a mechanism to provide small grants to partners implementing an existing development program in the event of a shock or localized disaster. Part of the funding stream for the development program, the CM permits partners to respond quickly to address humanitarian needs generated by the shock, thereby protecting development investments from the potentially damaging effects of the disaster. OFDA works with other USAID Ethiopia programs to use the CM as a way to protect development gains.

- **Market-led Recovery and Enhancement Program (MLREP)**

  - OFDA has provided approximately $3.7 million to implement the Market-led Recovery and Enhancement Program (MLREP) launched in January 2009. The MLREP worked to improve the food security of more than 125,000 individuals across the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) Region.

- **FAO Root and Tuber Program**

  - In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided $1,000,000 to support efforts by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to increase the access of farmers in vulnerable communities to planting materials for root and tuber crops, which produce good yields in less-than-optimal weather environments and offer a way to diversify diets. Since OFDA's involvement, other donors have stepped in to provide additional support, allowing FAO to expand the project throughout Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions.

- **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**

  - OFDA supports a technical assistance partnership with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) to establish an organizational response framework to improve the Government's capacity to respond to disasters. The USAID partnership is implemented by the U.S. Forest Service in collaboration with the GoE Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector. NIMS is an organizational framework for disaster response and preparation derived from the U.S., where it provides a systematic, proactive approach to guide all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters.

KEY OFDA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	
Non-governmental organizations	**U.N. Agencies**
Adventist Development and Relief Agency, CHF International, Food for the Hungry, GOAL, International Rescue Committee, Mercy Corps, Save the Children	UNICEF, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, World Food Programme

July 1, 2013