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**OCHA Situation Report No. 7
Ethiopia – Floods**

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

Situation

1. Approximately 363,658 people have been affected and 145,048 displaced by the ongoing floods in seven of Ethiopia's nine regions, reflecting an increase of 163,000 of the affected population since the launch of the Joint Flash Appeal on 25 August.
2. The National Flood Early Warning task force established under the Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners Early Warning working group has proposed a joint rapid impact assessment of the flood-affected areas countrywide. The assessment will attempt to evaluate the impact of the disaster on food security and livelihoods and is tentatively scheduled to take place at the end of September.
3. While water levels in many areas are now beginning to recede, unseasonal rain in Amhara Region and continuing rainy seasons in the flood-affected areas of SNNPR and Gambella Region increase the risk of further flooding. Amhara Region remains one of the worst affected regions in the country with 97,800 people affected, 70% (68,477) of whom are in need of immediate food assistance for the coming four months and 38,000 have been displaced and are living in temporary shelter.
4. On Friday, 15 September, the Amhara Regional Government together with humanitarian partners launched a regional action plan as part of the Federal Joint Flash Appeal requesting approximately US\$9 million (76,827,081 ETB) for both the emergency and rehabilitation response.
5. On 13 September, Dire Dawa experienced a torrential heavy rain storm killing nine people. In the temporary resettlement sites, which host the displaced from August's devastating flash flood, many small tents and one big tent collapsed and monthly food rations were damaged by the rainwater.
6. In Gambella Region, the regional Disaster Prevention and Food Security Bureau has reported that two people have been killed and 6,183 households (30,915 people) are displaced by recent flooding. Approximately 1,200 cattle have also

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.

been lost and 11,974 hectares of cropland have been destroyed. These reports await verification from the DPPA-led joint assessment that will visit the affected woredas from 19 September for ten days.

7. According to a WFP team currently in Gode zone, Somali Region, the flooding of the Wabi Shebelle River has seriously affected eleven villages in two kebeles of Ferfer woreda. Many of these villages are still surrounded by floodwater, which has destroyed 200 hectares of farmland and killed numerous livestock. The WFP team is monitoring the situation and will report details.

National and International Response

8. The UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator in New York has approved an allocation from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of US\$ 3 million to be channelled through UN agencies for the flood response. OCHA has been accepting proposals to respond to priority gaps including those noted below. In addition, the Embassy of the Netherlands has contributed US\$ 2,564,000 for the Humanitarian Response Fund.
9. Irish Aid has contributed US\$ 256,410 to WFP as part of the Joint Flash Appeal in order to participate in their continued efforts in addressing the immediate needs of the flood-affected populations in the provision of food.
10. The Israeli Embassy donated US\$ 5,000 worth of blankets to IRC to assist in their continued humanitarian response.
11. The Embassy of Sweden has pledged US\$ 959,000 as part of the Joint Flash Appeal. US\$ 685,000 have been allocated to UNICEF to contribute to their efforts in addressing immediate needs of the flood-affected populations through the provisions of non-food items, emergency health care, emergency water supply interventions, rehabilitation and restoration of education and health services as well as logistics and transport to facilitate the emergency response. In addition, Sweden has contributed US\$ 274,000 through the Swedish NGOs working in partnership with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and the Ethiopian Hiwot Berhan Church on the flood response.
12. In Amhara Region, the Regional Government established the Amhara Emergency Coordination Forum composed of Government, NGOs and UN agencies to coordinate the flood response at regional level. The Forum will meet weekly during the emergency and monthly, once the emergency phase has ceased. The forum is divided into five task forces – 1. Food, non-food items and shelter, 2. Health & Nutrition, 3. Water & Sanitation, 4. Agriculture & Livestock and 5. Education and protection.

Gaps in the Response

13. In Amhara Region, approximately 70% (68,477) of the flood-affected population has lost its crop and is in need of food assistance for at least the coming four months. This population is not usually reliant on food assistance. Short cycle harvest seeds for planting and emergency veterinary services are needed immediately if this population is to be food-sufficient in 2007. The Action Plan estimates that 41,086 qts. of cereals, 1,233 qts. of edible oil, 4,314 qts. of blended food, 1,972 qts. of biscuits, 4,109 qts. of pulse, 2,739 qts. of pepper and 1,370 qts. of salt are needed to fill the food gap from September to December 2006.

14. In addition, the Amhara Region had no food stock at its disposal for the flood crisis. As a result, the Food Security Coordination and Disaster Prevention Office (FSCDPO) has been forced to divert 370.86MT of food and non-food items from the Productive Safety Net Programme and resettlement programmes in order to urgently provide relief food for the flood-affected people. The diverted items must be replenished in the coming weeks.
15. Wells and natural water sources are likely to have been contaminated by the floods and wide spread chlorination of wells and water purification will be required in order to avert potential outbreaks of water-borne diseases and the spread of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), once the temporarily displaced return to their homes.
16. The threat of an outbreak of malaria remains imminent particularly in such endemic areas as Lake Tana.
17. In Gambella Region, coordination efforts must continue to be strengthened between government and humanitarian partners at all levels. Credible information is needed to inform the humanitarian response. The region's poor infrastructure, recurrent security problems and inadequate logistics combined with the onset of the rainy season are likely to make the humanitarian response difficult. Food, non-food items and veterinary medicine and vaccinations are required.
18. In South Omo Zone, logistical difficulties remain. Transport including boats and fuel to power them continues to be a gap in the response.
19. Countrywide, the ongoing humanitarian response has depleted the DPPA's food and non-food reserves and their immediate replenishment is required.

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