



**The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development /MoARD/**

**Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector  
/DRMFSS/**

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Opening Speech of  
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DRMFSS  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I would like to welcome you all, on behalf of the Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and that of my own, to this very important event at which the Government and its partners are going to officially launch the Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) for the year 2010. The document updates the December 2009 Multi-Sectoral National Contingency Plan and provides estimates of resource requirement for the implementation of various emergency and recovery as well as other risk management related

food and non-food interventions in disaster affected and identified as most needy areas located in different parts of the country.

Before presenting prioritized needs for the current year, 2010, I would like to take a few minutes to update you on our joint efforts geared towards addressing humanitarian needs in 2009.

As you are well aware of, at the beginning of 2009, the Government and its humanitarian partners had released a joint humanitarian requirements document containing emergency food and non food needs for a total of 4.9 million people.

However, a combination of poor performance of the 2009 belg rains in belg rain-benefiting areas and the late onset, erratic distribution, and early cessation of the following meher season in some areas led to deteriorated food security situation in the affected parts of the country.

As a result, beginning July the number of people needing emergency and recovery assistance continued to increase and reached 6.2 million by October 2009 and hence the Government and its partners were required to urgently update the January 2009 HRD in order to meet needs of increased beneficiaries by providing additional 189,190 MT of food as well as other non-food needs worth over USD 52.5 million during the period October - December 2009.

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In response to the January and October 2009 joint Government and humanitarian partners' appeal as well as to other two formally communicated documents, namely, projected relief food requirement and the contingency plan issued in July and December 2009 respectively, the donor community has provided a great quantum of resources.

Consequently, in case of the food sector, around 62 percent of the needs have been resourced, i.e., about 574,572 MT against the total requirement of 925,659 MT. Making use of the carry-over stock and pledges from 2008, however, we have managed to dispatch a total of 670,350 MT of relief food or 72 percent of the overall requirement during January to December.

Regarding the non-food sector, a total of USD 54,902,164 has been contributed, which is over 65 percent of the total requirement of USD 83,938,780 for interventions in health and nutrition, water and sanitation and agriculture sectors.

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite a much better and appreciable contributions by donors in 2009 that resulted from our collective efforts, I would say, from resource availability point of view, it's undeniable that we were constrained by shortage of resources and therefore were unable to fully meet the identified needs although all possibilities, including revising the ration size and targeting resources to only the most needy areas, were explored and deployed.

The fact that resource mobilization effort, especially in the period in and after the global economic downturn, is becoming the most difficult business that humankind ever experienced as the result of increasing disaster induced chaos and associated resource requirements globally, I would say, it is a great success for all of us to get most of the identified humanitarian needs resourced (as I mentioned earlier) and hence were able to save lives and livelihoods of the affected population.

In view of that, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the donor community and all other humanitarian partners who have contributed to such a remarkable achievement.

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me now draw your attention to the methodology issue , which has been a major discussion point since some months ago and definitely will remain as critical concern for all of us for some months to come.

Since the past recent years, the Household Economy Approach (HEA) was used for projecting relief food requirement, while traditional sector specific methods were applied for projecting needs for the non-food sectors.

In the case of the HEA approach, based on our recent experience during 2009 belg/gu assessment, we decided to make a distinction between the food and non-food related needs generated under the two thresholds, that is survival and livelihood protection threshold respectively with the view to avoiding duplication.

The direction is that, according to the HEA, the relief food requirement is to be estimated based on the data generated under survival threshold while any needs generated under the livelihood protection threshold to be used as inputs to establish needs for the non-food sectors (protection threshold are entirely relating to the non-food sectors, such as seed, fertilizers, animal health, school and health service related needs).

However, we have recognized the limitations the existing methodologies have and the impact these limitations may have on the quality of the assessment outputs.

Therefore, a joint effort is envisaged to review the existing methodologies and come up with a lasting solution to this critical issue and hope that our partners will take care of this case and collaborate with the government in improving the available or devising a better approach that can exhaustively address the limitations and lead to a concise prediction of humanitarian requirements.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know, anticipating that the poor performance of rains in 2009 would eventually lead to deteriorated food security situation in disaster affected parts of the country, the Government and its humanitarian partners issued a contingency plan in December 2009 containing interim requirements for the first half of 2010 with the view to strengthening preparedness by mobilizing additional resources in advance. Following that, we have been receiving encouraging responses and as a result we are now equipped with the capacity to meet relief food needs for at least the first quarter of 2010.

In order to maintain and further strengthen our achievements, however, there still exists a long way that we have to go together given climate change induced disasters continue to pose

challenges in 2010 as well. Despite overall better harvest this year, the poor rains in 2009, especially in some areas over the eastern half of the country and slow recovery from the effects of previous disasters as well as failure to fully meet humanitarian needs in previous years due to scarce resources led to increased emergency caseloads. As a result, the total population requiring emergency and recovery assistances has increased from 4.8 million identified in the December 2009 contingency plan to 5.2 million according to the current estimates verified and endorsed by Regional States.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This new figure appears to be around 18 percent higher than the 4.4 million beneficiary number estimated under survival deficit threshold through the November/December 2009 multi-agency assessment mission but by 16 percent lower as compared to the 6.2 million released in October 2009. The decrease in the beneficiary number attributes mainly to the improvements in the overall harvest in the country. This improvement, however, shouldn't overshadow and overlook the identified and prioritized needs, particularly in low lying areas in the eastern and southern Tigray, eastern Amhara, eastern Oromia, the northern parts of Shinille and Jijiga in Somale, some areas of SNNP, and most parts of Gambella and in the northern part of Afar, that require immediate humanitarian interventions.

Of the estimated 5.2 million relief food beneficiaries this year, around 26.7 % is from Somali region and 20.8%,19%, 16.3% and 12.3% are from Oromia, Amhara ,\_SNNP and Tigray regions, respectively.

The total food aid requirement for the year is estimated to be 642,983 MT. Considering the resource available at hand and carry over pledges from 2009, amounting to 396,212 MT, the net requirement for the period stands at 246,771 MT, valued at approximately USD 187,792,731.

In addition, 43,500 MT of fortified blended food and oil, valued at USD 43.5 million, is required to address the needs of over a million children less than five as well as pregnant and lactating women identified as beneficiaries in 167 Woredas.

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As usual, I would like to remind you that our humanitarian intervention in the food sector should be complemented with non-food interventions which are considered equally vital.

Hence, the current HRD estimates a total of USD 55,076,927 to be required to address the different interventions in the health and nutrition, water and sanitation, agriculture and , and education this year.

As in the past, our intervention modality will continue to be a case by case resource allocation and delivery approach based up on verification assessments and under the overall Government leadership and guidance non-governmental organizations are expected to be involved in the implementation of the identified food and non-food interventions.

Regarding coordination mechanisms, as usual, the overall leadership of humanitarian response remains to be the responsibility of the government. At Federal level, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development through its Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector will be responsible for the overall coordination of humanitarian interventions by relevant partners including donor governments, UN agencies, national and international NGOs and civil society organizations.

The sectoral taskforces on Health and Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Agriculture and Education, led by the relevant line ministries will remain to be responsible for coordination, monitoring and reporting on emergency responses in their respective sectors together with the relevant UN agencies, NGOs and donors.

At this point, I would like to urge you all to work towards effective and efficient collaboration and coordination among all humanitarian actors as it is a crucial aspect of our intervention efforts to ensure timely and comprehensive humanitarian response.

Finally I would like to extend my heart felt thanks, on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia and that of my own to all our partners for their unreserved contributions and efforts made to save the lives and livelihoods of our compatriots. And I am also confident that such spirit of collaboration and partnership toward a common goal of humanitarian success will continue with enhanced determination.

I thank you.