



April 7, 2016

Alemayehu G. Mariam  
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San Bernardino, CA 92402

Dear Mr. Mariam,

Thank you for your letter requesting additional information about our drought response in Ethiopia. We take our responsibility to be effective stewards of taxpayer resources very seriously and rigorously monitor and evaluate programs to push for greater effectiveness. We seek greater transparency and accountability, and would like to respond to your letter.

First, we acknowledge that food shortages and livestock losses related to the drought are having a direct and significant impact on people's ability to thrive. We have worked with the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations and other partners to assess needs—outlined in the 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD)—and to coordinate an integrated response to save lives. The HRD reports that 10.2 million people are in need of relief food assistance. USAID leverages its Famine Early Warning System Network to monitor food insecurity using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a set of internationally recognized protocols to analyze and classify the severity of food insecurity, and has mobilized a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to provide technical assistance to the Government of Ethiopia, conduct humanitarian assessments, and coordinate relief efforts with partners on the ground. For a complete picture of current conditions in Ethiopia, please refer to: <http://www.fews.net/east-africa/ethiopia>.

Second, USAID and its partners in Ethiopia put safeguards in place to ensure our assistance reaches those who need it most: the Ethiopian people. Since October 2014, USAID has provided more than \$546 million in humanitarian assistance to the people of Ethiopia, including emergency food assistance, safe drinking water, and nutrition and health support. USAID distributes humanitarian assistance through the United Nations and non-governmental organization partners directly to the people. USAID does not provide direct budgetary support to the Government of Ethiopia. We have systems in place to monitor the delivery of aid and our partners are required to immediately report any instances of losses to USAID and the Inspector General.

Third, in response to your question about the Government of Ethiopia's contribution to the drought response, please be advised that the government has provided \$381 million for nutrition, relief food assistance, fodder and seeds.

We welcome your input as we continue to assess and respond to needs in Ethiopia and other El Niño impacted countries. For more information about our efforts and programs in Ethiopia, please visit: <https://www.usaid.gov/elnino/ethiopia>.

Thank you for your continued interest in USAID and our work in Ethiopia.

Sincerely,



T. Charles Cooper  
Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs