



## ETHIOPIA: FLOODS

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 194,000 (USD 157,000 or EUR 123,000) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months. Further updates will be made available shortly; should the situation deteriorate and based on the findings of ongoing assessments, an Emergency Appeal may be launched. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and is committed to [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## **Background and current situation**

Very heavy rains caused flooding in the region of Dire Dawa in Ethiopia (525 kilometres east of Addis Ababa) on the night of 5 August 2006, after the Dechatu River burst its banks. According to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), the floods occurred along the Dire Dawa River, South West Shoa and Bahir Dar River. A situation report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – dated 7 August 2006 – indicated that 3,000 people are reported as being displaced, 300 missing and 200 dead, including 40 children. The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) estimate that more than 10,000 people have been affected by the flooding.<sup>1</sup>

The death toll was largely due to the fact that the flooding took place in an urban area after midnight, at a time when people were asleep. The flood waters also washed away hundreds of homes and valuable assets, including animals, as they swept through Ethiopia's second largest city. On 4 August 2006, heavy rains were reported in the southern parts of Ethiopia; in Sabata Awas and Ejere districts. More than 1,000 people were rescued from flooded villages, which had resulted in the death of a 12-year-old boy.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent Action**

The ERCS is providing psychological support to the affected families while other volunteers are taking victims to the nearest hospitals. The local Red Cross branch has given 500 blankets from its disaster preparedness stock as this is among the most urgently needed items. On 7 August, a one-day joint field assessment mission was undertaken in Dire Dawa by OCHA, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the government in order to evaluate the extent of casualties, damages and the most immediate needs.

The DPPA and its partners will formulate their response and needs based on the findings from this mission. The agency provided food, water containers, household items and plastic sheeting (for shelter) to the people affected by these floods, as the search for survivors went on with assistance from the Ethiopian security forces, aid workers and residents. The ongoing assessments include a health assessment led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Belgium. UNICEF has provided non-food items (NFIs), whilst the International Medical Corps (IMC) has provided two vehicles with two nurses and two health educators.

## **The needs**

Around 6,000 people are reported to be temporarily sheltered in six schools. Immediate action is required as the school year is starting in less than a month. The current condition of the displaced varies from camp to camp. Some of them are overcrowded, for example, in Hafadisa and Misrak Jegnoch primary schools. The risk of diseases is high in all the six sites due to overcrowding, animal carcasses and buried bodies. There is an urgent need for NFIs such as blankets, water basins and soap. According to the Regional Health Bureau (RHB), supplementary food is also required for children as well as pregnant and lactating mothers. Body bags are also urgently needed.

Out of the 10,000 affected people, the ERCS proposes to assist 3,000 beneficiaries (600 households) who are in need of food, shelter, clean water and basic sanitation facilities. Other NFIs needed include blankets and kitchen utensils, based on preliminary estimates. It is envisaged that an Emergency Appeal will be launched pending further identification of needs through ongoing needs assessments and inter-agency coordination.

## **Proposed plan of action**

**Goal: To provide humanitarian support to the flood victims in eastern Ethiopia.**

**Objective 1: To meet the nutritional needs of at least 1,000 mothers and children displaced by floods for three months.**

### **Planned activities:**

- Mobilize 40 volunteers;
- Procure 12.6 metric tonnes (MT) of FAMIX (UNIMIX);
- Distribute the 12.6 MT of FAMIX to children and mothers.

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<sup>1</sup> IRIN report, 7 August 2006.

**Objective 2: To protect the health of 3,000 affected people (600 households) through the provision of temporary shelter and essential NFIs for three months.**

**Planned activities:**

- To procure and distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs), plastic sheeting, blankets and sanitary items to 3,000 affected people (600 families);
- To train ERCS volunteers on key hygiene and sanitation messages;
- To reproduce information, education and communication (IEC) materials on health and sanitation;
- To create awareness on proper hygiene and sanitation among the affected population;
- To provide safe water and sanitation facilities.

**Objective 3: To undertake an assessment of the impact of the floods on the population in the affected region.**

**Planned activity:**

- To avail the regional disaster response team (RDRT) personnel to support the national society (NS) in undertaking the assessment of the situation.

**Expected results:**

- At least 1,000 children and mothers affected are provided with sufficient nutrition over the next three months;
- At least 3,000 (600 families) of the 10,000 affected people are protected from the harsh weather conditions that they may be exposed to over the next three months;
- An assessment report detailing the situation of the 10,000 displaced flood victims and their recovery needs is produced.

**Budget outline**

Item	Quantity	Cost (CHF)
<b>Food</b>		
FAMIX	12.6 MT	7,096
<b>Non-food items</b>		
Kitchen utensils	600 sets	12,672
Blankets	2,000 pcs	20,838
Plastic sheeting (20m <sup>2</sup> rolls)	600 pcs	10,545
Jerry cans	1,200 pcs	5,914
ITNs	1,200 pcs	8,448
Soap	18,000 pcs	7,603
Water treatment sachets	168,750 pcs	60,826
Latrines	60	16,896
<b>Awareness creation</b>		
Posters (reproduction)		634
Training of 40 volunteers		1,126
Volunteer mobilization		1,408
Assessment		12,250
Distribution		1,408
Transport		4,928
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>172,592</b>
NS administrative costs		8,630
PSR (6.5%)		12,610
<b>Total</b>		<b>193,832</b>

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