

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ethiopia: Food Insecurity Appeal extension

Emergency appeal n° MDRET005

GLIDE n° DR-2008-000043-ETH

Operations update n° 6

13 May 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update: 12 June 2008 to 14 April 2009;

Appeal target (current): CHF 8,157,607 (USD 7,920,006 or EUR 5,035,560); [<click here to view the attached Interim Financial Report>](#)

Appeal coverage: 27% multilaterally;

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 14 May 2008 for CHF 1,847,444 (USD 1,776,388 or EUR 1,143,928) for 4 months to assist 40,000 beneficiaries.
- A Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation of CHF 300,000 was initially allotted from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society response to the situation.
- The revised appeal seeking CHF 8,157,607 was launched on 19 August 2008 to assist 76,075 beneficiaries for 6 months.
- [Operations Update No.1](#) focussing on the start-up of relief activities and first round of food distributions was issued on 7 July 2008.
- [Operations Update No. 2](#) focussing on agriculture early recovery activities and second round of food distributions was issued on 1 September 2008.
- [Operations Update No. 3](#) focussing on the third round of food distributions and expansion of activities to Damot Galle woreda was issued on 5 November 2008.
- [Operations Update No. 4](#) which extended the timeframe of the appeal by three months, to 14 February 2009, and focussed on the fourth round of food distributions was issued on 5 December 2008.
- A regional emergency appeal for food security in the Horn of Africa ([MDR64003](#) – Horn of Africa: Exceptional Food Security Crisis), including related activities for Ethiopia was launched on 11 December 2008. These two operations complement each other as they both focus on food insecurity. However, the MDR64003 is a long term emergency operation covering a period of five years and its operations are focussed in four countries namely; Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya. While the MDRET005 is a short term operation covering a period of one year and the activities are focussed in Ethiopia.
- [Operations Update No. 5](#) focussing on the fifth round of food distributions, and extending the appeal timeframe by a further three months to 14 May 2009 was issued on 27 January 2009.
- This update extends the timeframe of the appeal by a further two weeks to ensure that the planned



Food distributions have been completed in Wolaita zone and recovery work is ongoing.
Photo: Jose Cendon/IFRC

activities can be implemented, with funds committed, by the end of the appeal period. The closing date for the appeal is now 31 May 2009. The understanding of the donors to the appeal in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Summary: The International Federation, on behalf of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), launched a preliminary emergency appeal on 14 May 2008 to assist 40,000 beneficiaries in Damot Pulasa district, Wolaita zone, SNNP region for a period of 4 months. After requests from the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA), the local government and the ERCS branch, the ERCS began the relief operation with the collaboration of the International Federation, using items available on the local market. Following the findings of the emergency need assessments conducted by the ERCS, the initial appeal was revised to include the most vulnerable people of neighboring Damot Galle district as beneficiaries, an additional 36,075. The total number of beneficiaries in the revised appeal is 76,075 people, living in both Damot Pulasa and Damot Galle districts of SNNP region. All food distribution has now been completed in the two districts. A nutritional survey was carried out in January 2009 and showed a clear improvement in the nutritional status of the population of the districts, compared to surveys conducted in the period before the food intervention began. The improvement is associated with good *meher* (main harvest) production in addition to the food and seed intervention carried out by the ERCS.

In order to produce longer term benefits for the local community, the food distribution was accompanied by seed distribution for the farmers who have enough land to cultivate crops, and provision of livestock for families with poor or no access to agricultural land is beginning. Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training has been carried out and water point rehabilitation has been costed and will begin in the coming weeks.

With the main rainy season providing adequate rainfall in the area, bean seeds and sweet potato cuttings distributed to replace livelihoods assets lost in earlier adverse weather have grown well. Whilst it is currently harvest season for sweet potato and so it is not yet possible to provide data on production of sweet potatoes, indications are positive. Post harvest monitoring of the beans indicates that production was above average, due to the high quality of seeds supplied.

In late October and early November 2008 there was heavier rain than normal, which, it was feared could have a negative impact on crop production. However, this rainfall abated and did not appear to have a major negative impact on the crops in the area of operation. Light rains in December 2008 and January 2009 were below expectations, but the impact on the population has not been particularly large. It appears that the minor *belg* rains have begun in the last two weeks, several weeks later than expected, and it remains to be seen how prolific these will be this year. It should be remembered that it was inadequate *belg* rainfall that was the final trigger of the disastrous food shortages of 2008. Even with improving indicators for their status, the beneficiary population remains particularly susceptible to even the smallest departures from typical weather patterns. The population is extremely vulnerable, emphasizing the need for early recovery activities to help the beneficiaries minimize the impact of future shocks.

EUR 2,700,000 (approximately CHF 4,239,000) was pledged bilaterally by ECHO through the Austrian Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross, with an additional EUR 200,000 (approximately CHF 314,000) pledged bilaterally by the Austrian Development Agency towards the Emergency Appeal. Ethiopiaid contributed GBP 200,000 (approximately CHF 394,000) towards the Emergency Appeal. Other funding was pledged by American, British, Canadian, Danish, Irish, Japanese and Monaco Red Cross Societies as well as Danish and Swedish Governments.

The situation

Rural areas of Ethiopia are almost completely dependant on rain fed agriculture. Lack of seasonal rain or flooding can completely destroy the plants under cultivation. The food insecurity situation in SNNP region was caused by the consecutive flooding and lack of rain which began in mid 2007. The main rainy season in that year started very early and the rainfall was very heavy (which hampered agricultural activity) and then stopped abruptly, not gradually as usual. Subsequent rainy seasons failed to provide enough rain for the already poorly performing harvests. The flooding, followed by a severe lack of rain starting from June 2007 to March 2008 led to the failure of three harvests in a row, and together with a soaring inflation rate and a global rise in food prices this caused a severe food shortage affecting large parts of Ethiopia. SNNP region was one of the worst affected areas. In April 2008, the Government of Ethiopia issued a humanitarian requirements document with the aim of assisting 2.2 million people nationally. In July 2008 the numbers of people requiring emergency food assistance were revised

to 4.6 million, and were officially revised upwards again to 6.4 million in October 2008. The current humanitarian requirements document, released in January 2009 has lowered the number of those in need to 4.9 million, which is still more than were estimated in either April or July 2008.

The total number of people targeted for food assistance within Ethiopia is over 12 million, including relief beneficiaries, approximately 7 million supported through the Government of Ethiopia and/or World Food Programme Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) designed to cope with the structural food shortage in the country and servicing the chronically food insecure, and those in Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programmes¹. However, there has been a severe rupture in the pipeline for food assistance in the country. As well as a shortfall in funds experienced by WFP, there are also severe delays currently being experienced in Djibouti port. As a result of this shortfall in food, WFP has been providing reduced rations since the second half of 2008.²

In response to a request from the ERCS, the Federation launched a preliminary Emergency Appeal on 14 May 2008, seeking to assist 40,000 people over a period of four months in Damot Pulasa woreda, Wolaita zone, SNNP region. As the situation continued to deteriorate a revised Emergency Appeal was launched on 19 August 2008 seeking to assist 76,075 beneficiaries in Damot Pulasa and neighboring Damot Galle district over a period of six months. Wolaita zone is one of the most densely populated areas in the country with a total of 1,699,100 people living in the zone. The density ranges from 370 to 600 people per square kilometre.

Food prices spiked dramatically in 2008, partly as a result of the failures of successive harvests, but also as a result of the dramatic increases in global food prices. WFP report that nationally prices are stabilizing. In Damot Pulasa and Damot Galle³ districts, the prices of some crops have returned to near their normal levels, with the price of maize only 26 percent higher in November 2008 than the previous year, but prices of other crops remain high. In Wolaita zone generally, WFP reported that in February 2009 prices held steady both compared to previous months and one year previously. Wheat prices were 1.2 per cent lower compared to January 2009, whilst maize prices were 1.8 per cent lower than the month before. Compared to the same period in 2008, wheat prices were 17.6 per cent higher, whilst maize prices had fallen by 0.3 per cent⁴. It must be kept in mind however, that, as described above, by February 2008 farmers in Wolaita had already experienced two consecutive failed growing seasons, and prices were already climbing. Overall, inflation remains high in the country, averaging +44.4 percent nationally for the Consumer Price Index⁵ in 2008. Importantly for the worst off people in the country, food price inflation is considerably higher than this, standing at 61.1 per cent in February 2009⁶.

The main rains were normal and the total production in that season rose to an estimated 17.4 million tonnes in 2008, compared to 15.9 million tonnes in 2007, an increase of approximately 10 per cent⁷. However, this needs to be seen in the context of the overall severe food shortages, including reserve stocks, in the country. A single normal harvest will not remove the need for food oriented interventions immediately, and populations will remain insecure for some time after. The Federation's regional food security assessment team concluded that there were ongoing food availability problems among rural populations in Ethiopia, and identified that in many areas support will be urgently necessary in 2009⁸. In Damot Pulasa and Damot Galle districts, discussions with beneficiaries indicate that the children, who had dropped out of school due to food shortages before the operation began, are now back in school. The light *sappia* rains were less prolific than usual, but there were no immediate consequences, apart from a lack of respite regarding water availability. The belg rains arrived several weeks late in many areas, but now seem to have begun. The amount of rain that the belg rains eventually yield will be an important determinant of the extent to which communities within Ethiopia and the country as a whole are able to emerge from the food crisis of 2008.

Coordination and partnerships

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society decided to intervene through the provision of food to avert the humanitarian crisis with the support of the Federation and bilateral partners. In June 2008 a taskforce was set up to coordinate the Movement response to the food shortages in SNNP region. Regular coordination meetings continue to be

¹ OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin, 16 Feb 2009

² OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin, 23 Feb 2009

³ Ministry of Agriculture, Damot Galle/Pulasa Office, and ERCS field staff

⁴ WFP, Ethiopia Market Watch – February 2009, 23 Mar 2008

⁵ Economist Intelligence Unit, Ethiopia Monthly Report, March 2009

⁶ WFP, Ethiopia Market Watch – February 2009, 23 Mar 2008

⁷ FAO/WFP, Special Report: FAO/WFP crop and food security assessment mission to Ethiopia, 21 Jan 2009

⁸ IFRC, Multi-disciplinary assessment mission, Report on the Horn of Africa Food Crisis, Dec 2008

held at the ERCS national headquarters to oversee the implementation of the programme and give the necessary direction to the operational units. Coordination support was provided by the Federation's country office.

Funds were transferred in August from ECHO and the Austrian Development Agency through the Finnish and Austrian Red Cross Societies based on the Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) signed with the National Societies. ECHO's Regional Food Coordinator conducted a monitoring mission, visiting the programme sites in late October, and agreed that the implementation was "satisfactory" from an operational perspective.

The Wolaita branch of the ERCS is currently implementing a water and sanitation project funded by the Federation and the Swedish Red Cross, which will continue until the year 2012. One of the areas of intervention for this project is Damot Galle. Development of water points, training water committees, conducting new and refresher PHAST trainings, printing and distributing brochures which promote good hygiene behaviors and community based health and first aid (CBHFA) trainings are the main components of the project. This will clearly enhance the long-term impact of the complementary activities supported through the emergency operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During the reporting period the food distribution has been completed. Damot Galle received one full distribution in December, and a distribution that reached more than half the beneficiaries in late December and January. Both Damot Galle and Damot Pulasa then received distributions targeting members of vulnerable groups to utilize the balance of food stocks remaining. Full food distributions were not possible due to the financial position of the operation, and they were becoming less vital as the main *meher* harvest arrived on the market.

Damot Pulasa's fourth round distribution reached a total of 35,807 beneficiaries, the reduced fifth round reached 19,000 beneficiaries, and the sixth (balance) rounds reached a combined total for both districts of 7,402 beneficiaries. In total almost 1,200 MT of food was distributed. The proportion of vulnerable groups served cannot be fairly calculated, as the final (sixth round) distributions featured a large majority of beneficiaries from vulnerable groups (due to the changed targeting to maximize the benefit of the balance food distribution). Beneficiary breakdown data are not available from Damot Galle for the fourth and fifth distributions, but given that broadly the same beneficiaries were receiving food as in previous rounds, it is unlikely that the percentage of vulnerable groups reached will have differed significantly from previous rounds, when it was approximately 28 per cent in Damot Galle. Vulnerable groups were defined by this operation to consist of children under 5 years old, pregnant and nursing mothers, and elders.

Crop performance and also food basket monitoring was performed by staff of the ERCS Disaster Management department. With respect to the crop performance monitoring, it was shown that the haricot bean seed had grown well and production was above average. Sweet potato cuttings were also growing well at the time that the monitoring was carried out, but with harvesting normally taking place between March and May, it will not be able to assess the productivity until the coming weeks. The beneficiaries of the seeds and cuttings distribution from both Damot Pulasa and Damot Galle have confirmed that the timely seed distribution has enabled them to have food at the completion of the food distributions. Provision of livestock has been planned for 1,000 female headed households with poor or no access to farm land.

Water and sanitation activities have begun with training 234 people selected from both Damot Pulasa and Damot Galle woredas. Infrastructure activities have been priced and tendering for borehole rehabilitation and recruitment of artisans to work on shallow wells is beginning.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective 1: To improve the household food security status of vulnerable household.	
Expected result 1.1	Activities planned
Household access to food increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchasing and distribution of 5,760 MT of maize, 528 MT of beans, 192,000 litres of cooking oil Procuring and distributing 548.5 MT of supplementary food/CSB

Progress

Five full rounds of food distribution have been completed for beneficiaries in Damot Pulasa and four full rounds and one half round for Damot Galle beneficiaries. In addition, both districts received sixth round distributions consisting of the balance of the food items remaining. These were more strictly targeted at those beneficiaries who were members of a vulnerable group.

In the first round 39,216, in the second 39,382, in the third 75,209, in the fourth 75,175, and in the fifth, 75,214 selected beneficiaries have been reached. As discussed previously the near doubling of beneficiaries in the third round was a result of including beneficiaries from Damot Galle. In Damot Galle's fourth round 35,807 beneficiaries were reached, there were 19,000 beneficiaries in the fifth round, and the sixth (balance) rounds reached a combined total for both districts of 7,402 beneficiaries. Each beneficiary received 15 kg of maize, 1.5 kg of pulses, 0.5 ltr cooking oil. Children under the age of 5 years, lactating and pregnant women or elders receive 4.5 kg of supplementary food (Famix/CSB). These quantities changed for the final distributions with beneficiaries receiving a different basket of food items, depending on the quantity of the commodities remaining in stock (see table 1 below).

Table 1: Food items delivered to the affected districts

District	Maize (MT)	Beans (MT)	CSB (MT)	Oil (1000l)	Total (MT)
Damot Pulasa	69.39	6.939	13.730	2.312	92.186
Damot Galle	866.58	86.258	114.998	36.898	1,101.786
Total	935.97	93.197	128.727	39.211	1,193.973
Total to date	5484.40	481.794	415.921	183.172	6,550.653
Total (target)	5760	528	548.5	192	7,028.5
<i>% of target</i>	<i>95.2%</i>	<i>91.2%</i>	<i>75.8%</i>	<i>95.4%</i>	<i>93.2%</i>

Please note that the total amount of food commodities distributed is calculated by simple addition, after converting the measurement of oil from 1000l into MT.

Further food distributions were not arranged partly as the operation's financial position did not permit it, but also because, with the arrival of the year's main harvest on both local and national markets, the needs for provision of food relief in the area were significantly reduced. In any case, the operation has achieved over 90 per cent of what was planned for these activities.

As described above, it is not possible to give data regarding the percentage of vulnerable people reached in the latest distributions which can be compared to previous distributions. The distributions to remove remaining balances had a large majority of vulnerable people as beneficiaries, as the targeting conditions were changed to make sure that those people who would get the maximum benefit from the food received it. However, these changes are not expected to have changed the overall percentage of vulnerable groups receiving food from the operation, due to the relatively small numbers of people in comparison to other distributions. As such, the coverage of vulnerable groups remains a little lower than planned at approximately 30 per cent.

There is no remaining balance of food stocks.

Impact

The results of the nutritional survey carried out in the start of January show that there has been a marked improvement in the condition of the populations of Damot Pulasa and Damot Galle compared to the period immediately before the operation began. In Damot Galle, for example, it was observed that Global Acute Malnutrition rates had dropped from 12.1 per cent in July to 4.9 per cent in early January, a statistically significant drop. Severe Acute Malnutrition had dropped to 0.1 per cent, well under the one per cent emergency threshold. Similar patterns were observed in Damot Pulasa district, with these main indicators significantly below emergency levels.

Monitoring has been carried out to assess whether the beneficiaries have received an adequate amount of food and to find about how the relief operation benefited the people. In many respects the results were not encouraging, as 90 per cent of the beneficiaries in Damot Galle said that the amount of food received was not enough for the entire family. The remaining 10 per cent of the beneficiaries that the amount of food received was appropriate and sufficient. One important driver of such a response is that the maximum size of a household is held to be five during the targeting of beneficiaries (in line with Ethiopian government standards). However, many

households in Wolaita zone have a considerably larger number of family members. There is also a possibility of a bias in the responses resulting from families believing that stating satisfaction with the amounts received may lead to obtaining less relief in the future. In terms of how long the food distributed lasted for the beneficiary families (see table 2 below).

Table 2: Duration of food distribution in the affected districts

District	Time			
	<10 days	11-15 days	16-20 days	21-30 days
Damot Pulasa	27%	46%	14%	13%
Damot Galle	23%	60%	7%	10%
Average	25%	53%	11%	12%

It should be noted that the distributions, although monthly were not designed to provide one full month's worth of food, but instead to provide a significant contribution to the food needs of the beneficiary households, as some food was available, either through markets or through their own limited production.

Regarding the targeting system, 75 per cent of the beneficiaries in Damot Galle and 87 per cent of the Damot Pulasa beneficiaries (an average of 81 per cent) stated that the targeting process was done correctly, and that the right people were reached. Complaints regarding the targeting process largely focussed on the problems of the maximum household size, which as described above is set by the government.

Challenges

Aside from challenges discussed in previous operations updates regarding the targeting of vulnerable people, there were no particular operational challenges that arose during the reporting period. The specific targeting of the vulnerable groups to receive extra food rations (in the form of balance food distributions) goes some way to addressing the previously mentioned lower proportions than planned of vulnerable people benefitting from food distributions.

A challenge that will need some consideration in the future that emerged from the food-basket monitoring is how to reconcile the fixed maximum family size with the sometimes considerably larger sizes of families encountered in this part of the country.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion	
Objective 2: To improve access to safe drinking water and to promote personal hygiene in Damot Pulasa and Damot Galle	
Expected result 2.1	Activities planned
Personal hygiene improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training 250 youth volunteers for hygiene and sanitation promotion • Procuring and distributing 18,830 bars of soap • Procuring and distributing 9,415 hand jugs
Expected result 2.2	Activities planned
Household access to safe water improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of 22 shallow wells • Rehabilitation of 5 boreholes • Procuring and distributing 94,150 sachets of water maker

Progress

PHAST training started in both districts on 16 October 2008. To date, 119 volunteers have been trained in Damot Pulasa and 115 in Damot Galle, a total of 234. This is 94 per cent of the target of 250 youth volunteers. Volunteers are drawn from every kebele (village) in the two districts and it is felt that this represents "good enough" coverage of the population.

Volunteers are now working with village level health extension workers to promote not only good hygiene practices but also give information on prevention of malaria, stopping the spread of contagious diseases and food utilization. This information is given through home visits, information at village gatherings, and also during the food distributions. Because of the variety of methods used to deliver health and hygiene information, it is not possible to put an accurate figure (without double counting) on the number of people reached by the volunteers, however the village coverage is excellent, reaching, as mentioned above, all kebeles in the district.

Engineers have just completed the surveying of water points and accurate costing of infrastructure work. This included assessment of the conditions of both boreholes and shallow wells. This work has experienced delays whilst discussions on the ongoing financial position of the operation took place. With these decisions taken the path to completing the implementation of water and sanitation activities is clear.

Challenges

With lighter sabbia rains than expected and with the arrival of the short belg rains delayed by several weeks, there is an increased likelihood of water stress. As mentioned above, a great deal depends on the total yield of the belg rains – if normal, no particular problems are anticipated in the target areas, but lower than average yields could quickly cause problems. With most members of the community using unprotected water sources, reduced availability of water can cause diseases to spread as community members cluster around the available water resources. This illustrates the timeliness of the planned interventions.

Livelihoods	
Objective 3: To protect further erosion of livelihood asset bases	
Expected result 3.1	Activities planned
Disrupted food crop production activities restarted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchasing and distributing assorted seeds (100 MT haricot bean seeds and 18mill. Sweet potato cuts)
Expected result 3.2	Activities planned
Livelihood assets base restored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing 10,000 sheep to selected HH Provision of assorted agricultural hand tools
Objective 4: To enhance sustainable livelihoods/ food security situation of the targeted population through long-term approach	
Expected result 4.1	Activities planned
Relief-recovery activities linked to long-term development intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct baseline food security/livelihood assessment Developing long-term food security proposal

Progress

100MT of beans and 18 million sweet potato cuttings (100 percent of the target) were distributed to the selected farmers, as described in [Operations Update No.2](#). These have grown well as the main rainy season rainfall was sufficient. Haricot beans have been harvested, whilst it is currently the harvest season for sweet potatoes. Information from the post-harvest monitoring of the beans is contained below.

Plans have now been finalized to support the poorest of the poor, 1,000 female headed households, through distribution of sheep. Each household will receive four sheep, so an eventual total of 4,000 will be distributed. The number to be distributed has been reduced due to the unexpectedly high cost of sheep at the present time. Each set of sheep will include three females and one male, allowing the households to breed additional sheep relatively quickly, providing a source of food, but more importantly, both an ongoing source of income and a buffer that can be converted into cash or exchanged for other goods or services if the families' situations deteriorate. All animals distributed will be given appropriate vaccinations to help ensure that they are of benefit to the households for some time. A programme of trainings will be organized for Red Cross staff and volunteers, and relevant members of the local government administration and local agricultural bureau. These trainings to be run by ERCS staff together with veterinarians will focus on appropriate livestock management, and will allow those trained to provide help and advice to the community members who are receiving the animals, helping them to receive greater benefits from the sheep through more effective management. ERCS will follow-up with a sample of the beneficiaries one month after the distributions to see how they are faring and to provide advice.

All beneficiaries have been identified, and the selection procedure found to be fair through visits to and discussions with a random sample of those selected. The procurement committees have been selected (including representatives from both the ERCS and the local authorities), and the procurement process has begun. Distribution points are currently being identified by ERCS Wolaita branch staff, together with district officials. It is expected that there will be one central distribution location in each district.

Impact

The post-harvest monitoring of haricot bean production, indicated that the overall yield obtained is much better than in previous years.

From the emergency seed beneficiaries in Damot Pulasa, 87 per cent said that the seed reached them at the right time. Almost all of the emergency seed beneficiaries agreed on the higher quality of the seeds that were

distributed in comparison to what they generally used. General satisfaction with the seed distribution was high.

From the seeds distributed, the average production was 100kg per timad (0.25 hectares), according to the district agricultural bureau. This is equivalent to 400kg per hectare.

Challenges

As discussed previously, providing livestock for beneficiaries with little or no agricultural land suffered delays whilst final decisions on how the available appeal funds will be allocated were made. With these now taken, it has been possible to finalize the planning, as described above.

The rainfall received in October 2008 was slightly than usual and exceeded the required amount. This led to minor crop damage including to the sweet potato and haricot bean seeds. There have been some concerns over how the lack of the light *sappia* rain (which normally comes in December and January) would affect crop productivity. The beans were unaffected as they were mainly harvested in late November 2008, but the effects on sweet potato production are unclear. Whilst this will have to be judged in the weeks to come, at least sweet potato continued to grow, and whilst there may be some negative impacts on the yield, there is no apparent widespread failure of the sweet potato crop.

Capacity building	
Objective 5: Capacity building for ERCS both at Wolaita branch and National level	
Expected result 5.1	Activities planned
Enhanced capacity of the National Society and the branch office to better respond to future disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of information technology and communication equipment to branch office Training to ERCS headquarters, branch personnel and volunteers on disaster management, logistics, finance and administration

Progress

With decisions made on how to spend the balance funds of the appeal, it seems that there will be some limited resources available for strengthening the capacity of the branch office to carry out its work. Office items, IT and communication materials will be considered for purchase with final prioritisation being made on the basis of branch need. On the job training has been provided to branch office staff in logistics. The component within the water and sanitation activities of training volunteers as PHAST trainers will greatly enhance the branch's capacity in hygiene promotion and allow them to respond to future emergencies as well as engaging in ongoing hygiene promotion activities. Wolaita branch is included in the ongoing integrated health programme funded by the Federation with the support of the Swedish Red Cross, which contains a component of branch capacity building. Capacity building interventions will be chosen to complement the existing plans for capacity building.

National Society Capacity Building

Staff deployed for the relief operation at field level include the Wolaita zone branch secretary, accountant, operations coordinator, two distribution coordinators, two store keepers, two clerks and six guards. The branch secretary was assisted by the disaster response team leader from the national headquarters and by the Oromia Regional Branch programme coordinator.

The intervention has given the branch the opportunity to gain experience for similar situations in the future. The number of youth volunteers is expected to increase throughout the intervention period as many are required to facilitate the food distribution process. Involvement in the operation itself has benefited the existing volunteers in gaining knowledge on emergency food distribution, beneficiary targeting, monitoring works and dissemination of Red Cross principles. In addition, under Objective 2, volunteers have been trained as PHAST trainers, increasing the pool of hygiene promoters that the ERCS can draw on across the country for regular health and hygiene programming.

Furthermore, although the ERCS has extensive previous experience with food distribution and food security operations, this has given the organization an opportunity to ensure that relevant staff are fully up-to-date with the challenges of running food operations, prior to a significant scale-up in operations under the regional appeal. It is thought that the scaled up operation will provide an immediate opportunity for the ERCS to learn and internalize lessons from this response.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A news release on the emergency operation was issued from the ERCS communication and Information service. It is updated on every food distribution programme. Both local and International media gave coverage of the intervention, including a journalist from France 24 TV news in mid October 2008. A documentary film on the programme implementation is being prepared.

For more information and photos of this operation, please refer to the links below:

Drought in Ethiopia:

<http://www.ifrc.org/index.asp>

Ethiopia:

Battling the green drought (article and links to photo gallery, including Food Security):

<http://www.ifrc.org/news/index.asp>

Ethiopia:

The true meaning of grass root volunteer service (article):

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/News/08/08062702/index.asp>

Ethiopia:

Food security, June 2008 (photo gallery):

<http://www.ifrc.org/photo/ethiopia0608/index.asp>

How we work

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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- In Kenya: Nancy Balfour, Disaster Management Coordinator Eastern Africa Zone, Nairobi; phone: +254.20.283.5208; fax: +254.20.271.2777; email: nancy.balfour@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: John Roche, Operations Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa regions; phone: +41.22.730.44.00; fax: +41 22 730 0395; email: john.roche@ifrc.org

[< Interim Financial Report below; Click here to return to the title page >](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRET005 - Ethiopia - Food Insecurity

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2009/3
Budget Timeframe	2008/5-2009/5
Appeal	MDRET005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	8,157,607					8,157,607
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	220,464					220,464
British Red Cross	697,007					697,007
British Red Cross (from Great Britain - Private Donors)	108,279					108,279
Canadian Red Cross	101,000					101,000
Danish Red Cross	96,644					96,644
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)	154,338					154,338
Finnish Red Cross (from ECHO)	4,986					4,986
Irish Red Cross	71,790					71,790
Japanese Red Cross	228,612					228,612
Monaco Red Cross	16,350					16,350
On Line donations	5,834					5,834
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	410,280					410,280
Unidentified donor	50,000					50,000
C1. Cash contributions	2,165,584					2,165,584
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Austrian Red Cross (from ECHO)	31,564					31,564
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	31,564					31,564
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
British Red Cross	36,373					36,373
C4. Inkind Personnel	36,373					36,373
<u>Other Income</u>						
Miscellaneous Income	253					253
C5. Other Income	253					253
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	2,233,774					2,233,774
D. Total Funding = B + C	2,233,774					2,233,774
Appeal Coverage	27%					27%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	2,233,774					2,233,774
E. Expenditure	-1,850,030					-1,850,030
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	383,744					383,744

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRET005 - Ethiopia - Food Insecurity

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2009/3
Budget Timeframe	2008/5-2009/5
Appeal	MDRET005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		8,157,607					8,157,607	
Supplies								
Food	4,265,565	308				308	4,265,257	
Seeds,Plants	565,180						565,180	
Water & Sanitation	557,731						557,731	
Other Supplies & Services	100,000						100,000	
Total Supplies	5,488,476	308				308	5,488,167	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	4,400	2,689				2,689	1,711	
Others Machinery & Equipment		1,306				1,306	-1,306	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	4,400	3,995				3,995	405	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	40,183	5,552				5,552	34,631	
Distribution & Monitoring	5,280	7,068				7,068	-1,788	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,359,353	24,692				24,692	1,334,661	
Total Transport & Storage	1,404,816	37,311				37,311	1,367,505	
Personnel								
International Staff	365,308	215,158				215,158	150,150	
National Staff		15,423				15,423	-15,423	
National Society Staff	70,340	824				824	69,515	
Consultants		9,124				9,124	-9,124	
Total Personnel	435,648	240,529				240,529	195,119	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	37,830	7,227				7,227	30,603	
Total Workshops & Training	37,830	7,227				7,227	30,603	
General Expenditure								
Travel	24,960	19,476				19,476	5,484	
Information & Public Relation	27,556	241				241	27,315	
Office Costs	41,801	584				584	41,217	
Communications	19,260	1,799				1,799	17,461	
Professional Fees	11,405	2,608				2,608	8,797	
Financial Charges	9,720	833				833	8,887	
Other General Expenses	121,491	6,574				6,574	114,917	
Total General Expenditure	256,193	32,114				32,114	224,079	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies		1,402,240				1,402,240	-1,402,240	
Total Contributions & Transfers		1,402,240				1,402,240	-1,402,240	
Programme Support								
Program Support	530,244	126,306				126,306	403,939	
Total Programme Support	530,244	126,306				126,306	403,939	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	8,157,607	1,850,030				1,850,030	6,307,577	
VARIANCE (C - D)		6,307,577				6,307,577		

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRET005 - Ethiopia Food Insecurity

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2009/3
Budget Timeframe	2008/5-2009/5
Appeal	MDRET005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Project Details

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
Goal 1: Disaster Management							
PET020	Ethiopia Food Insecurity	0	2,233,774	-1,850,030	383,744	8,157,607	6,307,577
Sub-Total Goal 1: Disaster Management		0	2,233,774	-1,850,030	383,744	8,157,607	6,307,577
Total	Ethiopia Food Insecurity	0	2,233,774	-1,850,030	383,744	8,157,607	6,307,577