

ETHIOPIA: DROUGHT

*2 November,
2000*

appeal no. 08/2000

situation report no. 03/2000

period covered: September - October 2000

A timely donor response has enabled the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), supported by the Federation, to mount an operation which has largely met the appeal objectives. The cash for work intervention in South Wollo, in particular, has started well and attracted considerable interest.

The context

Four consecutive years of poor rainfall in Ethiopia have led to drought conditions and minimal harvests. This has had a cumulative impact on households in both pastoral and agricultural communities, undermining coping strategies and leading to greater vulnerability to drought. Many households have been forced to sell their livestock and other assets and some have migrated from their land in search of income and food.

The International Federation issued a preliminary appeal on behalf of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society on 8 April and a revised appeal on 4 May. The revised appeal was for 10.3 million CHF for two operations, one in *South Wollo* to support 80,000 people and one in *North Borena* to support 50,000 people with a combination of bulk and supplementary food and a range of agricultural, health and water inputs.

Latest events

September usually marks the end of the main growing season in Ethiopia as the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone moves south until it shifts beyond Ethiopia's borders at the end of November. In October and November, the zone is normally located over the southern areas of the country including Borena where it produces the haggaya rains. These are extremely important for the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the South Omo and Borena zones and most of the southern Somali region where it replenishes the pasture and in North Borena, it provides moisture for planting wheat and teff to be harvested in December and January.

The multi agency mid season crop assessment report issued at the end of October by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) paints a complex and varied picture of the recent weather conditions and agricultural performance. With the exception of some areas in the eastern and southern parts of the country, this year's kiremt rains upon which the meher farmers depend has been generally favourable for normal seasonal agricultural activities. Most meher crops over large areas have attained their normal growth although crop performance has been poor in the areas of rainfall deficit.

This year rains in the north continued into October which was beneficial for the maher farmers because of the late arrival of the main rains. However, there are reports of heavy rains, hailstorms, water logging, some pest infestation and a shift from high yielding long cycle crops such as maize and sorghum to low yielding sorghum crop which will result in a yield reductions this year. In South Wollo, some belg producing areas such as Kutaber have shifted from belg to maher production due to the failure of belg rains for four years in a row. The crops were doing well at the beginning of October but frost and excess rainfall could reduce harvest production.

In the southern and south eastern pastoral areas of the country, widespread seasonal rains were observed from the middle of September. These rains are expected until the end of October. Pastoralists are likely to enjoy substantial improvements in pastoral conditions with the progress of these secondary rains. Rains have also been good in north Borena and there is optimism amongst both farmers and local agricultural officials about this year's crop performance.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

South Wollo •

The fifth food distribution took place between September 3 and 8. A total of 31,907 beneficiaries in Kutaber and 45,687 in Ambassel received 12.5 kg of grain per person and, of these, 23,278 beneficiaries received an additional 4.5 kg of supplementary food.

A Federation and ERCS mission visited Dessie, the location of the ERCS branch, and Kutaber and Ambassel at the end of September to finalize arrangements for the establishment of Employment Generation Schemes (EGS) in the two woredas and the mechanisms for the distribution of cash. Because of the delay in the appointment of the EGS co-ordinator, the start of the EGS had been pushed back by several weeks. Project planning and design was completed during this visit along with the establishment of systems and procedures for the monthly distribution of over 300,000 CHF in cash. Following DPPC guidelines, representatives of 80% of the households are to be involved in the cash for work schemes while the most vulnerable 20% are to continue to have gratuitous food relief.

The EGS's started in Ambassel at the beginning of October and in Kutaber a couple of weeks later. The schemes are mainly focused on environmental protection such as terracing and construction of check dams to prevent soil erosion as well as road and footpath maintenance. Communities were involved in the selection and design of the EGS and kebeles were divided into catchment areas with beneficiary workers assigned to particular work parties. The locally recruited EGS Co-ordinator has been working closely with the line departments, particularly the Agricultural Department in the establishment, implementation and monitoring of the schemes. 40,000 tools are being made available for use on the EGS. Red Cross youth volunteers and branch staff are also involved in the supervision and the monitoring of the schemes. Forms that document the process of project planning and progress, market analysis, labour requirement and attendance and beneficiary payment are all being completed on a daily and weekly basis and will form a written history of the intervention.



Terracing project in South Wollo

The first distribution under the new cash for work system was carried out between October 13 and 21. Given the potential problems that could have arisen, the distribution was highly successful with a slight overpayment of 100 birr (12 USD) on a total outlay of over 1.5 million birr. The branch carries out a survey of commodity prices in the market on a weekly basis and the injection of cash into the local economy produced an immediate inflationary shock but prices settled back to the same level as before the cash distribution within a matter of days. The ERCS and Federation had as part of its flexible planning waited to change from a gratuitous food distribution to a cash for work intervention once it was clear that food availability at the national and local level was sufficient to cope with a cash injection. By October, this was the case with a large scale delivery of emergency food resources to Ethiopia (over 1 million metric tons since January). The maher harvest will soon come on tap in South Wollo and the increase in the household cash income may well have beneficial effects on the market. A continuous monitoring process will be undertaken by the ERCS branch and Headquarters supported by the Federation.

North Borena •

Two further distributions were undertaken in North Borena from August 27 to September 2 and from October 1 to 7. There were four distribution sites in Wadera, Shakisso, Dawa and Hayidema and 20,290 people received 12.5 kg of grain and 5,468 of the most vulnerable received 4.5 kg of supplementary food each distribution.

Wolleita •

This is an ERCS and American Red Cross bilateral project. Two distributions of 4.5 kg per person per month of supplementary food have been carried out between September 21 and 28 and October 18 and

27. The target population is 20,300 of the most vulnerable. 92 MT was distributed in the first distribution but only 59 MT in the second because heavy rain prevented access to certain areas.

Outstanding needs

The ERCS and Federation will be able to continue the operation in South Wollo and North Borena until the end of the year. This follows earlier decisions to reduce the scale of activities and the numbers targeted to a level that can be managed with the resources made available following the Federation appeal. All indications from the field are that the intervention will have to continue into the new year for a period of time and that a further appeal will have to be issued before the end of the year.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The operation continues to receive some attention in the press and media. The ERCS and Federation maintain close liaison with the DPPC, UN, NGOs as well as embassies.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

Generally, the situation has improved considerably since the earlier part of the year with near normal or normal rains in most parts of the country. However, the chronic state of food insecurity and the depletion of household assets among a large proportion of the population calls for continued vigilance and the likelihood of further emergency relief interventions into 2001. The ERCS and Federation programme is proceeding satisfactorily. The cash for work intervention in South Wollo has started well and has attracted considerable interest. It has the advantage over a bulk food distribution as it links relief with development and is less costly and easier to administer.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Bekele Geleta
Head
Africa Department

This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

ETHIOPIA - DROUGHT						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 08/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				11/03/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				10,370,382		TOTAL COVERAGE 74.0%
Balance carried forward from 1999				0		
ANDORRA - RC				9,288	07.07.00	
AMERICAN - PRIVATES				60,346	27.04.00	
AMERICAN - RC		475,000	USD	782,563	24.05.00	
AMERICAN - RC		50	USD	82	26.07.00	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		50	USD	84	22.08.00	
AUSTRALIA - RC		28,761	AUD	28,146	30.06.00	
BRITISH - PRIVATE				249	04.08.00	
BRITISH - RC				630,000	07.08.00	WORK SCHEMES & PERSONNEL COSTS , TRANSPORTATION OF GRAIN, DEL. SUPPORT COSTS
BRITISH - RC		28,839	GBP	74,693	04/11/00	
CANADIAN - PRIVATES				141	27.04.00	
CANADIAN - RC		99,981	CAD	114,398	20.06.00	PURCHASE & PROVISION FOOD
CYPRUS - PRIVATE				10,333	27.04.00	
CYPRUS - RC				5,406	13.07.00	
FINLAND - RC		42,047	EUR	67,759	04/27/00	
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		535,000	DEM	430,087	04/19/00	FEEDING CENTRE
ICELANDIC - RC		10,000,000	ISK	223,630	15.06.00	
IRELAND - RC		25,000	IEP	49,910	05/05/00	
JAPAN - RC				174,000	04/17/00	
KOREA REPUBLIC - RC		1,600,000	WON	2,373	07.06.00	
KUWAIT - RC		7,000	KWD	38,938	06.09.00	FOOD SUPPLIES
MONACO - RC		476,600	FRF	113,050	05/04/00	
NETHERLANDS - RC		250,000	NLG	182,892	04/20/00	
NORWAY - GOVT/RC		2,500,000	NOK	494,938	04/19/00	90 % GOVT & 10 % RC
OPEC		100,000	USD	164,750	04/25/00	
PHILIPPINES		5,000	USD	8,238	25.05.00	
SPAIN - RC		5,000,000	ESP	48,445	04/19/00	
SPAIN - RC		13,000,000	ESP	122,850	04/19/00	BULK FOOD FOR SOUTH WOLLO
SWEDEN - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	189,600	05/11/00	
SWEDEN - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	187,700	08.08.00	
SWEDEN - RC		1,000,000	SEK	189,600	05/11/00	
SWEDEN - RC		1,000,000	SEK	187,700	08.08.00	
SWITZERLAND - PRIVATES				2,126	04.08.00	
TAIWAN - RC		1,000	USD	1,648	25.05.00	
TAIWAN - PRIVATE		993	USD	1,635	26.05.00	
THAILAND		100	USD	170	13.06.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				4,597,768	CHF	44.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BRITISH - RC		170,000	USD	287,045	07.08.00	260 MT UNIMIX
AMERICAN - RC		1,400,000	USD	2,306,500	05/24/00	4000 TONS WHEAT + TRANSPORT
EGYPTIAN - RC		185,000	EGP	91,556	12.06.00	100 TONS OF WHEAT FLOUR
ISRAEL - NS						GOODS (CEREALS & PASTA), MEDICATION kg 44'892.
KUWAIT - RC		27,193	KWD	146,160	04/22/00	WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR 200 TONS
MAGON DAVID ADOM		500,000	ILS	204,298	05/09/00	CEREALS,PASTA AND MEDICATION
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		101,000	AED	43,279	04/29/00	FLOUR, SUGAR, VEG. OIL, BISCUITS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				3,078,838	CHF	29.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
KUWAIT - RC		3,807	KWD	20,462	04/22/00	CRUSHED WHEAT, PASTA, DRY MILK, DRY DATES
SAUDI ARABIA - RC		500,000	SAR	225,101	03.09.00	RELIEF MATERIAL
SAUDI ARABIA - RC		602,040	SAR	271,039	30.07.00	84/15 TONS RELIEF AND MEDICAL MATERIALS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				516,602	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PET512						