

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ERITREA: DROUGHT

13 October 2004

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 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 04/2004; Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: June to August 2004;
Appeal coverage: 60.1%; [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions list, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal history:

- Emergency Appeal no. 04/2004 launched on 03 February 2004 for CHF 4,911,000 (USD 3,903,119 or EUR 3,133,492) for 9 months for 50,000 beneficiaries. Refer to the following link: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/0404.pdf.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Outstanding needs : CHF 1,960,499 (USD 1,557,187 or EUR 1,262,801)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- Eritrea Appeal no. 01.03/2004 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/010304.pdf

Operational Summary:

Slow donor response to the appeal continues to hamper implementation of planned activities, and the ability of the government and other humanitarian agencies to effectively respond to the needs of the affected population. According to a report by IRIN on 3 August 2004, only 28 % of the UN consolidated appeal had been covered, which is significantly less than what was pledged at the same time last year. The UN resident humanitarian coordinator for Eritrea has also expressed fear that low donor response is bound to prevail due to the shift of attention on other crises such as Darfur in western Sudan, reminiscent of the situation during the Iraq crisis in 2003.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal mentioned above.

Please also refer to the glossary of abbreviations at the end of this Update.

Operational developments

The Eritrean Relief and Refugee Committee (ERREC) estimates that 1.9 million people in all zobas of the country are in need of external humanitarian assistance on account of the current drought. Massive land degradation and the border conflict with Ethiopia that displaced over a million farmers in the food basket of the country in Zoba Debub and Zoba Gash Barka have also contributed to heightening the food deficit in the country.

The drought has created a serious shortage of grains leading to an escalation in prices of the commodity beyond the reach of the majority of the population; households are forced to sell large number of livestock in order to purchase grains. The persistent drought has negatively impacted on the health and livelihoods of the communities. Health officials have cited an increase in malnutrition, morbidity and mortality over the last four years of drought. The health of young and expectant mothers has also been severely affected while a high rate of school drop out and absenteeism has been reported. The drought has further led to a sharp decline in the availability of safe drinking water for both domestic and livestock; both humans and animals have been forced to share the limited water resources in some of the worse affected areas, leading to an increase in water born diseases.

Meanwhile, the Azmera rains (March-May) were below normal and did not make any improvements to the long cycle crops and pasture. The Kremiti rains (June-July) on the other hand were fairly adequate and contributed to growth of vegetation and pasture, improved soils moisture to facilitate land preparation and planting of short cycle crops, and recharged underground water levels especially in Debub, Anseba and the Northern Red Sea areas

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: To provide relief food assistance to 50,000 beneficiaries to improve their livelihood for nine months between February and October 2004

Activity 1: Provide 50,000 beneficiaries with 6,750 MT of cereal, 540 MT of lentils and 405 MT of oil for nine months to secure and improve their livelihood until the next harvest of November 2004.

Four phases of distribution have been carried out from May to August. A three months ration of 2,255 MT of wheat grain, 119,066 litres of oil and 181 MT lentils finally arrived in Eritrea in June, delayed due to slow international procurement procedures. The Red Cross Society of Eritrea² has used part of this consignment to repay food it had borrowed from the National Grain Board (NGB) and WFP for the first round of distribution; the remaining balance of food items is only enough for half a month ration.

The Belgium Red Cross has pledged 845 MT of wheat, 22.8 MT of lentil and 40,800 litres of oil to cover for half rations for July to August. The East Africa Regional Delegation/Nairobi is assisting with procurement. The regional logistic officer went on mission to Eritrea in July and assisted in opening bid

² Red Cross Society of Eritrea - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=188>

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envelopes; three suppliers - one local and two external - were selected. Meanwhile, the Red Cross of Eritrea has once again negotiated with the NGB to borrow food rations in order to ensure continuous distribution to the beneficiaries. This loan will be repaid from the consignment that arrived in September.

Due to poor and low donor response to the general consolidated appeal launched by the government and unavailability of food in the country, the government opted to distribute lower quantities of food rations consisting of 10.5 kg per person to cover a larger number of beneficiaries. The national society is also following this reduced ration due to the poor response of this Emergency Appeal. The summary of the distribution during these past four months is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Monthly Distribution of Relief Food Package (wheat grain, lentils, oil), in MT

Villages	Beneficiaries	May 2004	June 2004	July 2004	August 2004
Hagaz(02)	7,749	91,826	91,826	91,826	8,718
Hagaz (01)	6,646	78,756	78,756	78,756	7,477
Shebek	2,006	23,772	23,772	23,772	2,257
Adi Arie	2,911	34,498	34,498	34,498	3,275
Adi Omer	1,418	16,804	16,804	16,804	1,595
Hashishay	4,001	47,400	47,400	47,400	4,500
Shengihh	1,532	18,154	18,154	18,154	1,724
Golia	1,813	20,485	20,485	20,485	2,040
Badob	2,316	27,445	27,445	27,445	2,606
Edamer	2,088	24,743	24,743	24,743	2,224
Enchinac	2,149	25,472	25,472	25,472	2,418
Ghilas	2,686	31,830	31,830	31,830	3,022
Beghu	3,366	39,888	39,888	39,888	3,787
Ashera	3,741	44,331	44,331	44,331	4,209
Fana	1,496	17,728	17,728	17,728	1,683
Awenjali	1,817	21,532	21,532	21,532	2,044
Adi Fakai	2,266	26,841	26,841	26,841	2,548
Total	50,000	591,505	591,505	591,505	56,127

Constraints

Poor response to this appeal and insufficient food over the whole country has hindered the national society and the Federation from distributing the food ration according to SPHERE standards. The national society is also uncertain about scheduling any distributions plans after September. Should the situation prevail, the national society tentatively plans to stop the relief programme earlier than planned at the end of September instead of November 2004.

The slow procurement process is another major constraint in providing timely assistance to those affected by the drought.

Impact

Despite only 60% rations being distributed, the food has significantly contributed to the aversion of starvation among the population. The distribution also assisted in deflating the market price of food in the areas of distribution.

Objective 2: To improve the farming capacity of vulnerable communities through the provision of basic farming tools.

Activity: Provide 4,000 households shovels, sickles and hoes/pick axes to enable them participate in community development thereby reduce vulnerability.

Farm tools consisting of 2,000 pick axes, 2,000 shovels, 400 hoes, 500 wheel barrows, 500 levers and 500 large hammers distributed by the national society in March 2004 have enabled the community to

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undertake land preparation, water and land conservation, preparation of dams, wells and road construction in Hagaz and the surrounding villages of Ashera, Kunet Nejar, Adi Arey, Shebek, Begu, Adi Omer and Inchenaq.

Objective 3: To procure and distribute seeds to 10,000 households to improve the 2004 cropping season.

Activity: Provide 150 MT of sorghum/pier millet seeds to 10,000 households

Because of a sharp increase in price and diminishing availability, sorghum has replaced taff as the staple food. The Red Cross of Eritrea distributed 150 MT of sorghum seed in 15 kg rations each to 10,000 households during the first week of July. Beneficiary identification was undertaken by the Anseba branch, the national society's headquarters office and the village administration.

Since this is a new area of intervention for the national society, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) had advised the national society on the best time to distribute the seeds; the MoA also trained Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries on proper use of the seeds.

Constraints

The procurement and distribution of the seeds initially planned for May, was delayed due to lack of funds.

Water, Sanitation and Public Health

Objective 1: To reduce stress provoked by lack of water through provision of emergency water trucking services.

Activity 1: Provide water-trucking services to 6,000 people in the Shebek area of Hagaz sub-zoba, for a period of eight months.

The national society has provided 6,132 m³ of clean and potable water over the reporting period to the 8,000 beneficiaries in eight villages using two of its water trucks.

The water trucking service stopped at the end of July. The plan was to stop the activity in June but the national society was forced to extend it due to poor rain in the Kiremti season. The services are planned to resume in November if funding is secured.

Constraints

The number of beneficiaries increased from 6,000 to 8,000 following a request from the neighbouring villages. This has somewhat stretched the capacity of the national society.

Impact

Over 8,000 people in the eight targeted villages have access to sufficient water at acceptable international standards of 15 litres per person per day within a reasonable distance; this has relieved the burden on women and children who previously had to walk over 20 km to get water. There has also been a reduction in water-borne diseases arising from congestion on the few functioning water sources that were being shared by both humans and livestock.

Objective 2: To provide safe and adequate water supply to communities through the rehabilitation six existing water projects.

Activities:

- Conduct water quality analysis and pump-testing to establish water quality and quantity;
- rehabilitate storage and distribution systems and disinfect the six rehabilitated water projects;
- train the six existing water committees; and,
- conduct two training sessions for 12 caretakers and provide them with repair kits.

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Owing to low donor response, the national society was forced to select three of the most urgent water sources for rehabilitation out of the planned six sites. A proposal for the rehabilitation has since been finalized for presentation to donors.

Disinfecting of water sources has not commenced yet due to lack of funds for water testing in the field; 100 kg of chlorine has already been purchased for the exercise. The procurement of the remaining water and sanitation (WatSan) tools consisting of jerry cans, distribution systems, hand pump repair kit, de-watering pump, mattocks, hand drilling auger, solar equipment, motorized system and geophysical equipment is also still awaiting funding.

Objective 3: To provide safe and adequate water supply to communities through the construction of three new water projects.

Activities:

- Conduct assessment and construct three new water points in selected sites;
- carry out water quality assessment, pump testing;
- establish three water committees; and,
- conduct two training sessions for the committees and six caretakers and provide them with repair kits.

A bill of quantities has been prepared for two water points selected after a situational analysis of three new water project sites in Wesbensirik, Kaybosa and Gizgiza. Implementation has however not commenced due to lack of funding.

Objective 4: To improve the health status of communities through awareness campaigns and training.

The activities and training programmes under this objective are integrated into the WatSan interventions with building of Red Cross infrastructures and community involvement. These include:

- Training of 40 Red Cross volunteers in collection of primary data in health, nutrition and WatSan to help monitor the impact of the operation and ensure needs are met in a timely manner.
- Holding four workshops on CBFA and PHAST at branch level for 40 national society staff and volunteers. These sessions will also include malaria prevention and social mobilization techniques targeting children under-five years and pregnant women. All training will be done in conjunction with the Ministry of Health.
- Conducting 18 hygiene promotion and education trainings on PHAST at the community level in the selected areas where the nine water points will be constructed or rehabilitated.
- Producing of IEC materials on PHAST.
- Assisting communities to construct 30 household latrines at the nine water project sites by providing sanitation plates (SanPlats), ventilation pipes and hand washing sets.
- Organizing nine CBFA training sessions targeting a minimum of 400 pupils in nine schools in the nine water project areas.
- Organizing 10 home management training sessions targeting 540 women / households on water handling and preparation of food at household level to minimize anaemia and diarrhoea diseases.

The above activities will be undertaken either in parallel or after the construction and rehabilitation of water sources as they are complementary activities.

The national society through its WatSan unit has prepared a guideline manual of all its water programmes in the country. The manual covers water software, functional water management, village level operative and maintenance, hygiene and sanitation text.

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Federation Coordination

All relief activities of both the government and non-governmental agencies and organizations in Eritrea are coordinated by the ERREC. Information and coordination meetings take place every second month but also on ad hoc basis whenever the need arises. The national society attends these meetings for exchange of ideas, an update on the interventions of other actors and for overall planning.

A task force comprised of national society senior staff and the Federation representative meets every week for tracking progress, information sharing and decision making related to the drought operation.

Advocacy and Public information

Objective 1: To ensure that the needs and rights of the most vulnerable in relation to the drought situation are secured.

Following delays in procurement, the national society and the Federation representative devised measures to ensure distribution of food items according to plans. This included borrowing food items from the Eritrean Grain Board. Through this active advocacy and networking, continued suffering of the target communities has been averted.

Objective 2: To promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values in the intervention areas.

Training to 70 Red Cross volunteers and community volunteers focusing on the promotion of fundamental principles and humanitarian values, has been ongoing every month hand in hand with food distribution, WatSan projects and the distribution of agriculture tools and seeds. A module on fundamental principles and humanitarian values has been included in all training sessions conducted under this Appeal

National Society Capacity Building

Objective 1: To build the response and operational capacity of the national society at headquarters and branch level.

The national society's WatSan department is now fully managed by a team of national staff (a coordinator, an engineer and a health officer) recruited as part of building the response and operational capacity of the national society. A reporting officer recruited under the operation is also managing both narrative and financial reporting for the operation.

Objective 2: To improve the national society's logistics management

It was decided that the national society takes care of domestic logistical issues while the regional delegation facilitates international procurement. This has worked well and proven to be the most effective utilization of Federation resources in the region.

Glossary of Abbreviations

CBFA – Community-based first aid	PHAST – Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
'Hardware' refers to the structural aspect of a project which involves actual implementation of the needs that have been identified e.g. borehole drilling, latrine construction.	'Software' refers to the planning stage of a project where needs of a community are identified, defined and capacities build in order to promote self-sustainability, ownership.
IRIN – (UN OCHA) Integrated Regional Information Network	Zoba – local equivalent of administrative Region
Movement - International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.	
ARCHI 2010 – refer to http://www.ifrc.org/what/health/archi/	
ERU – Emergency Response Unit(s) Refer to http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/eru/	
FACT – Field Assessment and Coordination Team(s). Refer to http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/fact/	
SPHERE - http://www.sphereproject.org/	
Strategy 2010 – refer to http://www.ifrc.org/who/strategy.asp	

[Contributions List below; Click here to return to title page](#)

Eritrea - drought

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 04/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

22/10/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4,911,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 60.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS OPERATION				1,166,000	02/02/2004	
BELGIAN - GOVT		276,712	EUR	423,092	11.08.04	PURCHASE OF WHEAT, LENTILS, SOYA BEAN OIL, TRANSPORT, INSURANCE, DISTRIBUTION COSTS
JAPANESE - RC		128,800	USD	163,125	12.02.04	
FINNISH - RC		20,345	EUR	32,054	18.03.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
FINNISH - GOVT		3,464	EUR	5,378	07.10.04	
LIBYAN - RC				5,000	16.02.04	
MALTESE - RC				2,670	21.05.04	
MONACO - RC		12,000	EUR	18,720	06.02.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2,157,497	NOK	405,609	06.05.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	168,500	19.02.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,390,148	CHF	48.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		313,000	EUR	493,131	18.03.04	
NORWAY	DELEGATES			36,000		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			19,000		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATES			17,600		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				565,731	CHF	11.5%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	