

MINOR EMERGENCY



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

ETHIOPIA: HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS

Minor Emergency no.
05ME030
Update no. 2
25 May 2005

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

CHF 100,000 (USD 84,300 OR EUR 65,000) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION. UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

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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 Organisations (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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA005, Horn of Africa sub-regional programmes (includes Djibouti, **Ethiopia** and sub-regional office) – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA005.pdf. 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>

The situation

The torrential rain which hit the eastern side of Ethiopia has led to heavy flooding that left 154 dead and thousands others homeless. The heavy rains hampered humanitarian response efforts in many parts of the country. The hardest hit areas include Jijiga in the Somali region and Wolayta. In Wolayta the numbers affected are reported to be around 28,000 people. This is the focus of the planned Ethiopian Red Cross Society¹ response.

¹ Ethiopian Red Cross Society – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=65>

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There are reports of the Bilate River having flooded causing the displacement of many households in Humbo woreda, Wolayta zone. ICRC Awassa will make an assessment.

More than 150,000 have been affected by floodwaters and torrential rains that continued to pound the Somali region. Ten of thousands of livestock had also been killed. Outbreaks of diseases like malaria and diarrhoea is being feared.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

The Ethiopian Red Cross through their national disaster response team (NDRT), with support from ICRC, conducted distributions to 700 households (3,500 persons) around Jijiga. Relief articles included 10 rolls of plastic sheeting, tarpaulins and blankets, 150 cooking pots, 300 jerry cans, 450 plastic cups and plates, and 150 tea pots. Separately, ICRC distributed non-food items to 400 households on the lowland areas of Gode, Mustahil, Kelafo as well as farming tools as part of their regular rehabilitation programme to beneficiaries in Afder. In Gode, the ICRC provided 200 litres of fuel.

In the context of the extent of damage, the national society requested funding from the Federation. CHF 100,000 was allocated from the disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) The regional delegation has issued two information bulletins, and additional reports have been posted on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). Click below to access the two information bulletins.

- Information Bulletin 1 dated 29 April 2005 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts05/et050429.pdf (alternatively, http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05me030.pdf)
- Information Bulletin 2 dated 6 May 2005 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts05/et050506.pdf (alternatively, http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05me03001.pdf)

Responding to an alert issued by the Federation regional disaster management coordinator, and following a comprehensive briefing, a regional disaster response team (RDRT) was shortly assembled and sent to Ethiopia. The team is composed of a team leader, water and sanitation and health officers from the Sudanese Red Crescent as well as the Kenya Red Cross and Tanzania Red Cross. The team is already deployed in the flood ravaged Wolayta area to support Ethiopian Red Cross in conducting their needs assessment over a ten-day mission. The RDRT is accompanied by members of the Ethiopian Red Cross national disaster response team. The DREF allocation is expected to cover all the necessary costs for the deployment including per diem, travel, accommodation and insurance as well as sort out costs of the operation. A debriefing will be conducted at the end of the mission.

The needs

The Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (FDPPC) convened a Somali Flood Meeting on 9 May with non governmental organizations (NGO) and the United Nations to discuss the flood response. Preliminary FDPPC estimates indicate 23,000 total people in five woredas were affected by the flooding of the Wabe Shebelle River. In contrast, the Gode technical team, comprised of UN, international NGOs, and regional authorities, also assessed the situation since road access was improved; their report of 10 days ago reported 107,800 affected in seven woredas.

The DPPC confirms that existing food allocations in the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal for the affected areas should be sufficient to cover food needs of flood affected people. It is expected that current assessments will establish the full extent of non-food needs.

Immediate concerns are for medical and water and sanitation supplies to deal especially with the possibilities of malaria and diarrhoea epidemics. The UN is contributing stocks to those already identified to be in need.

As the water recedes, access by road is improving daily but there are still areas that cannot be reached. In villages near Kelafo in Gode zone beneficiaries walk up to two hours to collect relief supplies.

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A local NGO (Hope for the Horn) identified signs of diarrhoea and an urgent need for preventive measures against malaria during an assessment in Kebribeyah, Harshin, Aware, and Gashamo districts.

The Regional Health Bureau has prioritised flood and drought affected woredas and subsequently revised distribution plans. The bureau also plans to go to Gode next week to conduct training for team leaders in the selected woredas on the new anti-malaria drugs, treated nets, and comprehensive mobile health packages. UNICEF has dispatched 30 emergency drug kits, 18,000 insecticide-treated mosquito bed nets (ITN) and 96 Rapid Diagnostic Test packs to Gode for distribution to flood affected areas. UNICEF will also be supporting 15 mobile clinics for 15 woredas.

On 4 May the Ethiopian government and humanitarian partners under the UN umbrella issued a Flash Update to the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal seeking USD 320 million, of which 47% was already secured (source: UN-OCHA). The U.S. Government has recently announced a contribution of 100,000 MT of food valued at USD 47 million in response to the UN's Flash Update. An additional USD 2.3 million USAID/OFDA contribution was received for non-food items in various sectors.

The findings of the Federation's RDRT mission will be consolidated in a report which will also indicate the needs, and the proposed response in areas where the national society will further intervene to assist the flood victims.

Coordination

The Federation head of Horn of Africa sub-regional office, the regional disaster management unit and other technical departments of the regional delegation continue to provide coordination and direct support to the national society. All activities are conducted in close coordination with local and central authorities, the ICRC, UN OCHA and other agencies.

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