

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

ETHIOPIA: FLOODS

FOCUS ON NORTH AND SOUTH GONDER ZONES

26 August 2006

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

Appeal No. MDRET003; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 23 August to 25 August 2006; Appeal coverage: 14.8%; [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List](#)

Appeal history:

- Preliminary Appeal – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET003PA.pdf> – was launched on 19 August 2006 for CHF 1,112,299 (USD 902,108 or EUR 707,120) to assist 9,000 beneficiaries for 6 months.
- Operations Update no. 1 - <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET00301.pdf> - dated 22 August 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 294,000 (USD 238,443 or EUR 186,904).

Outstanding needs: CHF 947,433 (USD 768,397 or EUR 602,310).

Related Emergency Appeals: Ethiopia Drought – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET001.pdf>

Operational Summary: While important relief efforts from the government, the United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are ongoing in Dire Dawa Region which was the first to be hit by flash floods on 6 August, the situation remains critical in the South, West, North West and North East areas of Ethiopia.

Among chronic and common diseases, intestinal parasites and malaria have been reported. Fears of further spreading of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) have been exacerbated by the massive flooding; prior to the floods, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) was conducting an operation in response to an outbreak of AWD in Oromiya region of southern Ethiopia. Refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET002.pdf> for the DREF Bulletin. Malaria is another source of serious health concerns, especially in flooded areas.

Large sections of this Operations Update focus on findings of the teams deployed earlier to carry out an assessment; the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT); a combined team comprised of a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and the RDRT team and a three-member RDRT deployed in North and South Gondar zones on 22 August.

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.

Ethiopia: Floods; Preliminary Appeal no. MDRET003; Operations Update no. 2

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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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

As from the beginning of August 2006, torrential rains have caused several rivers in Ethiopia to burst their banks, resulting in serious flooding. To date, a total of eight regions in Ethiopia; Dire Dawa, Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Oromyia (West Shoa and Hararge zones), Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples State-SNNPR (South Omo zone), Somali and Gambella regions are either already affected by flooding or are at high risk of flooding. With further rainfalls forecasted for weeks to come, the situation is likely to worsen.

In the Omorate area, South Omo Zone in southern Ethiopia, 14 islands have been created by the floods and most are now reachable only by boats. 7,000 people remain on the islands and have refused to be evacuated. Currently, there are 6,000-7,000 displaced people in 5 temporary camps being run by government agencies.

Operational developments

The Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) that had been deployed earlier carried out an assessment in Dire Dawa Region during the week of 12 to 17 August. A combined team comprised of a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and the RDRT team was deployed to Omorate woreda on 24 August.

In addition, a three-member RDRT was deployed on August 22 in North and South Gonder zones. Large sections of this Operations Update focus on assessment findings of the teams.

The RDRT assessment focused on three woredas; Forega, Libokamkam and Bahir Dar situated in South Gonder. Within these woredas, four sites were identified as areas where displaced populations were living in make shift camps. The table below shows the distribution of the population affected by floods in the camps.

Table 1: Distribution of population affected by floods in the camps

Affected area (woredas)/camps	Displaced Population
Forega (Agricultural college)	4,178
Forega (Workmeda)	1,143
Libokamkam (Yifag)	6,523
Bahir Dar	2,280
Total	14,124

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

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

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

Objective 2: To distribute emergency non-food relief items to 9,000 beneficiaries.

Progress (activities implemented within these objectives)

The ERCS provided 40.5 quintals of high energy biscuits to SNNPRS and Amhara regions. The national society also distributed 20 quintals to the Dire Dawa Region. At the Agricultural College settlement, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Greece provided some blankets for a few households.

The ERCS has released from its stocks and/or has procured the following relief items:

- **Amhara Region;** 2,000 blankets, 10 rolls of plastic sheeting, 1,000 plastic plates, 1,000 plastic cups and 1,000 cooking pots;
- **Dire Dawa Region;** 3,000 blankets, 2 ambulances, used clothes (collected during the emergency), 15 rolls of plastic sheeting, 3,000 plastic plates, 3,000 plastic cups, 1,500 cooking pots, 1,500 jerry cans, 1,500 tea pots and 1,500 bowls;
- **SNNPRS Region, South Omo zone, Omorate;** 1,000 blankets, 17 tents, 15 rolls of plastic sheeting and 1,500 jerry cans;
- **Oromia Region;** 800 blankets.

Among the needs identified in the four camps sheltering the displaced are non-food items such as kitchen sets (5 plates, 5 cups, a cooking pot, a tea pot, a bowl, a water jug), mats, plastic sheeting, blanket, long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs), soap, dettol (hand washing), tissue paper and jerry cans

According to information provided by the local government to ERCS representatives, further Red Cross/Red Crescent relief efforts in South Omo should concentrate on the provision of LLITNs, plastic sheeting and supplementary food

Health

Objective 1: To secure the health of 9,000 affected people by providing long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs), health education and essential drugs.

Progress (activities implemented within this objective)

ERCS distributed 1,000 LLITNs to the population based in the SNNPRS Region.

Water and sanitation

Objective 1: To improve the access to clean and safe drinking water for the target communities.

Objective 2: To improve the access to safe sanitation in the target communities.

Objective 3: To strengthen water point management capacities of the target communities.

Objective 4: To promote hygiene behaviour in the community.

Progress (activities implemented within these objectives)

The government has provided an extension pipeline with two water distribution points at the agricultural college settlement. At the Workmeda camp, there is one hand dug well for use by the population.

There is a need to start hygiene promotion in all four camps, utilizing the local ERC volunteers. It is envisaged that training of volunteers will need to be undertaken before this action can start.

Ethiopia: Floods; Preliminary Appeal no. MDRET003; Operations Update no. 2

Federation Coordination

The Ethiopian Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) is leading the emergency response and coordination at the federal level. DPPA has branches and/or officers at all regions, zones and woredas. DPPA is closely working with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other humanitarian agencies, including the Red Cross/Red Crescent. UN agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and OCHA among others are well represented in the country and, together with the Red Cross, are playing a key role in supporting government efforts.

Partner national societies (PNSs) such as the Danish Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross are closely monitoring the flood situation in Ethiopia. A Danish Red Cross representative is currently the focal point for a CHF 55,485 Danish Embassy donation to the ERCS; a project proposal was developed and procurement of relief items is underway. The German Red Cross (GRC) dispatched its regional representative from Nairobi a draft proposal was developed with the ERCS and will be submitted to the GRC. FACT was kept regularly updated on progress in developing the proposal. The proposal targets the affected population in the South Omo Zone.

In all the visited camps, MSF – in collaboration with local Ministry of Health (MoH) – is conducting mass measles vaccination for all children aged under 5 years as well as those aged between 6 and 15 years. The campaign was expected to be completed by August 23. In each camp, there is a MoH clinic and MSF has offered additional medical personnel. For the time being and prior to further actions, MSF together with the MoH intends to monitor the situation in the clinics located in the camps.

National Society Capacity Building

There is a well established ERCS branch in South Gonder with a good network of volunteers. In the area affected by floods, which is 50 km away from the South Gonder branch, there is an ERCS sub-branch with one administrator in place as well as a network of volunteers.

South Omo ERCS branch is located in Jinka. The branch is managed by a very active branch chairman who is also a deputy zone governor. Youth volunteers were mobilized in the villages to help in distributing of relief items that were handed over to the committee which was established by the government and on which the Red Cross is represented.

The ERCS local branches have mobilized human resources as follows:

- Dire Dawa branch; 67 volunteers and 5 staff members;
- South Omo branch; 10 volunteers and 4 staff members in Omorate;
- South West Shoa Zone branch; 5 volunteers and 5 staff members.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The regional delegation, on behalf of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, has produced media stories for the Federation website as well as press releases distributed to international media in Eastern Africa and beyond. Regular updates are being posted on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) page; a special page has been created for Ethiopia flooding situation.

The Federation, through the communication delegate at the regional delegation in Nairobi, will provide all the necessary support to the national society's operation by taking the initiative to alert major international media about the situation in Ethiopia. The regional delegation will also provide regular updates on the Red Cross/Red Crescent action on the ground as soon as comprehensive media messages are developed on the basis of assessment findings and the plan of action.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

ETHIOPIA - FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRET003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/08/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,112,299		14.8%
CANADIAN - GOVT		74,250	CAD	80,933	18.08.06	
IRISH - RC		30,000	EUR	47,190	18.08.06	PROCUREMENT OF UNIMIX, VOLUNTEERS, DISTRIBUTION
JAPANESE - RC		29,800	USD	36,743	22.08.06	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				164,866	CHF	14.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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