

# ***ETHIOPIA: RELIEF AND REHABILITATION***

**appeal no: 7/98**  
**11 March 1998**

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 9,707,000  
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES  
TO ASSIST 102,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR NINE MONTHS***

## ***Summary***

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) of the Ethiopian Government reports that due to the failure of last year's rains some 1.2 million people are now in urgent need of food assistance, while another 1.6 million require close monitoring. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and the International Federation, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation and World Food Programme and other agencies have all carried out assessments and agree that the Tigray and Amhara regions will require the bulk of relief assistance in 1998.

ERCS/Federation plan to concentrate on:

- { The provision of food and seeds in exchange for work on environmental rehabilitation;
- { the supply of emergency drugs and supplementary food to local health offices;
- { training of Community Health Agents and Traditional Birth Attendants;
- { strengthening the emergency response capacity of the National Society at headquarters and branch levels.

The nine-month programme, covering 102,000 people, will concentrate on South Tigray, South Wollo and North Shoa, where the Red Cross has been actively involved in past relief operations.

ERCS is already assisting 5,000 families through the Federation's regional flood rehabilitation and food security appeal (No. 29/97), catering for the most pressing short-term needs of emergency food, non-food and medicine. Seeds and farm tools will later be distributed to the most destitute, who lost their harvests and farm implements during the floods.

## *The Disaster*

After two years of relatively good harvests and low-level relief activities, crops again failed in 1997 and severe weather-related disasters hit many parts of the country. The failure of the short rains between March and May (Belg), as well as the main harvest rain (Kiremt) provoked a gradual but serious food shortage. More than 1.2 million people are now reported by the DPPC to be in urgent need of food assistance, while another 1.6 million require close monitoring.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that over the last two years many humanitarian organisations have scaled down or ceased relief activities. As stocks in the country's food reserves get ever lower it is becoming evident that the DPPC can not face the crisis alone. Rapid donor support has been requested and humanitarian organisations have been urged to reactivate their relief efforts.

## *The Response so far*

### **Government Action w**

Following the above-mentioned assessments, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission has appealed for 572,835 mt of food aid for 1998.

### **Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w**

No major relief operations have been mounted by the National Society/Federation for almost two years due to successive good harvests. Nonetheless, the National Society has maintained a limited preparedness capacity in order to be able to tackle potential emergencies.

In October 1997 a joint ERCS/Federation assessment was made to the worst-affected drought areas, and following the floods in the last quarter of the year, an appeal for emergency assistance to 5,000 flood-displaced families was included in the Federation's regional floods/rehabilitation appeal for Eastern Africa.

### **Other Agencies' Action w**

WFP and FAO have been active in drought assessments. LWF and Red Barnet plan activities in North Wollo, Kobo and Harbo regions which have also been hard hit by the drought.

### **Co-ordination w**

All agencies involved meet on a regular basis to co-ordinate plans and share information.

### **Targeted population for each selected area of intervention:**

<b>Region/Zones</b>	<b>Woreda</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
South Tigray	Hintalo-Wajirat	47,800
South Wollo	Ambasel	34,118
North Shoa	Lalo Mama	20,600
<b>Total</b>		<b>102,518</b>

## *The Intended Operation*

### **Assessment of Needs •**

In separate country-wide assessments undertaken by DPPC and FAO/WFP in November 1997, similar findings were reported. All organisations concluded that the regions of Tigray and Amhara were the most seriously affected by the drought, and would require the bulk of the country's relief assistance in 1998.

### **Immediate Needs •**

According to figures issued by DPPC backed up by Federation/ERCS, and by FAO/WFP, just over 102,000 people in the areas identified for support by the Red Cross need immediate food assistance. The same group will also be provided with seeds and tools and emergency health services. See Plan of Action below for more details.

### **Anticipated Later Needs •**

Support will be given to the Health Services through training of Community Health Agents and Traditional Birth Attendants. As the operation progresses attention will turn towards strengthening the emergency response capacity of the National Society.

### **Red Cross Objectives •**

- { To facilitate nutritional rehabilitation through the provision of food assistance, seeds and tools to those affected by drought. In exchange, the beneficiaries in the communities will carry out sustainable food for work activities;
- { to contribute to the recovery of the health system in the affected areas by providing supplementary food for mothers and children and essential drugs through primary health care facilities, and by training Community Health Agents and Traditional Birth Attendants;
- { to strengthen the operational response capacity of the ERCS through training of branch personnel, e.g.. in the fields of recording, reporting and logistics management;
- { to rebuild the National Society's disaster response capacity through the provision of emergency food, non-food and medical stocks.

The overall goal of the operation is to save lives and to prevent a large scale famine in the coming months. It is of utmost importance that displacement of people is avoided through timely and appropriate interventions, so that basic coping mechanisms are retained.

## ***National Society/Federation Plan of Action***

### **Emergency Phase •**

#### ***Food distribution***

Beneficiary target figures and food requirements are based on information obtained in the DPPC's 1998 Appeal document. ERCS branches, co-operating with the local authorities in the selected woredas (districts), will identify those most in need of assistance and forward lists of beneficiaries to ERCS/Federation for monitoring.

Supervised food for work activities linked to environmental rehabilitation will be undertaken (tree plantation, hill terracing, irrigation etc.) The local Red Cross Branches and field staff will assist in providing the necessary resources, supervision, monitoring and reporting, while local authorities will advise on suitability of programmes.

Food for work activities will only be implemented as long as the situation requires and permits. The most vulnerable — handicapped, elderly, sick, children, lactating mothers and pregnant women — will automatically receive free food.

**Rations per person per month:**

Number in family	Wheat (kg)	Beans (kg)	Oil (lt)
One	12.5	2	0.5
Two	25	4	1
Three	37.5	6	1.5
Four and more	50	8	2

*The ration provides approximately 1,900 calories per day, in accordance with DPPC guidelines.*

***Agricultural rehabilitation***

All agricultural rehabilitation activities will be conducted in close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture which will serve as the implementing partner. ERCS/Federation will provide the resources for and financial monitoring of the programme.

Household food stocks are expected to run low in the drought affected areas and the most destitute are likely to consume their seed holdings before the planting season. It is vital that seeds are distributed alongside food so that they will be used as intended.

Each household will get enough seed to plant approximately 0.7 hectares, which is the mean family land holding in Ethiopia. Seed and farm tools will be distributed as follows:

Beneficiaries (Family Heads)	Type of Seeds	Seedling rate KG per hectare	Kg per family	Total Seed Needs (mt)	Farm Tools
21,000	Teff	25 - 30	10	210	
21,000	Wheat	125 - 150	50	1,050	21,000

***Health***

The health programme, elaborated in close co-operation with the Ministry of Health, will focus on:

- { Pre-positioning of emergency stocks to combat outbreaks of malaria, cholera etc;
- { a supplementary feeding programme for malnourished children and their mothers;
- { training of 20 community health agents and 20 traditional birth attendants in each of the three zones. These people will be retained by the Ministry of Health and supplied with basic medical and TBA kits.

***Supplementary Feeding Programme***

The target groups for supplementary feeding will be severely malnourished children under the age of five, lactating and pregnant women, elderly aged 65 and over and the handicapped. Screening will be carried out during the registration period using baseline anthropometric measures. The under fives will be screened using the accepted weight for height method.

Distribution will take place from health institutions and Red Cross distribution centres. At the former, children, pregnant and lactating women will receive their rations, where their progress can be closely monitored by Ministry of Health community health workers. The elderly and handicapped will receive their supplies at the Red Cross centres.

Management of the programme will be effected by a Task Force consisting of members of the local ERCS branches, a nutritional expert from ERCS Headquarters and representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Health.

Training and education on healthy preparation of food, personal and environmental hygiene, unsafe traditional practices, family planning and HIV/Aids will be provided by ERCS/Ministries during the programme.

#### **Phase Two: ●**

##### ***Disaster Preparedness***

The ERCS' Disaster Preparedness/Response department needs to be strengthened, with subsequent training of 55 staff both at headquarters and in the operational areas, focusing on logistics management, reporting and monitoring and disaster early warning systems. A practical guidelines manual will be developed and all operational staff will receive related training. Branches will also be responsible for activating and engaging youth volunteers.

In order to respond to potential disasters a preparedness stock of food, non-food items and medicines will be built up as part of the overall disaster response capacity, and be placed at strategically situated preparedness centres.

##### **Capacity of the National Society ●**

In line with ERCS' strategy of decentralised capacity strengthening, the concerned Branches and sub-Branches will be in charge of implementation. ERCS headquarters and the Federation will focus on monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Where branch capacities are deficient, experienced staff from head office will be deployed to fill the gaps.

Since all three ERCS branches involved in the drought emergency operation have been involved in large-scale relief operations in the past, most warehouse space needed is already in place. Some further assessment will be needed. If further storage capacity is necessary at the distribution sites this will be covered by rubb-halls currently in store in the central warehouse in Addis Ababa. Other existing storage facilities, available as back up, represent an additional capacity of approximately 12,000 mt.

##### **Present Capacity of the Federation in Ethiopia ●**

The Federation will provide technical support to the National Society through its Head of Delegation, Finance/Administration Delegate, Relief/Rehabilitation Co-ordinator, Relief Administrator and Institutional Development Delegate. Additional technical assistance will be provided by the Federation Regional Delegation for Eastern Africa, notably in areas related to information and disaster preparedness/response.

##### **Evaluation ●**

The operation will be implemented as a joint ERCS/Federation operation, based on a specific agreement between the Federation and the National Society, which is presently being finalized.

## ***Budget summary***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

Once again, a poor harvest has placed millions of Ethiopians at risk. While no-one is anticipating a repeat of the calamitous food shortages of the mid 1980s, food reserves are dangerously low and action must be taken to stop populations migrating, with the consequent loss of coping mechanisms this would engender. ERCS/Federation plan to work in geographic and technical areas in which it has built up considerable experience, in order to ensure food security for 102,000 of the most vulnerable, to provide emergency

health inputs with built-in sustainability, to foster agricultural rehabilitation and to strengthen the National Society's capacity for disaster response.

For further information, please contact Atoussa K. Parsey, Desk Officer, Eastern Africa Desk, tel.:(41.22)730.43.35, e-mail: [parsey@ifrc.org](mailto:parsey@ifrc.org).

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**BUDGET SUMMARY**  
**ETHIOPIA**

**APPEAL No. 7/98**  
**IN CHF**

ANNEX 1

**NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)****Non Food Items**

Tents (150 units x CHF 200)	30,000.00
Plastic sheeting (200 rolls x CHF 100)	20,000.00
Rubhalls (2 x CHF 19.000)	38,000.00
Blankets (5.000 units x CHF 12,75)	63,750.00
Clothing (100 bales)	15,000.00
Water tanks (10 pieces x CHF 5000)	50,000.00
Jerry cans (5.000 pieces x CHF 4)	21,000.00
Cooking pots and pans (5000 pieces x CHF 20)	100,000.00
Agricultural tools (30,000 units x CHF 2.85)	85,500.00
Medical kits (12 kits x CHF 8.700)	104,450.00
Emergency drugs	50,000.00
Training material (TBA's/CHA's)	102,500.00
Promotional material	13,000.00

**Food Items**

W/Grain (11.133 MT x CHF 275,5/MT)	3,067,200.00
Beans (1.782 MT x CHF 543,75/MT)	970,000.00
Sugar (CHF 1.06 x 25MT)	26,500.00
Oil (CHF 1.92 x 445 MT)	856,700.00
Supplementary food (CHF 1 x 445.000 kgs)	445,000.00
Seeds (CHF 0,57 x 1.260 MT)	718,200.00

**Capital equipment**

Cars (5 vehicles)	238,000.00
Computer (3 laptops)	15,000.00
Telecom equipment (12 radios mobiles/bases)	42,500.00
Generators/megaphones	24,000.00

**TOTAL NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)**

7,096,300.00

**NEEDS IN CASH****Transport, storage & vehicle costs**

Vehicle costs	161,000
Warehouse maintenance	11,000.00
Transport of goods	1,458,000.00

**Personnel**

Personnel (2 delegates / 9 months)	180,000.00
Personnel (local staff)	147,000.00

**Travel & communications**

Information	70,000.00
Administrative, office & general expenses	25,000.00
	250,000.00

Consultant fees	8,000.00
Secretariat operational support	300,700.00
<b>TOTAL NEEDS IN CASH</b>	<b>2,610,700.00</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH &amp; KIND</b>	<b>9,707,000.00</b>
LESS CASH ON HAND	<b>0.00</b>
<b>NET REQUEST CASH &amp; KIND</b>	<b>9,707,000.00</b>