

# PROGRAMME 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***

*14 November, 2001*

*Appeal No. 01.12/2001*

*Appeal Target CHF 151,912*

*Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: January - 30 September, 2001*

### ***“At a Glance”***

***Appeal coverage: 90.6% - CHF 86,223 in cash and CHF 51,416 in-kind.***

***Related Appeals: N/A***

***Outstanding needs: None***

### ***Operational Developments:***

Following the comprehensive peace accord signed between Eritrea and Ethiopia in December, 2000, the United Nations deployed over 3,500 peace keepers to monitor a 25-kilometer-wide buffer zone, referred to as the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ), separating the two armies. While the ceasefire is holding, both governments continue to make accusations of violations to the agreement.

The Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), at the current troop and military observer levels until 15 March 2002 (resolution 1369). The Council emphasized that the Algiers Agreement linked the termination of UNMEE with the completion of the work of the Independent Boundary Commission which is charged with delimitation and demarcation of the border between the two countries.

The reporting period has also generally been characterized by an increase in political tension in Eritrea, with calls for a more democratic system and greater accountability. Meanwhile, the Eritrean economy is showing signs of improvement, according to both the government and its development partners in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. After a three-year decline, GDP is projected to grow by 7% during 2001 and by 11 % in 2002. Agricultural production, which stood at a low of 85,000 metric tons last year, is expected to be triple that amount this year. Other factors contributing to growth are spending on reconstruction, easing of labor constraints, and renewed private sector investment while the defense budget has further declined.

### ***Coordination and Management***

#### ***Disaster Response***

The Ajasa branch of the Japanese Red Cross donated 4,500 blankets which were distributed to the IDP camps in Debub.

The American Red Cross donation of 2,236 bales of used clothes, shoes and socks have been distributed to IDP camps in Debub and Gash-Barka. School materials (150 boxes) were distributed to all six branches for further distribution.

In collaboration with the ICRC, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) trucks distributed 47,522 MT of water in this quarter to the IDP camps.

The Anseba branch of the RCSE distributed 1 month ration of cereals (15 kg) to 18,500 drought affected persons. The distribution was financially supported by the Austrian (225 MT) and the Netherlands Red Cross (52,5 MT) Societies and with the assistance of four Red Cross volunteers and community leaders, the 4 days distributions went smoothly. Over 1,000,000 persons in Eritrea are directly or indirectly affected by the war with Ethiopia and by the three years of consecutive poor rains.

### ***Disaster Preparedness***

During the July quarterly meeting of branch secretaries and headquarters staff, the regional DP delegate presented and discussed food security issues. Three specific proposals are being finalized to be submitted to donors. The quarterly meetings are organized around a special topic besides discussing the progress of project implementation.

### ***Health and Care***

The review of the community based health development programme in Anseba and Gash-Barka, supported by the Danish Red Cross, was completed. Recommendations focused on: improving dissemination of successful grass root level activities to local government and media; improving planning with local partners while ensuring RCSE's role is well-understood; strengthening volunteers co-ordination, and developing a more sustainable structure to follow-up on community activities.

### ***Organizational Development (OD)***

The audit report on the RCSE's activities in 2000 was finalized and sent to various parties. The RCSE 2002 plan of activities and budget were finalized in this quarter and distributed to donors. The consultative meeting between the national society and its supporters is planned for 17 to 20 February 2002. Letters have been sent out to various PNSs to assess the convenience of these dates. The National Society still hopes to be recognized.

The following exchange visits took place:

- Rwanda Red Cross Society: Three staff members of the Rwanda Red Cross Society visited the headquarters and the Anseba branch to familiarize themselves with the successful decentralized operational structure of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea. After one week of discussions and visits to various projects at the community level, the Anseba branch manager joined his colleagues in Rwanda to give further hands-on guidance on the adaptation of the "Eritrean model" towards the Rwanda's Red Cross context. Various advantages were highlighted such as the more central position of the Red Cross branch within the civil society, increased involvement and satisfaction of volunteers, collaboration with local partners, community participation and staffing.
- Ghana Red Cross Society: The Ghana Red Cross is well-known for its very successful community-based Red Cross mother clubs, and to this end the first phase of an exchange programme between the Red Cross of Eritrea and the Ghana Red Cross, supported by the American Red Cross, took in Asmara. Visits were made to the Maekel and Assab branch to discuss with Red Cross staff, volunteers, and local government the experiences of the Ghana Red Cross on integrated health education, child care, HIV/AIDS and environment protection.

The third quarterly meeting took place on 22-28 October and focused on WatSan activities and, with the support of the regional WatSan delegate, training to further improve the current practices.

A convenient area (1,350 m<sup>2</sup>) for the new branch office in Barentu (Gash-Barka Zoba) has been arranged. The construction of the office is expected to start by the end of 2001 with financial support from the Netherlands Red Cross capacity building fund. The construction in 2002 of a branch office in Mendefera (Debab Zoba) is also under discussion.

### ***Outstanding needs***

The appeal is almost fully funded and there are no outstanding needs. See the attached list of contributions for details.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

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<b>Eritrea</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 01.12/2001</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				12.11.2001
<b>DONOR</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>VALUE CHF</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>151'912</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 90.6%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				24'225		
DANISH - RC				15'000	11.07.2001	IFRC REPRESENTATIVE
NETHERLANDS - RC		28'090	NLG	19'306	11.05.2001	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		100'000	NOK	19'007	17.08.2001	IFRC REPRESENTATION ASMARA
SWEDISH - RC		50'000	SEK	8'685	07.02.01	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>86'223</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>56.8%</b>
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
<b>DONOR</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>VALUE CHF</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
Denmark	Delegate(s)			26'283		
Netherlands	Delegate(s)			25'133		
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>51'416</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>33.8%</b>