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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Ethiopia: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRET013; Glide n° OT-2014-000001-ETH
Date of issue: 29 January 2014	Date of disaster: 15 December 2014
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): TBC	Point of contact (name and title): Jill Clements, IFRC Ethiopia Country Representative
Operation start date: 28 January 2014	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 125,220	
Number of people affected: Over 20,000	Number of people to be assisted: Up to 30,000
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS), ERCS has 11 regional offices, 27 zonal branches, 50 woreda (district) branches and 1500 kebeles (grassroots committees) all over the country including 70,000 volunteers.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): IFRC, ICRC, Swiss Red Cross Society	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Ethiopian Government Administration of Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), ACT Alliance, International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Health Organization (WHO), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC).	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Violence erupted in Juba on the evening of 15 December 2013, with over 200,000 people displaced across seven out of the ten states affected in South Sudan. More than half a million people fled their homes, including an estimated 494,000 people displaced inside South Sudan and 86,100 in neighbouring countries. More than 20,000 people have so far fled to neighbouring Gambela region of Ethiopia. ERCS Gambela branch, together with UN and non-governmental partners conducted a rapid assessment among asylum seekers (the Government of Ethiopia has yet to identify these individuals as refugees) who have fled South Sudan to Gambela region in mid-January. The majority of asylum seekers are ethnic Nuer peoples from Upper Nile and Jonglei states.

A ceasefire agreement between opposing sides in South Sudan was signed on 23 January 2014 in Addis Ababa, but the security situation remains tense in the states closest to the Ethiopian border and in several key towns, in particular in Bor and Malakal. More people are expected to cross the border into Ethiopia from these areas in fear of the ongoing insecurity.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Ethiopian Government Administration of Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) have indicated that these asylum seekers will likely be hosted in Lietchor refugee camp (150km from Gambela and 30 km from Mathar, the capital of Wantwa district) and respective reception centres. Lietchor will have the capacity to accommodate up to 30,000 refugees and is a new camp currently without adequate facilities.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

ERCS has many years of experience in providing humanitarian and disaster relief to the most vulnerable people affected by conflict and disasters. In the last decade ERCS has assisted more than 100,000 disaster-affected people each year through the provision of food and non-food emergency assistance mostly in drought, flood and conflict affected areas of the country. Most recently ERCS has supported national emergency rounds of polio vaccination and provided assistance to Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia.

In responding to the South Sudan population displacement, ERCS has participated in an inter-agency assessment in Akobo and is ready to drawdown on its MOU with UNICEF to distribute NFIs if requested. ERCS Gambela branch has 30 Red Cross volunteers available to be deployed in emergency response.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

ICRC, IFRC Country and Africa Zone African Union liaison offices and partner national societies (PNSs), including Swiss, Swedish, Spanish, Italian and Austrian Red Cross Societies, are based in Addis Ababa.

The ERCS Secretary General and IFRC Country Representative visited Gambela region in January 2014 to understand the current situation with regard to South Sudan population displacement and to discuss with the regional government and partners on how ERCS Gambela branch could support emergency response. The Swiss Red Cross country representative also made a visit to Gambela region to support a new bilateral community resilience project and gather information on the current situation regarding South Sudan population displacement.

ICRC is supporting tracing activities, branch capacity building and logistics in Gambela and Benshangul Gumuz ERCS branches. ICRC are currently on an assessment mission to the region to determine how best to support tracing needs and the ERCS branch. Swiss and Austrian Red Cross Societies are in discussions to provide complementary support to this DREF operation with financial, human resource and technical assistance either on bilateral or multilateral basis and are currently working on long term development projects in Gambela and Benshangul Gumuz regions, including ERCS branch capacity building.

Movement Coordination

IFRC, ICRC and PNSs participate in regular co-ordination meetings convened by ERCS. All issues including potential bilateral and multilateral actions are discussed. IFRC convenes regular co-ordination meetings in Nairobi with ICRC and PNS representatives to share updates on the situation in Ethiopia and neighbouring countries, and Movement action to date.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement work closely with actors and agencies in Ethiopia, including the ARRA, UNHCR UNICEF and WHO to ensure activities are aligned and complement the regional plan of action. This DREF funding will support the immediate participation and action of ERCS in hygiene, sanitation and emergency health interventions in Lietchor refugee camp and provide a foundation for future partnership with other agencies in support of populations displaced by the South Sudan conflict. An agreement between ERCS, ARRA and UNHCR to provide proposed interventions in this DREF in Lietchor camp will be obtained prior to the start of activities.

ERCS Gambela is participating in regular inter-agency co-ordination meetings with UNHCR, ARRA and partners in the region. UNHCR and ARRA are responsible for ensuring operational and implementing partners are identified to support camp sector activities, including camp management, shelter, non-food and food items, health and water and sanitation (including water supply).

ERCS will work closely with partners in providing hygiene, sanitation and emergency health interventions:

- UNICEF is providing emergency shelter and non-food items and is to provide additional assistance to children, mothers and unaccompanied minors in Gambela region.
- WFP has provided a one month food ration for 5,000 HHs in Akobo since mid-December 2013 and will continue to support the needs of asylum seekers in Lietchor camp.
- ACT Alliance, including Lutheran World Federation, have launched an emergency appeal to provide water supply and sanitation, food and non-food items, and health care to Lietchor and neighbouring refugee camps.
- IOM is providing transportation and logistics support for relocation of people from Akobo to Lietchor camp.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

According to the multi-agency assessment conducted in Gambela region, over 20,000 South Sudanese asylum seekers currently require emergency assistance. UNHCR and ARRA have indicated that these people will likely be hosted in Lietchor refugee camp and respective reception centres. Lietchor will have the capacity to accommodate up to 30,000 refugees and is a new camp currently without adequate facilities. This response will require urgent and concerted action on behalf of national and international partners. UNHCR and ARRA are responsible for coordinating operational and implementing partners and ensuring support for camp sector activities – including camp management, shelter, non-food and food items, health and water and sanitation (including water supply). ERCS will work closely with these partners in providing hygiene, sanitation and emergency health interventions as requested by ARRA and UNHCR.

Risk Assessment

A ceasefire agreement was signed on 23 January 2014, but it may be several weeks or months before asylum seekers start to return to South Sudan and there remains uncertainty about the prospects for peace and stability in South Sudan in the long-term.

UNHCR and ARRA are planning to relocate new arrivals from Akobo to the new Lietchor refugee camp (150km from Gambela and 30 km from Mathar, the capital of Wantwa district) for logistics and security reasons. Akobo is located close to the South Sudan border, and is difficult to access (8 hours by boat with diminishing river levels). Most refugees are of Nuer ethnicity, and Lietchor is located close to Nuer host communities to mitigate the risk of tensions between refugee and host communities.

The activities in this DREF operation are planned according to the needs of the conflict affected communities, activities ongoing or planned by other partners in the region and taking into consideration the capacity of ERCS Gambela branch to successfully implement the DREF. An assessment of ERCS Gambela branch was conducted last year and the recent visits made by ERCS Secretary General, IFRC Country Representative and Swiss Red Cross highlighted the limited capacity of the regional branch in terms of human, material and financial resources. Only four staff are employed to run administrative and financial functions of the branch and there are no sub branches at Zone or District level at this time.

Beneficiary selection: 30,000 South Sudanese refugees in Lietchor camp, Gambela region of Ethiopia will be targeted through this DREF operation.

Immediate needs: Hygiene and sanitation interventions, including rapid assessment, a 30-day hygiene campaign as well as more sustained emergency health interventions including rapid health assessment, community-based disease surveillance, selected modules from community based health and first aid (CBHFA) and provision of ambulance service over three months. Other camp interventions, including camp management, shelter, non-food and food items, health and water and sanitation (including water supply) will be provided by other partners. ERCS will work closely with these partners in providing hygiene, sanitation and emergency health interventions. Additionally, and outside of these DREF-funded activities, ERCS will continue to provide tracing/RFL services to affected communities with the support of ICRC. It is also envisaged that Swiss RC will support the deployment of a technical advisor/operations coordinator to the ERCS plan of action, including the DREF activities.

ERCS will work closely with partners in providing hygiene, sanitation and emergency health interventions. Other actors responding include the following:

- UNICEF is providing emergency shelter and non-food items and is to provide additional assistance to children, mothers and unaccompanied minors in Gambela region.
- WFP has provided a one month food ration for 5,000 HHs in Akobo since mid-December 2013.
- ACT Alliance, including Lutheran World Federation, have launched emergency appeal to provide water supply and sanitation, food and non-food items, and health care to Lietchor and neighbouring refugee camps.
- IOM is providing transportation and logistics support for relocation of asylum seekers to Lietchor camp.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

To provide hygiene and sanitation promotion and emergency health for up to 30,000 South Sudanese refugees in Lietchor refugee camp, Gambela region of Ethiopia

Proposed strategy

This DREF operation will support ERCS in providing hygiene, sanitation and emergency health interventions for up to 30,000 asylum seekers in Lietchor refugee camp in Gambela region of Ethiopia. The DREF complements the provision of water supply and health services by UNHCR, ARRA and other partners in Lietchor camp.

This proposed DREF operation is one component of an overall plan of action currently being developed by ERCS, IFRC, ICRC and PNSs in response to the South Sudan population displacement in Ethiopia. Other PNSs, including the Swiss and Austrian Red Cross Societies, may provide in-kind support to these DREF activities or provide additional complementary interventions in support of the overall ERCS plan of action.

A two-day training in hygiene and sanitation assessment methodology and campaign implementation will be conducted by ERCS staff from Addis Abeba / Gambela branch with support from the IFRC regional water and sanitation team. A total of 10 volunteers will be trained in rapid hygiene assessment methodology, followed by a three day hygiene assessment in Lietchor refugee camp, according to standard guidelines, and results will be shared with ERCS headquarters, IFRC, UNHCR, ARRA and partners. Following this assessment, a hygiene promotion campaign

is planned (key activities and methods to be determined depending on the needs and findings of the assessment) and implemented by 50 volunteers and 6 supervisors. Appropriate information, education and communication and visibility materials (caps, T-shirts, badges) will be produced for the hygiene assessment and campaign. Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities will be implemented in a phased manner, in consultation with other camp partners, and the hygiene promotion campaign will take place for one month.

Concurrently, a two-day rapid health assessment will be undertaken in Lietchor camp by 10 ERCS volunteers, to identify communicable disease threats, including epidemic potential, and to define the health status of the population. Health assessment training will be undertaken by ERCS HQ / Gambela branch health staff, supported by the IFRC regional health team and/or the Swiss RC delegate. A total of 50 volunteers and 6 supervisors will subsequently undertake three months of community-based disease surveillance to ensure early reporting of cases, and prompt detection and response to outbreaks. These volunteers will also be responsible for implementing selected community based health and first aid (CBHFA) modules among refugee communities to diagnose and treat cases effectively. Selected modules will include assessment and community mapping; first aid and safety; disease prevention and health promotion including nutrition and immunization; and prevention modules including diarrhoea, malaria, acute respiratory infections, HIV and sexually transmitted infections. These modules will address cross-cutting themes, including reduction of stigma and discrimination; will ensure inclusion of vulnerable groups, including women, children, disabled and elderly; and will support refugee communities to adopt healthy behaviours. Appropriate CBHFA and visibility materials (caps, T-shirts, badges) will be produced for the health assessment, community-based disease surveillance and CBHFA implementation. An ambulance manned with driver and four volunteers on rotation will be provided by ERCS to support the referral and transportation of identified patients from Lietchor camp to secondary care services in Gambela for three months.

Volunteers are core to RCRC work. It is expected that the ERCS branch will engage both affected and host communities in the identification of volunteers for the operation. Actual numbers will depend on the population of asylum seekers that end up in Lietchor camp. The target for UNHCR is 30,000 and requiring the identified number of volunteers in order to ensure adequate coverage of the population.

Further to the evolving situation in the coming days, the budget and plan may be revised and a second allocation may be requested for, should additional needs emerge.

Operational support services

Human resources

12 supervisors from ERCS Gambela branch and 104 volunteers recruited from within the affected community in Lietchor camp will be utilized for the DREF operation. IFRC and ERCS staff will support the Gambela branch to start up DREF activities, including identification, recruitment and training of volunteers. Training and technical support to ERCS Gambela branch will be provided by ERCS health and water and sanitation staff based in Addis Ababa HQ, with additional technical support provided through the IFRC East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands (EAIOI) office based in Nairobi and/or Swiss RC. IFRC technical support is accommodated within the DREF budget. The purpose of this resource is to bolster and support the design and implementation of each of the activity areas and ensure adequate targeting to community needs as well as complementarity with other actors. It is envisaged that this support will be deployed early in the operation and will also help to develop the monitoring and evaluation system.

Logistics and supply chain

ARRA and UNHCR plan to relocate current and new arrivals from Akobo to the new Lietchor camp for logistics and security reasons. Akobo is located along the South Sudan border and can only be accessed by boat that takes between 8 to 12 hours. Relocation of more than 20,000 asylum seekers who have already crossed is scheduled to begin on February 1st (with IOM). It is not known how many more asylum seekers will cross the border from South Sudan.

Communications

IFRC region and zone office will support IFRC Country Office and ERCS with communication and advocacy activities for the DREF operation. The purpose of the communication and advocacy activities will have two main objectives:

- to raise awareness of the South Sudan population displacement in Ethiopia and the region and the need for a coherent and coordinated response.
- to raise awareness on the specific role and value added of ERCS in providing emergency hygiene, sanitation and health interventions for asylum seekers in Lietchor camp.

This will be done through collecting human interest stories as well as case studies with key messages, lesson learnt and best practices.

Security

The DREF operation is being implemented in Lietchor camp, which is located in a remote area approximately 3 hours by dirt road from Gambela town. Ensuring adequate transportation and security will be essential to the success of the DREF operation and ERCS will work with ARRA, UNHCR and partners to ensure access for volunteers, supervisors and staff.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

Regular monitoring of activities, as well of the overall situation, will be carried out by ERCS and IFRC, in close coordination and partnership with ARRA, UNHCR and partners. Additional technical support will be provided by IFRC Region and Zone offices, who will monitor implementation of the DREF operation and support co-ordination with Movement partners. Technical support has been built into the DREF budget to accommodate both the design of the operation as well as an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system.

A lessons-learnt workshop is also planned and budgeted for, at the end of the operation. Additionally, negotiations are underway with Swiss RC to provide a delegate who will be based in Gambela region and who will assume a coordination role alongside the provision of technical support to ERCS. ERCS will also identify a project coordinator based at HQ who will regularly travel to Gambela to support the branch. ERCS and IFRC will ensure adequate support to the branch in terms of robust management systems including audit.

Administration and Finance

National ERCS finance and administration staff from Addis Ababa will support ERCS Gambela branch in volunteer training and management and payments during the DREF operation, as well as accounting for the DREF itself. Travel and accommodation costs for this administration and finance support are provided within the DREF budget.

Discussions are underway with the Swiss RC regarding the deployment of a delegate who would be responsible for the overall management of the operation alongside the ERCS. Additional support has been built into the budget to ensure technical inputs into the design of the interventions as well as the M&E system.

Budget

A total budget of CHF 125,220 is requested (see attached), reflecting the resources needed for supporting volunteers and staff to carry out the intended disease control and surveillance activities and hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns, as well as regular assessments and monitoring of the situation in the camp.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

DREF BUDGET

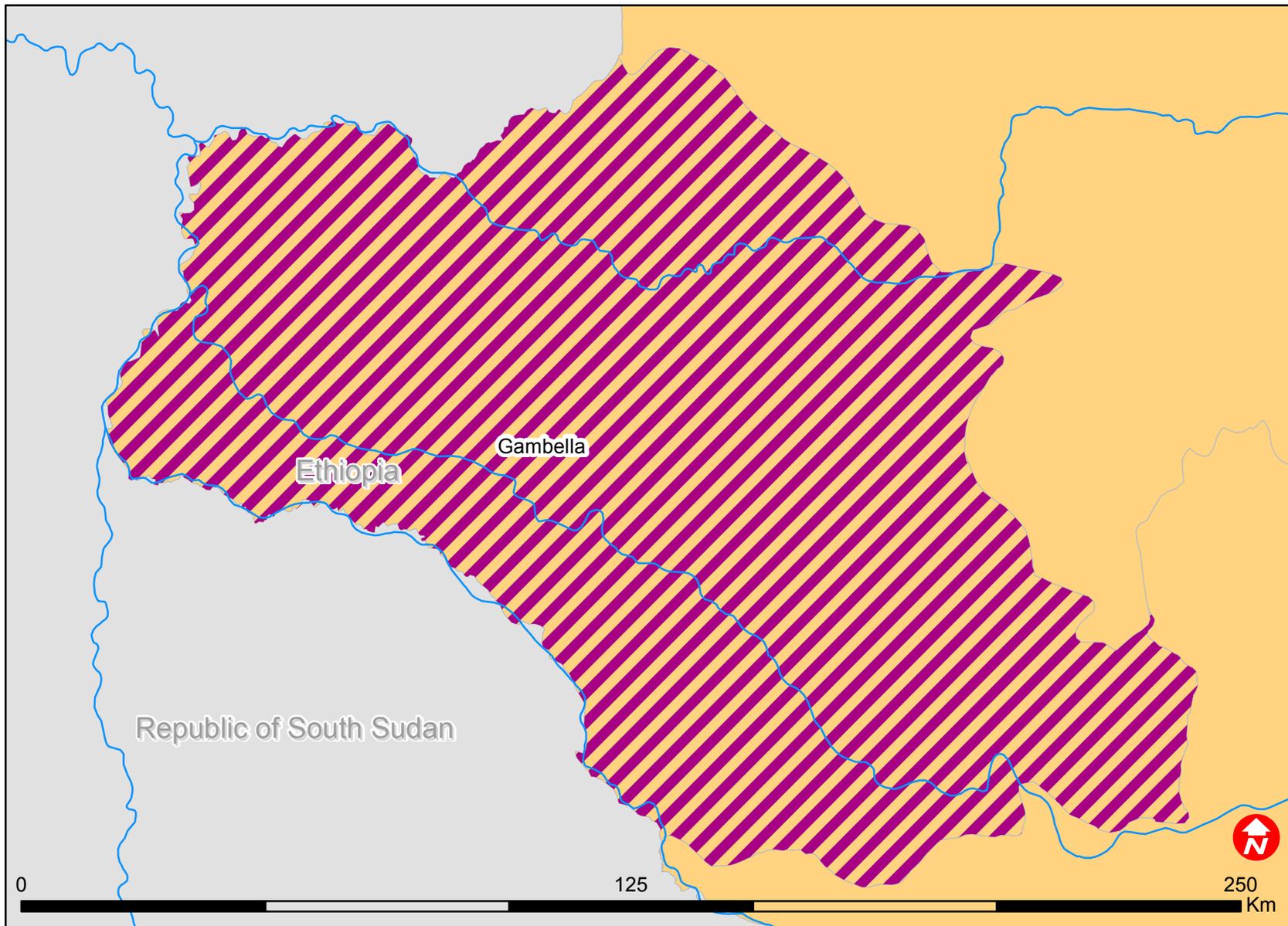
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Ethiopia: Population Movement (MDRET013)

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF	Expenditure CHF
Shelter - Relief	0			0	
Shelter - Transitional	0			0	
Construction - Housing	0			0	
Construction - Facilities	0			0	
Construction - Materials	0			0	
Clothing & Textiles	0			0	
Food	0			0	
Seeds & Plants	0			0	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0			0	
Medical & First Aid	0			0	
Teaching Materials	5,927			5,927	
Utensils & Tools	0			0	
Other Supplies & Services	0			0	
Emergency Response Units	0			0	
Cash Disbursements	0			0	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIE	5,927	0	0	5,927	
Land & Buildings	0			0	
Vehicles Purchase	0			0	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0			0	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0			0	
Medical Equipment	0			0	
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	
Storage, Warehousing	0			0	
Distribution & Monitoring	0			0	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	11,706			11,706	
Logistics Services	0			0	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	11,706	0	0	11,706	
International Staff	0			0	
National Staff	0			0	
National Society Staff	14,729			14,729	
Volunteers	59,196			59,196	
Total PERSONNEL	73,924	0	0	73,924	
Consultants	0			0	
Professional Fees	0			0	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0	0	0	
Workshops & Training	4,521			4,521	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	4,521	0	0	4,521	
Travel	8,890			8,890	
Information & Public Relations	7,690			7,690	
Office Costs	593			593	
Communications	3,326			3,326	
Financial Charges	1,000			1,000	
Other General Expenses	0			0	
Shared Support Services	0			0	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	21,499	0	0	21,499	
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	7,643	0	0	7,643	
Total INDIRECT COSTS	7,643	0	0	7,643	
TOTAL BUDGET	125,220	0	0	125,220	
Available Resources					
Multilateral Contributions				0	
Bilateral Contributions				0	
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0	
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	125,220	0	0	125,220	



Ethiopia: Population Displacement



 Affected Area