

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

23 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: 19 August to 22 August 2006; Appeal coverage: 11.5%; <[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.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 294,000 (USD 238,443 or EUR 186,904).

Outstanding needs: CHF 984,176 (USD 798,196 or EUR 625,668).

Related Emergency Appeals: Ethiopia Drought – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET001.pdf> – Appeal no. MDRET001

Operational summary: The floods Preliminary Appeal was launched on a background of floods with devastating impacts having been reported countrywide in Ethiopia due to excessive rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands.

Volunteers from Dire Dawa branch of the Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS) participated in the recovery process and took the affected people to local hospitals. The volunteers were assigned to provide psychological support in temporary shelters as well as to help government officials in operating the shelters and registering the affected people. The ERCS headquarters deployed three trucks to deliver blankets, jerry cans, kitchen supplies and plastic sheeting from its reserve stock.

The Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) that had been put in place completed assessments in Dire Dawa, Awash, West Shoa and Amhara regions. A Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) arrived in Addis Ababa on 21 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.

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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

On 5 August 2006, torrential rains caused the Dechatu River to burst its banks, causing serious flash flooding in the region of Dire Dawa. A situation report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – dated 7 August 2006 – indicated that 3,000 people were reported as being displaced, 300 missing and 200 dead, including 40 children. While the search continued for the people still missing in Dire Dawa, officials reported that 6,000 people in the northern area had also been affected. In addition, the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) confirmed that floods in South Omo Valley killed 364 people and displaced approximately 6000 – 10,000 more following heavy rains which forced the Omo River to burst its banks and flood five villages in remote southern Ethiopia.

Heavy rains across the country have seen further flooding in South Omo Valley, Dire Dawa, Amhara, Afar, Somali, Tigray, Gambella and Oromiya regions. According to government and United Nations (UN) figures, approximately 35,000 people have been displaced, 120,000 affected and 620 confirmed dead. These figures do not take into account population groups who have temporarily relocated to higher grounds. The DPPA has issued fresh flood alerts in southern, northern and western Ethiopia as more bodies were recovered in the south, where the Omo River burst its banks on 13 August.

Thousands of people living in the flooded areas have little shelter or food and are exposed to terrible weather conditions, with the risk of contracting diseases. The floods have also killed livestock and destroyed large areas of farmland.

Operational developments

Ethiopian government agencies are spearheading rescue efforts/recovery of drowned bodies and have provided initial humanitarian aid to the affected areas. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) is providing psychological and material support through its volunteers at the local branches. Humanitarian Agencies on the ground are gradually establishing themselves; specific details on what role they are playing in the relief efforts are not available at this time.

Access to the flooded areas, particularly in the south, is extremely limited (only the Ethiopian army continues with search and rescue activities) thus difficulties in accessing the affected communities. As a result, no assessment has been carried in South Omo so far. In the absence of baseline statistical data on the population in the affected area, coupled with a lack of reliable data and information on people affected by the disaster, it is impossible to provide a specific plan for any relief activities at the present; these will be provided in subsequent updates.

From 10 to 18 August 2006, a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) was deployed to Dire Dawa, Awash and West Shoa in eastern and central Ethiopia. On 22 August, the RDRT went to southern Gondar, Amhara Region, where it assessed three internally displaced people (IDP) camps and obtained the following information:

- **Warata Educational College** has a population of 3,051 people. Poor hygiene, poor drainage and lack of sanitation facilities are of concern. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Greece, in coordination with the ERCS, has been conducting a measles immunization programme for children aged under 15 years alongside distribution of non-food items (NFIs) such as soap and blankets;

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- **Wakaneda** camp is sheltering 3,051 people affected by the floods. The camp has one water hand pump that is functional. Some latrines are available but their use appears to be limited. MSF Greece has also been conducting a measles immunization programme alongside providing some NFIs to the people being sheltered in this camp.
- **Yifaga** camp is hosting a total of 6,125 people affected by floods. The camp is overcrowded but is well organized. The major concern is a lack of basic essentials. MSF Greece is currently increasing accommodation numbers.

According to the RDRT, the three camps are in need of kitchen sets, cooking pots, blankets, sleeping mats and plastic sheeting. Construction of an appropriate number of latrines and slabs as well as hygiene promotion is also needed.

A Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) was deployed to Ethiopia so as to reinforce and complement the RDRT already in place. The FACT arrived in Addis Ababa on 21 August; it will support the sub-regional office and the regional delegation in assessments, planning and cooperating with other humanitarian actors.

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.

Progress/Achievements

In Dire Dawa, the following have been provided to mothers and children affected by the floods: 124 sacks of Atemit (barley mixed with wheat powder); 308 sacks of wheat powder; 360 litres plus 7 kuntel of oil; 20 kuntel of Famix; 308 kuntels of wheat.

In Amhara Region, DPPA is providing 15kg of grains for 15 days to each person in the three camps; Warata Educational College, Wakaneda and Yifaga.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is providing food to those sheltered and has recommended that other agencies focus on NFI's. They are also conducting blanket feeding (4.5 kg/person/month) for the total beneficiary population, rather than just children and pregnant women, for the time being. Each shelter has set up communal cooking, which has limited the amount of food being cooked. The UN food agency has recommended that large pots be rented from local social organizations.

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

Progress/Achievements

Volunteers from Dire Dawa branch of the Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS) participated in the recovery process and took victims to local hospitals. The volunteers were assigned to provide psychological support in temporary shelters as well as to help government officials in operating the shelters and registering beneficiaries.

The ERCS headquarters deployed three trucks to deliver relief items from its reserve stock. The trucks arrived in Dire Dawa on Friday, 11 August carrying 3,000 blankets, 1,500 jerry cans, 1,500 cooking pots, 1,500 tea pots, 1,500 bowls, 3,000 plastic plates, 3,000 cups and 10 rolls of plastic sheeting (200m² per roll).

The West Shoa camp received 800 blankets from ERCS West Shoa Branch office. It also received the following items from the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC): 640 blankets; 85 blankets for small children; 320 jerry cans; 2,950 plastic cups; 2,950 plastic plates; and 100 (4 x 4), 2 (6 x 12) and 2 (10 x 20) tents.

Temporary shelters have been set up in six local schools. The schools are too small for the populations they are hosting and lack sufficient sanitation service and cooking space. The school term begins on 1 September 2006. While it remains unclear what the displaced population wishes to do, the government plans to move them to an undeveloped site near the airport. Tents, water, latrines, health centre are all required for this site. The local office of the Ministry of Health (MoH) has five large tents capable of hosting 100 people each as well as 50 tents capable of hosting eight people each. However, additional tents are required.

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Constraints

The crowded conditions of the camps make cooking difficult. More cooking implements are needed as well as bed pans for children and the elderly, who are not able to leave their tents.

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/Achievements

No report at this time.

Water and Sanitation

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

Progress/Achievements

In Dire Dawa, schools are connected to the local water system. Water bladders have been installed in the shelters and water is supplied by government water tankers.

In West Shoa, the Sebeta Town Municipality is sending a 15 cubic metres tanker truck to the West Shoa shelter every two days. Water is distributed directly from the truck; there appears to be sufficient water in the camp. Though the water source is a spring and no chlorine is added, its quality appears to be acceptable.

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

Progress/Achievements

In Dire Dawa, schools have an insufficient number of latrines for the populations they are hosting. It is unlikely that additional latrines will be constructed in the schools prior to relocating the displaced to the permanent shelter site. ERCS is planning to build latrines there but this will depend on the final decision reached by the government regarding medium-term shelter.

In West Shoa, two trench latrines measuring 15 m x 50 cm each have been constructed around the West Shoa camp to serve 2,500 people. The trench latrines are getting full and the shelter staff plan to dig new trenches of similar size and design.

Constraint

There is a concern that because most of the people displaced are labourers, they may refuse to leave the centre.

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

Progress/Achievements

In Dire Dawa, those who sought shelter with relatives and neighbours are using water from the network supplied from a borehole, tanker trucks (already in use before the flood) and hand pumps. There is almost no standing water in the city. No household water treatment is required at this time. When the displaced are moved to a permanent site, a connection to the network will need to be installed. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has expressed interest in doing this.

Objective 4: To promote hygiene behaviour in the community.

Progress/Achievements

In Dire Dawa, latrines in the schools are being utilized and cleaned and the school grounds are generally clean and uncontaminated with faeces. Still, there is a need for infant bed pans.

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Federation Coordination

There are a number of agencies working in Dire Dawa at this time, though it is not clear how long they will stay. WFP is committed to providing food supplies for some time.

While UNICEF has provided a large amount of relief items, it is trying to avoid taking the lead on the response and will only do so if necessary. They are also planning to deploy a WatSan person to assess providing water supply to the permanent shelter site. UNICEF does not plan on providing education facilities in the shelter site, but may provide uniforms and supplies.

During the first week of the disaster, daily coordination meetings were organized by OCHA. Six sub committees were set up to address specific issues: food, NFI and logistics; health, nutrition and sanitation; infrastructure; protection; education as well as information and communication.

On 22 August 2006, members of the FACT attended a development assistance group (DAG) meeting in Addis Ababa. Other participants in the meeting included UN agencies, embassies, the European Commission, World Bank (chair), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the British government's Department for International Development (DFID). The meeting discussed the flood situation in South Omo and other flooded areas (including potential risk areas) and initial request for assistance from the government. Also addresses were updates on the impact of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), the initial request for assistance from the government and the preparation of flash appeals in response to both emergencies.

National society capacity building

More than 50 Red Cross volunteers have been deployed to provide first aid service to those who survived the flooding. Branch offices are closely working with government offices such as the DPPA, the health office and the water resource development office. These offices also expressed their interest to collaborate with the national society in the implementation of the proposed intervention. The Red Cross headquarters has staff with experience in emergency operations, including floods.

Communications – advocacy and public information

The regional delegation has prepared and issued updates which have been published on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). The ERCS information unit is tasked with covering the operation and informing the public about the effectiveness of the operation in delivering the planned assistance to the intended beneficiaries.

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

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ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRET003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/08/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,112,299		11.5%
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
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				128,123	CHF	11.5%

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	