

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

ERITREA: IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY

15 August 2003

Appeal No. 33/2002; Operations Update no. 3

Appeal launched on 03 December 2002 for CHF 7,865,000 (USD 5,282,274 or EUR 5,322,949) for 9 months for 41,500 beneficiaries.

Budget was revised to CHF 8,061,000 and operation was expanded to 76,500 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 15,000 (reimbursed)

Period covered: March to July 2003

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 38.2%; See the Contributions List on the Federation's website for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 4,981,698 (USD 3,649,596 or EUR 3,216,074)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeal for Eritrea (Appeal no. 01.04/2003)

Operational Summary: The response to the appeal has to date resulted in the procurement of 3,390 MT of wheat grain, 276 MT of pulses and 206,880 litres of cooking oil for 45,000 beneficiaries in Hagaz. Note that operations were originally planned for the nine-month period of February to October 2003. Limitations in contributions, as well as delays in procurement and delivery of food commodities, have impacted this operation.

Operational developments

As a result of the relatively low appeal coverage, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) and the Federation revised their original relief plan. The number of beneficiaries receiving relief food items was reduced from 41,500 to 25,000; the number receiving water was correspondingly reduced from 20,000 to 6,000.

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

Emergency relief food distribution

Objective: To provide general food rations for 9 months for an average of 41,500 people to ensure their livelihood until the next harvest (November 2003).

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Response to the appeal and delays in delivery required a modification to the original relief plan; RCSE/Federation distributed food commodities to 25,000 beneficiaries in the first 2-3 months, while Dutch Inter-church Aid (DIA) distributed to 20,000 beneficiaries. As well, the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC), the coordinating agency, issued a letter stating the need to decrease ration size from 15 to 10 kg per person; this would allow the relief commodities to reach a greater number of beneficiaries. The RCSE/Federation accepted this request,

until such time as sufficient food aid is secured to resume the original level and standard; the distribution was also changed to a three-month ration covering March to May 2003.

The next phase of distribution was delayed due to difficulties in logistics and commodity delivery. The last distribution, done in early July, saw the resumption to 45,000 beneficiaries.

All food relief commodities – except 15,400 litres of cooking oil – have been procured in line with the original procurement and distribution plan. The fourth period of distribution is planned for early August 2003.

Impact

Delays in delivery and funding, changes in beneficiary levels and changes in commodity amounts have all impacted the implementation as originally planned. However, by working closely with all partners and with the beneficiary community, there has been minimal disruption. Continued support for this operation is essential to ensure distributions continue as planned, and to ensure that activities in other sectors are also implemented to plan.

Constraints

Funding constraints (response to the appeal) impact both implementation as well as staff attention to resulting revisions. Logistics constraints inherently impact timing (i.e. delivery, distribution) and quantities (i.e. beneficiaries, commodities).

Health

Objective 1: To strengthen the provision of health services through outreach programs, volunteer mobilisation and training, and provision of an integrated health sanitation education.

Objective 2: Improving the sanitation behaviour of the population.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The progress in this sector and towards these objectives has been minimal. This is due in part to the limitations in staffing (RCSE, Federation), which in itself is a result of the emphasis on implementation of the core emergency relief components of this appeal.

Despite this, progress has been made indirectly through the implementation of the watsan behavioural change objective number 2.

Impact

Impact is minimal, due to limits on progress mentioned above.

Constraints

The capacity of the RCSE requires additional support, primarily from the Federation Delegation but additionally from the Health and Care unit of the Federation Regional Delegation in Nairobi.

Water and Sanitation (WatSan)

Objective 1: To reduce water stress by provision of safe water supply through water trucking.

Objective 2: Improving the sanitation behaviour of the population.

Objective 3: To improve the availability and quality of drinking water for 35,000 people living in communities affected by the drought.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The water trucking, begun in February, continues to deliver 14 litres per day per people to approximately 6,000 beneficiaries in the Shebek area (Hagaz sub-zoba/Anseba zoba); this is delivered to eight villages and two schools.

A nominal fee is charged for this water. The proceeds are retained at community level and used for operational maintenance of watsan hardware: pumps, dams, reservoirs, generators, solar equipment, etc.

Health and hygiene sensitisation activities, related to water sources, are being implemented in the villages of intervention. The RCSE WatSan team is facilitating the formation of or contacting of the Water Committees in the villages where the drought relief operation is being carried out.

Local governmental authorities (ERREC) requested RCSE intervention in watsan activities. A local consultant firm performed a thorough hydro-geological survey in the RCSE operational area of Anseba province. This defined a linkage between emergency water supply and long-term sustainable water supply projects. This led to the addition of objective 3 and a budget revision for this appeal in March 2003.

The WatSan team is conducting field studies for the on-going implementation of a water supply projects in six villages (Dekizeru, Balwa, Ziron, Rehey, Aderba and Deroke).

The RCSE contracted with a water drilling company to drill three successful bore holes in Anseba zoba, Halhal sub-zoba, Rehey village, Elabered sub-zoba and in the villages of Deroke and Aderba. Two drilled boreholes are in the process of being developed. The RCSE WatSan team is monitoring the drilling activities closely. Protection of the only bore hole of Ziron (Hamel malo sub-zoba) and the water pumping and supplying system - which was in danger of collapsing - has been completed and secured.

Impact

Limits on funding have resulted in a reduction of beneficiaries to the current 6,000 actually receiving water (in eight villages).

Daily trucking of water assures the beneficiary community of access to potable water, in line with SPHERE standards for quality and quantity.

Constraints

The supply of water is meant as a temporary response, while longer-term watsan solutions are designed and implemented. The reduction of beneficiaries makes the completions of these solutions more urgent.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

Although no specific objectives are identified in the appeal, it is implicit that this operation will strengthen the RCSE in its overall managerial and operational capacity. By extension, this will enhance by RCSE for full recognition as a national society and member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

National Society Capacity Building

Objective: To strengthen the capacity of the RCSE headquarters and the Anseba branch in disaster preparedness and disaster management operations. Although several RCSE staff and volunteers have previous disaster response experience, the scope of this proposed relief operation requires the building of further knowledge and skills. Particularly before the start up of the action, RCSE staff and volunteers will receive extensive training and coaching.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The RCSE branch and headquarters staff were integral in the elaboration of the original distribution plans; they also amended the plans, in line with the ERREC letter and the shortages of commodities. RCSE staff and volunteers implemented the distributions to date with minimal disruption and problems.

The RCSE is a member of the Inter-agency Coordination Committee, a national level grouping of agencies implementing various aspects of the drought relief. There is an internal Federation/RCSE task force that meets biweekly, to discuss and decide issues specific to this operation. As well, there is a watsan sectoral working group that also meets biweekly, comprised of NGOs, governmental agencies, and international humanitarian organisations. The RCSE has adopted a watsan strategy that guides their efforts and activities in the watsan sector.

Impact

The experiences gained from this operation, coupled with the experience from prior operations, have benefited the RCSE staff; this will continue to benefit this operation, and future operations as needed.

Constraints

Retention of staff will be an issue to address; this is not a current problem as relates to this operation.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Objective: Ensure that the needs and rights of the most vulnerable in relation to the drought situation are secured.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

During February and March 2003, the Federation website posted information articles specific to this operation. As well, a photographer was sent to further document this operation.

Impact

Exposure to this operation was enhanced through the web postings. Impact on this operation is difficult to quantify; however,

Constraints

Further postings and articles are limited due to staffing and capacity constraints at RCSE, Delegation and Regional levels.

Federation coordination

Federation Delegation supports the RCSE and this operation through: watsan technical support, reporting and finance delegate, Head of Delegation management and oversight.

Federation Regional Delegation in Nairobi supports this operation as relates to programmatic and technical oversight: watsan, health, logistics, finance, reporting, information/advocacy and programme coordination.

Federation Secretariat supports this operation at Desk level, as well as for logistical and IT support (procurement, telecommunications, etc).

Regional technical groups/teams support RCSE on an as-needed basis: Regional Disaster Response Team, working group on food security, etc.

For further information please contact:

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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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

Eritrea food security

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 33/2002

PLEDGES RECEIVED

18/08/03

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				8,061,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 38.2%
AMERICAN - RC		50,000	USD	67,975	05.05.03	
BRITISH RC		25,000	GBP	57,708	16/12/02	
BRITISH - RC				15,640	28.03.03	SOLAR PUMP REHABILITATION
BRITISH - RC		23,000	GBP	49,404	29.05.03	
DANISH - RC		462,500	DKK	90,650	27/01/03	
FINNISH RC		150,000	EUR	219,960	19/12/02	RELIEF ITEMS + TRANSPORT
GERMAN - R^GOVT		110,868	EUR	168,797	17.06.03	
JAPAN RC		160,500	USD	234,683	16/12/02	
KUWAIT - RC		100,000	USD	135,750	04/02/03	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		278,075	EUR	404,738	23/01/03	FOOD DISTRIBUTION
NETHERLANDS - RC		427,807	EUR	626,096	10.03.03	FOOD DISTRIBUTION
NORWEGIAN - RC		400,000	NOK	75,500	03.06.03	
SOUTH AFRICAN - GOVT				16,020	02.04.03	
SWEDISH GOVT		300,000	SEK	48,420	17/12/02	
SWEDISH - RC		500,000	SEK	80,700	17/12/02	
SWEDISH - GOVT		500,000	SEK	79,500	16/01/03	
SWEDISH - GOVT		3,000,000	SEK	480,000	02.04.03	
SWEDISH - RC		350,000	SEK	56,000	12.05.03	
SWISS - GOVT/RC				5,038	08/01/03	
SWISS PRIVATE DONOR				500	20.03.03	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,913,079	CHF	36.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWISS - GOVT/RC				77,500	08/01/03	
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			10,842		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			36,796		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			38,768		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				163,906	CHF	2.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Eritrea food security

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 33/2002

PLEDGES RECEIVED

18/08/03

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