

# 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

1 January 2004

**Appeal no. 01.04/2003; Appeal target: CHF 228,182 (USD 154,859 or EUR 154,930)**

**Programme Update No. 2**

**Period covered: July - December 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](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### **In Brief**

**Appeal coverage:** 69.5% See attached [Contributions List](#) for details

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 69,512 (USD 55,600 or EUR 44,600)

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:**

- [Eritrea: Improving Food Security – Emergency Appeal no. 33/2002](#)
- [Eritrea: Annual Appeal no. 01.03/2004](#)

**Programme Summary:** A new Head of Delegation was recruited at the beginning of August. Federation support to the [Red Cross Society of Eritrea](#) has been a combination of technical and financial support to the emergency relief programme of the national society; more focus has been given on institutional development by preparing the national society to develop a structure and capacity that is less dependent on external support.

The budget for this Appeal has not been covered and the programmes are spending far below the planned budget; some expenditure has been taken over by Emergency Appeal 33/2002. During these six months, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea has proven its capacity to implement, run and sustain important programmes targeting the most vulnerable in the community, particularly in health and care, disaster management and community based programmes.

### **Operational developments**

For the third time, the commencement of the demarcation of a 1,000 km stretch of the Eritrea/Ethiopia border was postponed; a new date has not been fixed. International pressure continues to bear on the two countries to accept the ruling of the Border Commission appointed by the UN; a special envoy has been appointed by the UN Secretary General to facilitate a dialogue between the two governments who have not held face-to-face talks since the Algiers peace accord in December 2000.

The border stalemate has serious consequences especially for Eritrea: 60,000 - 70,000 people are still displaced and prohibited from moving back to their homes in the temporary security zone. The demobilization of more than

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200,000 Eritrean soldiers from the war has not started. The country is on high alert in case of new confrontations while the requirement of men and women aged between 18 - 40 years to join the national service is ongoing. This has left the country with a shortage of human resources, especially in the agricultural industry.

The main *kremti* rain season in June to September started late in 2003 and ended early; due to its short duration, the growing season was too dry to secure an anticipated good harvest after the catastrophic low production during the previous year. In addition to the destruction caused by insects, bugs and birds, heavy winds and hailstorms accompanying the rains destroyed crops in many areas. The deteriorating condition caused by the drought and the effects of the unsettled border dispute has left the government and the humanitarian community with enormous challenges. Of particular concern are acute food and water shortages and increasing levels of malnutrition and drought related diseases.

### **Core Programme Areas**

All Federation core programmes in the 2003 Appeal for Eritrea have been covered under the organizational development section. The Red Cross Society of Eritrea has for years run different programmes in line with [Strategy 2010](#), [ARCHI](#) and the [Ouagadougou Declaration](#) using own resources or funding received from partner national societies. Major developments achieved during the reporting period under these programmes are as follows:

### **Health and Care**

A global measles mass immunization campaign was undertaken throughout the country with the government of Eritrea, UNICEF and the national society as the main implementing partners. The active role played by Red Cross volunteers in sensitizing and mobilizing the communities contributed to a very large turnout for the vaccination. Areas covered by the volunteers had the highest coverage in the country; this accomplishment received commendations from the government and UNICEF.

The health department has been strengthened through the creation of three different units as outlined below :

#### **HIV/AIDS**

A HIV/AIDS coordinator recruited during the year has actively provided training in most of the branches and initiated peer programmes with the objective of reducing stigma and discrimination of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Joint activities including meetings with various organizations and agencies were held with three visiting representatives of the Ambassadors of Hope to mark the World AIDS Day on 1 December. This culminated in a meeting in Asmara attended by teachers and students from various schools, Red Cross staff and volunteers from six zobas (regions), and representatives of various organizations working in Eritrea. A HIV/AIDS knowledge and awareness competition for students from all the six zobas of the country was initiated on this occasion. A Red Cross volunteer from the Maekel branch (Asmara) won the regional poster competition on stigma and discrimination against HIV/AIDS.

#### **Community Participation unit**

A new Community Development Coordinator has been recruited, who together with the Head of Health and Care Department, has been visiting the six branches and a number of villages in each zoba. Efforts by this unit in disseminating messages on a structured cooperation and sharing of responsibilities between the Red Cross and the communities are starting to show results: community participation and cooperation is becoming increasingly important in the preparation and implementation of various programmes and projects of the national society.

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As part of this unit, training of women in home management skills, and community-based first aid is going on in all branches in the six zobas. Intensive visits and active monitoring by headquarters have strengthened these programmes and provided a forum for sharing ideas and experiences.

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### **Water and Sanitation unit (WatSan)**

Water and sanitation is a top priority for the national society, which runs projects in six zobas. To strengthen the unit, a water technician was recruited in 2003 while a WatSan Coordinator will be recruited in 2004. The WatSan engineer covering the drought Appeal programme is part of the WatSan unit. The Federation WatSan delegate working under the drought relief operation is providing on-the-job support and training to those who are engaged in WatSan activities.

## **Disaster Management**

### **Preparedness**

During the period, a consultant from the Netherlands Red Cross provided a participatory rural appraisal (PRA) training workshop to strengthen the volunteer system of the national society. The system operates with two coaches providing support to volunteers in each of the six branches, and has been instrumental in structuring the volunteer network, and in coordinating the collaboration between Red Cross and community volunteers during interventions. Certain roles and responsibilities of branch and headquarters staff are being adjusted to fit in the new working structures.

With support from the ICRC, a theory-and-practical and practical field training mine awareness workshop was held for participants from the branches. As part of the conflict preparedness programme, the ICRC has donated three vehicles to the national society and provided additional training for the Red Cross action teams. The ambulance service of the national society has also benefited from a donation of one ambulance from the ICRC while three others await clearance from customs. ICRC will also hand over tents, blankets, first aid kits and other disaster and conflict preparedness equipment to the national society.

### **Response**

With support from the Federation and funding from partner national societies, the national society has been running a food security program for 45,000 beneficiaries in Hagaz sub-zoba, and a WatSan programme that includes the rehabilitation of old water points, construction of new water sources and emergency water trucking for more than 6,000 persons in the worst affected areas.

The national society continues to provide emergency medical services from the six branches under its ambulance service programme through funding from ICRC and partner national societies. Since this is the duty of the central or local governments, the national society has started dialogue with the authorities at zoba level to pledge financial contributions to the programme in view of the fact that donors are planning to reduce their financial involvement in the project.

## **Humanitarian Values**

Using own resources and with support from ICRC, the national society has continued its humanitarian values programmes in tracing and dissemination with the latter targeting the police, the military and government officials. An element of international humanitarian law (IHL) is included in the programme as part of dissemination. With the border dispute with Ethiopia still unsettled, the ICRC continues running the "safe passage programme" for both Ethiopians and Eritreans returning home from either countries.

## **Organizational Development**

**Goal: Significant and sustainable improvements in the general well being of vulnerable people in Eritrea.**

**Objective: The capacity of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea to deliver relevant and high quality services for the most vulnerable people in Eritrea is increased.**

The ongoing drought relief operation implemented by the national society in cooperation with the Federation Delegation in Eritrea has provided an excellent opportunity to promote organizational development of the national society. This will further be explored and developed throughout 2004: the launch of a new drought Appeal

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replacing the one for 2003 is envisaged. Technical delegates will give top priority to institutional development and hand over the whole operation to the national society during the course of 2004.

This reporting period has seen the active planning and construction of new branches in four of the six zobas. This new construction is aimed at enhancing efficiency in the branches, increasing their visibility and image within the population, and giving the branches an opportunity to develop their capacity through mobilization of local resources.

### **Bash Barka (Barentu)**

With financial support from the Netherlands Red Cross and Danish Red Cross, this branch has been able to construct and move into a spacious building comprising a number of offices, a warehouse, a separate section for the ambulance service, a training and meeting hall. This is an enormous improvement from the small house that the branch had been renting over the years.

### **Northern Red Sea (Massawa)**

The branch has built a training hall and separate rooms for the ambulance service through financial support from Norwegian Red Cross. In the past the branch has had to hire venues whenever it conducted training for staff or volunteers.

### **Debub (Mendefera)**

After a long tendering process, construction of the new branch building in Mendefera started in the middle of November. It is expected to be complete by the end of March 2004.

### **Southern Red Sea (Assab)**

After operating from makeshift offices in containers, construction work for an office building is expected to start in early 2004; the Netherlands Red Cross has pledged funds for the completion of the first phase of the office premises.

The Anseba (Keren) branch has its own building that was funded by Danish Red Cross a few years ago and is sufficiently serving the needs of the branch. The Maekel (Asmara) branch, located in containers inside a rented compound, is at the moment the main concern for the national society. The owner intends to terminate the lease contract leaving the branch with no place to go; dialogue is ongoing with the local authorities over possible alternative locations.

An annual evaluation of the impact of a long-term bilateral cooperation between the Danish Red Cross and the national society is due to take place; this follows a mid-term review by an external consultant whose report is pending. However, a preliminary report indicates that the national society is doing a very good job in the implementation of programmes and the development of a management structure towards becoming a well functioning national society.

As mentioned under health and care, the Community Development Coordinator and the Head of Health and Care department have visited all the branches and encouraged more active participation of the communities in Red Cross programmes and activities. This provided a good opportunity to evaluate the way the national society is working in the different zobas together with the branch staff and volunteers.

With the growing number of Red Cross and community volunteers involved in activities, it has become increasingly important to coordinate their work, clarify roles and responsibilities, and improve cooperation between the various types of volunteers. Towards this end, a Volunteer Coordinator has been recruited to oversee this process.

The national society is in the process of recruiting a reporting coordinator as part of further developing the human resource capacity. The position is expected to be filled early in 2004; the reporting coordinator will then receive intensive training in the preparation of standard Federation reports and other donor reports.

### **Constraints**

Lack of progress in recognition of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea by the government limits opportunities for development of the governance structures and fundraising at national and branch levels. However, this lack of recognition is not in any way affecting the national society's implementation of programmes assisting the most vulnerable people in the community. Cooperation and collaboration with the authorities at central, regional and community level is going on very well; all the branches in the six zobas enjoy a close working relationship with the authorities.

## **Federation Coordination**

**Goal: To build capacity and empower the Red Cross Society of Eritrea to achieve its mandate through better partnerships.**

**Objective: The Red Cross Society of Eritrea's integrated capacity building, planning and implementation skills are ensured by the Federation through participatory facilitation.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

Federation coordination and support mechanisms have increased the impact made by the national society in several ways. Initiation of, and participation in regular consultative meetings with local partners and international government and non-government partners have helped avoid overlapping and duplication and has enhanced coordination and reinforcement of interventions.

The Federation Delegation facilitated visits and briefing with representatives of various partner national societies on mission in Eritrea. The following nine partner national societies visited Eritrea during the period American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross.

There has been more productive dialogue between technical delegates from the regional and country delegations with counterparts of the national society, especially in WatSan, HIV/AIDS, logistics, disaster relief, finance and reporting and branch development.

Advocacy for long-term financial and capacity building support to the national society has been undertaken. As a member of the mid-term review of the bilateral cooperation between Danish Red Cross and the national society, the Head of Delegation actively advocated for a long-term commitment to facilitate implementation and further support national society progress.

A partnership meeting planned for September 2003 had to be cancelled due to the absence of the Secretary General who could not attend; the meeting has now been scheduled for March 2004. Nonetheless, representatives from some partner national societies took the opportunity in September to visit the national society and the Federation country delegation as well as the ICRC and other stakeholders.

### **Constraints**

The absence of the Secretary General of the national society put the rest of management under pressure; management proved its competence in handling the various challenges at central and local level.

## **International Representation**

As mentioned under Health and Care, the national society was an active partner in the global measles mass immunization campaign. Funding was received from the Secretariat in Geneva, and representatives of the Federation from Geneva and Nairobi visited the national society during the immunization campaigns.

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*<Contributions List below - [Click here to return to title page](#)>*

APPEAL No. 01.04/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

07/01/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>228,182</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 69.5%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				54,732		
NETHERLANDS - RC				28,637	30.09.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		100,000	SEK	16,000	07.04.03	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				99,369	CHF	43.5%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			34,825		
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			24,476		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				59,301	CHF	26.0%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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