

# ANNUAL REPORT



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 April 2004

### In Brief

**Appeal No.:** 01.04/2003 ([Click here to access the 2003 Appeal](#))

**Appeal target:** CHF 228,192 (USD 154,859 or EUR 154,930)

**Appeal coverage:** 76.0% ([Click here to access the Final Financial Report](#))

**Appeal 2004:** Eritrea no. 01.03/2004 ([Click here to access the 2004 Appeal](#))

*This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning.*

*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, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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### Overall analysis of the programme

The Federation provided technical and financial support to the Red Cross Society of Eritrea in 2003 on the emergency relief operation under the Appeal 33/2002. Focus has been on developing structures and capacity to make the national society less dependent on external financial and technical support. A new head of Federation Delegation was recruited in August 2003.

In the year 2003, the national society improved its capacity in preventive health, community participation, disaster management, and voluntarism but has requested the Federation to continue its support through the maintenance of an office at the national society's headquarters.

Two programme objectives were highlighted in the 2003-2004 Appeal. These together with the expected results for the [Red Cross Society of Eritrea](#) were collected under the two core areas of organizational development and Federation coordination. The good relationship between the national society and a number of partner national societies (PNS) over the years has provided the national society with substantial financial and technical support. It was assumed that these bilateral partnerships would continue in the long term and would provide sufficient support to enable the society implement all its programme activities. For these reasons, no budget was allocated for Red Cross Society of Eritrea and its programmes in the Federation Annual Appeal, which concentrates on maintaining the office of the Federation representative in the country to exclusively play a facilitator role.

## **Eritrea; Appeal no. 01.04/2003; Annual Report**

However, the worsening drought situation in Eritrea prompted the Federation to launch a new Emergency Appeal 04/2004 focusing on improving food security for 41,500 beneficiaries and the provision of potable water for 10,000 people in the worst affected areas of Anseba zoba. The Appeal was later revised with an extension of the Water and Sanitation (WatSan) component for another 35,000 beneficiaries through rehabilitation of existing water sources or construction of new ones. The implementation of the emergency relief programme took a lot of the national society's resources and resulted in limited activities in other programme areas.

### **Objectives, achievements/impact, and constraints**

#### **Organizational Development**

**Goal: Significant and sustainable improvements in the general health of vulnerable people in Eritrea**

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

#### **Progress**

There has been no tangible development on the formal recognition of the national society despite regular contact and reminders on the Eritrean Government. As a result, no action has been taken towards electing governance bodies. Despite the lack of formal recognition, the national society and ministries at central, regional and local levels continue strengthen their partnership in programme planning and implementation. The national society, the Ministry of Health, and UNICEF successfully implemented the mass measles immunization campaign. The national society and Eritrea Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) are active partners in the emergency relief operation. The national society continued to receive full support from all Movement partners pending formal recognition and admission into the Movement.

A lot of focus was given to developing the capacity of the national society in 2003 through support of the Federation and a number of PNS particularly the Danish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross. As a result, the national society improved its management and operational structure at headquarters and branch level.

To strengthen the human resource base, a Volunteer Coordinator was recruited in 2003 to manage the growing number of Red Cross and community volunteers engaged in Red Cross activities, to clarify roles and responsibilities, and to improve cooperation between them. The process of recruiting a Reporting Officer commenced in December 2003 and was finalized in February 2004; an intensive training programme is planned to build the capacity of this officer and other key staff of the national society to produce timely and quality reports to donors and partners.

With the technical support of the Federation and as part of the emergency programme, the national society built a WatSan unit under the health and care department. One water engineer and a water technician have been recruited at headquarters, and one WatSan officer in the Anseba branch. The national society is in the process of recruiting a WatSan Coordinator to manage all WatSan projects.

The drought relief operation promoted organizational development of the national society in disaster preparedness and response, community participation and coordination with other stakeholders. An extension of the drought Appeal into 2004 will further strengthen the national society's capacity in these areas.

The computerization of the Finance Department has ensured transparency, improved and timely financial reporting internally and to donors. The 2003 accounts of the national society were externally audited and found to be satisfactory.

In 2003, four branches constructed new offices to enhance efficiency, increasing visibility and image within the communities, and giving them opportunity to develop their capacity through income generating activities. Barentu branch in Gash Barka completed and occupied its new office building in November with ample space for staff and volunteers and a big training and meeting hall. This first phase of the project was funded by the Netherlands Red Cross; the second phase expected to be completed by March 2004 is funded by the Danish Red Cross and comprises the first floor of the main building, a warehouse, and a separate section for the ambulance service.

## **Eritrea; Appeal no. 01.04/2003; Annual Report**

Construction of the new building in Dehub branch (Mendefera) started in mid-November fully financed by the Danish Red Cross. The design is similar to the Barentu one and will be complete in the first quarter of 2004. The branch in Massawa in the Northern Red Sea has completed a new training hall and separate rooms for the ambulance service with financial support of the Norwegian Red Cross. The Assab branch in the Southern Red Sea has operated from makeshift offices in containers and a small house. Tendering for the construction of an office is complete and funding is being sought. The Netherlands Red Cross has funded the construction of a training hall, a canteen, toilet facilities and a section for the ambulance service. In addition, the Netherlands Red Cross is assisting the national society to develop a scheme for renting the training halls, rest rooms and canteens in some of the branches to generate income.

### **Constraints**

Minimal progress has been made to establish transitional central committees, revitalizing provincial committees, establishing Statutes and electing the governance due to non recognition of the national society by the Eritrean Government. The training and clarification of roles and responsibilities of the various governance bodies, and the membership recruitment and training have also been put on hold. Planned income generation activities, membership recruitment and active lobbying for subsidy from public organizations for services rendered by the national society were also postponed.

### **Impact**

The management structure of the national society has been strengthened through the restructuring of departments, roles and responsibilities, and the recruitment of new professional staff. Additional training and coaching of staff at central and regional levels has improved performance and increased knowledge. Decentralization of authority to branches, and establishment of Red Cross committees in a number of villages has contributed to better cooperation on zoba and sub-zoba levels. Introduction of the coaching system has contributed to positive development.

### **Health and care**

All assistance from the Federation to the national society in the health and care programme was integrated under the organizational development support.

### **Progress**

The Red Cross Society of Eritrea, the government of Eritrea, and UNICEF collaborated in the implementation of the global measles mass immunization campaign. Active social mobilization and sensitization by Red Cross volunteers resulted into a large turnout for the vaccination. Areas covered by the volunteers had the highest vaccination coverage in the country and was highly commended by the government and UNICEF.

The national society's health and care department has been strengthened through the creation of three different units of HIV/AIDS, community participation and WatSan.

A HIV/AIDS coordinator recruited in 2003 trained the branches and initiated peer education programmes to reduce stigma and discrimination of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Red Cross volunteers from the Maekel branch (Asmara) won the regional poster competition on stigma and discrimination against HIV/AIDS. Joint activities were conducted with three visiting representatives of the Ambassadors of Hope to mark the World AIDS Day on 1 December 2003. This included two meetings in Asmara for 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 Community Development Coordinator was recruited in the community participation unit, and jointly with the Head of Health and Care Department, undertook monitoring visits to all the six branches and a number of villages in each zoba and an assessment of their coordination with different stakeholders. All the branches and two sub-branches<sup>1</sup> have expanded their network of volunteers and continued training of women in community based first

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<sup>1</sup> Sub-branch Dekemhare in zoba Dehub, and sub-branch Akordet in zoba Gash Barka

## **Eritrea; Appeal no. 01.04/2003; Annual Report**

aid (CBFA), health and home management and PHAST<sup>2</sup>. Intensive monitoring has strengthened these programmes and provided a forum for sharing ideas and experiences.

WatSan is a top priority for the national society; the Red Cross Society of Eritrea runs projects in all the six zobas. (See organisational development section for the establishment of a WatSan unit). The Federation WatSan Delegate working under the drought relief operation is providing on-the-job support and coaching for this unit. With support from the Regional Delegation in Nairobi, the national society developed a WatSan strategy in 2003 which highlights PHAST as a crucial element for tangible impact in the communities.

Twelve volunteer coaches - two for each of the six branches - have been recruited and have strengthened activities and cooperation between the network of Community and Red Cross volunteers throughout the country.

This is the beginning of a new operational approach of the national society where local coaches work with and through volunteers at the community level to deliver essential services. The roles and responsibilities of branch and headquarters staff have been adjusted to fit this new working modality. See organizational development section for more details on recruitment of a Volunteer Coordinator.

### **Constraints**

The development of the health and care department has been a challenge. With the implementation of the relief programme where WatSan projects are a key focus, it has become even more important to build a structure where the software component is fully integrated through incorporating health aspect in all the projects.

The number of Red Cross and community volunteers linked to programmes of the national society has been growing fast. This is highly appreciated and is considered as one of the main strengths of the national society. However this comes with challenges related to coordination and clarification of roles and responsibilities, where it is important for the community volunteers to fully follow the principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

### **Impact**

Efforts by the health and care department 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.

The health and care aspects within the various programmes of the national society are receiving an increasing attention. The national society has strengthened its role at community level basing on [ARCHI 2010](#) coupled with the various Federation toolkits to facilitate the implementation of CBFA.

## **Disaster Management**

### **Progress**

With financial and technical support of the Netherlands Red Cross, the volunteer structure of the national society has been strengthened through the coaching system introduced in all the six branches and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) training workshops. The system operates with coaches providing support to community volunteers in each of the branches (see health section for more information).

With support of the ICRC, a field training and mine awareness workshop was held for participants from all branches. As part of the conflict and preparedness programme, the ICRC provided additional training for the Red Cross Action Teams, donated three used Land Cruisers, one used and three new ambulances. The ICRC will also hand over tents, blankets, first aid kits and other disaster and conflict preparedness equipment to the national society.

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<sup>2</sup> PHAST – Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation

## **Eritrea; Appeal no. 01.04/2003; Annual Report**

The national society continues to provide emergency medical services from the six branches under its ambulance service programme funded by ICRC and PNS. Since this is the duty of the central or local governments, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea has initiated dialogue with the authorities at zoba level to pledge financial contributions in view of an expected reduced financial support from donors to the programme.

With support from the Federation and funding from PNS, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea has been running a food security programme 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.

### **Constraints**

Implementation of the emergency relief operation experienced several delays in procurement of relief items.

### **Impact**

The emergency relief programme in 2003 has helped develop the national society's operational systems and structures at national level and in the operational branch in Hagaz sub-zoba. Red Cross action teams have been formed in all the six branches and trained in effective disaster response. The ICRC has provided valuable support to this process. The Federation has facilitated the development of the food security strategy of the national society.

## **Advocacy**

### **Progress**

To increase international attention on the effects of the drought on Eritrea, a professional journalist and a photographer were contracted to write stories and articles and take pictures of the effect of the drought on the communities. These were posted on the Federation's website to capture international attention on the emergency situation in Eritrea.

Knowledge about the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its principles, and the Red Cross Society of Eritrea as the only national society in the country was continually disseminated during the various training and dissemination sessions of the national society.

### **Impact**

Exposure to the relief operation of the national society was enhanced through the work of the journalist and photographer. Likewise, the image and general knowledge about the Red Cross Society of Eritrea undoubtedly improved owing to the sizable operation under the Emergency Appeal programme.

The national society is frequently invited as a stakeholder to working groups within the community of humanitarian organizations as well as by the various sectoral working groups of the ICC<sup>3</sup> such as health group, WatSan group, education group, food and logistics group, and nutrition group. There is close collaboration with the ministries of health and agriculture at central and zoba level.

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<sup>3</sup> Information Co-ordination Centre, a joint ERREC/UN venture to facilitate humanitarian interventions in Eritrea

## **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**

Plans to develop a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) for Eritrea were not implemented partly due to illness of the Secretary General and a change in the Federation Representative position. A partnership meeting scheduled for September 2003 was canceled due to the illness of the secretary general and postponed to 2004.

Good relationship between the national society and PNS continued throughout 2003. A mid-term impact review of long-term bilateral cooperation between the Danish Red Cross and the national society conducted in 2003 recommended a continuation of the cooperation; this has been formalized through the signing of a new bilateral agreement. The Netherlands Red Cross has also proposed an extension of their agreement. The Federation Delegation facilitated visits and briefing with representatives from 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 in 2003.

The role of the Federation in the next few years will be to provide technical support and assistance to the national society to further develop its resources holistically and to improve its programmes planning and delivery. Assistance will be provided through mobilization of local and international resources and coordination of partner national societies. Focus will be given to technical assistance and policy development for institutional capacity building and programme development particularly those related to volunteering, disaster preparedness and response, community development, HIV/AIDS and health services.

The Federation's advocacy for long-term financial and capacity building support to the national society has led to among others, commitment by Netherlands Red Cross and Danish Red Cross to invest in the construction of branch buildings Barentu, Mendefera and Assab, and financial support for the initial costs of the new coaching system and the HIV/AIDS programme. As a member of the mid-term review of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea/Danish Red Cross bilateral cooperation, the Head of Country Delegation emphasized the importance of longer-term commitments to facilitate implementation and further development.

### **Impact**

Federation coordination and support has increased the impact made by the national society. 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, preventive health, logistics, disaster relief, finance and reporting and branch development. Participation in regular consultation meetings with local and international government and non-government partners has been initiated to avoid overlapping and duplication, and to coordinate interventions.

The support provided by the Federation Delegation is enhancing the capacity of the national society to deliver meaningful and better quality services to a larger volume. Implementation on activities at the ground has contributed to the recognition of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea by the general population in the country.

## **International Representation**

### **Progress**

The active participation of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea during the global measles mass immunization campaign earned its international recognition from UNICEF, and through features and articles published in the Federation website and websites of other international organizations (IRIN, AlertNet etc)

The Federation with support from ICRC assisted in the development, translation and printing of a booklet profiling the Red Cross Society of Eritrea in English and Tigrinya language. This has been distributed to stakeholders and general public in Eritrea