

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

ETHIOPIA

1 May 2004

In Brief

Appeal No.: 01.05/2003 ([Click here to access the 2003 Appeal](#))

Appeal target: CHF 1,005,566 (USD 683,438 or EUR 683,043)

Appeal coverage: 39.3% ([Click here to access the Final Financial Report](#))

Appeal 2004: Ethiopia no. 01.04/2004 ([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>

For further information specifically related to this Annual Appeal please contact:

- In Ethiopia: Ato Getachew Ta'a, Secretary General, Ethiopian Red Cross Society, Addis Ababa; Email ercs.sg@telecom.net.et, Tel: 2511.51.91.44; Fax 251.1.51.26.43
- In Ethiopia: Cecilia Brunnström, Federation Representative, Addis Ababa; Email ifrcet04@ifrc.org, Phone 251.1.51.45.71; Fax 251.1.51.28.88
- In Geneva: Josse Gillijns, Federation Regional Officer for Eastern Africa, Africa Dept.; Email josse.gillijns@ifrc.org; Phone 41.22.730.42.24; Fax 41.22.733.03.95

Summary analysis of the programme

The [Ethiopian Red Cross Society](#) strategic development plan 2001-2005 strictly follows the [Strategy 2010](#) of the Federation. The phasing out of the permanent presence of the Federation in Ethiopia was initiated in 2002 with the reduction of the Federation Delegation, its integration with the national society structures and the introduction of a Federation Representative. This followed an increase in the national society's capacity to handle regular programme activities rather independently as well as an increasing bilateral support. As such, the Federation in Ethiopia in 2003 was planned to encompass only the Federation Representative who would focus on support to the senior management in developing the capacities of the national society. The decentralization will continue with the transition to a second phase which will see the creation of the Horn of Africa sub-region and Ethiopia joining in as the first country during 2004.

An Emergency Appeal 28/2002 was launched to raise funds for a comprehensive drought operation involving food distribution, cash for work, health and water and sanitation (WatSan) activities in 2003. This was as a result of the 2002 drought which drastically reduced the harvest throughout Ethiopia and jeopardized the lives of the people. Two Federation Delegates were posted to Ethiopia in 2003 to work under the operation. The emergency operation was ended in 2003 and a separate report is available. The two Federation Delegates have since completed their missions.

Federation support outlined in Appeal 2003 was partly implemented because the 2002/2003 drought operation took up part of the capacities of the national society. Nevertheless, most of the regular activities continued but to a reduced extent. Funding of the health programme was overshadowed by the needs of the emergency. The programme was not formally activated as planned. However, intensive health and care activities including PHAST¹ and water and sanitation (WatSan) were carried out within the framework of the drought operation and regular disaster management activities. Volunteers were trained in community based first aid (CBFA), WatSan and HIV/AIDS as part of the regular activities. The national society participated in social mobilization for the polio and measles vaccination campaigns. HIV/AIDS activities were carried out with support from the Federation and bilateral partners.

In line with Strategy 2010 and the Federation's global and regional approach to disaster management, a national disaster preparedness strategy was developed by Ethiopian Red Cross and some of the objectives such as the setting up national disaster preparedness and response team and a working group on food security were met. Two vulnerability capacity assessments (VCA) were carried out in drought stricken areas as a preparation for longer term food security interventions for which funding will be sought during 2004. The national society hosted the regional disaster response team (RDRT) training and participated in a number of international workshops related to health and care, disaster preparedness and response, HIV/AIDS and organizational development.

Ethiopian Red Cross finalized most of the consultations to prepare the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) 2003-2005. The first version of the draft CAS was discussed at the partnership meeting in March 2003 and comments included in a 2nd draft which has been distributed to partners. During the Ethiopian Red Cross partnership meeting, a decision was made to review the national society's reporting and human resources capacities as part of the organizational development programme. The reporting review was completed and recommendations will be implemented in early 2004 to ensure more efficient and effective program management and reporting to donors and partners. Terms of reference for the human resources review were prepared and the process will start in 2004.

Health and care

Goal: The health of and care for vulnerable households and communities - including those affected by conflict, epidemics (inclusive of HIV) and disasters - is improved.

Objective: The Federation facilitates the development of the national society's capacity in community-based health and care programming, including through HIV/AIDS and water and sanitation activities.

Progress

Expected result 1: Households and communities are able to reduce their vulnerability to communicable diseases, epidemics, accidents/injuries and to care for their people in partnership with stakeholders.

The health department of the Ethiopian Red Cross is well structured and functioning with more than 20 staff in the country. Health and care interventions are integrated in all other programmes, prioritized and focused on the basis of vulnerability. Health has been incorporated as a major component in bilateral programmes such as WatSan supported by the British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, American Red Cross, and Spanish Red Cross as well as the ICRC cooperation programmes. Useful partnerships have been established for a joint health and education programme with local community based organizations and national organizations such as Ministry of Health, Lutheran World Federation, and Save the Children-Denmark, and international agencies such as WHO. CBFA activities focus on building local capacity through community empowerment of most vulnerable communities and local networking with line ministries.

The partnerships with WHO, Ministry of Health and other government departments at district level have been actualized in joint activities such as measles and polio immunization campaigns. In 2003, Ethiopian Red Cross supported the measles and polio campaigns through community mobilization by Red Cross volunteers. 145,196 children were vaccinated in woredas (districts) where Ethiopian Red Cross was active of which 44%

¹ PHAST – Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation

in one district and 52% in another were vaccinated for the first time in their life; a significant achievement indicating that Red Cross volunteers reached the most neglected children. Sentinel surveys conducted by the Ministry of Health and WHO in Ethiopian Red Cross intervention areas have indicated a coverage ranging from 94% to 100%.

The national society is a member of the various committees in the country such as the interagency coordination committee and the integrated disease surveillance and response group. The leadership of Ethiopian Red Cross has regularly spoken out on topics related to maternal and child health with and on behalf of vulnerable communities to mobilize existing capacities and to influence decision makers. The International First Aid day was celebrated by all branches throughout the country. Press releases and media coverage emphasized the importance of CBFA and the need to reach out to rural communities. The national society has continually emphasized the importance of assisting mothers and children who are the most vulnerable members of the community by enhancing their understanding of health related issues through volunteers, lobbying for improved access to health care and through the Ethiopian Red Cross WatSan programmes.

The home-based care (HBC) project for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) has been expanded from an initial 140 beneficiaries in Tigray branch to reach an additional 250 persons in another nine branches. The programme trained more than 150 family members of PLWHA on HBC and support with an additional 130 Red Cross volunteers included in the training. Although not included in the strategic plan, about 70 orphaned children were kept on as beneficiaries of the HBC component after their parents died.

The peer education programme which reached 7,503 persons in 2002 increased to 33,526 in 2003 as a result of working in 20 branches as compared to seven before. Each youth peer educator is expected to lead groups of 10 youth.

The development of a HIV/AIDS workplace policy and an educational programme for staff and volunteers of the national society was developed and submitted to the national society board for endorsement. With more than 1,000 employees in the Headquarters and branch offices, the organization has a heavy task of ensuring that its employees are adequately supported and continuously informed about HIV/AIDS so that they are well protected from the dangers of the pandemic. The national society believes that it is impossible to engage in the HIV/AIDS prevention, advocacy, care and support programme whilst it keeps silent in its own premises. Hence, the national society is undertaking preventive and support activities in the work place. The programme is expected to promote behavioral change and reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS transmission amongst staff. 16 employees were selected and trained for five days as peer learning facilitators by a trainer from the German Foundation for World Population (DSW). These in turn formed peer groups and facilitated the peer learning programme. A tool kit for peer group learning was prepared and condom promotion and distribution initiated. As a starting point the programme focuses on Headquarters and the Addis Ababa branch office. This will enable the coordination unit to get a chance to monitor the activities closely and take the appropriate revisions and corrective measures before launching the programme in other branches.

Limited resources in the national society and the long time restriction of the government on the import of anti retroviral (ARV) drugs hampered the possibility of free ARV treatment and palliative care and support for HIV positive staff. However, the government is willing to import the drugs which will enable for the national society staff to access appropriate care and support. Voluntary counseling and testing will start in 2004.

The Ethiopian Red Cross partners in the HIV/AIDS programme are British Red Cross and Danish Red Cross in ten branches; the Spanish Red Cross in one branch; Government and Hapco in four branches; UNICEF in two branches and Pathfinder in three branches.

The President of the national society strongly supports the HIV/AIDS programme as a whole and has been a major force in the development of the workplace policy and an advisor on the general programme strategy. He is also the Ambassador of Hope for the Eastern Africa travelling in the region to promote the HIV/AIDS strategy.

Expected result 2: Provision of sustainable water and sanitation services by supporting interventions in partnership with beneficiary communities and other stakeholders.

The PHAST methodology had been adopted in six branches in 2002 and encompassed 12 branches by the end of 2003. The general objective of the WatSan programme is to improve the health situation in the most vulnerable communities by enhancing their understanding of water borne diseases and increasing access to clean water. Selection of the communities is made in close collaboration with the Ministry of Water and the Ministry of Health. Prevalence of diseases caused by scarce water supply is the main selection criteria.

The role of the national society WatSan team was expanded into six new branches for the general programme and for the drought operation in 2002-2003. Ethiopian Red Cross has taken a stronger lead role in the water and sanitation coordination with its partners. However their representation in the WatSan coordination bodies of the government and other agencies is still weak and needs to be reinforced. In general the WatSan coverage has been increased due to successful resource mobilization and project expansion both within the national and bilateral programmes.

ICRC supports the national society in CBFA, conflict prevention, ambulance service, and tracing. Ten branches are the focal point for the ICRC support where volunteers are trained in CBFA and conflict preparedness activities carried out. The national society received 20 new ambulances in 2003 for its ambulance programme. Agreements have been signed with most district authorities throughout the country that will support the running costs for the sustainability of the ambulance programme.

Impact

Volunteer training and coaching has increased the impact of the health education programmes in general and HIV/AIDS in particular. In 2003, 252 volunteers were trained in PHAST and are now actively involved in facilitating PHAST activities and in preparing sanplats for latrines among the communities. The 663 volunteers whereof 406 with ICRC support and 257 trained in CBFA through the measles campaign are working actively within the programme and undertake health education and promotional activities to reinforce the coping mechanisms of the population. Their dynamic contribution during the mass measles campaign is a clear example of their capacities to join global activities and their impact to reach the population.

Constraints

Many of the planned activities are long-term e.g. WatSan interventions and require consistent presence in the communities to ensure that the software² components of the programme (health and PHAST training) are well in place before the hardware³ components (construction of the water points). The coaching of volunteers is still an area to be developed within the programme to ensure their motivation to work in the communities e.g. delivering messages and gathering information concerning health and nutrition that is to be fed into the early warning system.

Due to the massive drought intervention, the separate budget for the health activities planned through the Federation Appeal was not covered. The long-term WatSan strategy of the Ethiopian Red Cross will therefore be finalized in the first quarter of 2004 through a final evaluation workshop and field visits with the support of some of the partners in the programme and the Federation. At present, statistics describing the coverage of the programme with the number of beneficiaries reached are not registered in a systematic way which does not allow the national society to thoroughly monitor the long term development and impact of the programme.

² 'Software' refers to the planning stage of a project where needs of a community are identified, defined and capacities build in order to promote self-sustainability, ownership.

³ 'Hardware' refers to the structural aspect of a project which involves actual implementation of the needs that have been identified e.g. borehole drilling, latrine construction.

Disaster Management

Goal: Implementation of characteristics of a well-prepared national society has improved Ethiopian Red Cross in three key areas, namely, know-how, capacity and performance.

Objective: Secretariat assistance to Ethiopian Red Cross has increased the national society's disaster response capacity to meet the humanitarian needs in the country.

Progress

Expected result: The capacity of Ethiopian Red Cross to respond more effectively and rapidly to emergency situations affecting vulnerable populations, communities and implement risk reduction activities is strengthened.

The Ethiopian Red Cross disaster preparedness and response strategic framework has been developed in line with the regional 2010 strategic framework. As a result, the national society's disaster preparedness capacity at national and branch levels has been developed and strengthened through familiarization and training of staff and volunteers; through the development of the disaster preparedness policy and emergency manual; and the establishment of a national disaster response team (NDRT) and a national food security working group.

Through the drought emergency operation, the capacity of Ethiopian Red Cross to collect early warning information, its involvement in needs assessments, and the experience and expertise in the design and implementation of food security programmes has been enhanced. The national society's capacity in establishing long term integrated development programmes and to conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments have also been strengthened.

Impact

Over 911,531 people affected by drought benefited from assistance such as cash distribution, general and supplementary food distribution, WatSan, health education, and seeds and fertilizer distribution through programmes implemented by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 2002-2003. From this, 775,032 of the beneficiaries in West Hararghe (Boke and Darolebu), East Hararghe, Sidama, Wolayita, Tigray and Afar branches were covered by ICRC in collaboration with the national society. Ethiopian Red Cross and the Federation met the food requirements of 48,520 beneficiaries in South Wollo through an employment generation scheme (EGS) with cash distribution for 8 months, while 87,979 beneficiaries in West Hararghe were assisted through gratuitous food aid for 12 months.



Within the framework of the drought operation, 32 volunteers in South Wollo and 42 in West Hararghe were involved in cash and food distribution and targeting activities. One hundred (100) volunteers in South Wollo and West Hararghe were trained in the PHAST methodology and an additional 47 volunteers were involved in monitoring the EGS programme in South Wollo. These volunteers now remain in the community continuing their sensitization work and as Red Cross contact persons. The training of 40 staff and volunteers in food security and disaster response has led to improved knowledge and preparedness in these areas and the teams have proven capable to respond to the needs and demonstrated a good understanding of the issues during their consecutive deployments.

If taking the drought operation 2002-2003 as an example, a number of areas can be mentioned as examples of positive impact following adequate interventions, such as:

- The cash for work programme implemented in South Wollo has furthered behavioural change towards avoiding dependency syndrome by the communities. The injected cash in the operation areas has also boosted the economy.
- The activities implemented under the EGS contributed to asset the protection of the beneficiaries.
- The seeds which were distributed to the beneficiaries contributed to a better harvest. The Red Cross' supported activities in production constituted more than 60 % of the 2003 production in the Woreda (administrative village).
- The protected water points in Ethiopian Red Cross operation areas have increased access to safe drinking water in the targeted communities.
- The demonstration of Sanplat manufacturing and utilization has created interest in the communities with are now producing their own Sanplats⁴. Neighbouring communities have shown interest to be involved in a similar programme which will hopefully be implemented once the national society is ready to extend its activities into new areas.

Constraints

To a large extent due to the scope of the drought operation 2002-2003, donor funds for other planned disaster preparedness activities were less available in 2003. Also, within the framework of the emergency it was difficult to get funding for the link from relief to development and combine emergency aid with long-term sustainability e.g. through cash for work programmes.

It proved difficult to recruit qualified candidates for the position of Disaster Preparedness Officer within the framework of the new disaster preparedness strategy with the result that the position was still open by the end of the year.

Organizational Development

Goal: Implementation of characteristics of a well-functioning national society has improved Ethiopian Red Cross in the three key areas: foundation, capacity and performance.

Objective: With Secretariat support Ethiopian Red Cross has strengthened its headquarters and branches, decentralized its structures and built a greater degree of self-reliance.

Progress

Expected result: Ethiopian Red Cross has increased its capacity to manage and implement focused and responsive programmes.

A review of the national society's reporting capacities was undertaken during the year through a consultative process with the full support of the management and involvement of branches' and headquarters. The main recommendations will be implemented in 2004 and include:

- The formal introduction of programme coordinator positions in the programme department
- A closer involvement of branches in the planning and reporting to reinforce their ownership of the programmes
- A complete revision of the reporting systems and structures and the introduction of new reporting format.

Furthermore, the internal audit exercise will focus in the future on supporting the branches and conduct periodic audit of programmes and at the same time discontinue pre-audit of expenditure vouchers from the branches. Training related to the new way of working will be carried out simultaneously with the introduction of the new tools. This new way of working is expected to enhance programme management as a whole and reporting in particular. Further, a management and information reporting system has been established.

⁴ SanPlat (sanitation platform) is a concrete latrine slab that can be integrated into any existing traditional latrine system.

Terms of reference for a human resources review were prepared in 2003. The consultancy will start in 2004 because of the heavy workload at headquarters and lack of firm pledges from donors to finance the review. The expectations of the review is to identify an organizational structure that is adapted to and will allow efficient and effective management of programmes and projects in Ethiopian Red Cross, including an adequate number of qualified staff at headquarters and branch levels.

The process of upgrading the internet system for the national society and the Federation country office started in 2003. Ethiopian Red Cross launched its website in February 2003 but further efforts need to be made to develop a good system for its regular update and to systematically register the number of visits. During the year another six internet and ten email accounts were opened which allowed finance, administration, planning, audit, public relations and programmes departments to be permanently online. All departments also have local area network (LAN) access, while SUN system financial software is now maintained mainly by internal staff with occasional support from external accountants. All finance staff will be trained on SUN system with the support of British Red Cross in 2004. Consequently, amendments in the financial procedures manual have been finalized and will be adopted by the national society's board at the beginning of 2004 and distributed to all branches.

A youth and volunteers management manual was finalized in 2003 and is being used throughout the country. Volunteer involvement in activities at branch level is now based on a clearly defined policy for volunteer management, training and development.

An officer has been assigned to ensure integration of gender issues in the programmes of the national society as part of the efforts to apply a gender sensitive approach throughout the branches and at the headquarters. However, due to dual responsibilities of the officer, gender mainstreaming in programmes and staff management was rather neglected during the year. Employment of additional staff in the programmes department in 2004 will reinforce capacities in this regard.

Impact

The new system and structure designed within the framework of the reporting review will be in place in the second quarter of 2004 and will ensure donor reporting requirements are met. A stronger emphasis on volunteer management including coaching is one of the main focuses in all programmes being implemented. This however, requires a long-term perspective that will only show results in the coming years.

Constraints

Although the new branch development manual is being used throughout the branches, closer and more frequent monitoring and evaluation of performance of the branches would further strengthen their development and implementation capacities. A more consolidated approach to training is required to ensure long-term capacity building of human resources of the national society.

The gender officer has at times been taken over by other tasks such as volunteer training in health and PHAST as well as in programme management hence leaving little time for this specific task. The necessity to ensure a gender balance within the national society's staff and volunteer structures as well as in the programmes will require support of the management to effect its reinforcement and a more systematic approach.

Due to the delay of the human resources review with funding support as a major obstacle, the impact of the review will only be assessed during 2004-2005.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values are known and respected throughout Ethiopia and, as a result, discrimination against vulnerable groups is reduced.

Objective: The Federation Secretariat supports Ethiopian Red Cross by increasing its capacity to promote Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values.

Progress

Expected result: Ethiopian Red Cross has positively advocated, assisted and protected the most vulnerable - i.e. people living with HIV/AIDS, people affected by disaster, people lacking access to basic health and water and sanitation services - through influencing behavior in the community (governments, donors, private sector and other members of the civil society).

A Head of Information department was recruited in 2003 to strengthen the department in its advocacy work. The main objectives of the department is to increase public understanding of the mandate of the Ethiopian Red Cross, to promote the Red Cross Principles and the activities of the national society, increase awareness of and support for humanitarian issues, and to effectively and efficiently maximize internal and external communication.

Through improved media relations, articles and feature stories that were published in local and international media and the Federation website, the coverage of the national society's activities in disaster management, health, and WatSan was significantly enhanced in the year. The articles covered topics such as the national society drought intervention, coping-mechanisms of the beneficiaries; relief and development activities such as the cash-for-work programme, food distributions, and the Red Cross contribution to the national measles campaign. These articles contributed towards advocacy on behalf of vulnerable groups and communities in and out of Ethiopia as they were published and distributed on the Federation News and posted on the web. The material was shared with government and private media in the country and with international media such as IRIN⁵. The Ethiopian Red Cross has an average of at least one article per month in the national and local press where the daily activities and particular events have been covered. National television has on several occasions either as part of the general news or through particular programmes covered the work of the Red Cross during the year.

Building the capacity of the information department through the partnership and assistance of the Norwegian Red Cross with the support Federation Regional Information Delegate has contributed to enhance the skills of the staff. Norwegian Red Cross seconded an Information Delegate for one month in March 2003 to acquaint the newly recruited head of the department with the policies and works of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and to guide him in the production of materials that can be of use to promote the image of the national society and the Movement as a whole. The theoretical and practical orientation generated progress in writing skills and also in producing articles, news releases and stories. It has also helped to establish wider contacts. However, it is still not satisfactory and a lot more remains to be done to increase visibility. The department also employed a photographer during the year.

Impact

Ethiopian Red Cross is reaching a large part of the population through its 36 branch offices in the country. The strengthening of the information department's capacity in terms of manpower and equipment allowed the national society to carry out the duties of informing the general population about the Red Cross activities. The promotion of humanitarian values through dissemination work encourages the general public to become members of the Red Cross and today the Ethiopian Red Cross Society counts 1.7 million members and 90,000 volunteers to support and actively participate in the work of the Red Cross.

⁵ IRIN – Integrated Regional Information Network (UN system)

Constraints

The information department needs to recruit one additional press officer and procure key audio visual material, which together with further training will make the department fully operational and effective. Closer links need to be created between the programme department and national and international press to highlight activities of the Red Cross in Ethiopia and increase the visibility of the national society. Regular production of materials is important to promote humanitarian values and to increase the visibility of the Red Cross.

Federation Coordination

Goal: To build capacity and empower Ethiopian Red Cross to achieve its mandate through better partnerships .

Objective: Ethiopian Red Cross' integrated capacity building, planning and implementation skills are ensured by the Federation through participatory facilitation.

Progress

Expected result: Federation coordination and support mechanisms through an agreed Cooperation Assistance Strategy have increased the impact of Movement support to the national society.

The Federation Secretariat presence in Ethiopia is completely integrated into the national society structure. A cooperation assistance strategy (CAS) for 2003-2005 for the Ethiopian Red Cross was finalized during the year through a consultative process involving all partners and stakeholders. The CAS as a process and a tool to coordinate partners' support is updated on a yearly basis and will be revised following the national society's strategy review which will be carried out in 2004. Ethiopian Red Cross is well experienced in coordinating their partners and with the support of the Federation; emphasis has put to achieve a more integrated approach to programming and partner collaboration. Due to a gap of almost nine months between outgoing Head of Delegation and incoming Federation Representative in 2002 and the strong emphasis on coordination of the drought operation 2002-2003, the re-establishment of regular contacts and consultations with the partners and ICRC required time and efforts. The coordination role of the Federation was however significantly reinforced during 2003 through the inclusion of regular dialogue with partner national societies (PNS) and ICRC with regard programme support.

A Partnership meeting was held in March 2003 allowing the national society to report on its activities, present its future programmes and start fundraising. The need to review the reporting and human resource systems of the national society mentioned in preceding sections were identified during this meeting. The openness and the commitment of Ethiopian Red Cross leadership in acknowledging the problems of technical and managerial competencies of staff in delivering services and in reporting helped all partners to respond positively to their request for support to a review process. The Federation, ICRC and all PNS committed their active participation and support to Ethiopian Red Cross for conducting this sensitive process which was identified as one of the biggest threats to the development and sustainability of the national society's partnerships.

Ethiopian Red Cross Secretary General is an active member in the RC-NET⁶ board and has participated in all quarterly meetings in Nairobi, contributing to influence the regional decision-making process to assure the best representation the interests of national societies from the Horn of Africa.

Communication within the Movement on drought interventions mainly went through the national society and only towards the second part of the operation did mutual sharing of information begin. Learning experiences from the two relief operations were shared during a workshop organized in August 2003 with the participation of the Ethiopian Red Cross, ICRC and the Federation. Regular meetings are now held between the ICRC Head of Delegation, Federation Representative and the national society Secretary General and the Cooperation Delegate where issues of common interest are discussed.

⁶ RC-Net – Red Cross Red Crescent Network for East Africa

In 2003, no partners had a continuous presence in the country, a situation which will possibly change in 2004. However, the general support from the PNS continues particularly in HIV/AIDS, disaster preparedness and response, and WatSan with the coordination of the Federation office. Briefings of partners are held on a regular basis, mainly in relation to their visits and discussions concerning the support to the national society to promote a common approach to programming.

Impact

Well coordinated activities ensure maximum impact of programmes in the communities and effective use of resources. Through the reporting review, a number of changes will be implemented to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programme management and reporting. A draft partnership framework agreement is currently being finalized and will be presented to partners in 2004. This template will support the national societies in negotiating with partners and in contributing to a more comprehensive and integrated approach and support to programmes. Once in use, it will further strengthen the capacity of the national society to guarantee that all their programmes follow the Ethiopian Red Cross strategy to ensure maximum impact on alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable.

Constraints

The drought operation in 2002-2003 significantly delayed Federation involvement in the coordination of the other regular programmes to support the national society. However, after the completion of the drought operation, follow up of programmes and partner support to the national society will be done on a more regular basis - partly on a daily basis as general support to the programme and planning departments and partly at the occasion of partner visits or when the situation requires. The Federation will intensify its technical support and support to the revision of the CAS, and encourage and promote a coordinated approach and exchange of information on plans and implementation of programmes and projects.

International Representation

Goal: The Federation has a high profile as a key humanitarian actor and advocate in the region with the added advantage of a network of national societies able to deliver services at community level.

Objective: The Federation is an effective and reliable partner in support of Ethiopian Red Cross and in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

Progress

Expected result: The International Federation is recognized as a competent partner among international and national NGOs operating in Ethiopia, the African Union, the national government, diplomatic missions and domestic donors.

The Federation Representative maintains an active information exchange on humanitarian issues with international missions in Ethiopia. In 2003 contacts were mainly made in relation to the massive drought emergency operation. OCHA⁷ and UNDP and government bodies took lead on calling regular meetings in this regard. International missions were also contacted directly by the Federation office to lobby for support to the Red Cross drought operation. Frequent informal contacts helped in promoting awareness of the activities of the national society and the Federation in the country. As a result, the activities of the Ethiopian Red Cross with the support of the Federation are in general well recognized. Still, the image of the Red Cross in the country is mainly emergency focused with the result that both the general public as well as many international missions not being very well versed on the other development activities of the national society. Further advocacy and information is therefore required.

⁷ OCHA – (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Ethiopia; Appeal no. 01.05/2003; Annual Report

The Regional Delegation in Nairobi promoted and supported an active participation of Ethiopian Red Cross in several regional and international events of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement such as the organizational development forum, organizational development workshop, HIV/AIDS conferences, communications forum, income generation workshop, capacity building and PHAST workshops, etc.

Impact

The Federation is considered an active and effective partner in relieving the human suffering of the most vulnerable people of Ethiopia. The role of the Federation in collaboration with Ethiopian Red Cross was well recognized particularly during the drought operation 2002-2003.

Constraints

The unclear Federation policy and strategy with to the African Union has stalled the initiatives taken in the last years. As a result a closer relationship between the two organizations has not yet been established.

[Click here to return to the title page](#)