

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

29 May 2006

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA001; Appeal target: CHF 308,641 (USD 239,814 or EUR 197,783); Appeal coverage: 76.5%. [Click here to go directly to the attached Financial Report.](#)

Annual Appeal: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA001.pdf>

Programme Update no. 1: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA00101.pdf>

Programme Update no. 2: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA00102.pdf>

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents).

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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Operational context

The Federation has been supporting the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) continuously through the Secretariat and the national societies working internationally since independence in 1991. The RCSE has been operating out of Asmara, having started as a branch of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. The State of Eritrea is still in its formative stages in many respects, for instance with regard to the constitution, and this is reflected in the resulting lack of legislation and formal recognition of the national society. It has nevertheless been able to carry out its humanitarian mandate within the country and as it is stated by a high ranking official in Eritrea: "We are still in a transition period, and we will handle legal issues in due time, not giving priority to issues that are functioning well."

Nevertheless, two significant events took place in 2005 which influenced the performance of the RCSE as well as the impact of the Federation Secretariat support towards the organizational development (OD) programme. With effect from 1 June 2005, a "Proclamation to determine the administration of Non-Governmental Organizations" (NGOs) was issued by the government. This proclamation integrated the former Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) into the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare. ERREC was an important cooperation partner of the RCSE, and the new system has led to significant workload for the RCSE in order to establish working relations with new governmental officials and offices in an environment that is lacking legislation that applies to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Another event that affects the recognition issue in Eritrea is the third additional protocol to the Geneva conventions approving an additional emblem. Eritrea is a country that has a 50%

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Christian and 50% Muslim population, and the government has a policy of recognising both religions on an equal basis. The government has therefore wished to use a double emblem for the national society. It is strongly hoped by the Movement's leadership that the additional emblem may accommodate the special wishes of the government of the State of Eritrea in order to move the recognition issue forward. These two issues have also heavily influenced the level of achievements of the Secretariat in 2005. The health and care programmes of the RCSE have been supported bilaterally by Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, American Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2005. The disaster management (DM) programme has been supported bilaterally by Danish Red Cross, the Empress Shoken Fund, and ICRC in 2005. The humanitarian values programme of the national society has been supported bilaterally by the ICRC in 2005. In addition there have been some activities supported by the Swedish Folk high school related to training in the use audiovisual and video tools.

Analysis of 2005 programmes

Organizational development

Goal: The Red Cross Society of Eritrea is a well-functioning national society, recognized by all, and operating within the framework of Strategy 2010.

Objective: The Red Cross Society of Eritrea has well developed organizational structures at management and governance levels, both in the national society headquarters as well as in the branches and local committees, providing quality services for the most vulnerable people in Eritrea.

Achievements

New skills in project and programme preparation (using the logical framework approach), implementation, reporting and evaluation have been acquired through a planning workshop that gathered all managers from headquarters and branches. A performance appraisal system has been finalized, and the system is to be introduced from 2006. A human resources administrator has been recruited to further strengthen human resource management processes.

Reports from the RCSE to partners are being provided on quarterly and annual basis, and the new reporting system for the community volunteer facilitators is being implemented through close follow up from the headquarters. Programme updates and operations updates for the Federation have also been prepared by the RCSE and further edited and issued by the regional delegation. However, the quality of data for the reports still needs to be improved. There has been steady progress towards better proposal writing and narrative reporting in the headquarters. Project proposals, documents and reports are being prepared by RCSE with support from partnering societies or the Federation Secretariat. The coaching system has been reviewed internally in the RCSE, and due to its positive impact, it has been decided to expand the system according to the current model.

The report of the second phase of the comprehensive well-functioning national society self-assessment exercise was submitted to Geneva. The national society reviewed its 2006 – 2009 strategic plan, and is waiting for comments from the partners.

While no funding through the Annual Appeal has been received to increase the RCSE's ability to respond to disasters locally, regional activities have ensured that a National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) has been established and trained in the basic concepts of disaster preparedness and response. Logistics and fleet management was also covered during the training workshop. The ICRC is supporting some conflict preparedness activities and is working closely with the Federation representative in coordinating support to the RCSE in this field. The position of emergency health officer in the RCSE has been filled with a highly competent person.

Activities for increasing the visibility of the national society have mainly been conducted on the community level related to programme implementation. In addition, an advocacy campaign to increase the commitment from the public authorities to fund the ambulance service has been conducted by the RCSE. Information stands were erected during main national festivals and on the World Red Cross Day, the World AIDS Day and the International Day for Volunteering. A quarterly newsletter from the RCSE is published for stakeholders all over the country, as well as to international partners. This is one of very few printed publications in Eritrea at the moment.

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Impact

During the year, three proposals for European Union (EU) funding and one for the Norwegian Red Cross were prepared, demonstrating the impact that the technical support given to the management has had.

Constraints

Even if the Eritrean government states that all the political decisions regarding recognition have been taken, the Red Cross/Red Crescent legislation has not yet been finalized. This means that there are no governance structures, no income generating activities and no membership in the RCSE. Planned trainings of governance bodies have thus not taken place. The implementation of programs continues as before based on a verbal ad hoc recognition from the President's office that is implemented by the relevant line ministries. Final approval of procedures is pending due to lack of legal basis for the society.

There is no progress on the strategy for general fundraising due to the lack of recognition. The only source of income for the RCSE is renting out parts of the headquarters and branch office buildings. Communities also contribute in terms of labour in the implementation of community based programmes which constitute a considerable part of project budget. The general economic situation in the country has further deteriorated during 2005, and local fundraising is nearly impossible. While attempts to get more government and local administration funding for the ambulance service is continuing, communities have contributed financially. However, its sustainability is not known yet.

Especially since the implementation of the NGO proclamation, several new officials have taken charge of dealing with humanitarian aid, and not all of them are familiar with the special status of the Red Cross, creating process and opportunity to disseminate principles of the Movement. This has increased the workload for the RCSE senior management to inform about the situation.

The Red Cross Society of Eritrea is small. Being managed by a few key persons, the society is vulnerable to delays in programme implementation if one person is not available due to other commitments. The unwillingness among donors to fund core staff is a continuous challenge for the society, as there is a need to find a balance between taking financial risks and employing additional skilled staff. Different requirements from different partners regarding formats for proposals and reports present considerable additional workload for a small society that is dependent on several partners. Requests to the national society from the Federation Secretariat to conduct evaluations and implementing certain activities is putting additional constraints to a small society that sometimes disrupts the day to day management of the society as well as the implementation of programmes.

The management structure of the national society is organized with programme departments in the headquarters and branch offices in each of the 6 provinces (or *zobas*) with the presence of community based facilitators (CVFs) at the community level. In 2005 a court case emerging from a disagreement about shortfall of money in a financial report has impeded the function of one of the branches as Eritrean law prohibits the instalment of acting managers as long as a court case is ongoing. Time constraints on the RCSE side have limited more systematic training and coaching activities.

The difficulties in obtaining exit visas for several staff of the RCSE, makes participation in international trainings and meetings impossible, and there is an ongoing need for conducting these trainings in country. A follow up budget holder training was not conducted due to lack of available trainers in Africa.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Goal: To support the capacity building of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea to achieve its mandate through good governance, effective management, and financial as well as human resources, and in building good partnership with other actors.

Objective: The Federation through participatory facilitation is supporting the Red Cross Society Eritrea in its process towards full recognition by the government and by the Movement, also ensures continuous improvement of integrated capacity building, planning and implementation skills, and advocacy based on the seven fundamental principles of the Movement.

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Achievements

The Federation representative and regional technical delegates have provided facilitation and coaching to the national society leadership throughout the year, partially funded by the annual appeal, but also through the drought Emergency Appeal- <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/05/05EA00204.pdf>. Three planning missions and six coaching and monitoring visits from partnering societies were conducted in the reporting period. Monitoring visits from the headquarters to the branches have been conducted, but to a lesser extent than planned. Support from the regional delegation's logistics unit and IT department has been given as requested.

The annual partnership meeting was conducted in April. Four partner societies and the ICRC as well as the Federation secretariat participated.

Impact

The objective from the RCSE side on achieving more long term commitments has been achieved. In 2004 the Norwegian Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross signed a cooperation contract for the period 2005 – 2009. The Netherlands Red Cross is close to finalizing long term contracts in the fields of organizational development and HIV/AIDS, while other partners are working on annual projects.

Constraints

No progress in the documentation of the CAS process has been achieved since the CAS plan of action is dependent on the finalisation of the strategic plan. However, the daily activities of the RCSE are clearly influenced by the new thinking about CAS being a tool for managing relationships, and the partners have renewed their commitment to participate in a CAS process.

Lack of attention from partners following the December 2004 tsunami was felt during the year, and the high level of attention to Sudan is also delaying planning and evaluation processes with partners in Eritrea. Due to lack of sufficient funding, there was no project manager recruited for the drought operation, and the Federation Representative has spent about 25% of his time managing the drought operation. Communication with the branches remains difficult, delaying collection of input to quarterly and pledge based reports. Financial reports are also difficult to obtain within set deadlines.

Vacancies in the regional delegation have resulted in less support than requested, especially in the field of information/communications and organisational development.

Effective representation and advocacy

Goal: Connectivity and knowledge between the national and international stakeholders in Eritrea have increased, resulting in better synergy and impact of interventions. All the players have a good knowledge about the role of each component of the Movement in Eritrea, and about the capacity and the network of the national society.

Objective: The cooperation between the various components of the Movement working in Eritrea and the other actors in the field of humanitarian intervention in Eritrea benefits the vulnerable people and contributes to the improvement of the services provided as well as to the rational use of available resources.

Achievements

The technical coordination meetings for food aid, food security and health have not been conducted since October, so there is only sporadic and informal contact between the different humanitarian actors outside the RC/RC Movement.

There is close contact with the ICRC who is mainly working with internally displaced persons and returnee communities implementing programmes according to its mandate. Being the only component of the Movement that has a formal status in Eritrea, ICRC is maintaining the main contact with the diplomatic community in Eritrea. Ideas on moving forward a status agreement for the Federation Secretariat did not progress in 2005.

All stakeholders receive the quarterly newsletter from the RCSE updating them on programmes and achievements in the national society. Interested stakeholders have been invited to field visits to monitor project implementation.

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Constraints

Towards the end of 2005, political differences between the government of Eritrea and the United Nations (UN) became obvious. It is difficult to predict its future implications for humanitarian assistance to Eritrea. The Red Cross Movement components have, when appropriate, emphasized that the RC/RC Movement is independent in relation to the UN and that cooperation between the Red Cross and UN agencies is of a purely technical nature.

Delegation management

Goal: The Federation structure is streamlined to effectively support the implementation of the foregoing objectives.

Objective: To maintain an efficient, flexible and service oriented infrastructure coordinated with all partners.

Achievements

In addition to managing the Annual Appeal programme, the Federation representative has also been managing the emergency drought project. More than 25% of their time on the emergency situation, delaying implementation of the organizational development programme. A transitional period, whereby the Federation representative has conducted regional duties on a part time basis was initiated from August 2005. The extent of these regional activities has been altogether 7 weeks in 2005.

Constraints

The development in the recognition issue as well as support from the partnering national societies will impact the specific priorities of the support function in 2006. The Red Cross Society of Eritrea wants continued presence by the Federation representative in Eritrea, as further support towards recognition, further improvement of partnership management and more coaching is requested.

Especially dealing with the new regulations related to the NGO proclamation among others, restrictions on import of relief food, has consumed a lot of resources for the Secretary General as well as time consuming consultations with the Federation Representative. These activities are closely related to the issue of recognition of the RCSE, and have therefore been given high priority. These constraints have led to less efficient programme implementation and delays in the strategic planning and the CAS process.

The direct monitoring of the support to the Red Cross Society of Eritrea by the Federation representative was planned to be handed over to the Federation head of Horn of Africa sub-regional office by end 2005. The lack of communication between Ethiopia and Eritrea makes it impossible for RCSE to accept that support is given from a sub-regional office situated in Addis Ababa as long as the current political situation prevails. Moreover, since May 2005 direct flight connections between Asmara and Nairobi were suspended, creating extra expenses both in terms of time and travelling costs between the two delegations.

[Final financial report below; click here to return to title page and contact information.](#)

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget				308'642		308'642
B. Opening Balance				47'528		47'528
Income						
Cash contributions						
Cyprus Red Cross				1'327		1'327
Netherlands Red Cross				25'479		25'479
Norwegian Red Cross				34'755		34'755
Swedish Red Cross				42'000		42'000
C1. Cash contributions				103'561		103'561
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Cyprus Red Cross				579		579
Swedish Red Cross				41'250		41'250
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)				41'829		41'829
Inkind Personnel						
Norwegian Red Cross				102'000		102'000
C5. Inkind Personnel				102'000		102'000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)				247'390		247'390
D. Total Funding = B + C				294'918		294'918

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance				47'528		47'528
C. Income				247'390		247'390
E. Expenditure				-183'555		-183'555
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)				111'363		111'363

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA001
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)					308'642	308'642		
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	27'360				1'659	1'659	25'701	
Total Transport & Storage	27'360				1'659	1'659	25'701	
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	102'000				186	186	101'814	
Delegate Benefits	72'000				136'005	136'005	-64'005	
Total Personnel Expenditures	174'000				136'191	136'191	37'809	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	41'500				5'899	5'899	35'601	
Total Workshops & Training	41'500				5'899	5'899	35'601	
General Expenditure								
Travel	11'900				20'653	20'653	-8'753	
Information & Public Relation	10'000				71	71	9'929	
Office Costs	10'320				331	331	9'989	
Communications	9'000				2'624	2'624	6'376	
Professional Fees	4'500				141	141	4'359	
Financial Charges					-1'367	-1'367	1'367	
Other General Expenses					5'137	5'137	-5'137	
Total General Expenditure	45'720				27'590	27'590	18'130	
Federation Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societi					279	279	-279	
Total Federation Contributions & Transfers					279	279	-279	
Program Support								
Program Support	20'062				11'500	11'500	8'562	
Total Program Support	20'062				11'500	11'500	8'562	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions					437	437	-437	
Total Operational Provisions					437	437	-437	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	308'642				183'555	183'555	125'087	
VARIANCE (C - D)					125'087	125'087		