

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

HORN OF AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

17 January 2006

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA005; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: July to December, 2005; Appeal coverage: 104.4% [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal target: CHF 1,004,725 (Adjusted as per revised appeal budget).

Related Emergency Appeals: Ethiopia; Floods- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA013.pdf (Appeal no. 05EA013).

Programme Summary: The national societies of the sub-region share common challenges related to climatic changes (droughts and floods), environmental degradation, political instability and diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and waterborne diseases.

The second half of the year was marked by the launching of the sub-regional food security programme in order to improve the capacity of the national societies to respond to problems arising from food insecurity in the sub-region. The sub-regional food security programme is expected to play an important role in the sub-region.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is 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.

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Operational developments

The sub-regional office for the Horn of Africa in Addis Ababa covers the national societies of Djibouti and Ethiopia. The plan to include three other national societies, starting with Eritrea then followed by Sudan and Somalia, was revisited during the reporting period. Indications are that all other national societies are keen to maintain Federation presence in their countries. In addition, the border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia has contributed to the delay in decision making on top of practical problems due to travelling restrictions and technical communication problems between the two countries. Consequently, a final decision has not yet been made on the expansion of the sub-regional office.

The second half of the year was marked by the launching of the sub-regional food security programme in order to improve the capacity of the national societies to respond to problems arising from food insecurity in the sub-region. A food security officer was recruited and started working at the regional delegation in Nairobi. However, the officer resigned from the position in December 2005, and plans are underway to recruit a replacement and provide human resource support in the interim period to strengthen the food security programme which is expected to play an important role in the sub-region.

Djibouti

The strategic planning process has not yet started as the recruitment of an organizational development (OD) delegate was only completed at the end of December 2005. With the recruitment of the OD delegate, the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti now has strong technical assistance to carry out the planning process properly starting in 2006.

The continued delay in establishing a date for the national General Assembly is raising concerns among the national society's partners. Since the national society has received increased support from partners within and outside the Movement over the last few years, a General Assembly is critical in order to be regarded as a well-functioning national society.

Members of the Movement have given strong support to the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti since its re-launch in 2002. The joint planning meeting held in June 2005 with participation of the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti, the International Committee of the Red Cross (Djibouti and Nairobi) as well as the Federation sub-regional office, improved coordination and co-operation between the Movement partners and gave a common Movement approach to capacity building and organizational development.

The national society has also been able to strengthen its contacts with the UN agencies, with assistance from the Federation. It also intends to increase its contacts with national authorities in order to become better known and appreciated by the government. Formal establishment of regional branches has contributed to its improved visibility.

Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society continued its humanitarian and development activities through its health and disaster preparedness programmes, with the support of the Federation. The relief operation in the Southern region hit by floods in April 2005 continued into the rehabilitation phase.

The second half of 2005 was marked by the holding of a partnership meeting from 10-11 October with the presence of representatives from eight partner national societies (PNS), ICRC and the Federation. A Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) document and the memorandum of understanding (MoU) were presented in the partnership meeting. The plan was to get the MoU signed before the end of 2005. The CAS will encourage a comprehensive approach to partner support, aiming at securing long-term funding commitments. A thorough mapping of the partners and projects by regions was carried out and a Cooperation Agreement Strategy learning group was established to assist in achieving the goal of the Ethiopia Cooperation Agreement Strategy.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society's strategic plan review was finalized by mid-2005 and a new five-year strategic plan prepared for 2006-2010. The reform programme has focused on reviewing the human resources management - a new organizational structure, more adequate staffing and revised policies as well as systems for human resource management, financial reporting and administration have been established and the funding plan presented to partners.

New projects have been launched, especially within the food security and health sectors, with assistance from the Spanish Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross. Projects pending include funding decisions on a large Federation, Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross water and sanitation (WatSan) initiative through EU funding, the American Red Cross-supported child survival intervention and the German Red Cross-supported HIV/AIDS project.

The national parliamentary elections in May 2005 and their aftermath (with political unrest and security incidences all over the country- especially in November) continued to cause delays in programme implementation as the governmental offices have been involved in the election preparations. During the post-election unrest, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society was able to provide timely assistance to the victims – in Addis Ababa the national society's ambulance fleet provided transport of the injured to hospitals. The political situation has also caused delays in negotiating the Federation status agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Djibouti

Health and care

Goal: The Red Crescent Society of Djibouti has a sustainable impact upon the general health of targeted communities through its health programming.

Objective: The national society's capacity in community health and care programming is facilitated through Federation support.

Progress/Achievements:

Integrated health project

- With its community-based activities, the integrated health project has increased the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti's visibility in the country. The national society's volunteers conducted peer education and participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) training sessions in 10 locations of the four main community associations in the shanty town of Balbala (near the capital city) in October 2005. The associations have membership of over 400 persons. After training sessions, communal clean-up campaigns were conducted in three sites. This involved clearing drains and burning refuse within the neighbourhood. Since January 2005, over 1,400 community members- mainly women and youth drawn from the project area- have participated.

Malaria

- Mosquito nets were distributed in December 2005 for the vulnerable groups of the community. The criteria for distribution had been set together with the communities and priority was given to the most vulnerable (the old, the sick and families with children under five years).

Impact

- There is an increased awareness of waterborne diseases, transmission routes and barriers, and improved living environment of the inhabitants of Balbala Sector 9. The sites cleaned by the community during the clean-up campaigns have been restored and are now used for community activities. People are also sensitised about environmental health and maintaining cleanliness.
- Use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITN) has increased in the area thus boosting the war against malaria.

Expansion of integrated health and care pilot projects

- A lot of emphasis has been placed on health promotion through PHAST training for the target communities and national society staff and volunteers and linking them with the community-based health initiatives in malaria, tuberculosis, immunization, mobilization as well as HIV/AIDS prevention. The number of beneficiaries has increased even though the project has not yet been expanded to other sectors. This is planned for 2006. The re-establishment of the HIV/AIDS information centres initiated with the Save the Children-US was included in the revised plan of action of the integrated health project.

Impact

- There is an increased adaptation of good hygiene practices in relation to food, water and environmental practices at the household and community levels.
- Use and covering of latrines has reduced cases of diarrhoea.
- Sensitisation on HIV/AIDS is now more accepted by the communities than before.

Constraints

- There were some problems in coordination between the headquarters and the project. The project's plan of action and financial procedures were however revised in August 2005 (purchases through the project petty cash were made in order to avoid delays in project implementation).

Strategic partnerships

- Though little has been done to sustain the partnerships initiated, discussions have been held with UNICEF on possible cooperation. It is hoped that the recruitment of a health officer will increase the level of cooperation between UN agencies and the national society. Cooperation with the Save the Children-US ceased at the beginning of 2005 because of financial restrictions.

Constraints

- The capacity to initiate, follow up and concretise partnerships with potential donors and key health and water and sanitation (WatSan) sector stakeholders remains a challenge for the national society.

HIV/AIDS prevention and access to treatment

- The HIV/AIDS component was included in the integrated health project in October 2005 when a mission from the regional delegation assisted the national society in writing the project document for the HIV/AIDS information centres. Consequently two HIV/AIDS information centres were reopened at the end of the year in Arhiba and Quartier 2 in Djibouti City. The project will address the following issues:
 - Prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS (behaviour change communication and promotion of condom use);
 - Advocacy against HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination, dealing with issues of fear and denial in the community;
 - Gender issues relating to HIV/AIDS/STIs;
 - Advocacy for comprehensive care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children (including access to anti retroviral treatment).
- The plan is to expand the project to four more sites in 2007, namely Ali Sabieh and Dikhil outside Djibouti City, and to PK 12 and Secteur 9 in Balbala, Djibouti City.

Impact

- There is increased knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS facts and issues, including sexuality and STIs within the communities.

Constraints

- There are no permanent staff members at branch level to manage the project. However, branch secretaries are being recruited in branches which have conducted their regional elections. In October 2005, Dikhil and Obock branches recruited their secretaries.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: Movement principles and Humanitarian Values are known and respected throughout the region; discrimination against vulnerable groups is reduced.

Objective: The information unit of the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti is an active member of the regional communications forum, has developed its potential to respond to humanitarian emergencies, and has increased the capacity of the national society to promote Movement principles and Humanitarian Values in the Eastern African region.

Progress/Achievements*Development and capacity building of the national society's information unit*

- Information campaigns to disseminate the Movement's Fundamental Principles covered three districts – Djibouti, Ali-Sabieh and Dikhil – during the period of July-September 2005.

Impact

- The information campaigns have increased the visibility of the national society.

Organizational development

Goal: Implementation of the characteristics of a well functioning national society has improved in the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti in the three areas: foundation, capacity and performance.

Objective: The national society's institutional capacity and its progress towards operating as a well functioning national society is enhanced through Secretariat support.

Progress/Achievements*Elected committees in each of the six regions by mid-2005*

- The national society conducted a regional assembly in December 2005 in Tajourah. The plan was to hold elections in Arta before the end of 2005. A total of four regions would then have had their elections. The elected committees are now able to represent the national society within their regions. Two more elections will be held during the first quarter of 2006, before the General Assembly.

New national committee at the first General Assembly by end of 2005

- The General Assembly has now been scheduled for March 2006. The new date was decided in the joint planning meeting between the Djibouti Red Crescent Society, ICRC and the Federation.

Strategic plan by end of 2005

- The preparation of the strategic plan was in the 2005 plan of action. However, it was obvious that the national society needed strong external support in order to be able to conduct the planning process. It was agreed between the national society and the Federation to place an OD delegate in Djibouti to assist in planning. The delegate will start his mission in January 2006. The national society conducted a limited self-assessment in July to start the planning process.

Constraints

- The capacity of the national society to initiate the planning process is quite weak and external technical assistance is needed.

An adequate management structure

- There are now three programme officers (information, disaster management and finance) and the fourth (health) is being recruited – the position was advertised twice in 2005 but a suitable candidate was not found.

Constraints

- Lack of a clear organizational structure and increase of activities have caused some problems in project implementation. This is further compounded by the fact that the Secretary General is not working full time in the national society.

Ethiopia

Health and care

Goal: The health and care for vulnerable households and communities - including those affected by conflict, epidemics (including HIV/AIDS), and disasters - is improved while the vulnerability of the community is decreased.

Objective: The Federation facilitates the development of the national society's capacity in community based health and care programming including HIV/AIDS and water and sanitation (WatSan) activities by strengthening the capacity of staff and volunteers to reach the most vulnerable communities and building their capacity and awareness on disease transmission and control.

Progress/Achievements

Community participation in preventive health services

- 240 community-based first aiders (in Tigray, Addis Ababa, DireDawa, Gojam and Gonder) were trained during the reporting period.
- The national society participated in the national emergency polio campaign in October and November 2005. The campaign was funded by the Federation and involved over 1,000 volunteers in 15 zones.

Impact

- The training and deployment of volunteers in the community has resulted in better immunization coverage. The impact of having volunteers at grassroots' level has been confirmed not only by better immunization coverage but also by reaching the most marginalized segments of the community.

Constraints

- Generally, different activities were paralysed by the national elections programme.

Establishment of long-term water and sanitation policy and strategy

- The Ethiopian Red Cross Society continued with the national WatSan programme covering seven zones (North Shoa, Wollega, Sidama, Somalia, Gambella, Omo and Illubabor).

Impact

- The Ethiopian Red Cross Society's WatSan programme has contributed to the provision of safe water to the rural communities.

Constraints

- The transition by the national society from contractor-based to self managed WatSan interventions is still not fully complete due to lack of resources to support the implementing branches.
- The rainy season has also reduced the actual implementation time for hardware components and resulted in under-spending of funds.

Expanded home based care project for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) to reach at least 3,000 people annually

- Since the beginning of 2005, 170 volunteers and relatives PLWHA have attended specially tailored training sessions on the provision of care and support, 535 people living with HIV/AIDS have received support, 2,263 home visits have been made and 570 orphans have received scholastic support. Orphans also got nutritional and psychosocial support. Technical and material assistance was given to self-support groups of PLWHA.

Impact

- The programme has led to an increase in the involvement of PLWHA in the prevention, advocacy and care activities.

Constraints

- Volunteer drop-out has been high in some branches and the support and guidelines for the volunteers need to be strengthened.
- The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is struggling to meet its annual targets within the specified budget, time frame and limited manpower it has at both headquarters and branch level. It is also contemplating extending its care and support programme in line with the government's recent strategy of providing anti-retroviral treatment. A HIV/AIDS strategy is needed.
- The Ethiopian Red Cross Society's home-based care officer left the society after a short working period and the position needs to be filled.

HIV/AIDS workplace policy and educational programme for staff and volunteers has been implemented with 400 peer educators trained and 100 people put on anti retroviral treatment by 2007.

- Activities in 2005 were limited to making condoms available in the Ethiopian Red Cross Society building.
- Only one staff member currently gets anti-retroviral treatment through the Federation. The national society has plans to start its own fund through staff contributions.

Impact

- There is more inclination towards openly discussing HIV/AIDS issues among staff.

Training on HIV/AIDS prevention and adolescent reproductive health to 22,000 peer educators annually

- The total figure from the beginning of the year for youth has reached 75,500. Youth were trained as peer educators and facilitators in accordance with the clearly chalked out programme approach specifically designed for this intent.

Impact

- The programme is an important activity for the youth at school and has been able to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS thus increasing awareness.

Constraints

- The national society has limited human and financial resources for the programme implementation. Moreover, the attrition rate of volunteers and employees remains high.
- Volunteers need more support and school level guidelines. Regular activities after training of the peer educators also need to be strengthened.

More than 60,000 people have been referred to voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services by 2007

- This activity got more emphasis during the third quarter of 2005. A number of advocacy forums on care and support as well as against stigma and discrimination were organized for targeted community members. In these forums, 577 participants from different sections of the society took part.
- A total of 27,780 information, education and communication materials (brochures and posters) were distributed for domestic consumption at branch level.

Impact

- The forums have helped in the dissemination work in promoting behavioural change, building capacities of communities to provide care and support for PLWHA, advocating against stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS and promoting VCT services.

Constraints

- The national society has limited human and financial resources for the programme implementation.

Disaster management

Goal: The disaster preparedness and response capacity of Ethiopian Red Cross Society at headquarters and branches is strengthened and coherent responses provided to the vulnerability of communities.

Objective 1: The preparedness and response capacity of the national society is strengthened through Federation support.

Progress/Achievements

Strengthened preparedness and response capacity

- The national society has made achievements in building the capacity of its staff in disaster response and has a pool of 44 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members available for assessments. Currently three NDRT members are participating in a crop assessment mission organized by the government's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has also deployed one vehicle to be used by this team.
- Guidelines for the utilization of non-food contingency items and the branch disaster response fund have been developed and distributed to branches for implementation.

Improving the food security situation of vulnerable communities

- A draft food security proposal for Tehuledere and Legambo woredas of South Wollo, funded by the Spanish Red Cross, was revised and implementation started in October 2005.

Building the disaster preparedness capacities of vulnerable communities

- The head of programmes has on two occasions been a resource person in disaster management in Somaliland.
- Through participating in assessments with the multi-agency team, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society staff members have gained experience in data collection and analysis, and have been familiarized with early warning data collection methodology as well as report writing.

Constraints

- The branches' capacity to inform the headquarters and other agencies is weak. Information from the branch level would be extremely valuable in assessing the drought or flood situation in the rural areas.

Timely and adequate response to the needs of people affected by natural disasters

- The national society has responded to the needs of vulnerable communities through relief interventions.
- Five needs assessments have been conducted in 2005, the fourth and fifth during the reporting period. One of the two was done in Bale zone in Goro woreda in relation to the drought situation. The other assessment done in Afar region was related to an earthquake disaster that displaced more than 6,000 people in Teru woreda, where the Ethiopian Red Cross Society provided some non-food items to 5,000 people.
- The provision of emergency assistance for flood affected communities in Sidama, Wolayita and Arbaminch zones in the Southern region continued during the second half of the year in form of rehabilitation of water supply systems. A thorough assessment of the state of the water systems was conducted in October before starting the rehabilitation.

Constraints:

- The Ethiopian Red Cross Society lacks disaster response materials thus its capacity to react promptly in case of emergencies is limited.

Objective 2: Food security of the populations in Ambassel and Kutaber woredas, South Wollo, in Doba woreda, West Hararge and Merti woreda, Arsi is improved by introducing micro-irrigation schemes and access to safe water.

Progress/Achievements

In Kutaber and Ambassel in South Wollo 600 household farmers benefit from micro-irrigation schemes and their annual income is increased by selling of cash crops and vegetables

- Construction of two hand dug wells for the micro-irrigation project in Ambassel woreda is complete. The implementation of spring protection was not completed within the planned timeframe. The work has

resumed following the end of the rainy season. The second micro-irrigation project in Kutaber has not yet started; another site was selected by the assigned water engineer and woreda office and an agreement was reached in late November 2005. The engineering estimates have been done and the work was to be floated for tender in December 2005.

Constraints

- The construction of two hand-dug wells for the micro-irrigation project in Ambassel woreda was delayed by a government decision on a road crossing structure.
- The second micro-irrigation project started late because of feasibility problems associated with the previously selected project site.

Drought affected people in Merti woreda get access to additional water points and women's burden to walk long distance to fetch water is reduced

- Three ponds have been successfully completed and people are getting water from shorter distances.

Impact

- The protected water sources have a positive impact on the health status of the community.

Constraints

- The short rains caused delays in the work. Because of the low amount of rainfall during the main rainy season, the water accumulated in the three ponds did not reach the expected level.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: Movement principles and Humanitarian Values are known and respected throughout Ethiopia; discrimination against vulnerable groups is reduced.

Objective: The information unit of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society is an active member of the Regional Communications Forum; has developed its potential to respond to humanitarian emergencies; and increased its capacity to promote Movement principles and Humanitarian Values in the East African region.

Progress/Achievements

Increased capacity to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable groups and operations of the national society has been increased

- Two issues of the quarterly newsletter were published in 2005.

Impact

- The Red Cross Movement was made known to a wider public.

Constraints

- Financial limitations have affected the publication of the quarterly newsletter.

Fourth regional communications forum

- A team consisting of members from four East African national societies gathered in Ethiopia in July 2005 to prepare for the fourth regional communications forum planned to be held in Addis Ababa in October 2005. However, the regional delegation decided to hold the meeting in Burundi as the facilities in Addis Ababa were not considered to be adequate. Subsequently, the forum of communicators took place in Bujumbura from 17-20 October 2005 under the central theme of "Communication during disasters and conflicts". Ten national societies from the East Africa region participated (Somalia, Seychelles, Sudan and Madagascar were not represented).

Impact

- The forum presented a good opportunity for the exchange of experiences and communication between the participants and reinforced their capacities to communicate in disasters.

Organizational development

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

Objective: Ethiopian Red Cross Society has strengthened its capacity at headquarters and branches to respond to humanitarian emergencies and development needs of the communities.

Progress/Achievements:

Adequate organizational and staffing structure

- A workshop for the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's branch and national management and governance took place in July 2005 to discuss the proposed organogram. The proposal was further discussed at the three branch level strategic planning workshops funded by the Federation and ICRC between July and September 2005 and the results presented during the annual partnership meeting in October 2005. The implementation of the review recommendations will require support from the national society's partners. It is expected that the national society's programme management capacities will be significantly enhanced at all levels and a greater degree of self-reliance will be developed once a new organizational structure, more adequate staffing and revised policies as well as systems for human resource management, financial reporting and administration are established.

Constraints

- There is uncertainty of the funding for the implementation of the recommendations of the human resources study.

Financial and narrative reporting capacities

- A comprehensive all inclusive annual report was prepared for the partnership meeting in October 2005. Many of the partners have stated that delays in reporting have shortened significantly. However, it is felt that more regular reporting is needed- especially concerning the human resource review, strategic development plan process and follow up of the reporting review. It will be possible to send a quarterly report covering all the Ethiopian Red Cross Society activities to the partners.

Constraints

- Delays in submitting reports from the branches still occur.
- Budget transfer delays from some partners still persist.

Revised strategic development plan 2006-2010

- The new 5-year strategic plan had a participatory approach involving branches in the planning phase. This increased the ownership of the national society plan. A large workshop was conducted in July 2005 involving the national board and regions and the plan was sent to partners in August 2005 for their comments. It was also discussed in the Federation-funded regional workshops in Bahir Dar (Amhara region), Awassa (Southern region) and Jimma (Oromia region) where branches had an opportunity to address their concerns and discuss how best to plan a realistic strategic plan. The observations of the branches were taken into consideration while finalising the second strategic plan. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society will eventually conduct a special workshop (funded by the Federation) on the implementation of the plan. The national society's headquarters, regions and branches will participate in the workshop.

Constraints

- The national election process delayed the implementation of the original plan of action.

A well coordinated Cooperation Agreement Strategy

- The Ethiopian Red Cross Society's deputy Secretary General was in charge of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy process with the Federation office. The Cooperation Agreement Strategy and the Memorandum of Understanding were drafted for the partnership meeting. ICRC and other partners were consulted during the development of the MoU. The partnership meeting adopted the new idea of establishing a learning group on the Cooperation Agreement Strategy process. The terms of reference have been prepared and the group is expected to start its work in January 2006.

- Apart from the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (headquarters and branches), ICRC and the Federation (Addis Ababa and Nairobi Movement Coordination), partner national societies present in Ethiopia will participate to monitor and develop the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) in the country. Better involvement of Movement components in the follow up of the CAS is expected to make all partners more interested in the coordination and working in line with the new strategic plan of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

Organizational development policy and strategy

- Branch development is among the core concerns at the moment in the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. This work is ready to be undertaken now that the strategic plan for 2006-2010 is available. The national society has planned to approach some PNS to provide technical and financial support to enable the department to execute the plan. The implementation of the plan is expected to upgrade the capacity and capability of the department to execute its roles and responsibilities more effectively.

Constraints

- There was a shortage of manpower.

Strong and clearly defined relationship between national society governance and management

- Three workshops were planned for the end of 2005 through the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's funds and financial support from the Federation; these started in December in Woldia, North Wollo (Amhara region). For Arba Minch and Ambo, the workshops were planned to take place at the end of December 2005/early January 2006. All branches will be covered and newly elected board members will be trained. Training will motivate the branch governance members and management staff in their work. It will increase clarity on roles and responsibilities.

Constraints

- Financial and personnel constraints continue to limit the organizational development activities.

Policy for volunteer management, training and development

- The volunteer policy drafted by the organisational development department in March 2005 was expected to be finalized in December 2005. The policy will help in running the programmes and projects which depend on volunteers' services.
- An officer in charge of volunteering participated in a regional workshop on volunteering in Nairobi during the second half of 2005.

Constraints

- The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is facing competition for volunteers and needs to clarify its policy for a coordinated recruitment, training, deployment and retaining of volunteers.

A reliable and sustainable financial resource base has been established at all levels

- More branches have started to put up multi-purpose buildings for their permanent income source and the national society has plans to start developing the plot it has been offered near the headquarters office in Addis Ababa.

Constraints

- There is low capacity of branch staff in designing and managing income generating projects which has led to inaccurate feasibility studies and improper management of projects.

Horn of Africa sub-regional office

Food Security Programme

Goal: To support national societies from the Horn of Africa to predict and prevent food security crises, to mitigate their impact and to respond and cope with their consequences at sub-regional, country and local levels.

Objective: To provide appropriate technical support to national societies to develop human resource capacities, policy and strategy frameworks, assessment and planning skills, food security programmes, contingency plans, a database of technical resources and partnerships with key stakeholders in the region.

Progress/Achievements

Sub-regional food security unit

- Regular food security updates were issued based on national society and agency reports. Assistance was given to set out the activities of the RC-Net Working Group for Food Security at the annual disaster management meeting for 14 disaster management focal points. This meeting was followed by a Working Group for Food Security meeting for a group of disaster managers and health personnel from nine national societies on 12 December 2005 in Nairobi, to discuss ways of working and elect a new president and deputy president. Terms of Reference for the group were reviewed.
- The latter meeting was followed by a two-day training in project cycle management conducted by the British Council. A training calendar for 2006 was prepared. It is hoped that the revival of the Working Group for Food Security will make national societies to follow more closely the fulfilments of the Algiers Plan of Action on food security and health commitments.

Improved human resource capacity to support food security activities

- The recruitment of the sub-regional food security officer took place in August 2005 and the selected candidate started working at the disaster management department of the regional delegation in Nairobi. However, the officer resigned from the position in December 2005, and plans are underway to recruit a replacement and provide human resource support in the interim period to strengthen the food security programme. An update on the food security activities in the Horn of Africa was prepared at the end of 2005.

Constraints

- The political dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea has led to logistics and communication problems between the two countries, thus it was considered to be more feasible to employ the food security officer in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition, the difficulties for the national societies to agree on the location and nationality of the officer contributed to the substantial delay in recruitment.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The role of the sub-regional office is guided by the goals of the Federation and focus on strengthening national societies (including through support to governance; coordination, cooperation and new partnerships; representation and advocacy; food security and efficient and effective service provision). The sub-regional office has provided tailored and mutually agreed support to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and the Djibouti Red Crescent Society.

The main priorities in 2005 were to assist the Ethiopian Red Cross Society with its new strategic plan, the revision of its Cooperation Agreement Strategy as well as the implementation of its organisational reform process. For the Djibouti Red Crescent Society, the Federation priorities were to continue strengthening the national society's programme implementation capacity.

During the second half of the year, contacts with partner national societies, locally represented UN agencies, other international organizations and embassies were maintained with the purpose of looking for partnerships. Contacts with the African Union were explored and a high level meeting between the African Union and the Federation is being prepared for 2006.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

Horn of Africa Sub-Regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA005

PLEDGES RECEIVED

10/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,000,982		104.4%
OPENING BALANCE				386,868		
BRITISH - RC		40,000	GBP	87,240	02.02.05	REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				68,000	01.01.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				64,000	01.01.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		20,000	EUR	30,880	29.03.05	HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEV.
FINIISH - RC		47,200	EUR	73,490	16.06.05	ETHIOPIA SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		3,009	EUR	4,656	11.11.05	NS PARTICIPATION FUNDS
SWEDISH - RC		1,300,000	SEK	222,300	12.04.05	
SWEDISH - GOVT		200,000	SEK	34,200	26.04.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				971,634	CHF	97.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			73,000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				73,000	CHF	7.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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