

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ERITREA

Appeal No. MAAER001
12 July 2006

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update no. 1.

Period covered: 2 January to 31 May 2006.

Original Appeal target: CHF 2,737,000 (USD 2,086,000 or EUR 1,769,000).

Appeal coverage: 5.9%.

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,575,000 (USD 2,093,000 or EUR 1,640,000).

Appeal 2006-2007: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAAER001.pdf>

[<Click here to go directly to the attached interim financial report>](#)

Related Annual or Emergency Appeal: Appeal 05EA002 – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/05/05EA00204.pdf>
(Eritrea; Drought).

The programmes herein are aligned with the Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity":

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

Programme summary: While the implementation of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea's (ERCS) bilaterally supported community-based health development programme and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)-supported programme in conflict preparedness/response, restoring family links and assistance have been progressing well, the Federation-supported organizational development programme has been implemented on a minimum level, using funds that were carried over from 2005. A few activities have been implemented using the Eritrea drought Emergency Appeal and regional/global funds. The ERCS decided to expand its community volunteer facilitator's network to 12 new *sub-zobas*, while disaster management as well as human resource management have been strengthened at the headquarters.

The poor donor response to this appeal has adversely affected the implementation programmes in Eritrea, particularly the organizational development programme which aimed at strengthening the national society's capacity to scale up water and sanitation (WatSan) activities that will be funded by the European Union's Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP-EU) Water Facility. This programme update is also seeking funds to complete the water projects in Anseba *zoba* that were identified during the 2005 Eritrea drought operation and are not covered by the ACP-EU Water Facility.

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A partnership meeting was held in February and was attended by seven partner national societies (PNSs), the ICRC and the Federation representative. During the meeting, all partners committed to continue the same level of bilateral support as in 2005, in addition to the scaling up represented by the ACP-EU Water Facility project. Because the Red Cross Society of Eritrea is still not legally recognized by the government, governance and membership could not be established and trained.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Eritrea:** Sister Alganesh Kidane, Secretary General, Red Cross Society of Eritrea, Asmara; Email: rcse6@gemel.com.er; Phone +291.115.16.93; Fax +291.115.18.59
- **In Eritrea:** Ahmed Suleman, Federation Representative, Asmara; Email: ahmed.suleman@ifrc.org; Phone +291.115.05.50; Fax +291.115.18.59
- **In Kenya:** Anitta Underlin, Federation Head of East Africa Regional Delegation, Nairobi, Email: anitta.underlin@ifrc.org; Phone +254.20.283.50.00 ; Fax +254.20.271.27.77
- **In Geneva:** Amna Al Ahmar, Federation Regional Officer for Eastern Africa, Africa Dept; Email: amna.alahmar@ifrc.org; Phone +41.22.730. 44.27; Fax +41.22.733.03.95

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 quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

There has been no progress in the border demarcation issue between Eritrea and Ethiopia. This has a profound impact on the humanitarian situation in the country, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Federation are continuously assessing the situation. The main goal for the humanitarian assistance to Eritrea at the moment is to avoid further deterioration of the humanitarian situation as a consequence of a deteriorating economy in the country. This situation is likely to continue until the border conflict with Ethiopia has been solved.

The drought situation in the country as a whole improved to a certain degree after good rains in 2005; the *Bahri* rains in the eastern lowlands came in late 2005. The *Azmera* rains (March-May short rains) have also been good in 2006. Usually this has had a positive impact to the growth of long cycle crops in the four western *zobas*. The government has not yet released statistics about the crops in 2005, and there is no reliable data regarding the food security situation in the different *zobas*.

Reassessment on distribution of free food aid is done by the government and a “cash-for-work” strategy has been forwarded to international humanitarian organizations working in Eritrea. The Federation will consider the new strategy carefully after a solution has been found for the food that is still in stock.

The Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) has not yet been legally recognized by the government, but has been recognized as a member of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. It has not been asked to register as a non-governmental organization (NGO) according to the 2005 “Proclamation to determine the administration of non-governmental organizations”, and is fully operational in implementing its humanitarian programmes. The lack of legal recognition is, however, preventing the RCSE from establishing a governance as well as membership.

Health and care

The RCSE has for several years been implementing a comprehensive community-based health development programme (CBHDP). While the entry point for the programme is community-based first aid (CBFA), other components like Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST), cleaning campaigns, construction of demonstrative latrines and garbage pits, household management (including nutrition training and household hygiene), construction of fuel-efficient stoves and skills training are added to the programme in different combinations based on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) with the village elders, that together with the Red Cross volunteer leader, comprise the village Red Cross committee. Each village volunteer network is supported by a community volunteer facilitator who is a paid staff member covering about 15 villages. This system of organizing the volunteer network was implemented in 12 sub-*zobas* in 2003/2004, and has expanded to 20 during this reporting period.

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As an integral part of this programme, the RCSE has been supporting the construction of water points, wells with hand pumps/solar pumps and earth dams. The earth dams have particularly become important as the ground water level has been decreasing in recent years.

In 2005, the RCSE– with support from the Federation, the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross societies, started to scale up its water interventions through the Eritrea drought operation. Parallel to this, Eritrea was included in the Global Water and Sanitation Initiative (GWSI), and a successful application was made to the EU's Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Water Facility. In January, the Federation was granted EUR 2.9 million through the ACP-EU Water Facility. The project is called "Red Cross Society of Eritrea: Rural WatSan". The grant is for 36 months, and the Danish, Austrian and Netherlands Red Cross societies are co-funding partners of this project. Negotiations are under way to decide upon the operating model for implementing this project; most likely it will be launched on 1 September 2006.

Planning meetings were organized in Geneva, at the regional delegation in Nairobi and in Asmara. The GWSI senior officer from Geneva conducted preparatory discussions with the EU country delegation. It is expected that the contribution agreement for the ACP-EU water facility will be signed in July, if the meeting between the partners and the national society takes place. Contacts were made with the water resource department and Oxfam (one of the organizations which obtained an EU grant in Eritrea). The identification of suitable staff has started, sites have been located, a coaching system has been put in place and a baseline survey has been conducted. Once the preparations for the implementation of the project are complete, it will be integrated into the national society's 2006/7 annual programmes. These developments will be communicated through a programme update.

Organizational development

All programmes run by the RCSE are well aligned to Strategy 2010 and the Algiers Plan of Action as well as the Global Agenda. The implementation of the organizational development (OD) programme has been hampered by the lack of legal recognition of the RCSE by the government of Eritrea, extra workload for the senior management due to new government set up for humanitarian assistance as well as lack of funding. With a view to refocus the national society's communications activities, the appropriate expected result area (number 7) has been redefined.

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

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

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: The Red Cross Society of Eritrea has been recognized by the government and has become a member of the Movement.

As a result of continuous lobbying the Minister of Labour and Human Welfare, diplomats and government representatives graced and participated during the 8 May World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebrations. This event provided an opportunity to disseminate the Red Cross Fundamental Principles and messages. The national society awaits, with enthusiasm, the commencement of statutory procedures.

Expected result 2: The management of the national society and its human resources, staff and volunteers, is strengthened in order to facilitate effective and efficient service delivery to the most vulnerable people.

- The RCSE drafted guidelines for volunteers, including volunteer policy and voluntary service, using reference materials from the Federation and guidelines from other national societies.
- The CBHP strategic plan framework and policy were developed while a financial manual is under development. Updating of the national society's strategic development plan has been given priority in 2006.
- After training on logistics, procurement and fleet management in 2005, the disaster management (DM) department is working to adopt the Federation guidelines and procedures for fleet management. Registration of the vehicles has been finalized and the process of selling scrap materials as well as old vehicles has started.

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- In February, the RCSE programme coordinator left his position and was replaced by the former health coordinator, who in turn was replaced by the CBHP coordinator. Other positions which were filled include DM coordinator assistant, volunteer coordinator, human resource coordinator, emergency first aid coordinator (at the headquarters) and a volunteer coordinator at the Northern Red Sea branch.
- Through bilateral funding, the RCSE established eight new coaching areas in eight sub *zobas*. Eight coaches were recruited for the areas and a three-day training/general orientation was given. The training included a one-day field visit and discussions on the community volunteer facilitation system (coaching system).
- A staff performance appraisal has not been conducted for further upgrading of the human resource system. Contacts have been established with a local consultant, and terms of reference as well as a technical proposal drafted and shared with the management.
- The national society's organizational structure is under review. Initiatives have been taken to revise the existing OD, DM and personnel guidelines.
- Efforts to strengthen reporting skills at the branch and below branch level continued and a reporting checklist was drafted and shared with the branches for field testing. For the second half of 2006, the plan is to develop guidelines for procurement and supplies, and to conduct training of staff in planning, monitoring and reporting systems as well as communication skills.

Expected result 3: The material and operational capacity of headquarters and branches have been strengthened.

- Preliminary contacts with government bodies and the *Zoba Maekel* administration have been established to secure land to construct office premises for *Zoba Maekel* branch. Positive responses have been received and the first phase of the office construction in Southern Red Sea is almost complete. Continuous maintenance of the headquarters office was done. Due to increased power cuts in Asmara, an assessment is ongoing to look for alternative electricity back up systems.
- A Land Cruiser has been leased for the Federation representative's use in the country to replace an old vehicle that the RCSE allocated in 1995.
- To improve the early warning system in the country, a permanent internet connection and email system has been installed at the headquarters. The RCSE previously had a few dial up accounts providing limited internet access. An assessment to extend the email and internet connection to the branches is ongoing. A local area network and a telephone system have also been installed at the headquarters. An information technology officer is giving day-to-day support to the RCSE staff.
- No further activities are planned for the next reporting period.

Expected result 4: Long-term partnerships have been strengthened through the implementation of a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS).

- A partnership meeting was organized in February which was attended by branch secretaries, branch programme coordinators, headquarter staff, the ICRC, the Federation representative and partners working internationally. The meeting highlighted the implementation of the CAS and the RCSE shared its strategic and annual plans. The RCSE will sign a long-term agreement with the Danish and Norwegian Red Cross societies. Partners are regularly updated via quarterly and annual reports. Two types of reports were produced, a general report and a pledge-based report to three partners.
- Information sharing is held in a tripartite weekly meeting among the RCSE, the Federation representative and the ICRC. Ad-hoc meetings are also organized if needed. The RCSE participated in a regional meeting facilitated by the regional delegation in Nairobi on the drought situation and the establishment of operational alliances. The RCSE staff and the Federation representative also participate in meetings with the humanitarian working groups.

Expected result 5: The image of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea has been improved through continuous profiling.

- The activities for increasing the visibility of the national society related to programme implementation have mainly been conducted at the community level. In addition, an advocacy campaign to increase the commitment from the public authorities to fund the ambulance service has been conducted by the RCSE.
- The promotion of the Movement and the RCSE was done during the 8 May World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebrations which targeted the general public as well as high level officials. In the celebration, ministries, embassies, other local government authorities and local partners of the RCSE

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participated. Branches also organized similar events where activities of the RCSE were highlighted. During the Massawa festival in February, the RCSE had an information stand for two days during which over 4,000 people were informed about the Red Cross. First aid services were given to the public as well.

- A quarterly newsletter from the RCSE was published and distributed to stakeholders all over the country, as well as to international partners.
- The well-prepared national society self-assessment for disaster management was undertaken by the RCSE staff and volunteers trained in Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA). The results are currently being evaluated.
- In August, it is planned to further promote the RCSE through participation in the Eritrea Festival. Countrywide campaigns to attract more volunteers are not feasible given the current situation, and new volunteers are recruited locally.
- An advocacy workshop may take place in the third quarter. The RCSE has been working on improving its domestic funding base by launching an advocacy campaign to fund the ambulance service.
- The RCSE is planning to review the 2005 well functioning national society (WFNS) self-assessment based on the Federation representative's evaluation and recommendations in the third quarter of 2006.

Expected result 6: The Federation Secretariat's support to the Red Cross Society of Eritrea has been strengthened through coordinated technical, coaching and advisory activities at country, sub-regional and regional levels, as well as through systematic use of Federation global tools.

- A VCA was conducted in four villages of *Zoba Maekel* for nine days with the support of resource persons from Geneva and the regional delegation in Nairobi. Two Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members also participated. 32 staff and volunteers from the headquarters and branches attended this on-the-job training and a one day presentation regarding "Safer Access" conducted by the ICRC.
- Day to day coaching in the headquarters has been carried out by the Federation representative as requested.

Expected result 7: To have a well-equipped communications unit of the national society that has the skills and capacity to produce and deliver timely information and documentation about the RCSE and its programmes to internal and external audiences.

- Two RCSE staff members and one Red Cross volunteer are being trained in video production and documentation in order to strengthen the communications capacity of the RCSE. The Swedish Red Cross has, through Folk High School, initiated this activity during several study visits conducted by its students and teachers. This project is now proposed for inclusion in the ongoing support to the RCSE.
- In the coming reporting period, communication tools will be procured to further strengthen the communications capacity of the national society.

Impact

- The RCSE, with the technical and financial support from its partners, gives the assurance to continue working using the 'Red Cross' as the national society's emblem with the hope of maintaining humanitarian service through its ongoing development programmes. Regardless of its current status the national society has demonstrated its effectiveness and paved the way for establishing a good atmosphere towards a lasting decision by the government.
- The national society has been continually receiving technical guidance and support to be a WFNS, and this enabled it to emphasize its different status compared to other NGOs working in Eritrea, when they were required to be re-registered following the new proclamation issued by the government in May 2005. The Red Cross Society of Eritrea has thus received approval to continue to work as it did before. This is also recognized by the EU as demonstrated by the award of the EU Water Facility grant.
- Through the close cooperation between the RCSE and the Federation representative, the partnership between the RCSE and most partner national societies (PNSs) working in Eritrea is stable and well coordinated. Close communication has been maintained with the ICRC in Eritrea.
- The RCSE has adopted the 10 areas for improvement in the Framework for Action (FFA). The vision, mission and strategic goals in the RCSE's strategic development plan are well aligned to the Federation values and Strategy 2010. Programmes have for several years been community-based and focused on development. There has been a positive development regarding implementation of baseline studies, and the development in the communities where the volunteer networks are well established and closely monitored.

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- There is a commitment towards further development of the CAS. Human resource and volunteer management and development have been strengthened by the recruitment of human resource and volunteer coordinators.

Constraints

- Strengthening of the governance and management is not achievable with the current legal status of the RCSE. The national society is regularly assessing the humanitarian situation in the country, but its response is limited based on its capacity, and advice from the governmental coordinating bodies.
- The involvement of national society staff in events at regional level is restricted to a small fraction of the staff due to national visa regulations.
- Integrated financial training has been postponed to August to include new staff.
- As the recognition issue has not been resolved, the national society has not been able to establish a membership or recruit a membership recruitment officer. As fundraising in-country is also dependent on the legal recognition issue, the development of fundraising guidelines and the recruitment of a fundraising officer have also been put on hold.

Implementation and coordination

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The main coordination event in the first half of 2006 was the partnership meeting of February. The Federation representative facilitated the meeting, supported by the head of Indian Ocean Islands sub-region. In addition to presenting the ongoing programmes in the RCSE, the participants in the meeting focused on developing a new way of working together to implement the ACP-EU Water Facility project. To ensure that this big scaling up for the RCSE can be done without adversely affecting the implementation of the ongoing programmes is a challenge that needs to be met by strengthened coaching by the Federation representative, in addition to the support given by the project manager to be recruited. The CAS was confirmed as the chosen tool to maintain the good coordination that has been achieved for several years in Eritrea.

Below is a table reflecting the activities undertaken bilaterally by Red Cross Red Crescent partners in Eritrea. Several partners are also supporting the drought Emergency Appeal.

Movement partners	Summary of activities
ICRC	Tracing and restoring family links, assistance to war-affected communities, dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Values.
Danish Red Cross	CBHP in three branches. Partner in the ACP- EU Water Facility.
Swedish Red Cross	CBHP in one branch, OD and water projects in Anseba.
Spanish Red Cross	CBHP in one branch.
Norwegian Red Cross	CBHP in one branch, OD.
Netherlands Red Cross	Preparing a three-year capacity building and HIV/AIDS programme. Partner in the ACP-EU Water Facility.
Austrian Red Cross	Partner in the ACP-EU Water Facility.

International representation and advocacy

During the reporting period, the Federation representative kept a low profile in the Eritrean international community due to the situation between Eritrea and the international community.

Delegation management

As there is only a Federation representative in the country, delegation management is mainly about economizing with the scarce resources available. The stalling of the drought operation is now leading to financial deficits for the delegation management. Funding has at the moment been secured only for a couple of months.

Due to the political situation in the Horn of Africa, moving the Federation representative to the Horn of Africa sub-regional office in Addis Ababa has not been feasible.

[*Interim financial report below;*](#)
[*Click here to return to the title page and contact information.*](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAER001 - ERITREA

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/7
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAER001
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	2'117'647	0		619'523	0	2'737'170
B. Opening Balance	0	0		111'363	0	111'363
Income						
Cash contributions						
Cyprus Red Cross				579		579
Swedish Red Cross				41'250		41'250
C1. Cash contributions				41'829		41'829
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				51'000		51'000
C5. Inkind Personnel				51'000		51'000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	0	0		51'000	0	51'000
D. Total Funding = B + C	0	0		162'363	0	162'363

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0	0		111'363	0	111'363
C. Income	0	0		51'000	0	51'000
E. Expenditure	-1'475			-119'994		-121'469
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	-1'475	0		42'369	0	40'894

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Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/7
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAER001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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)		2'117'647	0		619'523	0	2'737'170	
Supplies								
Water & Sanitation	880'000							880'000
Total Supplies	880'000							880'000
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	110'000							110'000
Computers & Telecom	66'000							66'000
Others Machinery & Equipment	44'000							44'000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	220'000							220'000
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring					2'423		2'423	-2'423
Transport & Vehicle Costs	278'560				28'274		28'274	250'286
Total Transport & Storage	278'560				30'697		30'697	247'863
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	148'800							148'800
Delegate Benefits	344'000				64'003		64'003	279'997
Regionally Deployed Staff	50'000							50'000
National Staff	100'000							100'000
National Society Staff					915		915	-915
Total Personnel Expenditures	642'800				64'918		64'918	577'882
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	157'094				2'950		2'950	154'144
Total Workshops & Training	157'094				2'950		2'950	154'144
General Expenditure								
Travel	89'160	1'475			7'119		8'594	80'566
Information & Public Relation	43'520				2'217		2'217	41'303
Office Costs	21'120				101		101	21'019
Communications	38'000				1'461		1'461	36'539
Professional Fees	9'000							9'000
Financial Charges					1'328		1'328	-1'328
Other General Expenses	180'000				2'791		2'791	177'209
Total General Expenditure	380'800	1'475			15'017		16'492	364'308
Program Support								
Program Support	177'916				6'848		6'848	171'068
Total Program Support	177'916				6'848		6'848	171'068
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions					-437		-437	437
Total Operational Provisions					-437		-437	437
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2'737'170	1'475			119'994		121'469	2'615'702
VARIANCE (C - D)		2'116'172			499'529		2'615'702	