

ETHIOPIA: DROUGHT

Appeal no: 08/2000
4 May, 2000

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 10,370,382
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 130,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 8 MONTHS***

This Appeal replaces the Preliminary Appeal 08/2000 launched on 8 April, 2000, increasing the budget from CHF 5,281,179.

Summary

Four consecutive years of poor rainfall in Ethiopia have led to drought conditions and minimal harvests. This has had a cumulative impact on households in both pastoral and agricultural communities, undermining coping strategies and leading to greater vulnerability to drought. Many households have been forced to sell their livestock and other assets and some to migrate from their land in search of income and food.

The International Federation and Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) appeal will provide CHF 9.2 million in cash, kind and services for 122,000 people.

This appeal is a revision of the preliminary appeal issued on 8 April. The ERCS and Federation will expand its operations beyond South Wollo to include both North Borena, as well as build disaster preparedness capacity in East Harerghe. Monitoring of the situation in these areas and other parts of the country will continue and any further expansion by the ERCS and Federation will depend on these ongoing assessments.

The Red Cross operations in response to the drought in Ethiopia are closely coordinated between the ERCS, the Federation, and the ICRC, taking into account the assistance programmes of the Government, the UN, and NGO's. The Federation, at the request of the ERCS, is coordinating international support for the ERCS's programmes in South Wollo, North Borena, and Haraghe. The ICRC's drought response programmes in the SNRS are being implemented in close cooperation with the ERCS, and will be reflected in a separate appeal.

The Disaster

The food security situation is deteriorating very fast in many parts of Ethiopia. In the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the southern and eastern parts of the country, the late arrival of the Gu rains has resulted in high livestock losses and weakening of herds. This situation is evident with high malnutrition and migration of populations in search of relief. Pockets of populations in the Somali, Southern Nation, Nationalities and Peoples Regions (SNNP) and southern Oromiya are facing starvation. Basic services are stretched and severe water shortages and poor health infrastructure increases vulnerability to disease resulting in rising morbidity and mortality rates.

One pocket of approximately 25,000 people situated near the town of Hagera Mariam in Borena zone in southern Oromiya illustrates the situation, where drinking water for both humans and livestock is extremely scarce. As a result, cattle are dying in increasing numbers. This has a serious impact on the rates of malnutrition, particularly, among children who rely to a great degree on milk for its nutritional value. Bloody diarrhoea and gastritis have become common among adults, an indication of increased malnutrition levels and infestation of parasites. The health care provision within this area is very low and emergency assistance from the DPPC and international NGOs is focused on the woredas to the south in the lowland areas of Borena zone. This has major implications for the two woredas of Hagera Mariam and Odo Shakiso, with populations of 441,532 and 104,472 respectively, where the situation could deteriorate very rapidly if emergency action is not taken.

In the northern highlands of Ethiopia, the situation is not as severe as yet but could become so soon. This is the fourth successive year in which the belg rains have failed. One of the worst hit zones is South Wollo which is an area that was badly affected by the famines in both 1974 and 1984 and that has repeatedly required food assistance over the years. Erratic rainfall patterns have characterized the last three years. This year the belg rains have also failed to produce much precipitation although some rain fell at the end of March and during April. The belg rains which normally begin in February and peak in mid April are important in that 2 million in the northern highlands are dependent on them for the production of short cycle crops. They are also significant in terms of the coming meher season. The high yield, long maturing meher crops of sorghum and corn are normally planted in late April and are dependent on the residual moisture of the belg rains.

The cumulative effect of the failure of successive belg rains in South Wollo has reduced traditional coping strategies to a point where malnutrition levels are rising. Many households have sold their oxen and other assets and are not in a position to take advantage of the rains even if they do arrive. Prices of livestock have fallen as oxen have been sold by the belg farmers and there are indications that grain prices have risen. There is some movement by people off the land in search of other sources of income and food. Some 45,687 Belg farmers in Ambassel and 31,907 in Kutaber are already on the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) beneficiary lists for food aid and it is anticipated that they will continue to require support until June and beyond, if there are no rains. In addition, the woreda authorities identified a further 43,110 in Ambassel and 18,903 in Kutaber requiring food assistance.

The Response so far

Government Action w

Emergency relief programmes in Ethiopia are co-ordinated through the DPPC which was established in the late eighties. Bulk food contributions to the country's 'Emergency Relief Needs' from international organizations, bi-lateral donors and NGOs are, for the most part, channelled through the DPPC with the funding organization playing a monitoring role. The DPPC is constituted at the National, Regional and Zonal levels. At the woreda level, the administrative units of the zones, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee is normally composed of the local administrator and representatives of various line departments.

In January 2000, the Government of Ethiopia, through the DPPC, launched an appeal for 836,000 metric tons of food assistance for 8 million people in 2000. Failure of the belg and gu rains would increase relief requirements by several hundred thousand MT over and above the current estimate of relief foods.

There are several key constraints in meeting current and future relief food requirements. The Government of Ethiopia's Emergency Food Security Reserve (EFSR) reached a low level of 50,720 MT at the beginning of April. The pipeline of additional supplies remains thin through to May with 16,700 MT in March and 98,000 MT in April and 57,000 in May scheduled as repayments to the EFSR. Djibouti, the main port for shipment, has a reported maximum capacity of 120,000 MT per month. To put this in proper perspective, the DPPC estimated requirement is 127,000 MT of relief food for June alone. In addition, the DPPC has decided to procure 100,000 MT of food on the local market.

As at April 4, only 9,954 MT of the 438,389 metric tons has been distributed to the beneficiaries. There are indications of a substantial increase in commitments from the US government and other sources. Delayed shipments and increasing food insecurity, however, are combining to create a situation where substantial relief is required.

Despite this alarming picture, surpluses do exist within the country. A Cereal Availability Survey conducted in January by the EC's Local Food Security Unit in collaboration with the WFP indicated that there is about 500,000 MT of surplus wheat, sorghum and maize which could be made available for local purchase in the traditionally surplus producing areas of Ethiopia. Other sources however put the figure at nearer 100,000 MT.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

The Ethiopian Red Cross, supported by the Federation, undertook a successful supplementary feeding programme in Kutaber and Ambassel woredas in South Wollo from June to December 1999. A total of 418 metric tons of supplementary food was distributed to over 40,000 beneficiaries. The experience of this operation and previous ones has strengthened the capacity of the branch and the sub-branch which have 355 trained and experienced volunteers.

In February this year, an assessment team comprising representatives from the ERCS, and an American Red Cross delegate assigned to the Federation conducted a three day assessment in Kutaber and Ambassel woredas. The assessment team's report was reviewed by the ERCS management group which included the Federation's Head of Delegation. The review was conducted within the national context (outlined above) characterized by two main themes: firstly, that the Government's food reserve was low and the pipeline of additional relief food supplies was thin and likely to remain so for a couple of months; secondly, that food surpluses from other regions are available.

The ERCS management supported by the Federation country delegation is building on its long experience in Kutaber and Amabassel by addressing the drought there first, not least to ensure some continuity for the beneficiaries. It was further agreed to investigate the use of a combination of interventions that would address the immediate needs of the vulnerable population. One of the forms of intervention considered particularly appropriate was the establishment of employment generation schemes (EGSs) that would provide employment for specifically targeted groups of beneficiaries who would be paid cash for their work.

A team consisting of an ERCS senior relief officer, a local consultant who has had several years of experience in designing and implementing cash for work schemes, and the Federation relief delegate returned on March 21 to the two woredas to investigate the feasibility of this and other kinds of intervention with the task of designing a programme that would address immediate needs. The team reported back to the ERCS management group on March 30 and a plan of action was agreed by April 5. A preliminary appeal was issued on April 8 for 5.2 million CHF to assist 80,000 beneficiaries. As at May 4, approximately 10.4% of the appeal has been covered by firm pledges. Meanwhile, the Federation released 330,000 CHF from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The ERCS, supported by the

Federation, has started its plan of action. An order was placed for 139 metric tons of Famix at a factory in Addis Ababa to provide two months supply of food to 23,000 at risk people in the two woredas. This order will be ready by May 10. Tendering for one month's supply of bulk food (grain and sorghum) for the targeted population of 80,000 was completed and the food will be procured locally and transported along with the Famix by May 15. Distributions will take place from May 18. A nutritional baseline assessment will be carried out in the week beginning May 8 and the information provided will allow the ERCS and Federation to decide whether the size of the targeted population should be increased.

A Federation team (including representatives from the German, American, British and Spanish RC) spent a week in Ethiopia from April 12 in order to assess the overall drought situation and advise on the role of the ERCS and Federation. A report has been shared with all interested parties. One of their recommendations was that the ERCS and Federation should consider using bulk food and food for work rather than cash for work initially because of the uncertainty concerning the functioning of the market and the time it will take to design, plan and establish Employment Generation Schemes. The objectives of the planned intervention remain the same although the timing and phasing in of different aspects of the project have been modified.

Two assessment teams visited East Harerghe and North Borena, two other areas badly affected by drought, in the week beginning April 17. The team to East Harerghe consisted of ERCS, American Red Cross, and a Federation representative, with an ERCS and German Red Cross representative undertaking the visit to North Borena. Based on their reports which pointed to an alarming decline in nutritional status of the population in North Borena, the ERCS and Federation decided to expand its interventions to include this area. A major intervention is now planned for North Borena and a branch disaster preparedness and capacity building programme for East Harerghe. A preliminary plan of action was agreed based on these initial assessments of needs. The plan of action includes a baseline assessment to provide a clearer understanding of the needs.

The ICRC carried out surveys in Gode and Afdher zones in the Somali National Regional State in February and late March and on the basis of these assessments started an operation in the week beginning April 17 to a target population of 188,000 in four woredas with a general ration to balance the quantities which the DPPC has provided initially for a period of three months. ERCS staff and volunteers from Jijige branch and Gode sub branch are involved in the handling of the goods.

Other Agencies Action w

In response to the DPPC annual appeal launched in January for 836,000 metric tons, on February 25 the WFP approved a US\$ 137 million operation to feed 2.3 million people. Under the arrangement with the government, the WFP will supply 250,000 MT of food aid to the DPPC between April and December who will then distribute the food assistance to the most vulnerable.

In Borena, there are a number of NGOs operating, including CARE, GTZ, Mekane Jesus, SCF (US), SOS Sahel and COOPI (an Italian NGO). Most of them are shifting their focus from development to relief and rehabilitation as a result of the emergency situation. Apart from Makene Jesus, they are mainly involved in woredas in the east and south of the zone and not in Hagere Mariam and Shakisso woredas.

In South Wollo, DPPC together with Save the Children and Concern allocated 12,191 metric tons of food to beneficiaries in the South Wollo zone. World Vision, CARE, Norwegian Church Aid and OXFAM are also present but there are no international NGOs operating in the two woredas that ERCS and Federation is targeting. In East Harerghe, CRS is providing relief aid.

Co-ordination w

Though the DPPC is the main implementer of relief interventions in the country, the ERCS, in its constitutional charter, has an explicit mandate to conduct relief interventions. The ERCS is the only other institution in the country with this level of autonomy. While good co-operation exists between the two organizations as demonstrated through the supplementary feeding programme undertaken by the ERCS in

1999, these emergency interventions will be the vehicle for further strengthening the co-ordination between the ERCS and the DPPC.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of needs w

Red Cross field assessments were carried out in February and March in South Wollo and in April in North Borena and East Harerghe as indicated above. Nutritional baseline surveys will be undertaken in South Wollo and North Borena in May. These will provide guides to the ERCS and Federation in terms of increasing the targeted populations. This will be of particular relevance in North Borena where a more accurate and up to date picture of the numbers affected will be required.

Immediate needs w

North Borena

The assessment carried out by the ERCS and Federation in April provided evidence of pockets of severely malnourished populations particularly in Hagere Mariam, but also some evidence of it in Odo Shakiso. Some of the more remote areas within these two woredas have not benefited from the general distributions of relief food carried out by the DPPC and have not enjoyed the advantage of development work implemented by international NGOs who operate in the other woredas in the Borena zone. The ERCS and Federation will target these forgotten people. This will initially include approximately 35,000 people to the west of Hagere Mariam town and 15,000 people in Shakiso. Needs include bulk and supplementary food as well as water management and health services support. In addition, a nutritional assessment will be carried out in parts of Odo Shakiso to ascertain whether there is a need for intervention here.

The assessment team found children with symptoms of protein energy malnutrition and kwashiorkor in several villages around Hagere Mariam including Soyama Suro and Didole with populations of 5,000 and 2,000 respectively. Food availability was very limited with only false bananas being sold in the local market. Water supply was also not sufficient with people using dirty ground water. Health facilities within the area are practically non existent. There is a hospital in Hagere Mariam but this is severely understaffed.

South Wollo

Figure 1: Needs in the woredas (DPPC figures)

Woreda	Total Population	Affected Population	Vulnerable Belg individuals	At risk individuals
Ambassel	126,811	88,797	45,687	13,706
Kutaber	106,770	50,810	31,907	9,572
Total	233,581	139,607	77,594	23,278

Out of a total population of nearly a quarter of a million, nearly 140,000 are affected by the drought. The most vulnerable are the belg farmers and their households who have suffered from the failure of successive rains, and these are the beneficiaries targeted by the Red Cross will target. This population, 45,687 in Ambassel and 31,907 in Kutaber, are included on the beneficiary list for a general ration of 12.5 kg per month per person. This list is drawn up by the communities themselves in each of the kebeles (peasant associations). However, the DPPC has only been able to distribute 607.3 metric tons of grain, equivalent to one month's ration, to the belg vulnerable in Ambassel in the first three months of 2000. In Kutaber, the distribution is 526.56 metric tons of grain over the same period equivalent to a little more than one month's ration over the first quarter. The indications are that the DPPC will continue to find it difficult to provide monthly rations to these vulnerable people even if the pipeline improves given the worsening situation and the likely increase in demand for food nation-wide. The situation of the vulnerable

belg farmers is, therefore, likely to worsen if, as expected, the belg rains fail. This will, in turn, push more people off the land. It is, therefore, vital that this group receive a general ration or the equivalent in cash for the next eight months so that they can sustain themselves.

Within this group, there are those who are, particularly, at risk. Supplementary feeding will, therefore, be targeted at a sub group of 30% of the belg vulnerable population. The targeted population consists of:

- Under five children (17%).
- Pregnant women (5%).
- Lactating mothers (5%).
- Elderly and disabled (3%).

An integral part of this intervention will be the baseline that will be carried out at the beginning and at the end of the project that will measure the change in nutritional status among the vulnerable population. The supplementary feeding will attempt to reduce the number of malnourished children by 20% within seven months, providing 15,229 people in Kutaber and 10,635 in Ambassel with 3 kgs per person per month for a period of eight months from May to December.

Figure 2: Farming demographics by woreda

Woreda	Vulnerable belg households (48%)	Barley seed requirement (70% of total belg seeds) MT	Wheat seed requirement (30% of total belg seeds) MT
Ambassel	2,966	129.77	55.61
Kutaber	1,829	80.02	34.29
Total	4,795	209.79	89.9

A combination of 70% barley (125 kg/ha.) and 30% wheat (125 kg/ha.) will be provided to those most vulnerable households that only plant belg crops in December. Tools such as hoes and spades will be provided.

East Harerghe

The assessment team found that the food security situation was precarious in East Harerghe, at present. However, with the lack of local stocks of food and the high probability of another belg rain failure, the situation could deteriorate quite quickly. Many families as in South Wollo have lost wealth assets over the last few years as a result of the failure of successive rains and are nearly destitute. The possibility of stress migration at a future date remains high. However, there was no evidence of malnutrition at this stage. The situation will be closely monitored by the branch in Harar and the branch capacity will be strengthened so that it can provide an early warning system for the ERCS HQ and respond effectively, if required.

Red Cross Objectives w

Operational Objectives (North Borena)

- To establish a temporary office in Hagera Mariam with the capacity to undertake an operation in the woreda;
- To provide approximately 35,000 people in Hagera Mariam and 15,000 people in Shakiso woreda with a general ration of 12.5 kgs initially for 6 months with a supplementary food component for the at risk groups (30% of the population);
- To organize water trucking initially to Soyame Suro and Didole villages to the west and north of Hagera Mariam and establish local water storage tanks (bladders) in the two locations;
- To undertake micro projects in this area to be identified once the operation has started with the aim of improving the health status of the people and the water and sanitation facilities available to them.

Operational Objectives (South Wollo)

- Provide approximately 23,250 at risk individuals (pregnant and lactating mothers, children under five and elderly and handicapped persons) with blended, fortified cereal as a nutritional supplement to the staple food from May to December.
- Provide approximately 15,400 vulnerable belg farmers with a general ration of 12.5 kgs per person per month from May to December.
- Establish employment generation schemes that would provide employment for approximately 12,350 household representatives who would be paid in either food or cash for their work.
- Provide agricultural inputs such as seed and fertilizer to approximately 4,800 belg farmers in December for the 2001 belg season.

Operational Objectives (East Harerghe)

- To build the disaster preparedness capacity of the branch through training and other support so that a n operation can be mounted at a future date if necessary

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase One w

This Appeal is intended to support the ERCS and Federation in two main operations, one in North Borena and the other in South Wollo while building capacity and establishing an early warning system at the branch in East Harerghe in case the situation deteriorates there. It aims to provide for the immediate needs of approximately 50,000 in North Borena and 77,000 in South Wollo through a mixture of interventions that are designed to have the greatest impact as well as build conditions for future development.

In North Borena, the need to establish a sub-branch with an office is a priority. Building local capacity will be imperative for the successful implementation of the operation. Support will be provided by staff in the Negele branch and the ERCS Headquarters supported by the Federation's Relief and Watsan Delegates. The operation will focus initially on the water and food needs of the population but will also strengthen community capacities through micro-projects in the medium term.

In South Wollo, the emergency phase will cover the period through to December and will involve supplementary feeding as well as the distribution of a general ration to belg farmers and the establishment and implementation of employment generation schemes. The planned period of assistance is until the end of the year during which the beneficiaries will be at their most vulnerable. Off farm employment will become available for the beneficiary head of households during the meher harvest in November and December. One of the lessons that was learned from the supplementary feeding programme that the ERCS, supported by the Federation, operated last year was that without the benefit of a regular general ration, supplementary food has less impact on the most at risk groups than envisaged. The advantage of the comprehensive approach to be adopted involving cash, general ration and supplementary feeding is that immediate and basic needs will be satisfied.

The second phase of the operation in South Wollo is anticipated for December and will involve the distribution of seeds, fertilizer and tools to belg farmers.

The ERCS, supported by the Federation, will continue to monitor the situation closely both in its main areas of operation and other areas affected by drought. The East Harerghe branch will have its capacity reinforced but all branches around the country have been put on alert by the ERCS HQ and asked to provide regular updates on the situation in their areas.

Activities w

North Borena

Related to Objective 1 (establishment of a temporary office):

Staff from the branch in Negele, the capital of the Borena zone, will identify and rent office space in Hagera Mariam so that there is a base from which the operation can be mounted. A warehouse will also be rented. If this is not available, then a Rubhall will be set up. The branch staff will also undertake a volunteer recruitment campaign which will include training. Construction of an office may be required for the long term.

Related to Objective 2 (food and supplementary food)

An immediate response of supplementary feeding for the young children will be mounted with the present ERCS stock of BP5 biscuits and Famix. With the scarcity of supplementary food coupled with the high demand, sourcing will be carried out outside the country and airlifted into Addis Ababa. A factory for UNIMIX is located in Nairobi as well as in South Africa. Trucking (together with the bulk food which would be procured locally) would be done from Addis down to the sites.

Related to Objective 3 (water trucking)

The ERCS Headquarters has two qualified water engineers, one of whom will be assigned for this operation. A Watsan Delegate will be recruited for an initial period of 3 months to assist in the supervision of the operation. This will involve trucking of water from Hagera Mariam to two villages, one 30 kms to the west of the town (Soyama Suro: population 5,000) and the other 7 kms to the north of the town (Didole: population 2,000), the erection of two or more water storage tanks (bladders of which the ERCS have two) and the maintenance of quality control. A wells purification activity will be carried out. A comprehensive needs assessment will be carried out by the water engineer supported by the Watsan Delegate.

Related to Objective 4 (micro projects)

The ERCS Headquarters health and watsan staff supported by the Watsan Delegate and the Regional Health Delegate will identify medium term micro projects which will improve the health status of the people and water and sanitation facilities available to them.

South Wollo

Related to Objective 1 (Supplementary Food)

The implementation plan has several stages:

- **Training of personnel:** The Red Cross has a network of volunteers in Ethiopia who provide community services - they will provide the core skills in monitoring the implementation of the programme. They will be trained to monitor deliveries, report on progress towards project goals, and conducting nutritional surveillance
- **Procurement and delivery of commodities:** The supplementary food (FAMIX) will be purchased within Ethiopia from the factory in Addis. An order for 350 MT at 460 USD per ton has already been placed with the factory. It is able to produce 40 MT per day. This will be available by May 10 and will be distributed by May 18.
- **Targeting and distribution:** The ERCS will work closely with the DPPC authorities at the regional, zonal, woreda and woreda levels to monitor the distribution for the supplementary food. Beneficiaries have already been identified through the kebele selection process. The members of the household to receive supplementary food will be registered by the Red Cross volunteers employed in the project who would carry out the distributions. These will occur in Wuchali town, 60 km from Dessie, for Ambassel and Kutaber for Kutaber woreda. Two distributions will be made at a time (the first planned in May) each covering two months.
- **Monitoring:** The project will conduct a national survey to serve as the baseline. This will be done by independent consultants in co-ordination with the DPPC woreda personnel and will target a 3% sample of the recipient under 5 population registered to receive supplementary food.
- **Training:** A training course will be held at the beginning of the project covering how to monitor deliveries, how to report progress towards project goals and how to undertake anthropometric monitoring of under 5s using scales and height boards.

Related to Objective 2 (bulk food distribution)

Local procurement of food will be carried out by the ERCS head office. Tenders will be invited from the Ethiopian Grain Trading Enterprise (EGTE), local state and commercial farms and companies which have sufficient stocks at this stage. Consignments will be received in the ERCS central warehouse from where they will be delivered to the ERCS South Wollo branch warehouse and other warehouses rented in Dessie. The ERCS has a transport company which has ten 15 to 20 ton trucks which can be used, and there are an adequate number of larger commercial trucks that can be hired. The first consignment of 970 MT will arrive in Dessie around May 12. There are 355 volunteers who will be available for the distributions which will occur in Wuchali town (60 km from Dessie) for Ambassel and Kutaber for Kutaber woreda. The first distribution will be carried out on May 18.

Related to Objective 3 (Food or Cash for the EGS)

The main form of intervention will be through employment generation schemes such as terracing, road maintenance, water resource development and environmental sanitation. There is widespread use of EGSs in Ethiopia and, particularly, in South Wollo to provide a means of distribution of income to deprived sections of society, build up the assets of vulnerable households, develop infrastructure and re-inforce the work ethos of the affected population. EGS's offer the advantage of linking relief with development.

Cash based responses to food emergencies have, in the main, been successful in the past, by being more effective and more empowering to local communities and less costly than traditional food distributions. The situation in Ethiopia is suitable for such a response with pockets of food surplus that are not, at present, redistributed to other areas as a result of weak purchasing power. By injecting cash into the two woredas in South Wollo, purchasing power will increase and demand will rise and this will encourage traders to transport food to these areas from the food surplus regions of Ethiopia. This approach will also not put extra strain on the thin food pipeline.

The ERCS and Federation team, while in the two woredas, carried out a rapid assessment of all options for creating productive, temporary employment for the affected people. This review was conducted with the woreda DPPC and included analysis of employment needs as defined by each kebele as well as assessing the possibilities of adapting and expanding ongoing labour intensive projects and/or initiating new budgeted and planned projects. On the basis of this assessment, standard agreements will be established between the ERCS and the two woredas setting out roles and responsibilities of the parties for the implementation and monitoring of the projects. Red Cross staff and volunteers will work closely with the line bureaux in the selection of the EGS. The ERCS will provide cashiers who will pay the money and staff/volunteers who will monitor the schemes.

Under EGS guidelines issued by the DPPC, only 80% of the households can be represented in employment generation schemes and 20% would need support through gratuitous relief. Each of the 80% of households, on average made up of 5 members, would be represented by one member in the EGS and work 22 days in the month for which s/he will be paid 5 birr a day which provides enough money to purchase 62.5 kg per month (the general ration of 12.5 kg times 5 household members). An attempt will be made to ensure payment to the women who are responsible for food purchases in most households. The remaining 20% of the households, approximately 15,400 individuals, would receive a general ration of 12.5 kg per month.

Two factors have influenced the timing of the introduction of the cash for work schemes by the ERCS in these two woredas. The first is a very real concern that a food crisis will become apparent by June. The operation will, therefore, concentrate on getting sufficient food into the affected areas and distribute on the basis of food for work and a general ration. Secondly, the establishment of effective EGS's in the two woredas is likely to take longer than originally anticipated. An EGS expert is to be recruited by the ERCS in May, playing a proactive part in the design and planning as well as the monitoring of these projects. Greater flexibility will be introduced into the operation with the mix of interventions being adapted and formed to suit the changing food security situation. The need for close monitoring by ERCS and Federation staff becomes essential.

Phase Two w

Objective 4: To provide agricultural inputs such as seed and fertilizer to approximately 4,800 belg farmers in December for the 2001 belg season.

The ERCS has valuable experience in procuring and distributing seeds during the last emergency intervention. Seeds will be locally obtained from the Seed Agency using varieties and lines that are recommended for the region. There is an Agricultural Development Agent for each 2,000 farmers and they will be utilized in training farmers in fertilizer use.

East Harerghe

The branch in Harar has 7 full time staff and 57 volunteers. Training of staff and volunteers will be carried out by the youth coordinator in the following areas: needs assessment, targeting, food and supplementary food distribution, report writing. Volunteer recruitment and basic training will be carried out by the Branch Secretary. Better linkages with the woreda administration and NGOs operating in the area will be established, enabling the branch to provide an effective early warning system for the ERCS and be better prepared for an intervention, if required.

Capacity of the ERCS w

The ERCS has two very experienced officers within the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Section of the Programmes Department at Headquarters. They will both be fully involved in the procurement and logistics of the operation as well as assisting in programme implementation and monitoring. A two week logistics assessment of the ERCS and Federation capacity is being carried out, focusing on making recommendations as to how to strengthening overall capacity.

The ERCS has a well established Branch in Dessie town, the zonal capital of South Wollo. Both the Branch Secretary and the Programme Co-ordinator have been actively involved in relief operations with the ERCS since the mid-eighties. An active sub-branch in Haik has responsibility for the Ambassel woreda.

The branch maintains a warehouse in Dessie town with capacity to store some of the quantities of food and seed stocks. Other warehouses are available and will be rented. The local branch also has a field vehicle which will be used to transport teams of youth volunteers from Haik and Dessie who will carry out distributions and conduct end use monitoring. Two other vehicles will be made available. There are at present a total of 355 volunteers involved with these two branches.

In North Borena, the ERCS has a branch at Negele with 4 full time staff. Operations around Hagere Mariam are dependent on building up a local office.

The ERCS and Federation has established a relief management task force at Headquarters comprising the Assistant Secretary General, the Director of Programmes, the senior DPR officer when available and the Federation co-ordinated by the Secretary General.

Capacity of the Federation w

The Federation has six delegates at present. The Head of Delegation will play a co-ordinating and management role during the operation. A Relief Adviser will be recruited to advise on the co-ordination. The Relief Delegate will work alongside the ERCS in assisting in programme implementation and monitoring. A short-term Information and Liaison Delegate will be recruited to assist in press and external relations management. The Finance Delegate will assist in the financial management and reporting. A Watsan Delegate will be recruited to work alongside ERCS staff in North Borena. The Regional Health Delegate will make a two week visit in May to assess the health situation in North Borena. The ERCS and the Federation will continue to monitor the situation in the country as a whole and in North Borena, in particular, where the operation may well have to include other areas outside the coverage of this appeal once nutritional assessments have been completed.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Jean Ayoub
Acting Under Secretary General,
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Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>