

OPERATIONS 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: FOOD SECURITY

25 March, 2003

FOCUS ON WATER & SANITATION ACTIVITIES

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

The Federation's 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 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 33/02

Launched on 3 December 2002 for CHF 7,865,000 for months for 41,500 beneficiaries; budget revised to CHF 8,061,000 to include an additional water and sanitation component with objectives and activities amounting to CHF 196,000.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 15,000 (reimbursed)

Beneficiaries: 76,500 (41,500 original + 35,000 with this revision)

Operations Update No. 2; Period covered: March 2003

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 27%

Related Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeal for Eritrea (no. 01.04/2003)

Outstanding needs: CHF 5,886,418

Summary: In addition to the objectives and activities outlined in the original appeal (which remain valid), authorities have requested the Red Crescent Society of Eritrea (RCSE) to also intervene in neighboring areas where villages are facing a critical water and sanitation situation. Hydro-geological studies and assessments for these water and sanitation projects have been undertaken, and they serve as the basis for this revised appeal budget amounting to a total of CHF 8,061,000 (an increase of CHF 196,000).

Operational Developments w

Eritrea is experiencing its fourth consecutive year of insufficient rains, which in 2002 severely affected key grain producing areas. The cumulative shocks, worsened by the border conflict with Ethiopia, have left the population with little means of coping, and with yet another year of shortages. Cereal production was just 20 percent of the national ten-year average, and will cover less than 10% of the annual national cereal requirements. For poor households, this reduction has meant that, whereas crops normally take these households from October/November to March/April, this year the harvest will have barely lasted until January (FEWS). According to the Government of Eritrea, some 2.3 million people, out of a population of 3.4 million, are in need of food assistance.

In the Federation's Emergency Appeal 33/02, *Improving Food security* launched on the 3 December 2002, the effects of the drought in Eritrea, the crop failures, and water shortages were detailed. To respond to these

challenges, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE), with the support of the Federation, planned to bring relief to the most vulnerable population in Hagaz sub-region (Anseba region) by providing food and water plus promote health awareness. Funds were received and the operation started.

However, the general situation in Eritrea has become increasingly critical. Relief agencies are encountering serious constraints in overcoming their funding shortfalls; relief donations are being affected by world cereal availability, and competing emergencies across Africa and Asia. WFP indicated (March 2003) that time is running out for help to arrive in Eritrea. An irreversible specter of widespread malnutrition and starvation is now becoming a reality. The average price of livestock has fallen 30% due to distress sales, while local grain prices have increased 100% in the past four months. These negative terms of trade get worse the further one is away from the market centers.

A UN assessment revealed that 70% of the country's villages do not have a functioning water system (WHO). This lack of water is also posing a serious threat to the survival of both humans and livestock. In some areas, regular water points have dried up while in others the water tables are increasingly low. Many communities have resorted to walking long distances in search of water whereas many town dwellers rely on water supplied by water trucks. The cost of water has more than doubled over the past month. The RCSE and the Federation have therefore decided to seek additional resources to upscale water and sanitation interventions and to continue with their food relief distribution in Hagaz region.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

In co-ordination with the local authorities, village leaders and NGOs operating in the region, the Red Cross was requested to urgently intervene in the most critical areas of Hagaz region. Immediate relief in terms of water supply was made possible with the delivery of water via two RCSE trucks carrying a tanker of 14'000 liters each. At least 6,000 people are receiving a minimum of 14 liters/day/person. Beneficiaries are only paying 2 Nakfa per barrel of 200 liters water (approximately CHF 0.20). The tanker is filled at the motorized water well located in the drought affected region (Shetel). The installation of bladders and tapstands facilitates the storage and distribution system. This water trucking operation will be continued for 5 months, until the rainy season is expected to start (around July). An agreement between the RCSE and the Federation states the modalities of this joint Operation.

Identification of additional Water and Sanitation emergency projects

Due to the dramatic drought situation, the RCSE is scaling up its water and sanitation intervention with the support of the Federation, in particular through the water and sanitation delegate and the regional Health and Care unit, and through the officer and field officers recruited by the RCSE.

The RCSE is programming longer term solutions for the drought affected population by following-up on the emergency water trucking intervention. Ten additional water interventions, to be started and possibly completed before the rainy season, have been identified through discussions with the local authorities and the RCSE Anseba Branch. These projects include the implementation of durable water supply systems, construction of sub-surface dams, digging and drilling new wells and boreholes, repairing of existing hand pumps and solar pumps and installing of new ones, constructing sanitation facilities and conducting health and hygiene training for the communities with the PHAST methodology. The Anseba Branch of the RCSE with its volunteer network are central in the implementation of these activities with the goal to have a more sustainable water supply and sanitation structures at the village level.

In addition to the objectives and activities outlined in the original appeal (which remain valid), authorities have requested the RCSE to also intervene in neighboring areas where villages are in a critical water and sanitation situation. Hydro-geological studies and assessments for these water and sanitation projects have been undertaken, and their implementation serves as the basis for this revised appeal budget amounting to a total of CHF 8,061,000.

Objectives, activities and results w

The objectives and activities described in the original appeal remain valid.

Water and sanitation w

In addition to the two existing objectives, the following objective (no. 3) has now been identified.

Objective: To improve the availability and quality of drinking water for 35,000 people living in communities affected by the drought.

Activities planned:

- Identify and select after discussion with the local authorities, villages in the Anseba region where water projects can be implemented.
- Assess, in collaboration with local authorities, the water intervention best suited to address the acute water needs of the selected communities. Possible interventions may include: the rehabilitation of shallow wells and existing boreholes; the installation or repair of pumping equipment (motor, solar or handpumps); the digging of new wells or drilling new boreholes; the construction of infiltration galleries and sub-surface dams; the extension of water supply and distribution systems; on-the-job training for community workers in rehabilitation of waterpoints and related equipment.
- Procure material, and mobilize human resources in the community. External companies are contracted for those interventions which can not be carried out by community members themselves (e.g. drilling boreholes, training on solar repairs).
- (Re)construct the water system according to its technical description.
- Train the elected village water committee in the operation and maintenance of the water system to ensure the sustainability of the intervention.

Once the (re)construction and training are completed, the water system will be handed-over to the community. The Anseba Branch of the RCSE will maintain regular contacts with the village water committee to monitor and to advise regarding various health related issues.

Outstanding needs w

Further support is needed to cover the activities detailed in the original appeal and for the additional sanitation projects described above.

For further details please contact: Josse Gillijns, Phone: 41 22 730 42 24; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: josse.gillijns@ifrc.org

Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact Elisabeth Stalder, elisabeth.stalder@ifrc.org, and 41 22 730 42 66 in the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

John Horekens
Director
External Relations Division

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Head
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Eritrea food security						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 33/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			25.03.2003	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				8'061'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 27.0%
BRITISH RC		25'000	GBP	57'708	16.12.2002	
DANISH - RC		462'500	DKK	90'650	27.01.2003	
FINNISH RC		150'000	EUR	219'960	19.12.2002	RELIEF ITEMS + TRANSPORT
JAPAN RC		160'500	USD	234'683	16.12.2002	
KUWAIT - RC		100'000	USD	135'750	04.02.2003	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		278'075	EUR	404'738	23.01.2003	FOOD DISTRIBUTION
NETHERLANDS - RC		427'807	EUR	626'096	10.03.03	FOOD DISTRIBUTION
SWEDISH GOVT		300'000	SEK	48'420	17.12.2002	
SWEDISH RC		500'000	SEK	80'700	17.12.2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	79'500	16.01.2003	
SWISS - GOVT/RC				5'038	08.01.2003	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'983'243	CHF	24.6%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWISS - GOVT/RC				77'500	08.01.2003	
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			38'275		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			36'796		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			38'768		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				191'339	CHF	2.4%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	

			ANNEX 1
<u>REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 33/2002	
Eritrea food security			
TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
IN CHF			
Wheat: 5,600 mts	2'020'000	2'017'000	-3'000
Lentils: 448 mts	353'000	353'000	
Oil: 336 mts	580'000	580'000	
Water and sanitation	350'000	782'000	432'000
Teaching materials	10'000	10'000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	3'313'000	3'742'000	429'000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Vehicles	95'000	95'000	
Computers & telecom. equipment	77'000	77'000	
Office furniture & equipment	22'000	22'000	
Medical equipment	5'000	5'000	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme management	530'000	524'000	-6'000
Technical support	159'000		-159'000
Professional services	176'000		-176'000
TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS	2'580'000	2'623'000	43'000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Expatriate staff	308'000	452'000	144'000
National staff	354'000	332'000	-22'000
Personnel (support costs)	67'000		-67'000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	32'000	32'000	
Information expenses	10'000	10'000	
Administrative & general expenses	137'000	111'000	-26'000
Workshops & training		36'000	36'000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	4'552'000	4'319'000	-233'000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	7'865'000	8'061'000	196'000
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		2'174'582	
NET REQUEST		5'886'418	