

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: DROUGHT

27 January 2006

APPEAL EXTENSION

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 over 183 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA002; Operations Update no. 4; Period covered: 9 August 2005 to 23 January 2006; Appeal coverage: 57%; [Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 27 January 2005 for CHF 5,210,000 (USD 4.38 million or EUR 3.36 million) for 12 months for 55,000 beneficiaries. Please refer to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA002.pdf
- For Operations Update no. 1 please refer to- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA0021.pdf
- For Operations Update no. 2 please refer to - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA00202.pdf
- For Operations Update no. 3 please refer to - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA00203.pdf
- This Operations Update seeks to extend the operation's period by three months, until the end of April 2006. The extension has been necessitated by unforeseen circumstances which have led to delays in distribution of food.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 300,000. Funds have been reimbursed.

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,239,477 (USD 1,706,918 or 1,438,790).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

- Eritrea: Annual Appeal 2005- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA001.pdf (Appeal no. 05AA001).
- Eritrea: Annual Appeal 2006- 2007- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAAER001.pdf (Appeal no. MAAER001).

Operational Summary: While food aid distributions for three months (July to September 2005) were carried out during the reporting period, the number of beneficiaries was not increased as a result of the low and slow response to the appeal. Accordingly, the number of beneficiaries (who received food rations at 60% of the Sphere standards) remained at 40,000. The insufficient funding has, in addition, significantly delayed the implementation of health and sanitation activities.

No distribution of food has been done since October 2005. This was partly caused by the procedures newly introduced by the Eritrean government on food distribution as well as the current screening of the most vulnerable people at a national level. The distribution of food by all humanitarian agencies has been suspended until this is finalized.

The Finnish Red Cross, which had previously donated 1,320 metric tonnes (MT) of wheat, 82.5 MT of oil and 110 MT of lentils, gave cash contribution of CHF 300,000 to cover the excess expenses which were caused by increased fuel prices and to procure an additional 220 MT of wheat.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Eritrea:** Tsehaie Ghebresus, Programme Coordinator, Red Cross Society of Eritrea, Asmara; Email: rcse6@eol.com.er; Phone +291.1.15.16.93; Fax +291.1.15.18.59
- **In Eritrea:** Per Gunnar Jenssen, Federation Representative for Eritrea, Asmara Email PG.Jenssen@ifrc.org; Phone +291.1.15.05.50; Fax +291.1.15.18.59
- **In Kenya:** Steve Penny, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, East Africa Regional Delegation, Nairobi; Email: steve.penny@ifrc.org; Phone +254.20.283.51.17; Fax +254.20.271.27.77
- **In Geneva:** Amna Al Ahmar, Federation Regional Officer for East 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 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>

Background

Since the launch of the Eritrea: Drought Emergency Appeal (05EA002) on 27 January 2005, the operation has focused on short-term food distribution, rehabilitation and construction of water resources (coupled with long-term activities in water), food security, dry land farming and improved health practices. The progress made in implementing these activities has been reported against through [Operations Update no. 1](#), [Operations Update no. 2](#) and [Operations Update no. 3](#), which covered different periods of the emergency operation.

Operational developments

According to the National Food Information System (NFIS) report, the overall performance of *Kremti* rains (from July to September) was good. The good rains improved the availability of cereal in the short-term and the condition of livestock forage. However, agricultural production accounts for only half of Eritrea's food needs and thus, commercial imports and food aid remain of concern. A number of dry wells have been recovered, while dams collected sufficient water, temporarily solving the problem of critical shortage of drinking water. Despite these positive trends, it is estimated in the NFIS report that it will take three to four consecutive good rainy seasons for true recovery to be felt in the agriculture and livestock sectors as well as for the water table levels to raise. On 16 November 2005, the Eritrea Food Early Warning System further reported that despite the good harvest, prospects of malnutrition remain high. Malnutrition rates in most of the country are acute, at above 15%, which constitute serious thresholds as established by the World Health Organization (WHO). The results of a crop assessment mission by local experts from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Hagaz *sub-zoba* show that below 250 millimetres of rainfall was received. Furthermore, the rain was sporadic and unevenly distributed across the villages thus affecting their harvest. The report further shows that out of the 17 administrative villages, only five (Adi Omer, Shebek, Adi Arey, Enchinak and Edamor) got good harvests.

There has been no food distribution since October 2005 because the government is assessing how to continue with distribution of food aid after the crop harvest. Screening of the most vulnerable people is underway at a national level and distribution of food by all humanitarian agencies has been suspended until this is finalized. The *zobas* have sent the lists of beneficiaries to the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare, and are awaiting its final approval. People in the Hagaz area are surviving by collecting firewood to sell in the markets in order to get money to buy grains whose prices are reported to be a record high for this time of the year. Other coping mechanisms have not yet been assessed.

Currently, the balance of food in the Red Cross Society of Eritrea's warehouse is 1,430.85 MT of wheat, 149.65 MT of lentil, and 109.13 MT of oil, which is beyond its storage capacity. The national society has been forced to rent an additional warehouse, with a capacity of 500 MT, and to recruit two temporary guards for it.

The proposals previously drafted to be submitted to the European Union for food aid and food security, which also included some of the medium-term and long-term projects identified in this appeal, supported by the Danish Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, were not submitted due to the EU requirements that transportation costs of

the food aid (internally and internationally) be include in the budget. This was not feasible in terms of creating a sustainable food security component in the programme. The Red Cross Society of Eritrea, however, included some of its long-term water projects identified in this appeal, in a proposal to the Africa Caribbean Pacific - European Union (ACP-EU) Water Facility. The Danish Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Austria Red Cross assisted the national society in developing the project proposal by deploying two consultants. Field visits to the project areas and a two-day workshop, attended by the Red Cross Society of Eritrea staff as well as representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Water Resource Department (WRD), were organised.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action- objectives, progress and impact

Emergency food and water assistance

Objective 1: To immediately improve livelihood and food security by provision of monthly food distributions to 55, 000 people for 8 months.

Expected result: 11,000 households (55,000 people) in Hagaz sub-zoba have received food rations of grains, oil and lentils once a month (80% of 2,100 kcal) from February to September 2005.

Progress

In July 2005, there was no food distribution due to the six-week delay of the consignment donated by the Finnish Red Cross. The consignment was delayed at the Massawa port due to the new tax requirements of the Eritrean government's "Proclamation on the administration of non-governmental organizations" that were effected on 1 June 2005. The villagers survived by borrowing food from shops and neighbours. Consequently, the national society decided to give two-month food rations in August 2005. However, no changes were made in the September 2005 schedule. Food distribution for the three months is depicted in table 1 below.

The third consignment of food, mainly funded by the Netherlands Red Cross, comprising of 1,324 MT of wheat, 110 MT of lentils and 75,000 litres of oil, started arriving in the country on 30 September 2005. So far, the three phases of procurement comprise of 3,957.55 MT of wheat, 329.65 MT of lentils, 253.29 MT of oil and 16.50 MT of salt. Out of this, 2,520 MT of wheat, 180 MT of lentils, 144 MT of oil and the whole amount of salt have been distributed to 40,000 beneficiaries at the reduced rations of 60% of the Sphere standards in the past six months.

Table 1: Food distributions from July-September 2005 in Hagaz sub-zoba

Administrative villages	Number of Beneficiaries		Food Distributed in MT		
	Households	Individual	Wheat	Lentil	Vegetable oil
Hagaz /Harnet	1,441	6,264	197.316	14.094	11.274
Hagaz /Adalet	1,380	5,200	163.80	11.70	9.36
Adi Fakai	496	1,836	57.834	4.131	3.306
Fana	313	1,196	37.674	2.691	2.154
Awanjeli	287	1,437	45.267	3.234	2.586
Edamr	334	1,678	52.857	3.777	3.021
Ghilas	553	2,165	68.199	4.872	3.897
Enchinak	365	1,732	54.558	3.897	3.117
Shebek	353	1,605	50.553	3.612	2.889
Adi Arei	442	2,321	73.113	5.223	4.179
Adi-Omer	311	1,127	35.502	2.535	2.028
Shafteck	661	2,970	93.555	6.684	5.346
Hashishai	874	3,201	100.833	7.203	5.763
Badob	426	1,882	59.283	4.236	3.387
Shenghin	251	1,228	38.682	2.763	2.211
Golia	290	1,433	45.141	3.225	2.58
Firdighi	652	2,725	85.839	6.132	4.905
Total	9,429	40,000	1,260.006	90.009	72.003

Constraints

The delay in the release of food due to tax requirements of the Eritrean government's "Proclamation on the administration of non-governmental organizations", that was effected on 1 June 2005, had negative consequences on the vulnerable families.

The unforeseen and newly introduced procedures on food distribution and the screening of vulnerable people by the government have further delayed the distribution of food. Apart from leaving vulnerable families without their promised food rations, this has resulted in unbudgeted extra storage and transportation costs. The increase in fuel costs has also aggravated the situation.

Objective 2: To improve sustainable livelihood and food security by provision of monthly food distributions to 27,500 people for 4 months depending on crop yields in September 2005.

Expected result: 5,500 households (27,500) people in Hagaz *sub-zoba* have received food rations of grains, oil, lentils and iodized salt once a month (80% of 2,100 kcal) from October 2005 to January 2006.

Progress

A mid-term review by an assessment team, which was planned after August 2005, could not be carried out due to lack of funding. As explained earlier in this document, no food distribution has been done in the period covered by this objective.

Objective 3: To reduce morbidity and vulnerability to water related diseases by improving access to safe drinking water.

Expected result: 2,000 households (10,000 people) in Hagaz *sub-zoba* have access to safe water within one kilometre from their village from February 2005, increasing to 4,000 households by October 2005.

Progress

In October 2005, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea WatSan coordinator undertook a review of the nine water points and two water ponds finalized in June 2005. All of them are functioning well.

Medium term food security, sustainable livelihoods and integrated health

Objective 2: Promote food security through the improvement of farming practices.

Expected result: 30 households in Hagaz *sub-zoba* have received information on effective economic water farming methods before the start of the farming season in 2005.

Progress

The Swedish Red Cross consultant identified to undertake training for farmers on dry land farming was assigned to other missions. As a result, no in-country capacity has been found yet to follow up on this activity.

Objective 3: To reduce morbidity and vulnerability to water related diseases by improving access to safe drinking water.

Expected result: 4,000 households in Hagaz *sub-zoba* have access to safe water within one kilometre from their village by October 2005.

Progress

The rehabilitation of one hand-dug well in Enchinak was finalized and the well is now equipped with a hand pump. Community members participated in stone collection and excavation of the well. The rehabilitated well has secured sufficient water within a reasonable distance for 4,200 residents of Enchinak who previously experienced critical water shortage. The protection of the water source, however, needs to be improved.

Construction work on middle-term projects, including two check dams and two sub-surface dams, in Gizgiza, Muruni, Hashishay and Felihito has not started yet. The procurement process for 300 gabions to be used in these

projects took longer than was initially anticipated. The quantity and quality sought could not be obtained in the country. As a result, the 300 gabions had to be procured in Kenya. The transportation to the construction sites started on 23 January 2006.

Objective 4: To improve the health status of targeted communities through community-based first aid (CBFA), participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) and provision of basic sanitation installations.

Expected result: The population in 15 communities in the relief operation area has received health promotion and basic first aid services.

Progress

80 students selected from three schools were trained in basic first aid skills for five days. The schools cover three *kebabis* (administrative areas) where the Red Cross Society of Eritrea is providing food and water.

Constraints

Other planned trainings in PHAST and basic sanitation installations were not carried out due to shortage of funding. Funding limitations also delayed the implementation of planned activities.

Objective 5: To improve household economy and reduce environmental degradation through the provision of fuel efficient stoves.

Expected result: 300 households in Hagaz *sub-zoba* have installed fuel efficient stoves by the end of January 2006.

Progress

Contacts have been established with the Ministry of Agriculture in Anseba *zoba* concerning the construction of modified (modern) stoves and conducting of home management training. However, no further progress has been made due to lack of funding.

Advocacy and public information

Objective 1: To ensure that the needs and rights of the most vulnerable in relation to the drought situation are secured.

Expected result: The needs and rights of the most vulnerable have been secured.

Progress

Assisted by the Federation Representative in Eritrea, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea continually alerts its partners about the seriousness of the continued drought situation in Eritrea in order to raise funds and to avert further deterioration of the lives of the most vulnerable people. The Federation Representative continues to seek for regular visits to the relief operation areas so as to witness and follow up on the progress made in the distribution of food and in the water projects.

Food distribution is made in close cooperation with village administration and leaders. In every distribution firsthand information on the humanitarian situation in the villages is collected from beneficiaries by organizing meetings and discussions facilitated by the community leaders. Weekly market assessments are carried out in the Hagaz area to capture the impact of the food distributions. The reports from these assessments have not been shared regularly with the Federation, however, in late December 2005 the prices of sorghum and wheat were reported to be at a record high.

The Swedish Red Cross is translating a video depicting the drought situation to the Swedish language in order to reach bigger audiences in Sweden for fundraising. The video, which was produced through the assistance of the Swedish Red Cross, depicts the situation of the people affected by drought in Hagaz before and after the Red Cross intervention through the rehabilitation of water sources.

Constraints

As most activities have been delayed and suspended since October 2005, no field trips were conducted in November and December 2005.

Objective 2: To promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values in the intervention area.

Expected result: The Movement's Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values are known and adhered to in the intervention area.

Progress

Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values has been going on hand-in-hand with the training activities conducted.

Capacity building

Objective: To build the response and operational capacity of the national society at headquarters and branch level.

Expected results:

- 1. The Red Cross Society of Eritrea has sufficient management capacity to plan for and conduct emergency relief operations in addition to conducting its annual development programme.**
- 2. The Red Cross Society of Eritrea has sufficient logistical capacity to conduct emergency relief operations.**

Progress

The regional logistics unit provided assistance to the national society in the procurement of items internationally. A workshop on logistics and procurement was organized for 30 Red Cross Society of Eritrea staff and volunteers from the headquarters and branches, with assistance from the regional delegation in Nairobi.

Constraints

Though the relief coordinator of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea was invited to attend in the regional logistics workshop, he was not able to leave the country due to the existing procedures.

Other planned activities, including the procurement of a four-wheel-drive vehicle, basic office facilities and equipment as well as training in reporting, administration, volunteer management and finance did not take place due to lack of funding.

Federation coordination

A task force comprising of the senior management of Red Cross Society of Eritrea and the Federation Representative meets regularly to coordinate and evaluate the operation. The regional delegation in Nairobi also provides technical support while collaborating with national and international agencies involved in food security, WatSan, health and agriculture. Information and coordination meetings among relief organizations in Eritrea have, however, been suspended by the government since October 2005.

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

Eritrea - drought

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA002

PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					5,210,000		TOTAL COVERAGE
							57.0%
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	56,650	07.09.05		
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		136,000	EUR	210,188	11.11.05		TRANSPORTATION & DISTRIBUTION COSTS
ICELANDIC - RC		250,000	ISK	4,900	26.08.05		
JAPANESE - RC		144,500	USD	163,574	14.02.05		
MONACO - RC		20,000	EUR	30,970	27.01.05		
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		550,967	EUR	852,897	27.06.05		
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2,750,000	NOK	512,875	28.02.05		
SWEDISH - GOVT		800,000	SEK	136,800	31.01.05		TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT, PLANNING MISSION
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	171,000	26.04.05		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,139,854	CHF		41.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		479,241	EUR	739,948	06.06.05	WHEAT GRAINS, LENTILS, SOYA BEAN OIL, TRANSPORT	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		58,700	EUR	90,721	11.11.05	220 MT WHEAT, TRANSPORT/ INSUR.	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				830,669	CHF		15.9%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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