

Final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ERITREA: DROUGHT

Final report
Emergency appeal n° 05EA002
7 May 2008

Period covered by this Final Report: 27 January 2005 to 31 October 2006

Appeal target (current): CHF 5,210,000 (USD 5,009,615 or EUR 3,226,006)

Final Appeal coverage: 52 per cent

[<Click here to go directly to the final financial report, or here to view the contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- [Preliminary emergency appeal](#) was launched on 27 January 2005 for CHF 5,210,000 to assist 55,000 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- [Operations update no. 4](#) issued on 27 January 2006, extended the operation's timeframe by three months (until 30 April 2006).
- [Operations update no. 5](#) issued on 10 May 2006, extended the operation's timeframe by three more months (until 31 July 2006) due to unforeseen circumstances which led to delays in food distribution.
- [Operations update no. 6](#) issued on 11 August 2006, further extended the operation's timeframe by three months (until 30 October 2006).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 300,000. Funds have been reimbursed.

Summary: Most of the Appeal objectives were only partially met as a result of low and slow response from partners as well as limited food stocks in the country. With respect to the emergency food distribution intervention, the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC¹) reduced the number of beneficiaries to 40,000 and the food ratio to 1,400 kcal due to limited food stocks in the country. Though the number of targeted people and the rations were decreased, the food distributed contributed towards reducing economic hardships among families by preventing them from selling their animals for immediate consumption. The food distribution also contributed to improving their nutritional status.

The emergency and short-term food distribution activities were further affected by the introduction of new policies by the Eritrean government in June 2005, relating to the administration of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The government also introduced policies on free food aid distribution in September 2005. This prompted the national society to request for an extension of the operation's timeframe (three times) to 31 October 2006. Discussions held between RCSE, the Federation and the Eritrean government to address concerns linked to suspension of the food distribution exercise did not bear fruit.

Nevertheless, the national society was largely successful in implementing activities under the emergency and medium-term integrated health interventions. A total of 8 boreholes and 1 reservoir were rehabilitated and 1 check dam and 2 sub-surface dams were constructed, benefiting 16,150 people. The beneficiaries can now access water from nearby water points and in greater quantity.

¹ ERREC is a government agency charged with coordinating government and non-governmental agencies engaged in the drought relief work

The situation

Following five consecutive years of drought, the humanitarian situation in Eritrea had deteriorated, to such an extent that led to the launching of this Emergency Appeal on 27 January 2005. Prior to this Appeal, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) and the Federation had implemented two successive Emergency Appeals, [33/2003](#) and [04/2004](#).

The Appeal was launched to assist 55,000 beneficiaries in Hagaz sub-Zoba and other adjacent villages for 12 months. It focused on emergency and short-term food distribution, medium-term rehabilitation and construction of water resources, medium-term food security and sustainable livelihood as well as improved health practices. These activities were implemented by RCSE in 17 administration areas. Capacity building activities for the national society and advocacy activities were also integrated into this drought operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Emergency food and water assistance

Objective 1: To immediately improve livelihood and food security by provision of monthly food distributions to 55,000² people for eight months.

Achievements

Between April and September 2005, RCSE reached a total of 9,429 households (40,000 beneficiaries) from 17 villages in Hagaz sub-zoba with 2,520 tonnes of wheat, 180 tonnes of lentils, 144 tonnes of vegetable oil and 12 tonnes of salt. The table below gives a detailed summary on how the food was distributed in the administrative villages of Hagaz sub-zoba.

Table 1: Food distribution from April to September 2005 in Hagaz sub-zoba

Administrative villages	Number of beneficiaries		Food distributed (T)			
	Households	Individuals	Wheat	Lentils	Vegetable oil	Salt
Hagaz /Harnet	1,441	6,264	394.632	28.188	22.548	0.188
Hagaz /Adalet	1,380	5,200	327.6	11.70	9.36	1.56
Adi Fakai	496	1,836	115.668	4.131	3.306	0.55
Fana	313	1,196	75.348	2.691	2.154	0.36
Awanjeli	287	1,437	90.534	3.234	2.586	0.432
Edamr	334	1,678	105.714	3.777	3.021	0.504
Ghilas	553	2,165	136.398	4.872	3.897	0.65
Enchinak	365	1,732	109.116	3.897	3.117	0.52
Shebek	353	1,605	101.106	3.612	2.889	0.482
Adi Arei	442	2,321	146.226	5.223	4.179	0.696
Adi-Omer	311	1,127	71.004	2.535	2.028	0.338
Shafteck	661	2,970	187.11	6.684	5.346	0.892
Hashishai	874	3,201	201.666	7.203	5.763	0.96
Badob	426	1,882	118.566	4.236	3.387	0.564
Shenghin	251	1,228	77.364	2.763	2.211	0.368
Golia	290	1,433	90.282	3.225	2.58	0.43
Firdighi	652	2,725	171.678	6.132	4.905	0.818
Total	9,429	40,000	2,520.00	104.10	83.28	10.31

Impact

The food distribution exercise contributed towards improving the nutritional status of 40,000 drought-affected people.

² Kindly note that the number of beneficiaries was reduced from 55,000 to 40,000.

Constraints

Following a road accident on the Keren-Hagaz road, 6.7 tonnes of wheat and 171 kg of vegetable oil were destroyed. The food distribution was also affected by a policy introduced by the Eritrean government in June 2005, on the administration of NGOs. The government subsequently introduced nominal tax requirements for imported relief items, resulting in the delayed release of imported Red Cross relief food from Massawa Port. This tax was eventually paid by the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare.

In September 2005, the Eritrean government introduced a cash-for-work strategy which affected the national Society's free food aid distribution. The new strategy necessitated screening of vulnerable people at national level. At the same time, all humanitarian organizations working in Eritrea (including the Red Cross) were directed to suspend free food distribution. This suspension affected the Finnish Red Cross's donation of 220 tonnes of wheat, which was redirected to the Tanzanian Red Cross National Society's (TRCNS's) emergency drought operation.

In order to preserve the quality of the food in storage and reduce risks of infestation, fumigation was conducted in May 2006 by a private local company, with technical support from the regional logistics unit in Nairobi. This resulted in incurring fumigation costs and extra storage and transportation costs that had not been budgeted for.

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

Achievements

The food distribution exercise which was planned for September 2005 did not take place due to changes in government policies. The Federation and/or RCSE held talks with the concerned authorities to resume distribution as soon as possible. Eventually, the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare took possession of the remaining relief food (amounting to 1,688.78 tonnes) from the RCSE warehouse.

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

Achievements

A total of 8 boreholes and 1 reservoir were rehabilitated and 1 check dam was constructed, benefiting 16,150 people. The rehabilitated boreholes were fitted with solar-powered hand pumps. One of the rehabilitated boreholes in Gizgiza is specifically for the livestock, as it is not safe for human consumption.

Table 2: Construction and rehabilitation of water points in Hagaz sub-zoba

Administrative villages	Achievements	Number of beneficiaries
Felhito and Karwat	1 borehole rehabilitated	500 people
Adi-Omer	1 borehole rehabilitated, 1 reservoir rehabilitated	600 people and 400 livestock
Muruni River	1 borehole rehabilitated	1,500 people
Hashishay	3 boreholes rehabilitated and solar-powered hand pump maintained	10,000 people
Gizgiza	2 boreholes rehabilitated and 1 check dam constructed.	3,550 people
Total	8 boreholes, 1 reservoir and 1 check dam	16,150 people

To encourage the effective use of water, 48 participants from 6 administrative villages received a 5-day training on water management and collection systems.

Impact

Previously, the community members of Muruni had to walk for a total of eight hours on steep and rugged terrain to access water points. They now have access water from nearby sources and the time spared can be used to accomplish other duties. In Felhito, Karwat and Adi-Omer communities, the rehabilitation of the boreholes reduced the walking distance from two kilometers to one kilometer, and reduced congestion at water points.

Medium-term food security, sustainable livelihoods and integrated health

Objective 1: To increase medium-term food security through distribution of seeds and farming tools to 10,000 households

Achievements

The plan was to distribute 300 tonnes of sorghum and 30 tonnes of beans to 10,000 households. However, only 1,168 households received 5.843 tonnes of drought-resistant peer millet seeds. The procurement of the seeds was made locally and the Ministry of Agriculture assisted by checking the quality. The distribution was conducted in June 2006, before the start of the rainy season in July so to prevent consumption of seeds. The targeted beneficiaries identified in nine villages included those who lost their coping mechanisms – such as the traditional methods of preserving seeds – owing to prolonged drought.

Constraints

Given the shortage of funding and limited supply of drought-resistant seeds locally, 8,832 households were not reached. Furthermore, the identification of beneficiaries was challenging since the degree of vulnerability was similar for nearly all beneficiaries.

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

Achievements

There were plans to conduct training sessions in pitting (for improved seed-bed creation) and water harvesting techniques such as ridging for the RCSE volunteers as well as farmer-to-farmer exchange sessions between villages through participatory activities. Unfortunately, these activities were not implemented because the water resource specialist, previously identified for this task, was reassigned to other missions.

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

Achievements

Five administrative villages were identified for the medium-term projects which included construction of two check dams, two sub-surface dams and the rehabilitation of hand-dug wells in Gizgiza, Muruni, Felhito and Enchinak villages. In April 2006, 288 gabions were built to support the construction of the two sub-surface dams and two check dams. The community participated by collecting stones and filling the gabions.

Impact

The rehabilitated well in Enchinak ensured sufficient supply of water within a reasonable distance for 4,200 residents who previously experienced critical water shortage.

Constraints

Unavailability of gabions in the country delayed the construction of the sub-surface dams and check dams. Thus, the gabions had to be imported from Kenya, with the assistance of the regional procurement unit in Nairobi. Furthermore, the poor state of the road to Muruni hampered the transportation of stones.

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.

Achievements

80 students selected from three schools were trained in community-based first aid (CBFA) for five days. The schools cover three *kebabis* (administrative areas) where the Red Cross Society of Eritrea provided food and water.

Constraints

Training sessions in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and basic sanitation installations were not carried out due to shortage of funding.

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

Achievements

The RCSE held discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture on training related to the construction and use of fuel-efficient stoves and home management targeting 30 women from 10 administrative villages. However, due to inadequate funds the proposed activities did not take place.

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.

Achievements

With the Federation's support, the RCSE produced a press release and stories³ on the drought in Eritrea, which were posted on the Federation's website. The national society, in collaboration with the Federation, also coordinated the production of a video on the water and food crisis in Hagaz sub-zoba. The Swedish Red Cross translated this video into Swedish in order to reach a larger audience as well as use it as an information disseminating tool.

A visiting team of students from a Swedish high school produced some still photos and conducted a radio interview on some of the affected communities. These were broadcasted by the Swedish radio service.

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

Achievements

Dissemination of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values were integrated into the food distribution and water and sanitation (WatSan) activities.

84 people, from 17 administrative villages, were trained on volunteerism and relief management. During these trainings, dissemination sessions on Red Cross/Red Crescent principles and the activities of the RCSE were included.

Capacity building

Objective 1: To build the response and operational capacity of the national society at headquarters and branch level.

Achievements

Due to its great experience in food distribution, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea took full responsibility in drafting and implementing a food distribution plan. With minimal supervision from the Federation, all narrative and financial reports were prepared by the national society.

The RCSE also developed its capacity in the WatSan sector through its involvement in the construction of sub-surface dams. This gave the national society an opportunity to further contribute to the overall national policy on water.

The regional logistics unit in Nairobi provided assistance to the national society in the procurement of items internationally. A one-week workshop on logistics and procurement (international and local) was conducted for 30 staff and volunteers from Red Cross branches and the headquarters.

Constraints

A court case against the Anseba branch Secretary resulted in suspension of activities of the branch. This made the management of the operation complex, as the capacities of the branch members, including volunteers, could not be fully utilized. Thus, all communication and implementation was managed directly from the headquarters.

In addition, procurement of a field vehicle and basic office equipment could not be carried out due to limitation of funds.

³Water brings hope to Eritrea's drought children' news story – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/05/05060101/>

Lessons learned

The water trucking activity planned for implementation under emergency assistance was not carried out because the situation of the communities in Enchinak improved with the onset of rains. Moreover, water trucking is considered to be costly and unsustainable and, once started, it is difficult to phase out. Thus, instead of using resources on trucking it was decided to use them for the improvement of water sources for longer-term benefits to the communities.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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".

Global Agenda Goals:

- 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05EA002 - Eritrea: Drought

Report 2005 - 2008

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/1-2008/4
Budget Timeframe	2005/1-2006/10
Appeal	M05EA002
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		5,210,000				5,210,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>		105,272				105,272
<i>Danish Red Cross</i>		96,555				96,555
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		9,886				9,886
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>		35,050				35,050
<i>Icelandic Red Cross</i>		5,093				5,093
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		167,692				167,692
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>		30,790				30,790
<i>Netherlands Red Cross</i>		4,997				4,997
<i>Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)</i>		851,498				851,498
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>		97,395				97,395
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>		366,103				366,103
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		231,037				231,037
<i>Unidentified donor</i>		-8,195				-8,195
C1. Cash contributions		1,993,172				1,993,172
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		162,789				162,789
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>		577,159				577,159
C3. Inkind Goods & Transport		739,948				739,948
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		2,733,119				2,733,119
D. Total Funding = B + C		2,733,119				2,733,119
Appeal Coverage		52%				52%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		2,733,119				2,733,119
E. Expenditure		-2,733,119				-2,733,119
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05EA002 - Eritrea: Drought

Report 2005 - 2008

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/1-2008/4
Budget Timeframe	2005/1-2006/10
Appeal	M05EA002
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)		5,210,000					5,210,000	
Supplies								
Food	3,098,000		1,919,335			1,919,335	1,178,665	
Water & Sanitation	157,000		46,674			46,674	110,326	
Medical & First Aid			11,159			11,159	-11,159	
Utensils & Tools	75,000						75,000	
Total Supplies	3,330,000		1,977,169			1,977,169	1,352,831	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	50,000						50,000	
Computers & Telecom	10,000						10,000	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	60,000						60,000	
Transport & Storage								
Storage			39,105			39,105	-39,105	
Distribution & Monitoring	620,000		130,885			130,885	489,115	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	195,000		531			531	194,469	
Total Transport & Storage	815,000		170,521			170,521	644,479	
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	146,000		11,661			11,661	134,339	
National Staff	145,000		200			200	144,800	
National Society Staff			28			28	-28	
Consultants			-8,880			-8,880	8,880	
Total Personnel	291,000		3,009			3,009	287,991	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	167,000		4,235			4,235	162,765	
Total Workshops & Training	167,000		4,235			4,235	162,765	
General Expenditure								
Travel	53,000		11,997			11,997	41,003	
Information & Public Relation	26,000		5,666			5,666	20,334	
Office Costs	129,350		329			329	129,021	
Communications			911			911	-911	
Financial Charges			-3,072			-3,072	3,072	
Other General Expenses			150			150	-150	
Total General Expenditure	208,350		15,982			15,982	192,369	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies			390,897			390,897	-390,897	
Total Contributions & Transfers			390,897			390,897	-390,897	
Programme Support								
Program Support	338,650		171,308			171,308	167,342	
Total Programme Support	338,650		171,308			171,308	167,342	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5,210,000		2,733,119			2,733,119	2,476,881	
VARIANCE (C - D)			2,476,881			2,476,881		

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05EA002 - Eritrea: Drought

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/1-2008/4
Budget Timeframe	2005/1-2006/10
Appeal	M05EA002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Project Details

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
Disaster Management							
PER512	Eritrea Drought 2005	0	2,733,119	-2,733,119	0	5,210,000	2,476,881
Sub-Total Disaster Management		0	2,733,119	-2,733,119	0	5,210,000	2,476,881
Total	Eritrea: Drought	0	2,733,119	-2,733,119	0	5,210,000	2,476,881