

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

ETHIOPIA: DROUGHT

8 September 2006

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Appeal no. MDRET001; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 9 April to 5 August 2006; Appeal coverage: 62.9%. [<Click here to go directly to the contributions list on the website>](#).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 23 February 2006 for CHF 1,452,294 (USD 1,097,224 or EUR 920,338) for 12 months to assist 36,341 beneficiaries- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET001.pdf>.
- Operations Update no. 1 – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET00101.pdf> – increased the number of beneficiaries to 63,620 and revised the appeal budget to CHF 1, 877,033.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 697,060 (USD 565,546 or EUR 442,423).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Horn of Africa sub-regional programmes, Appeal 2006-2007 (Appeal no. MAA64004) – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA64004.pdf>.

East Africa: Regional Drought Response; MDR64001 – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDR64001.pdf>.

Burundi: Appeal MDRBI001 – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRBI001A.pdf>.

Kenya: Drought; Appeal MDRKE001 – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRKE001.pdf>.

Rwanda: Drought; Appeal MDRRW001 – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRRW001.pdf>.

Tanzania: Drought; Appeal MDRTZ001 – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRTZ001.pdf>.

Operational summary: During the reporting period, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) began to implement two short-term emergency operations following an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) in the Oromiya Region of southern Ethiopia and flooding in the Dire Dawa Region of eastern Ethiopia. The AWD claimed the lives of at least 196 people with the number of people affected rising from 6,409 to 16,555. The floods displaced 52,000 people whilst 244 others were reported missing, and 639 dead.

Notwithstanding its heavy involvement in the two new emergency operations, the ERCS managed to make significant progress in implementing its current drought operation. In particular, the purchase and distribution of 37 metric tonnes (MT) of maize, bean seeds and 1,500 sets of agricultural tools (ploughs and accessories, hoes and finger hoes) to drought-affected farmers in Tuka area of Moyale woreda, Oromiya Region was completed. The donor response to this Emergency Appeal has been encouraging, with the current coverage standing at 62.9 per cent.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

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.

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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

Food insecurity in Ethiopia has placed some 2.6 million people in need of emergency assistance and support. Many of those in need are pastoralists or agro-pastoralists in the country's southern and south-eastern Oromiya and Somali regions, where livelihoods depend on the fertility of the soil and the health of the livestock, both of which have been seriously compromised. The immediate causes of this insecurity were insufficient, too late, or simply erratic rains for crops to grow, for pasture to regenerate, for water resources to replenish as well as for livestock to remain healthy and productive. Other contributing factors include flooding in some areas, civil conflict, crop pests and disease that depleted the resources of many vulnerable households.

Given the gravity of the situation, the Federation responded to a request from the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) to launch an Emergency Appeal to deliver assistance to 36,341 beneficiaries and to support the national society (NS) in their efforts to operate effectively and efficiently. Following further assessments, the number of targeted beneficiaries was increased to 63,620.

Operational developments

The February-June rainy season in Oromiya and Somali Moyale woredas ended prematurely before crops had matured. According to the ERCS, whilst livestock deaths have abated and recovery has been witnessed in the short-term, the medium-term outlook is unknown. Livestock prices have recently increased. The Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (DPPA) continued with its food distribution as seed distribution has not mitigated crop shortage. It is estimated that only 40 per cent of the expected production will be realized in the Oromiya Moyale villages that received seeds. More maize seeds may be needed due to high crop failure rate. The bean seeds success rate is reported to be higher.

Coverage of water and sanitation (WatSan) needs in the Oromiya and Somali Moyale woredas is not 100 per cent. More infrastructures are necessary to meet the needs of water quantity and quality for the beneficiary population. Needs are particularly acute in the Somali side. Some ponds have already dried up in the period preceding the expected September rainy season and more ponds are needed to increase water quantity. The maintenance of seven existing water points in the Oromiya Moyale woreda was covered by other agencies. Three ponds are being constructed in Oromiya and Somali Moyale woredas through bilateral support from the Spanish Red Cross. Activities are ongoing for this WatSan project, which will run for five months.

The ERCS, through its volunteers, is currently implementing a three-month emergency operation in Shashemene woreda, Oromiya Region following an outbreak of AWD which had claimed the lives of 17 people with the number of people affected rising from 3,442 to 6,409 in the Oromiya region of southern Ethiopia. The operation, which is funded through DREF, aims to contribute towards the control of AWD outbreak in Shashemene woreda

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through increasing community awareness about the disease and environmental sanitation, improving access to safe household water and improving community-based disease identification and reporting. Please refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET002.pdf> for more details on the AWD operation.

Following heavy rains in the Dire Dawa region, (525 kilometres east of the capital, Addis Ababa), on the night of 5 August 2006 the Dechatu River burst its banks and causing flooding. According to the ERCS, the floods occurred along the Dire Dawa River, south west Shoa and Bahir Dar River. A recent report from the World Food Programme (WFP) indicated that the number of districts affected by floods in the country has increased from 30 to at least 43 in eight regions. Likewise, the number of flood-affected people increased from 196,000 to 226,000. Of these, close to 52,000 people are displaced and nearly all of them are in temporary shelters and are receiving both food and non-food assistance. The number of persons killed and missing by the floods has remained at 624 and 244 respectively. The districts recently affected include Alamata and Raya Azebo in Tigray Region; Dara, Kobo, Kemise town, Antsokia Gemza and Efratana in Ahmara Region; Dugda Bora, Boset and Goba in Oromiya Region and Gewane in Afar Region.

Following the flooding, ERCS immediately responded by providing psychological support to the affected families, while other volunteers took victims to the nearest hospitals. The local Red Cross branch also gave 500 blankets from its disaster preparedness stock. The national society (NS) embarked on a short-term operation, funded through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to provide humanitarian assistance to flood victims in eastern Ethiopia through the distribution of food and non-food items, and the provision of temporary shelter. Based on the deteriorating situation and in response to a request from the ERCS, the Federation launched a Preliminary Emergency Appeal on 19 August 2006 for CHF 1,112,299 to assist 9,000 floods-affected beneficiaries for 6 months. The Preliminary Emergency Appeal was revised on 6 September largely based on Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) findings and recommendations from assessment missions, and the resulting needs and gaps. The budget was adjusted upwards to CHF 5,212,634 and the number of beneficiaries was increased to 25,000. The revised Emergency Appeal be accessed on the Federation's website at page: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRET003rev.pdf>

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Goal: To improve the food security situation in the Moyale woredas of Somali and Oromiya regions.

Objective 1: Water availability in the 14 drought-affected kebeles of Moyale woredas of Oromiya and Somali regions is improved.

Progress

- Following the onset of the long rains, water trucking was stopped at the end of April as ponds were full and road access was reduced. Contrary to what was reported in the first Operations Update, a total of 12 bladders were received from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); 10 of these bladders were effectively utilized in Oromiya and Somali Moyale woredas.
- Training of 30 hygiene promoters was completed during the fourth week of May. Hygiene promotion is ongoing. A rapid survey of hygiene practices and waterborne diseases was conducted during the first week of June.
- Contrary to what was reported in the first Operations Update, two new shallow boreholes were planned for Oromiya, not rehabilitations. Drilling in the Oromiya sites started in June but both attempts failed to find water. One more attempt at drilling will be made. A deep well will be drilled and if successful, it will be equipped with a generator set and submersible pump.
- The ERCS procured 7,750 jerry cans of which 6,050 have been distributed. 60,810 water treatment sachets (30 per household), 7,684 water treatment bottles (one per household) and 5,972 bars of soap were distributed in the Oromiya and Somali Moyale areas.
- Sensitization on the use of the water treatment chemicals was carried out prior to distribution. The water treatment sachets were donated by the United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF).

Table 1: Distributions and remaining (contingency) stock NFIs

| Non-food items | Quantity Procured | Quantity Distributed (Oromiya and Somali) | Balance |
|------------------------|-------------------|---|---------|
| Jerry can | 7,750 | 6,050 | 1,700 |
| Soap (bar) | 7,750 | 5,972 | 1,778 |
| Water guard bottle | 12,000 | 7,684 | 4,316 |
| Water treatment sachet | 60,810 | 60,810 | - |

Constraints

- No new bladders were purchased because they are not available in-country. Attempts to procure them from other organizations were unsuccessful. There are plans to purchase 10 bladders by international purchase order.
- Rapid survey results on hygiene practices and waterborne diseases have not been analyzed. Two advertisements for a consultant to analyze the data have failed to find someone suitable for the position.
- Training of water committees is still pending because of the delay in completion of drilling and other construction.

Objective 2: The health of livestock in Moyale woredas of Oromiya and Somali regions is improved.

Progress

- Following a request by the woreda agricultural office for the provision of animal feed, rapid pasture improvements eliminated the need for this assistance. The current situation does not require intervention but preliminary reports suggest that animal feed might be required in the near future.

Objective 3: The health status of 63,620 drought-affected people in Oromiya and Somali Regions Moyale woredas is improved.

Progress

- 35 volunteers received community-based first aid (CBFA) training in late May.
- 98 volunteers received malaria prevention training in collaboration with Population Services International (PSI).
- Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training materials have been procured and are being utilized.
- Health monitoring and supervision is ongoing.
- 12,000 long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs) were distributed to 6,000 households in the Oromiya and Somali Moyale areas. The recipients of these nets were also sensitized on malaria prevention and control.
- 70 first aid kits were purchased; 28 have been distributed to 14 kebeles (villages).
- 3,000 information, education and communication (IEC) materials on malaria prevention were received from PSI and distributed in the project areas by the ERCS coordination office.

Constraint

- There is need for the NS to improve on reporting.

Objective 4: The drought-affected farmers in Tuka area of Moyale woreda in Oromiya region are provided with agricultural inputs and their production capacity is increased.

Progress

- The purchase of 37 MT of seed (maize and beans) and 1,500 sets of agricultural tools (ploughs and accessories, hoes and finger hoes) was completed. Transportation and distribution was carried out during the reporting period.

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Constraints

- Due to the shortage of rainfall, seeds were not successful, with a failure rate of around 60 per cent reported. The situation will be monitored to determine if more seeds should be purchased and distributed.
- The purchase of grinding mills is still pending. Procurement is being investigated.

Objective 5: The ERCS response capacity is strengthened and drought-affected people receive support through timely and efficient interventions.

Progress

- Since the opening of a temporary coordination office in Oromiya Moyale, the ERCS's response and reporting capacity has been further enhanced through the provision of computers. No fax machine or photocopier was purchased.
- Two experienced Red Cross staff were seconded from the Oromiya and Somali regional branches (field coordinator and finance). A WatSan coordinator was recruited on a short-term contract. A health coordinator was seconded from the headquarters while recruitment for a permanent health coordinator is ongoing. Pending recruitments include a livelihood officer, a cleaner, a permanent health coordinator and cashier.
- The ERCS has established two woreda Red Cross committees and 14 village Red Cross committees, making a total of 16 so far.
- The procurement process for two water tankers has been initiated. Two land cruisers have been procured and delivered, while the purchase of two motorcycles is pending.
- There are plans to procure emergency stocks of WatSan kits.

Constraint

- Project management training was not completed due to the workload of the NS.

Impact

- The establishment of the coordination office at Oromiya Moyale has helped the NS to run the operation more effectively and efficiently.

Federation coordination

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society continued collaborating with the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. The NS is undertaking the construction of three ponds in Oromiya and Somali Moyale woredas through bilateral support from the Spanish Red Cross. This WatSan project will run for five months. UNICEF distributed 60,810 water treatment sachets (30 per household) in Oromiya and Somali Moyale areas.

The Horn of Africa sub-regional office and the regional delegation in Nairobi continue to coordinate the responses to the drought operation including financial, in-kind contributions and pledges from partner national societies (PNSs). Discussions with United Nations (UN) agencies and Ethiopia's DPPA, which is the focal organization for coordinating the emergency operation, are held as appropriate. The NS's branches in the affected areas are also working closely with the DPPA field offices.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and initiatives

The promotion of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement was addressed during the establishment of water committees at 13 water distribution sites. So far, 16 Red Cross committees have been established. Each committee has a membership of three to five beneficiaries. All the committees have at least one woman representative.

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