

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

Emergency Appeal No. MDRET001

APPEAL EXTENSION

13 April 2007

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. 3; Period covered: 9 September 2006 to 10 April 2007; Appeal target: CHF 1,877,033 (USD 1,543,613 or EUR 1,158,662); Appeal coverage: 71.5%.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached Interim Financial Report>](#)

Appeal history:

- [Emergency Appeal](#) was 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.
- [Operations Update no. 1](#) increased the number of beneficiaries to 63,620 and revised the appeal budget to CHF 1, 877,033.
- [Operations Update no. 2](#) was issued on 8 September 2006.
- This Operations Update extends the time frame for an additional 4 months, to June 2007
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 534,626 (USD 439,660 or EUR 330,016)

Operational Summary: Years of acute drought in several regions of the country have withered crops and left farming households destitute and unable to feed themselves. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has played a vital role in meeting the needs of thousands of people suffering from severe climatic conditions. The immediate priority for the national society was to ensure the affected communities had access to safe water.

Red Cross volunteers have been trucking water every day to 14 villages in the two hardest-hit regions for three months. In total, 1.7 million litres of water has been distributed to over 26,000 people. This was an expensive and logistically complicated endeavour that saved lives.

To have a sustained access to sufficient uncontaminated water, the Red Cross helped residents of the targeted villages to build seasonal rain harvest schemes. The ERCS procured goats to help improve livestock assets of 220 most vulnerable pastoralist households. 1,500 drought-hit Ethiopian farmers received emergency agricultural assistance to help them prepare land for the next planting season after months of devastating crop failure. Promotion of better hygiene practices and use of latrines has been another priority. Red Cross volunteers have been engaged with the local communities to encourage improved hygiene practices. According to ERCS reports, Red Cross volunteers have reached some 64,000 people.

April rains have eased conditions of the drought-affected populations in the south, but brought devastation on others. Their scale and intensity was unprecedented. By the end of August 2006, eight of the country's 11 regions had been flooded, driving thousands of people out of their homes, destroying livelihoods and exposing large communities to new threats and epidemics. Nearly 200,000 people were affected and 500,000 people were made vulnerable. Thousands of livestock were killed and more than 42,000 hectares of crops were submerged. The outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) added to the concerns and demanded full attention of humanitarian agencies. The ERCS was compelled to divert temporarily its resources to respond to the unfolding humanitarian crises in northern and central regions of the country. Its immediate priority was to minimize human suffering resulting from the tragic displacements.

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ERCS volunteers worked round the clock and demonstrated an inspiring dedication. Their capacities, however, were overstretched and hard choices had to be made. This meant putting on hold some of the activities planned under the drought operation. There were logistical constraints too. For several weeks, access to some of the drought-affected areas was interrupted because some feeder roads had been damaged by the August 2006 rains. As soon as the situation in the flooded areas improved, the suspended work with the drought-affected communities in the south resumed.

However, the prolonged absence of the Federation's representative in Addis Ababa created a gap in coordination within the Movement to adequately support the national society in its work. At the same time, ERCS embarked on a major restructuring process necessary to improve the way it is organized and works both at its headquarters and branches. The combination of the two, however, inevitably slowed the pace of the ongoing operations.

On 27 February 2007, a delegate arrived in Ethiopia to serve as an acting representative until finalization of the recruitment of a Federation head of delegation. Although a greater part of the objectives have been met, some are yet to be achieved. To enable the ERCS to finalize all outstanding activities, the Emergency Appeal is being extended for four months, to close on 30 June 2007.

Donor response to the appeal has been good and the Federation takes this opportunity to thank its partners for their much valued contributions. Although gaps still remain, the available resources are sufficient to enable the ERCS to complete the operation.

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.**

Background

Years of acute drought have withered crops and left farming households destitute and unable to feed themselves. Up to 11 million people were affected in the wider Horn of Africa. In Ethiopia, food insecurity left 2.5 million people in need of emergency assistance.

Foremost among the recent causes of this insecurity were the recent rainy seasons that were either too little, or too erratic for crops to grow, for pasture to regenerate, for water sources to replenish and for livestock to remain healthy and productive. Flooding in some areas, civil conflict, crop pests and diseases have maintained the dire humanitarian conditions depleting the resources of many vulnerable households. Pastoralists in Somali region and farmers in the county's southern and south-eastern Oromia have been the hardest-hit.

Farming families depend upon livestock to till the soil and collect the harvest, while pastoralists derive most of their livelihoods from animal production. Large numbers of animals have died due to lack of water and pastureland and there have been outbreaks of livestock diseases as animals migrated in search of water and fodder. The quantity of water available for human and livestock consumption for those who had not migrated reached critical levels and demanded humanitarian intervention.

Given the gravity of the situation, the International Federation responded to a request from the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) to launch this Emergency Appeal. The initial target was to assist **36,341** people to cope with the climatic shocks experienced over an extended period of time. Subsequent assessments, however, revealed the needs were greater and the number of targeted beneficiaries was increased to **63,620** people.

Operational developments

Unusual weather patterns have continued throughout the year. Long sunny periods were experienced and rainfall was scarce. However, when it did rain, flooding was experienced. In late 2006, a moderate El-Nino phenomenon, coupled with a warming of the western Indian Ocean waters, resulted in excessive rains that triggered severe flooding. Nearly 200,000 people were affected and 500,000 people were made vulnerable in Ethiopia. Thousands of livestock were killed, and more than 42,000 hectares of crops were flooded. Among the floods-affected populations were households whose livelihoods had already been adversely affected by the previous drought.

The recent shocks have maintained the emergency conditions that existed since late 2005 among most groups living in south-eastern Ethiopia, even as gradual improvements in food security were noted in most parts of the Greater Horn of Africa. Cereal prices remain high despite the 2006 above-average harvest. Border closures in the east have seriously limited vital cross-border trade. ACIDI/VOCA, an international NGO in Ethiopia, reported that the demand and prices of livestock in the main trading areas have declined in the past month due to the reports of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) outbreak in Kenya, although no cases of the disease have been detected in Ethiopia. The situation has been compounded by recurring tribal and resource-based conflicts in Oromia and Somali regions.

Ethiopia is constantly affected by extremes of weather; cycles of drought and floods. For the rural populations who depend on agriculture for their survival, farming is highly precarious. According to a government source, over 11 million hectares (ha) of land are farmed in Ethiopia but less than 200,000 ha are irrigated. Rainfall is less predictable. The drought cycle has increased from once every eight years to once every three years. This means less recovery time for the cattle, the land and the people. There has been only one year of good rain in the wider region since 1999. Some scientists suspect climate change, others suggest population growth has outstripped resources. The soils are often poor and thin, lasting only a few planting seasons. The government's 2007 Humanitarian Appeal (issued on 12 February), concluded that 1.3 million people needed emergency food assistance in 2007, particularly vulnerable communities in the eastern half. Recent needs assessment findings recommend continued external support until recovery process takes hold. The latter will require several successive good seasons.

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

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

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

Progress

The priority for ERCS was to provide safe drinking water to the affected communities. For three months, the Red Cross was trucking water to 14 kebeles (villages) in Somali and Oromia regions to ensure some 26,456 people had sufficient quantity of clean water every day. The targeted areas included: Seven kebeles in Oromia Moyale - Gofa, Medo, Denbi, Mudi, Ambo, Tuk and Guchi; Seven kebeles in Somali Moyale - Elkur, Karaya, Sororo, Kukubagna, Elder, Hundure and Majire.

Generators were procured and installed to pump ground water from Guchi in Oromia Region and another one from Somali Region. The treated water was then transported by two ERCS trucks to refill water bladders installed by the national society in each of the 14 targeted villages; some bladders were donated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), others were procured through the appeal. In total, the ERCS had 22 water bladders available for the operation. Red Cross trucks made two trips every day covering long distances; the furthest village was 130 km away from the water sources, while the nearest was nearly 20 km. Since the start of the operation, a total, 1.7 million litres of clean water has been distributed.

Water trucking stopped at the end of April 2006, with the start of the rainy season. This was an expensive and logistically complicated endeavour. But the difficulties were outweighed by the impact the Red Cross has made. Although the amount transported was neither satisfactory nor at the minimum standards, it has contributed to saving lives. In addition, each household was provided with plastic water containers and soap. In total, 7,750 jerry cans of 25 litres each and 8,950 bars of soap were purchased and distributed.

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ERCS's efforts were complemented with the distribution and community sensitization on the use of water treatment chemicals. The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the United Nations Children's fund (UNICEF) donated 72,000 water treatment sachets, while 25,000 bottles of water guard were procured with resources made available through the appeal. The quantity of the chemicals distributed was set at a level to ensure the targeted population had safe water for another three months, as the national society searched for more durable solutions. The task was challenging as the area is arid, has no rivers but only groundwater and ponds. Various alternatives were explored to find the most feasible solution within the organization's capacity. The original plan was to drill boreholes but after four attempts, the idea was abandoned as no water was found.

The ERCS then resorted to the construction of 11 surface water catchments (cisterns) and 10 roof catchments to harvest seasonal rain water. The cisterns were built from stone and concrete. Each cistern has the capacity to serve 300 to 500 people, (8,400 people). As the available resources were limited, the national society prioritized schools and clinics. The sites had been selected in consultation with the local communities and water bureau offices. Communities were advised to use the filtered water for drinking only and use pond water for their livestock.

In each village where ERCS worked, community water committees were established and trained on how to harvest rain water and maintain the cisterns. In total, 15 such committees were organized and 78 water committee members were trained. The committees liaise with the local water bureaus that are providing chemicals to treat rain water before it is distributed to the population.

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

Progress

ERCS procured 1,122 goats to improve the livestock assets for 220 most vulnerable pastoralist households. Each household was provided with five goats. Prior to the procurement and distribution, the ERCS had extensive consultations with the local communities, government representatives and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to learn from their past experience and design the most appropriate solution for the affected communities. Goats were prioritized because they have a high resistance to drought and need a relatively short time to produce milk. The procurement was managed by a restocking committee comprised of representatives of the ERCS, local government and targeted communities. The beneficiary selection criteria were defined in consultation with the local population. Priority was given to female-headed households, people with disabilities and orphans.

Objective 3: The health status of 63,620 drought-affected people in Oromia and Somali regions is improved.

Progress

To improve sanitary conditions, Red Cross volunteers mobilized communities to construct traditional latrines from the locally available materials. In total, 470 such latrines have been constructed. 31 people, of which 11 were women, were trained in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST), a methodology that builds on people's innate ability to address and resolve their own problems. Trained volunteers then engaged with their communities to disseminate basic but essential messages on personal and environmental hygiene. According to ERCS reports, Red Cross volunteers have reached some 64,000 people through its hygiene promotion efforts.

35 volunteers were trained in community-based first aid (CBFA). First aid is a proven cost-effective, safe and simple way to save lives during emergencies. Whether it is managing outbreaks for major diseases such as HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria, to providing treatment to heart attack or accident patients, first aid provides that initial rapid response to protect people and minimize the impact of a health emergency. The national society purchased and distributed 70 first aid kits to each of the targeted villages.

101 volunteers received training on malaria prevention in cooperation with Population Services International (PSI), a local NGO. According to MoH, malaria is the leading cause of infant mortality in Ethiopia (28.1 per cent of deaths). Flooding residues such as stagnant water and swampy soil increase the threat of its spread. Where capacities of local clinics are poor, community-based training gains an increased importance to strengthen people's coping mechanisms.

Trained Red Cross volunteers engaged with their communities to sensitize them on measures that can help reduce the spread of the disease. Since the start of the operation, the volunteers distributed 3,000 leaflets and brochures on malaria prevention that were developed by the ERCS. 7,500 households were provided with long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs), with each household received two LLITNs.

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In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Red Cross also trained 30 traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and provided them with delivery kits. In the country where only 54% have access to health services, TBAs meet a vital community need by supporting women throughout the pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum period.

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

Progress

Most of the communities in Oromia and Somali regions are pastoralists and their well-being depends on livestock production. However, five villages in the highlands of Oromia practice both farming and livestock breeding. This is their coping mechanism against the volatile weather and environment conditions. Unfortunately, the recent drought killed and damaged farmlands. Villagers lost all their crops and their coping strategy was undermined.

In consultation with local residents, community leaders and the local agricultural office, ERCS identified 1,500 most vulnerable farming households and supplied them with seeds and agricultural tools. The original amount of seeds required was adjusted after further consultations with the local residents and authorities. In total, the national society procured and distributed 7 metric tonnes (MT) of maize and 30 MT of beans. Each targeted household received 12.5 kg of maize seeds and 20 kg of beans. The types of tools were changed to ploughs, hoes and finger hoes; each household was provided with a set of these tools. In close consultation with the local communities, beneficiary selection criteria was defined and guided by the availability of farm land, climate conditions, past experience in farming and beneficiary needs.

Local development workers were mobilized to offer the farmers technical advice. Seeds and tools were procured and delivered in time and planting started in mid-April 2006, with the onset of rains. In total, 1,030 ha of land was cultivated and, during the first eight weeks, crop growth progressed well. However, in June and July 2006, rainfall reduced in some areas and was insufficient for crops to mature. This has inevitably affected the yields; it is estimated that 40 per cent of the harvest was lost.

After consultations with local communities and partner organizations it was decided to support the farmers with additional seed supplies for the March 2007 planting season in order to prepare for the anticipated food security gaps. The ERCS procured and distributed to the same targeted 1,500 farming households an additional 30 MT of beans and 18.7 MT of maize seeds. Planting has already started with the current rainfall and harvests will be reaped in August 2007.

In addition, ERCS prioritized the installation of two grinding mills at strategic locations in Somali Moyale Region. The provision of a grinding mill service to the pastoralist communities was considered critical, given the distances people travel to access grinding services. Red Cross assessment teams witnessed people travelling as much as 120 km to Moyale town to access a grinding mill. Normally, people make use of their camels and walk for two to four days to get to the mills.

Considering the significant amount of time taken to reach the grinding mills, it was necessary to establish two cooperatively-managed grinding mills. All preparatory work has been done; sites for the installation have been selected and community committees, who will manage the mills once they are up and running, have been organized and trained in cooperation with the local economic development bureaus in both locations. The national society is now arranging for the procurement of necessary equipment.

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

Progress

ERCS's presence in the targeted areas was strengthened with the recruitment of additional staff. Its branches were supported with office equipment and two land-cruisers were sent from Dubai to support the operation; one of the vehicles was purchased with the appeal funds. Red Cross committees were established in each of the targeted villages and volunteers were identified and trained from within the affected communities.

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Outstanding activities:

- Purchase and install two grinding mills for the communities in Oromia and Somali regions;
- Procure additional goats for targeted pastoralists. Each household will be provided with five goats (four female and one male) to strengthen their food security conditions;
- Train an additional 40 volunteers on community-based first aid;
- Train 30 volunteers/trainers on HIV and AIDS prevention;
- Train 30 Ministry of Health/clinic staff from the targeted regions on health surveillance;
- Procure computers for two health clinics (one in Oromia Region and another in Somali Region);
- Procure an additional vehicle for the ERCS to effectively manage the current and future operations.

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[<Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRET001 - ETHIOPIA - DROUGHT

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/12
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2006/12
Appeal	MDRET001
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		1,877,033				1,877,033
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>		119,068				119,068
<i>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)</i>		83,066				83,066
<i>British Red Cross</i>		121,010				121,010
<i>Hong Kong Red Cross</i>		1,648				1,648
<i>Irish Government</i>		155,445				155,445
<i>Irish Red Cross Society</i>		78,926				78,926
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>		49,273				49,273
<i>Libyan Red Crescent</i>		1,000				1,000
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>		15,790				15,790
<i>Netherlands Red Cross</i>		467,700				467,700
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		165,500				165,500
C1. Cash contributions		1,258,426				1,258,426
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)</i>		83,981				83,981
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		83,981				83,981
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		1,342,407				1,342,407
D. Total Funding = B + C		1,342,407				1,342,407

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		1,342,407				1,342,407
E. Expenditure		-1,201,142				-1,201,142
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		141,264				141,264

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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)		1,877,033					1,877,033	
Supplies								
Seeds,Plants	101,367						101,367	
Water & Sanitation	680,222		25,291			25,291	654,931	
Medical & First Aid	164,977						164,977	
Total Supplies	946,566		25,291			25,291	921,275	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	254,412						254,412	
Computers & Telecom	19,927		5,067			5,067	14,860	
Others Machinery & Equipment	38,420						38,420	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	312,758		5,067			5,067	307,691	
Transport & Storage								
Storage			1,670			1,670	-1,670	
Distribution & Monitoring			9,462			9,462	-9,462	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	96,269		19,105			19,105	77,164	
Total Transport & Storage	96,269		30,236			30,236	66,033	
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	150,000		61,192			61,192	88,808	
Delegate Benefits			61,202			61,202	-61,202	
National Staff			3,478			3,478	-3,478	
National Society Staff	65,144						65,144	
Consultants	22,641						22,641	
Total Personnel Expenditures	237,785		125,871			125,871	111,914	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	66,760		295			295	66,465	
Total Workshops & Training	66,760		295			295	66,465	
General Expenditure								
Travel			21,056			21,056	-21,056	
Information & Public Relation			689			689	-689	
Office Costs	94,889		101			101	94,787	
Communications			1,349			1,349	-1,349	
Professional Fees			19,682			19,682	-19,682	
Other General Expenses			4,713			4,713	-4,713	
Total General Expenditure	94,889		47,590			47,590	47,299	
Federation Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies			887,000			887,000	-887,000	
Total Federation Contributions & Tr			887,000			887,000	-887,000	
Program Support								
Program Support	122,007		78,074			78,074	43,933	
Total Program Support	122,007		78,074			78,074	43,933	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			1,718			1,718	-1,718	
Total Operational Provisions			1,718			1,718	-1,718	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,877,033		1,201,142			1,201,142	675,891	
VARIANCE (C - D)			675,891			675,891		

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IV. Project Details

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
Disaster Management							
PET524	Drought 2006	0	1,342,407	-1,201,142	141,264	1,877,033	675,891
Sub-Total Disaster Management		0	1,342,407	-1,201,142	141,264	1,877,033	675,891
Total	ETHIOPIA - DROUGHT	0	1,342,407	-1,201,142	141,264	1,877,033	675,891