

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ethiopia: Election Preparedness

DREF operation n° MDRET008

17 May 2010

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 33,015 (USD 29,743 or EUR 22,927) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Ethiopia is one of the largest and highly populated countries in Eastern Africa. Drought, flooding and internal conflicts are the major disasters prone in the country. Civil unrest during the election process was witnessed in 2005, where the ERCS First Aid and ambulance service played crucial role in assisting people affected by the civil unrest. Ethiopia is holding fourth election on 23 May 2010 since the fall of the *Derg* regime in 1991.

In 2005, civil unrest witnessed resulted to deaths, injuries, property damage and displacement in different parts of the country following the national election date and announcement of its results. The most problematic were urban areas such as Addis Ababa, Hawassa, Bahir Dar, Dessie and Adama. Considering experience from 2005 elections and ERCS role and mandate in providing First Aid and ambulance services in case of human injuries, the National Society prepared a contingency plan in close cooperation with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Federation Country Office. The implementation of the Contingency Plan will be supported by ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and partly by ERCS allocating its own resources.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by end of June 2010. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 September 2010).

[<click here for the DREF budget or here for contact details>](#)

The situation

National elections in Ethiopia, fourth election since 1995, have been scheduled on 23 May 2010. Considering experience from last general elections in 2005, during civil unrest a number of people lost lives, injured or displaced, as well as ERCS involvement in rendering First Aid and ambulance services to affected people, the ERCS has initiated a Contingency Plan for the upcoming elections in order to be more effective in responding to possible consequences of civil unrest. The Contingency Plan focuses only on election related violence having learnt from previous experience and anticipating likelihood events as possible scenario. The plan will address possible unrest during the election, especially during and after announcement of results which is scheduled on 21 June 2010.

The contingency plan is based on assumptions and looking at three scenarios. Each scenario is addressed through the contingency plan and the ERCS is aiming at undertaking preparedness and response measures for the worst case scenario. A number of priority areas and high risk towns have been identified by the ERCS in Oromiya, Amhara, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) region, Tigrey, Beneshangul Gumuz, Gambella and Somali regional states including Addis Ababa city. The target number of people who might be affected during the worst case scenario is 3,000. Young people and adults from 15 to 39 years old considered as at most risk during the possible civil unrest. Street children, beggars and disable people as well as petty traders are assumed might be at risk due to lack of protection in most of priority towns and urban areas. The plan can be changed depending on the evolving situation based on actual happenings and analysis of the situation. There are several early warning indicators obtained from the ERCS branches and through media, such as:

- Tearing down posters of ruling and the opposition parties by supporters.
- Increasing accusation among contending political parties.
- A bomb blast in Adi Daro and/or Tigrey causing death and injures to innocent civilians.

Coordination and partnerships

Due to sensitive nature of the preparedness and considering the ERCS mandate to address such specific humanitarian issues by mobilizing volunteers and rendering First Aid and ambulance services, the coordination fora was limited to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and relevant government agencies such as Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Health.

The Contingency Plan and related preparedness and response activities will be managed and coordinated by an Ad Hoc Committee composed of the representatives of ERCS, ICRC and IFRC. The committee is chaired by the Deputy Secretary General (DSG) and has the following responsibilities:

- Coordinate all related activities.
- Discuss and approve budget for contingency plan.
- Decide on scenarios developing relevant measures.
- Monitor activities.
- Establish coordination mechanisms and working relationships with relevant stakeholders such as Federal Army (ambulance service), Police and city authorities in Addis Ababa.

In addition to the Ad Hoc Committee two committees have been establish to address operational issues and communications: Emergency Response Committee and Communications Committee.

All external communications will be coordinated with the ERCS who will designate a spokesperson, as well as the ICRC delegation in Ethiopia. Information collected from the various branches will be centralised in Addis Ababa and serve as a base for developing ERCS and Movement talking points, fact sheets or news releases. These documents will be used internally or externally as decided by the Ad Hoc committee. The IFRC Nairobi Communication unit will liaise constantly with ERCS and ICRC counterparts and provide assistance as requested.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Prior to the general elections the ERCS, in consultation with the ICRC and the Federation Country Office, has developed a contingency plan looking at three possible scenarios: best case scenario, most likely scenario and worst case scenario. In best and most likely scenarios the ERCS will closely monitor the situation at all levels and make ready on stand-by its ambulance services, First Aid teams and blood bank in

all branches. Most of the emphases are put on worst case scenario and ERCS is requesting support in getting them ready for assisting approximately 3,000 people in identified priority areas and towns.

Table 1: Priority areas and high risk towns

Region	City/Towns
Addis Ababa	Addis Ababa
Oromiya	Adama, Nekemet, Gimbi, Ambo, Chiro, Harer and Shashemene
Amhara	Bahir Dar, Deber Markos and Dessie
SNNP	Hawassa, Durame, Hosaena, Mizan, Wolikita and Jima
Tigrey	Mekele, Shire and Adigrad, Temben and Adwa
Beneshangul Gumuz	Asossa, Kurmuk and Sherkole
Gambella	Gambella, Itang and Jikawo
Somali	Jijiga, Gode

The needs

The ERCS identifies priority areas and risk towns based on intensive consultation with regional and local branches as well as identify existing capacities and gaps to be addressed through the contingency plan. Identified capacities and possible areas of strengthening those capacities are related to activities anticipated to happen during the election and after the announcement of the results, particularly ambulance service, First Aid and blood bank.

Ambulance service

There are 174 ambulance vehicles providing services at 129 stations throughout the country. A total of 78 ambulances have been deployed since last two years. Out of existing ambulance fleet 16 are out of order at the moment and 20 units are very old. Those branches with old ambulances should take urgent actions on maintenance and get ready for the election period. Most of the branches will take care of ambulance services and maintenance as their contribution to the Contingency Plan, except Addis Ababa City Branch. Addis Ababa City Branch does not have enough resources to maintain its ambulance fleet, thus this activity will be supported through the Contingency Plan.

First Aid

More than 100 First Aiders have been trained in each zonal Red Cross branches. Out of which 20 are trained in pre hospital care and could be deployed as an active ambulance attendants in their respective areas. In 28 zonal and 11 regional branches there will be a total of about 3,900 First Aiders. Hence all zonal branches are capable of deploying about 50 First Aid trained volunteers within a short notice. Currently, many of the zonal branches are producing First Aid kits by themselves using machines bought by the financial support of ICRC. Some of the branches such as Addis Ababa, Tigrey, East Hararghe and Wolayita produce sufficient number of First Aid kits for their own consumption and for sale. First Aid kits from these branches will be mobilised and/or purchased through contingency plan and distributed to other risky areas.

Blood Bank

With a long time experiences and trust the existing blood banks at headquarter and branch level are expected to have adequate blood reserve and ready to collect from volunteers before the election dates approaches.

Conflict and/or disaster preparedness and response teams

More than 97 staff and volunteers have been trained in conflict preparedness and response supported by the ICRC for past four years. Trainings organised by the ERCS Disaster Management department included field visits in order to get practical experiences in conflict and/or disaster preparedness.

The conflict and/or disaster preparedness and response working group has been established at National, Regional, Zonal and sub-zonal levels and believed this working group could conduct emergency need assessment, prepare response plan and engage in actual response operations in their respective areas. The working group is also expected to share early warning and timely conflict and/or disaster related information for swift and efficient response.

Contingency stocks

Currently ERCS has non-food contingency stocks at Central warehouse, and in Eastern, Northern and Southern strategic areas of the country. The total price of the commodities is estimated to more than 1.5 million Ethiopian Birr, which is adequate to address the non-food requirement of the anticipated election related contingency. Purchase of some food items is essential and planned through the contingency plan to address possible emergency need of approximately 2,068 internally displaced people (IDPs).

In order to ensure smooth implementation of the contingency plan the ERCS needs to:

- Ensure availability and functionality of ambulances, radios, the presence of active ambulance attendants, First Aid teams at branch level and the availability and adequacy of safe blood and its necessary materials. Thus there is a need for refresher training for volunteers and ERCS staffs involved in ambulance and First Aid services in all priority areas and distribute First Aid kits to all branches.
- Make available household utensils, shelter materials and food through purchase and/or donation and from existing contingency stocks. To ensure that all logistic and Disaster Management staff of ERCS are on stand-by from the eve of the election until the final result has been announced to the public.
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders; disseminate awareness about ERCS presence and activities planned during the elections. Certain number of dissemination and visibility material, such as T-shirts, Red Cross jackets, Red Cross flags and flag stands for ambulances to be produced prior to the election.

From past experience, youth groups and adults between age 15 and 39 in general have been assumed at risk of election related disputes and violence. These social groups constitute 39.1 percent of the total population in the country. If we consider those young and adults between age 15 and 39 living only in the urban areas they constitute 52.2 percent of the urban dwellers. Street children who spend the overnight at bus stations, city squares and near the wall of churches and mosques, street beggars and disabled persons could also be vulnerable due to lack of protection in almost all priority towns. Petty traders selling their commodities on the street are considered at risk as well.

Among the total population of the country (73,918,505), the people between age 15 and 39 comprises 39.1 percent (28,897,440) of the total population. These are the young and early adult groups including both sexes in the rural and urban areas. This group is expected as the majority of the voters in 2010 national election. They are also expected as a social group who may be actively involved in the country's political, economic and social affairs.

The total urban population of Ethiopia (according to 2007 population census) is 11,956,170. Out of which 6,240,929 or 52.2 percent is between age 15 and 39.

In worst case scenario the ERCS target beneficiary number is 0.1 percent (624) of the urban and 0.15 percent (340) of rural population between 15 to 39 age groups could be affected during the civil unrest. Target beneficiary figure for displacement is identified at 2,068 as per 0.15 percent and 0.5 percent of urban and rural population respectively between 15 to 39 age groups.

Total cash needs for the operation is ETB 602,000 (CHF 50,000). In addition, ERCS is providing (in-kind) stand-by 138 ambulances and possible deployment in 100 stations and making available 500 units of blood for Addis Ababa and 50 units of blood for major towns. ICRC is providing (in-kind) transport services for food and non-food items, radio maintenance and installation and maintenance for 10 ambulances. ERCS and/or ICRC will provide food and non-food items from existing stocks or in-kind upon needs.

The proposed operation

The Contingency Plan and implementation of activities as identified in the Plan will be managed by the ERCS through its regional and local branches. The IFRC has contributed to the overall contingency plan through DREF allocation of CHF 30,000. ERCS and ICRC are contributing to the Plan with existing resources, funding, logistics and human resources.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To provide household utensils, shelter materials and 31Mt emergency food for 2,068 people (414 households) displaced from their permanent residences due to the election induced potential violence.

Activities planned:

- Source adequate food supplies for 2,068 internally displaced people.
- Mobilise non-food and shelter material for internally displaced people in coordination with ICRC.
- Distribute food and non-food items to affected people and/or households depending on the actual figures and immediate needs on the ground.

Emergency Health – Ambulance and First Aid

Objective: To provide ambulance services, First Aid and safe blood for potential 964 victims of election induced violence in almost all priority areas in the country during election date and publicizing the result.

Activities planned:

- Deploy 138 ambulances in 100 stations in all identified urban centers and/or towns one day before and/or after elections and announcement of the results on 23 May 2010 and 21 June 2010 respectively.
- Maintain and make ready 10 ambulances for contingency fleet before the elections.
- Organize refresher training for 436 ambulance attendants, 138 drivers and 2,000 First Aiders for 1.5 days.
- Deploy 436 ambulance attendants one day before the election date and 5 days after, one day before election results announcement and 5 days after.
- Deploy 2,000 First Aid volunteers.
- Distribute 670 First Aid kits with all necessary medical supplies in 100 ambulance stations country-wide.
- Establish effective coordination mechanisms with Federal Army ambulances.

Logistics

Objective: Objective: To provide effective services and ensure smooth implementation of activities planned within the Contingency Plan.

Activities planned:

- Produce 150 Red Cross flags and iron poles and/or stands for visibility purposes at Red Cross stations and for ambulances.
- Provide 8 radios for identified priority regional branches for emergency information sharing and early warning purposes.
- Produce 370 Red Cross jackets to be distributed to 370 senior volunteers and/or team leaders and ERCS staff who lead the emergency operations in priority areas.
- Purchase food items for 2,069 potentially affected people such as IDPs.

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 \(NGOs\) 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 vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Medical & First Aid	5,000	5,000
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements		0
Total Supplies	5,000	5,000
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		0
Transport & Vehicle Costs		0
Total Transport & Storage	0	0
National Society Staff	25,000	25,000
Other Staff benefits		0
Total Personnel	25,000	25,000
Workshops & Training		0
Total Workshops & Training	0	0
Information & Public Relation	1,000	1,000
Other General Expenses		0
Total General Expenditure	1,000	1,000
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	2,015	2,015
Total Programme Support	2,015	2,015
Services & Recoveries		0
Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	33,015	33,015