

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ethiopia: Response to seasonal floods

DREF operation n° MDRET009
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000170-ETH
28 September 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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 300,000 (USD 305,130 or EUR 226,080) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to 25,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since May 2010, Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has been providing assistance to the families affected by flooding through the distribution of relief items from its contingency stocks provided by the ICRC. Flooding has intensified since beginning of August 2010 and the level of vulnerability increased beyond the disaster response capacity of the National Society as relief items stock is depleted. ERCS has requested the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) for disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) and technical support to assist 5,000 families displaced by the recent floods. The DREF will be used to replenish some of the contingency stocks used by ERCS during the floods response operation in East Shewa, West Shewa and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya region.



A family displaced by floods in temporary shelter in Alamata School: Photo: Ethiopia Red Cross

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This operation is expected to be implemented over six weeks, and will therefore be completed by 5 November, 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 05 February, 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget;](#)
[here for contact details;](#)
[here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Flooding is inevitable in some areas of Ethiopia during the main rainy season, which extends from June to September; the season is characterized by high volumes of rain widely distribution. Flooding is normally expected in some areas of Tigray (North), around Lake Tana and Oromia zone of Amhara, zones 1 and 3 of Afar, Gode, Afder and Liben zones of Somalia, east and southwest Shoa of Oromia Region, South Omo zone of SNNP, Gambella, Itang and Jikawo woredas of Gambella Region.

An analysis of the trend – and especially looking at the most recent flooding in 2005, 2006 and 2007 – it appears that two types of floods affect Ethiopia; flash floods and river floods. The disaster experienced in Dire-Dawa in 2006 is a typical example of flash flooding. On the other hand, much of the flood disasters in Ethiopia are related to rivers that overflow and burst banks due to heavy rains and inundate lowland plains.

The flood alert issued on 18 August 2010, based on the seasonal forecast from the National Meteorology Agency (NMA) and other hydro-meteorological data, warned that more flooding was likely to occur in the western, south western and central parts of the country during the second half of August and early September 2010. According to NMA forecast rain-producing systems were expected to strengthen over western and central parts of the country, in the second half of August. In September, the predicted normal to above-normal rainfall combined with the already saturated soil from the performance of the *belg* season (February to May) rains and the increasing level of rivers and dams, posed concern over the likely risk of widespread flash and river floods in the flood prone areas of the country including Gambella, the western half of South Nations, Nationalities and People's (SNNP), western and central Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions¹. The Government's Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) contingency plan anticipates most likely scenario affecting 153,000 people of which 25 per cent will be severely affected and will require emergency assistance for two months.

The ERCS branches located in North-East of the country reported over 4,000 families affected by floods, out of which 2,221 are displaced and temporarily sheltered at public school buildings. Over 3,206 families reported to be affected by floods and 1,565 displaced in Amhara region. Reports indicated over 800 families affected and displaced by floods in Afar region. The total number of affected families reported from the field is 9,000. However, the number of affected people is increasing due to continuous torrential rains in some parts of the country. Recently 5,000 families reported to be displaced in Amhara, Tigrey and Afar regions so far due to flooding that occurred between 22 and 24 August 2010.

ERCS and ICRC joint assessment in Tigrey and Amhara reports that in Ambasel and Tewlerda woredas of South Wollo approx 1,368 hectares of land and crops were flooded or damaged by hail storm. Based on the assessment reports approximately 3,745 hectares of agricultural land was flooded during last few weeks. Several landslides have been reported from the field including on 22 August 2010 in Mersa and Worgessa words of North Wollo causing injuries to 19 and death of 5 people.

The severity of the situation was confirmed by various reports from UNOCHA and media². Situation still evolving and additional reports indicate more floods occurring in central and North-East part of the country.

Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC and ERCS are engaged in coordination efforts through clusters, various UNOCHA coordination mechanisms including task forces and working groups, as well as through bilateral discussions with UN Agencies, INGOs and donor community to ensure proper exchange of information and effective coordination. The IFRC and ERCS are members of UN shelter cluster actively participating in meetings and information exchange. The IFRC supports ERCS in coordination efforts within Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement through monthly Movement Cooperation Meetings (MCM). The MCM and close collaboration between Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners will ensure coordination and more effective use of resources to address humanitarian challenges in Ethiopia including Flood response operations.

The ERCS, as auxiliary to authorities in addressing humanitarian needs, working closely with government authorities at all levels – federal, regional, zonal and local. ERCS is a part of various government coordination mechanisms and working groups. IFRC supporting ERCS coordination efforts and is having open working relations with federal authorities including DRMFSS. Floods task force weekly meetings hosted by DRMFSS will be used to coordinate activities with authorities and other partners. Close communication will be established with local DRMFSS offices in operational area to ensure coordination and effective use of resources.

¹ Flood Contingency Plan issued by DRMFSS, August 2010

² IRIN report of 25 August 2010

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

ERCS has been responding to recent floods since May 2010 by distributing relief items including blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, kitchen utensils, soap, plastic bucket, water treatment chemicals, biscuits and sugar to 2,338 households in West Hararghe, Guji Borena, East Shewa and West Shewa of Oromiya region. Distributed relief items were from the ERCS contingency stock, which is currently exhausted and there is no capacity to continue responding to the disaster. ERCS had been receiving reports and alerts from its branches in Afar, Amhara and Tigrey regions requesting assistance for flood affected families, particularly for IDPs.

Given the situation described and responding to a request from the ERCS regional branches to support their on-going efforts to scale-up interventions on addressing the needs of families affected by floods, the IFRC provided emergency funding support for the operation. Preliminary assessments have been conducted by the ERCS relevant regional and zonal branches in Amhara, Tigrey, Oromiya and Afar regions. Reports with request for further assistance in addressing the needs of displaced families are submitted to the Disaster Management Department for consideration and development of relevant response activities.

Further assessments have been conducted by a team composed of three ERCS officers and ICRC officer in Tigrey and Amhara regions in August 2010. Reports and field observations confirmed the number of zones severely affected by recent floods as South Wollo, North Wollo, Oromiya special zone, South Gonder and Raya Alamata Woreda of Tigrey.

The needs

Assessment findings have been based on initial field assessments done by the ERCS regional and zonal branches, whilst data was collected through network of volunteers. Considering the urgency of the interventions ERCS/IFRC agreed to target internally displaced persons (IDPs) as priority in all regions assessed.. Assessment indicated the need for immediate shelter assistance to IDPs. ERCS is targeting a total 5,000 families for relief assistance including provision of water guards (treatment chemicals) to decrease risk of AWD within affected communities. Second priority would be assistance to other flood victims including provision of seeds as most of households affected by floods lost their crops and/or prepared land was covered by water. This part is considered as less priority in term of urgency.

Targeted beneficiaries are IDPs temporarily sheltered at public schools and other identified locations. Beneficiary targeting has been carried out in collaboration with local authorities, DRMFS offices and activities implemented through volunteers involving community leaders and elderly people. In order to re-build ERCS capacity level for disaster response in future, some part of contingency stocks, particularly non-food items (NFIS) such as blankets, tarpaulins, sleeping mats and jerry cans will be replenished through the DREF operation and pre-positioned in identified strategic locations.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (non-food items)
Outcome: To support 25,000 IDPs affected by floods with essential non-food items at initial, emergency stage and restore their sense of home
Outputs: Affected households maintain health, dignity and meet personal hygiene needs by getting non-food items
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree caseload with local authorities (DRMFS) and inform about intention to do NFI interventions.• Issue Red Cross beneficiary cards and mobilise volunteers for the operation.• Procure 10,000 blankets, 5,000 plastic sheeting, 5,000 sleeping mats, 5,000 jerry cans, 25,000 laundry soap, 25,000 plastic cups, and 10,000 water guards based on a formal logistics/procurement service agreement or through public tenders and procurement contracts.• Set-up supply chain and control supply movements from point of dispatch to final distribution points including identification of warehouses and transport means.• Distribute NFIs to at least 5,000 households through one-off distribution round.• Monitor distributions against beneficiary lists and agreed package of NFIs• Checking beneficiary lists, warehouse stocks and payments for distributions• Replenish 2,000 blankets, 1,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 sleeping mats and 1,000 jerry cans to pre-position in strategic location as identified by the ERCS.

Disaster Preparedness (contingency stocks)

Outcome: To enable the ERCS effectively response to future disaster through its network of small storages in strategic locations

Outputs: Minimum level of capacity in responding to small scale disasters and assisting up to 1,000 families is in place through the prepositioning essential NFIs.

Activities planned:

- Procure 2,000 blankets, 1,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 sleeping mats and 1,000 jerry cans through local tender process.
- Deliver procured non-food items to targeted location in Oromiya region.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC'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 IFRC'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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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Ethiopia - Floods

MDRET009

RELIEF NEEDS

	CHF
Shelter	102,000
Construction Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	108,000
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water & Sanitation	0
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	32,250
Other Supplies & Services	13,550

Total Relief Needs 255,800

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computers & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	1,250
Distribution & Monitoring	2,500
Transport & Vehicles Costs	8,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	9,063
Consultants	0

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	0
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	588
Office running costs	2,700
Communication Costs	600
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	0

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	19,500
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Total Operational Needs 44,200

Total Budget (Cash & Kind) 300,000

Available Resources 0

Net Request 300,000



Ethiopia:Flood

