

EASTERN AFRICA: Post-Flood Rehabilitation and Food Security

**appeal no: 29/97
5 December 1997**

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 12,379,500
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 356,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR SIX MONTHS***

Summary

Across Eastern Africa, more than a million people are directly affected by the worst floods for over 30 years and many more are at risk. Hundreds have been killed. The greatest number of homeless have been reported in southern Somalia, while thousands more are displaced across the border in south-eastern Ethiopia's Somali Regional State.

Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea and Uganda have also been hit, and the region now faces an imminent threat of rapidly-spreading epidemics. Conditions are ideal for the transmission of serious diseases like cholera and malaria, while health systems, where they exist, are hard-pressed to manage with the current situation.

On behalf of the National Societies of the region, the International Federation is seeking CHF12,379,500 to assist 356,000 people in the worst affected areas to which humanitarian workers have access. The operation will be two-pronged: lifesaving supply of food/non-food items and water and sanitation. Mid to long term intervention will focus on rehabilitation, food security, community based health care, water and sanitation, as well as epidemic outbreak surveillance.

An emergency preparedness component is built into this appeal in preparation for future problems arising from the present situation. The operation will be used to strengthen Red Cross/Red Crescent branches in the affected areas and further build disaster response capacity.

The Disaster

- **SOMALIA:** Over 1,400 people have died, 800,000 are at risk of disease and food shortages and more than 200,000 have lost their homes. Loss of livestock is estimated to be over 15,000, while 60,000 hectares of crops and farmland have been destroyed. Half the cereal crops in the affected regions are damaged and food prices have tripled. Food reserves, usually kept underground, have been washed away. Prices of charcoal in the affected areas have increased four-fold. As a result of the flooding, new cases of malnutrition, diarrhoea, malaria and respiratory infections have been reported by SRCS volunteers. The conflict in Somalia, as well as the unstable security situation are



additional challenges.

- **KENYA:** A month of torrential rain has caused many deaths, injured hundreds and triggered landslides which buried people and dwellings. The floods have displaced tens of thousands of people, and damaged 50 bridges. Cholera has been reported in Mombasa and Malindi where 35 people have died. Tana River, Wajir, Kwale and Kilifi have remained free of the deadly disease up to now, although cases of diarrhoea are on the increase. If weather patterns continues, as most forecasts indicate, the December harvesting period in Western and Rift Valley provinces could be seriously affected, resulting in food shortages.

- **SUDAN:** The coast and Nile River areas are seriously affected forcing IDPs to move out of temporary settlements. The 700,000 inhabitants of Port Sudan face outbreaks of cholera, malaria and other infectious diseases. The local authorities have declared an emergency and called for assistance for 100,000 people. The International Federation launched an appeal in mid-November, to supply immediate relief assistance, water and sanitation, health education and disease prevention/control measures for 25,000 people, mainly in the poor shanty towns of Port Sudan.
- **UGANDA:** The entire north-east is affected, particularly the Mbale and Tororo regions. Uganda Red Cross Society/Federation estimates some 71,000 flood victims need emergency assistance. To date, URCS/Federation figures show 525 dead, 875 missing, 1,900 injured, 71,000 displaced and over 44,000 homeless. Over 200 Unaccompanied Minors have also been registered. Roads linking Tororo, Mbale and Busia are impassable. This latest tragedy comes as a further blow for this region which was recently hit by drought and insurgency resulting in huge displacements and food shortages.
- **ETHIOPIA:** Over 150,000 Ethiopians, half of them in the Ogaden, are badly affected by the floods. Most of the information about areas outside the Ogaden is scant, but reports state that 300 people have been killed and 65,000 more have been displaced. Over 10,000 head of livestock have been washed away, and 30,000 hectares of agricultural land flooded. Assessment missions are hampered by the fact that most of the affected areas are inaccessible to anything but helicopters.
- **ERITREA:** Four hundred flood-affected families have already received prompt assistance from the Red Cross Society of Eritrea from its Disaster Preparedness stock. The relief operation lasted two weeks and the population is now receiving food assistance from the Government.
- **DJIBOUTI:** The Djibouti Red Crescent has reported 100 new cases of cholera being registered daily in the capital bringing the total reported to 827 as at 24 November. No cases have been registered outside the capital. The Minister of Health and Social Affairs convened a meeting with potential donors and WHO on 22 November to seek support for the control of the outbreak.

The Response so far

Government Action •

The **Kenyan Government** has declared Coast, Eastern and North Eastern Provinces disaster zones and initiated a major relief and rehabilitation exercise, as well as establishing a National Disaster Fund and donating maize grain, beans and oil. Navy boats and Air Force helicopters are transporting and dropping food to flood victims.

The Minister of Health of the **Sudanese Government** visited the affected areas in Port Sudan to assess the situation and held discussions with the Federation and SRCS. Regional emergency plans have been activated and a task force established, the vice-chairman of which is the SRCS Deputy State Director. Civil defence has pumped most of the stagnant water out of Port Sudan town and into the Red Sea. Available resources are inadequate and assistance from central Government and international organisations is still needed. Budget for November Sudan appeal is attached.

In Southern **Ethiopia** an emergency co-ordination task force was established in Gode by the Government, which brings together representatives of the local administration, military, Ethiopian Red Cross and the Government's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission. The latter has appealed to international donors to help with helicopters, shelter materials, medical supplies and supplementary food items.

Somalia has been without central government since early 1991. UNICEF has been designated as lead agency co-ordinating international response to the floods, while WFP, in charge of logistics,

has established a Joint Logistics Centre in Garissa (Kenya). An interagency Flood Response Team for Somalia Floods has been established and meets regularly in Nairobi.

On 28 November the **Ugandan Government** launched an appeal to the donor community for relief and rehabilitation/resettlement assistance for 100,000 persons in Mbale, Tororo, Nebbi and Kabale districts. As an emergency measure, the government of Uganda has already dispatched 1,000 bales of second hand clothes and 200 MT. of food to the affected areas.

In **Djibouti** the Minister of Health and Social Affairs convened a meeting with potential donors and WHO on 22 November to seek support for the control of the cholera outbreak.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action in the emergency phase •

The International Federation has sent a senior relief advisor from the Secretariat to Nairobi to provide technical assistance to the National Societies and delegations, while a water and sanitation specialist from the Regional Delegation in Harare has travelled to Eastern Africa to provide technical assistance. The country delegations in Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia are supporting the respective National Societies in operations and with formulating mid-to-long term plans of action. The Regional Delegation for Eastern Africa is providing technical advice and procurement support to the countries concerned.

The Mombasa and Kwale branches of **Kenyan Red Cross Society** (KRCS) started relief activities within 48 hours of the disaster. The Federation's Regional Delegation made available existing stocks and KRCS Mombasa branch set about distributing maize, rice, beans, vegetable oil, salt, sugar, tea, kitchen sets, blankets and second-hand clothes to 300 disaster victims. The branch also provided first aid to the injured and referred serious cases to local hospitals. Kwale branch distributed blankets and second-hand clothing to disaster victims on the south coast. The KRCS/Federation Public Health Technician co-ordinated spraying and disinfection in five IDP camps. Forty Volunteers from three branches have been trained in damage assessment and registration/interviewing techniques.

The International Federation has launched an appeal on behalf of the **Sudanese Red Crescent Society** (SRCS) to assist 25,000 people for three months. Appeal N° 24/97 concentrates on the Red Sea State and focuses on countering the threat of waterborne epidemics such as cholera and malaria, as well as ensuring access to safe drinking water. SRCS and the International Federation is providing immediate relief assistance for 25,000 vulnerable persons alongside a comprehensive health, education, water and sanitation programme.

The **Ethiopian Red Cross Society**, supported by ICRC, is conducting a relief operation for 5,000 families in the south-eastern part of the country, Ogaden Valley. Blankets, plastic sheeting, medicines, soap and water containers are being distributed by the National Society. Maize and sorghum seeds, along with farming tools, will be needed to replace crops that have been washed away.

In Somalia, ICRC supports **Somali Red Crescent Society** (SomRCS) with emergency food and non-food items for flood-affected people in the Juba Valley, while the Federation continues its support to SomRCS via strengthening MCH clinics and branches in the same areas, and assisting SomRCS in relief distributions in North. SomRCS has three branches in the most affected areas in the Juba Valley, but due to the conflict does not have full access to some regions. It is also working in close co-ordination with ICRC in Middle and Lower Shabelle as well as in Beled Weyne, where volunteers are distributing blankets, plastic sheeting, high protein biscuits and other relief items.

The International Federation released CHF 210,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to assist the National Society's MCH clinics in the Juba Valley and for blankets, tarpaulins

and kitchen sets for 4,000 families in the North. A cholera prevention programme, planned for the beginning of 1998, will be initiated immediately.

The **Red Cross Society of Eritrea** responded to the flood emergency by providing tents, cooking sets and blankets to 400 families for two weeks. This operation was carried out by the Society using its Disaster Preparedness stock which keeps food and non-food items on hand for 500 families. No further needs are reported.

On 24 November **Uganda Red Cross Society** (URCS) Disaster Preparedness and Relief team, supported by the Federation made flood assessments, recommending the immediate provision of food and non-food items for 71,000 flood victims for two months before their eventual resettlement. The Federation Delegation responded by issuing blankets, pots, soap, tents, First Aid kits and collapsible jerrycans. The flooding in Uganda follows on the heels of a disastrous drought.

In some cases the immediate relief response of the National Societies/Federation has included elements that will reduce the impact of the disaster in the mid-to-long term -- Kenya Red Cross is distributing information on how to prevent cholera, malaria and other waterborne diseases alongside blankets, plastic sheeting and food. In Sudan, health education is a vital component of the Appeal. A joint assessment team comprising UN and government agencies, as well as URCS/Federation is presently conduct a survey to determine the links between previous food security and the present flooding.

The Intended Operation

The recent Seville General Assembly provided a timely opportunity for Eastern Africa National Societies to discuss the present flooding situation in their respective countries. Under the spirit of regional co-operation, the Kampala Declaration was recalled: "*In our relief efforts we will strengthen our own human resource base, provide relief in a way that builds upon the capacities of the affected population and integrates developmental activities.*" Furthermore, while taking note of the present emergency response, the leadership of the National Societies in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Somalia and Uganda recognised the important role the International Federation should play in assisting the most vulnerable to cope with the post-emergency phase of this disaster.

Assessment of Needs •

To cope with the deteriorating health situation a priority for the NSs and the Federation will be to focus on health education, to monitor and seek to prevent and respond to outbreaks of cholera, malaria and other waterborne diseases. As borne out by assessments, this action will require an increase in medical supplies -- anti-malarial drugs, cholera kits and water treatment systems -- accompanied by community mobilisation on preventive health and refresher courses for volunteers.

An initial assessment was conducted in **Kenya** in the coastal region in the last week of October, and used as a basis for the immediate response for 15,000 people. A second assessment, conducted by the Regional Health Delegate and the KRCS' health co-ordinator during the third week of November, found 150,000 persons in need of assistance.

In **Sudan**, preliminary assessments have shown that most pressing needs relate to preventive measures against the spread of infectious diseases. An in-depth assessment started on 30 November with the assistance of the Regional Water and Sanitation delegate for Southern Africa and an expert from the University of Khartoum. This assessment will determine mid-to-long term needs in the rehabilitation and recovery phases.

In Northern **Somalia**, the Federation and National Society have identified 4,500 families who have lost most of their belongings and are in urgent need of material assistance. As with other countries,

preventive health campaigns are a must, and the decision to advance the start of a cholera prevention programme has been taken.

Five thousand needy families have been identified in **Ethiopia**, and an operation to bring them immediate relief assistance has already swung into action. ICRC is taking the lead in relief supplies, while the Federation and the National Society will look after supplementary food, health and nutrition.

In **Uganda** a joint meeting between WFP, Uganda Red Cross Society/Federation and the Government agreed on certain guidelines on provision of relief assistance to flood victims including identification of vulnerable groups. A URCS/Federation assessment team pinpointed Mbale and Tororo Districts in north-eastern Uganda as being in direst need, with a total of 71,000 flood victims.

Red Cross Objectives •

- To prevent further loss of life and improve the health conditions of flood-affected persons, through improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.
- To prevent, monitor and respond to outbreaks of malaria, cholera, dysentery and other infectious diseases.
- To provide basic food items in order to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable groups
- To distribute temporary shelter materials and basic non-food items.
- To assist National Societies in the region to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their disaster response through disaster preparedness and response training.
- To assist local communities to rehabilitate and reconstruct destroyed housing, and assist with the eventual resettlement of flood victims.
- To build a regional stock of food and non food items, cholera kits and medical supplies for up to 150,000 people for three months in preparation for possible future emergencies related to this weather system.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: November - December 1997 •

(Detailed, country-specific plans are available from the Eastern Africa Desk, Tel: ++4122 7304315).

- **Kenya:** KRCS/Federation intends to supply food assistance for one month, warm clothing, blankets, plastic sheets, tents and poles. Assistance with the provision of safe drinking water, drainage of stagnant water and disinfection for spraying of open communal latrines will be undertaken.
- **Sudan:** Federation/Sudanese Red Crescent will supply: blankets for the homeless, equipment for supply of clean water and for provision of basic sanitation, food aid and kitchen utensils for those who have lost their homes and belongings, drugs to prevent and treat the most common infectious diseases including malaria; Health and water/sanitation education materials.

- **Somalia:** The International Federation will continue to support the National Society MCH clinics and the local branches in the Kismayo, Baidoa and Beled Weyne regions. The Federation's aircraft has scheduled ten additional flights to transport medicaments to where they are most needed. In the north 4,500 families will receive shelter, blankets and kitchen sets.
- **Ethiopia:** The Ethiopian Red Cross Society and International Federation joint operation will respond to the immediate food, health and nutrition needs of 5,000 families. A Sub-Office will be established in Gode, a disaster preparedness stock will be built to respond to smaller, localised emergencies, the Society's relief department will be strengthened with the installation of radio network in vehicles and some local branches. Community based health and rehabilitation programmes will be extended to the affected regions.
- **Uganda:** The immediate non-food needs have been met. To meet the food needs in flood and drought-hit areas 2,400 mt of foodstuffs (cereals, pulses, sugar and Corn Soya Blend) will be needed to cover the minimum subsistence requirement of 71,000 persons for 2 months.
- In all five countries special emphasis will be placed on cholera prevention through education/health kits; and for malaria through distribution of chemoprophylaxis, distribution of mosquito nets for beds, as well as health education. Branches will be trained in Disaster Preparedness, assessment and distribution of relief items, and volunteers will receive Community Based First Aid training.
- The **Federation's Regional Delegation** for Eastern Africa will be reinforced with a Regional Water and Sanitation Delegate and with a Regional Relief Co-ordinator. In order to prepare for possible future needs arising, the Federation will maintain a contingency stock in Nairobi which will include cholera kits, medical supplies, food items, kitchen sets, blankets and used clothing.

Phase Two: January 1998 - April 1998 •

- Facilitate community based housing rehabilitation programmes.
- Linked with the housing rehabilitation programme, distribute seeds and tools.
- Improve sanitation conditions in the affected communities to at least the level that they were before the disaster.
- Provide health education and conduct health monitoring
- Closely monitor the situation in the region in order to promptly respond to possible future health and food security problems. A contingency plan will be developed.

Capacity of the National Society •

Most of the National Societies included in this appeal have been involved, or are presently involved, in managing disaster relief and rehabilitation operations. Regional Co-operation will be encouraged in order to ensure that locally-available expertise is fully used. The already existing "Exchange of Human Resources" programme will be of great importance during the coming months.

Present Capacity of the Federation in the region •

The International Federation has country Delegations in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. The Regional Delegation for Eastern Africa is based in Nairobi and will provide logistical support through its Regional Logistics Centre, as well as technical advice on Health, Disaster Preparedness, Institutional Development and Information through the various technical delegates working in the region. The Recruitment of a Relief Co-ordinator and a Water and Sanitation Delegate will provide vital additional support to National Societies and help them with operational management.

Lessons learned from the recent drought operations in Sudan and Kenya will be taken into consideration during this operation.

Evaluation •

Monitoring of activities will be conducted during the operation. An evaluation of the impact of the operations will be conducted at the end to assess the effectiveness of the Red Cross/Red Crescent involvement.

Budget summary

See tables attached.

Conclusion

This operation will be one of the biggest and most challenging the Federation has mounted in Eastern Africa in recent times. Security considerations, difficult access and the possibility of yet more rain make it a daunting prospect. However, with the support of donors, and the know-how of National Society staff and volunteers, the International Federation is confident that it can rise to the challenge and give much-needed assistance to the hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries it wishes to serve.

For further information pls. call acting desk officer for Eastern Africa, Juan Saenz on 41 22 7304315 or the Head of the Regional delegation in Nairobi.

Margareta Wahlström
Under Secretary General,
Disaster Response & Operations Coordination

George Weber
Secretary General