

PROGRAMME 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

ERITREA

20 December, 2005

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 181 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA001; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: January – July, 2005; Appeal coverage: 76.3 %; Outstanding needs: CHF 73,237 (USD 55, 820 or EUR 47, 326).

(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).

Appeal target: CHF 308,641 (USD 239,814 or EUR197,783)

Related Emergency Appeals: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA002.pdf **Eritrea: Drought (Appeal no. 05EA002).**

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents).

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>

Operational developments

Humanitarian situation

The humanitarian situation in Eritrea continued to deteriorate in the first half of 2005. For the fifth consecutive year, rain shortfalls resulted in crop failure and poor livestock production in 2004, with soaring food prices as a result. The rise of international oil prices put a further strain on the economy. This state of affairs, combined with the residual effects of war and the loss of assets and coping mechanisms, has further exacerbated the situation of vulnerable populations. The continued mobilization also impedes the country's capacity to engage fully in

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agricultural and other recovery activities. Furthermore, the dry spell poses a threat to the cultivation of long-cycle crops and the availability of water for both people and livestock in many regions. Promising rains towards the end of the reporting period, created some optimism for the crops in 2005, but the drought has led to decreased ground water level all over the country, and it will take at least three consecutive years of normal rainfall to restore the level to normal.

To respond to this situation, the International Federation launched an Emergency Appeal in January 2005 to support the Red Cross Society of Eritrea to assist 55,000 beneficiaries with food relief, water for both domestic and agricultural use, seeds and farming tools and community based health development activities.

Inadequate funding of the 2005 Annual appeal as well as the Emergency appeal has forced the humanitarian agencies to reduce the targeted number of persons receiving food assistance from 2.3 million to 1.2 million and the standard food ration by 40 per cent. This reduction in the standard food ration has already contributed to the high malnutrition rates in parts of the country and the shortage of therapeutic and supplementary food has prevented an adequate response to the increasing number of malnourished children and women. Current food stocks are not likely to last beyond October 2005. Food aid has been pledged, but delays in the pipeline have aggravated the food supply situation.

Furthermore, some 19,000 internally displaced persons who recently returned to their villages of origin or were resettled, together with the remaining 51,000 internally displaced persons and some 120,000 returnees from the Sudan, are still completely dependent on relief or reintegration assistance. Under the joint programming, the plan, subject to the availability of funds, is to return some 10,000 more displaced persons to their homes.

On the positive side, Eritrea has reached remarkable results in containing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, controlling the spread of measles and polio and reduced the number of people affected by malaria.

Organizational Development

Goal: The Red Cross Society of Eritrea is a well-functioning national society, recognized by all, and operating within the framework of Strategy 2010.

Objective: The Red Cross Society of Eritrea has well developed organizational structures at management and governance levels, both at the national society headquarters as well as in the branches and local committees, providing quality services for the most vulnerable people in Eritrea.

Expected Result 1:

The Red Cross of Eritrea has been recognized by the Eritrean government and has organized a General Assembly at which a Board of Directors and a President are elected.

Progress/Achievements:

- No progress in the recognition issue in terms of legislation. In spite of the lack of formal recognition, the national society has up to now been able to fully implement its programs, and has been working with line ministries and the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission as an ordinary NGO. In May the government of the State of Eritrea issued "A Proclamation to Determine on the Administration of Non-governmental Organizations". The proclamation was effective from June 1, and it has created a certain degree of uncertainty among government officials and Red Cross/Red Crescent stakeholders about the status of the Red Cross, and has clearly shown the need for a specific Red Cross/Red Crescent legislation in the country. The Red Cross Society of Eritrea has been in close negotiations with the government, and verbal approval has been received that the Red Cross will be recognized as an NGO but as an auxiliary to the government.

Constraints:

- Even if the Eritrean Government states that all the political decisions regarding recognition have been taken, the Red Cross/Red Crescent legislation has not yet been finalized.

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- The Emblem issue is the reason given for the lack of domestic recognition; the Government wants to use a double emblem or a third emblem. Meetings between the government, the ICRC and the International Federation in order to encourage the State of Eritrea to play an active role in the upcoming diplomatic conference regarding the amendment of the third protocol, have been planned for September.
- The Government has been informed that national recognition is a case for the Eritrean government only, being an important first step before the process of international recognition can be started.

Expected Result 2:

The management of the national society is organized in an effective way that serves the staff, volunteers and all its stakeholders and gives maximum support to the most vulnerable people of the country. New skills in project and programme preparation (using the logical framework approach), implementation, reporting and evaluation have been acquired; policies and guidelines for programme accounting and reporting provide monitoring opportunities for the headquarters and branches in 2005.

Progress/Achievements:

- A new management structure including development of job descriptions for all staff has been developed, but not yet implemented.
- Discussions have been ongoing on finding a better system for funding of core costs, including human resources. Allocation of a certain percentage of programme funds has been proposed.
- Performance appraisal systems have not been introduced yet, nor has a revision of the salary scale been conducted.
- Project proposals, documents and reports are being prepared by the national society with support from partnering societies or the Federation. During the reporting period three proposals for EU funding, one for the Netherlands government, and one for the Global fund have been prepared, as well as the launch of an Emergency appeal. In all these processes a substantial input has come from the national society.
- The Reporting officer has received two weeks on the job training in the regional delegation.
- Even if the over all staff turn-over is not high, there has been a change in key programme positions that has delayed program implementation. A new reporting system for the community volunteer facilitators has been introduced. Compilation and overall reporting is not yet fully functioning. Reporting at headquarters level has however been improved.
- Several manuals of procedures have been developed, but final approval is pending. Due to the lack of governance, legal approval of procedures cannot be obtained.

Impact:

- It is too early to see the full impact of the coaching system yet however. It seems very promising, although there are increasing concerns about the differences in Red Cross activities in the coaching and non coaching areas.
- There are a lot of improvements in villages within the coaching areas, with increased volunteer input and increased participation from the communities in planning and implementation of projects. Small scale water and sanitation projects and improved stoves and training in household management and other skills for mothers, has improved the livelihood for many families in villages covered by the strengthened volunteer network.
- The national society reporting officer has improved her reporting skills after the training in the regional delegation. She has also produced a news story for the Federation web site.

Constraints:

- The national society has a high level of vulnerability being managed by a few key persons, when one or two of these persons are incapacitated for various reasons. A lot of trainings have been conducted and the society is now struggling to put the theoretical knowledge into practice.
- Leadership commitment to the system is not always possible to practise, due to too many obligations to be fulfilled by too few people.
- Contributions to the reports are lacking from one branch since the beginning of 2005.

Expected Result 3:

The second phase of the comprehensive self-assessment exercise has been completed and is developed into guidelines for further development and improvement of process of the national society in the short term as well as long term perspective, focusing on the national society's new strategic plan 2004-2007 as well as the CAS process.

Progress/Achievements:

- The self-assessment exercise, involving all levels of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea started mid June and the assessment forms were submitted mid July.
- A review of the Strategic Plan 2004 -2007 started in June involving both headquarters and branch managers. Agreement has been reached on mission, vision and strategic objectives, taking into consideration recent developments in Eritrea as well as the Algiers plan of Action. The plan is to have a draft Strategic plan ready by end of August.
- During the partnership meeting in April one of the days were dedicated to discuss cooperation and partnership between the Movement components in Eritrea. Agreement was reached that partnerships should continue and to be developed through a CAS process. Since the presentation of the strategic plan and a possible CAS was done in 2004, little progress has been achieved. In the partnership meeting a mapping of the partnerships was conducted and a CAS plan of action was developed. As further progress is dependent on the review of the Strategic Plan, subsequent activities in the CAS plan of action can only continue in September.
- **Impact:**
So far, the process is ongoing.

Constraints:

- The start-up of the process was delayed due to heavy workload for key persons in the senior management.

Expected Result 4:

The branch network has been strengthened through a common strategy at national level and an active approach in the communities focusing on partnership, ownership and community involvement with youth groups playing an active role in programme implementation.

Progress/Achievements:

- Focus has been on strengthening the volunteer network in the coaching areas as well as training and supporting the Red Cross Action Teams. During the reporting period each branch has been managed one by one by the headquarters, with less focus on joint management. The joint activities related to the Self-assessment and review of the strategic plan, resumed the countrywide management meetings. In one of the branches, management was suspended, and hence there are no reports on the activities in this branch.
- The volunteers have been regularly updated on the activities of the Society through a quarterly Newsletter.

Impact:

The improved activities in the areas served by community volunteer facilitators, has led to increased differences within different geographical areas in each zoba.

Expected Result 5:

A fundraising strategy has been developed and is being followed by headquarters and branches.

Progress/Achievements:

- No progress on the strategy for general fundraising due to the lack of recognition. Activities in this field has concentrated on raising funds from regional and city administrations to support the ambulance service, and to create income by renting out parts of the headquarters and branch office buildings. Two of the branches are implementing programs not covered by an updated MoU or letter of intent. In Southern red sea, the

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current partnership with American Red Cross came to an end without any replacement from other partners in place yet. The Spanish Red Cross has, however pledged support to the CBHD program.

- The general economic situation in the country has further deteriorated during 2005, and local fundraising is nearly impossible.
- A proposed project on development of a communications strategy for the Society has been delayed due to increased workload in the regional delegation after the Tsunami.

Expected Result 6:

The image of the national society has improved thanks to active marketing of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, attracting new members, volunteers and supporters in 2005.

Progress/Achievements:

- As the recognition issue is not solved, the society is not able to develop a membership. The activities for increasing the visibility of the society have mainly been conducted on local level related to programme implementation, and related to the International Red Cross Day; focusing on an arts competition and exhibition. The Northern red sea branches had information stands during the Massawa Festival in February.

Expected Result 7:

The human resources capacity of the national society to respond to emergencies in a timely and efficient manner has been improved.

Progress/Achievements:

- No specific achievements funded by this appeal, due to lack of funding. However, regional activities, like the regional RDRT review and subsequent training will facilitate national activities as soon as funding is secured.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Goal: To support the capacity building of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea to achieve its mandate through good governance, effective management, and financial as well as human resources, and in building good partnership with other actors.

Objective: The Federation through participatory facilitation is supporting the Red Cross Society of Eritrea in its process towards full recognition by the government and by the Movement, also ensures continuous improvement of integrated capacity building, planning and implementation skills, and advocacy based on the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

Expected Result 1:

The CAS for Eritrea has been finalized and has increased the impact of the Movement support to the national society through Federation coordination and support mechanisms.

Progress/Achievements:

- The progress in the CAS process has been partially influenced by the changes in the concept of CAS, partially by time and resources allocated to this process both from the Red Cross Society of Eritrea and from the partnering national societies (PNs). The Secretary General is the focal point for the process in the national society. She and the Federation representative attended a regional CAS workshop in March, and the Society committed itself to undertake a partner's relationship analysis.

Expected Result 2:

The Federation Representative and regional technical delegates have provided adequate facilitation and coaching to the national society leadership based on mutually agreed terms of references and experiences from bilateral projects, as well as expertise from ICRC, bilateral partners and local consultants.

Progress/Achievements:

- Daily coaching is done subject to demand from the national society. Time constraints have prevented more systematic training and coaching activities. Planning, coaching and monitoring visits from partnering societies is taking considerable resources from the headquarters, and there has been minor attempts to achieve more coordination of visits by the partners. This is difficult to achieve, and the result is delayed program implementation by the national society. Also monitoring visits from the headquarters to the branches has often been postponed due to visits by partners or Federation technical delegates.
- There has been a steady progress towards better proposal writing and narrative reporting at the headquarters. Communication with the branches is difficult, delaying reports. Improved telecommunications is a priority for the Society, in order to overcome this constraint, and work to improve the situation has started.

Expected Result 3:

A partnership meeting has been held and attended by partner national society as well as other other national societies in the region.

Progress/Achievements:

- The annual partnership meeting was conducted in April, attended by 4 partnering national societies, ICRC and the Federation. No societies from the region participated. The meeting focussed on progress and achievements since the last meeting, and CAS as a tool to manage partnerships in the future. Commitments for continuous support in 2006 were made from all the participants, but the objective from the national society side on achieving more long term commitments was not achieved, with the exception of Danish Red Cross who has signed a cooperation contract for the period 2005 – 2009.
- An attempt to coordinate the meeting with the partnership meeting in Sudan was a limited success regarding attracting more partners, as only two representatives attended both meetings.

Expected Result 4:

Annual appeals, emergency appeals and all reports are prepared and issued with the technical support of the Federation Representative and regional delegates.

Progress/Achievements:

- During the reporting period, one emergency appeal and three operations updates have been prepared by the national society and further edited and issued by the regional delegation. Training in narrative reporting has resulted in improved quality of appeals and reports, and there has been good involvement of the headquarters staff. Further training is planned for better budgeting and better integration of narrative and financial reporting.

Effective representation and advocacy

Goal: Connectivity and knowledge between the national and international stakeholders in Eritrea have increased, resulting in better synergy and impact of interventions. All the players have a good knowledge or the role of each component of the Movement in Eritrea, and about the capacity and the network of the national society.

Objective: The cooperation between the various components of the Movement working in Eritrea and the other actors in the field of humanitarian intervention in Eritrea benefits the vulnerable people and contributes to the improvement of the services provided as well as to the rational use of available resources.

Expected Result 1:

Communication and cooperation between the Red Cross Society of Eritrea and all humanitarian actors working in Eritrea has been improved and the national society has become an active partner in coordination meetings and planning processes.

Progress/Achievements:

- The national society participates regularly in technical coordination meetings for food aid, health, HIV/AIDS and WatSan. More can be achieved in terms of a coordinated approach from all movement components, also this year it has happened that sister national societies have been invited to conduct programs in Eritrea by representatives of the government without any coordination with the RCSE.

Expected Result 2:

Stronger contacts have been established with central and local authorities as well as with the diplomatic corps.

Progress/Achievements:

- The Red Cross Society of Eritrea is participating in different conferences, workshops and meetings conducted by relevant line ministries. On the *zoba* level there is close cooperation between the administration and the local branch. Contact with the diplomatic corps is more sporadic, as ICRC is the registered diplomatic partner from the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement in Eritrea.

Expected Result 3:

External stakeholders like UN agencies, NGO, and governmental agencies supporting the national society are regularly informed about the progress of programmes implementation and service delivery.

Progress/Achievements:

- All stakeholders receive the quarterly newsletter from the RCSE, updating them on programs and achievements in the Society. Interested stakeholders have been invited to field visits to monitor project implementation.

Delegation management

Goal: The Federation structure is streamlined to effectively support the implementation of the foregoing objectives.

Objective: To maintain an efficient, flexible and service oriented infrastructure coordinated with all partners.

Expected Result 1:

The Federation Representative is effectively and smoothly managing the programme in Eritrea.

Progress/Achievements:

- Since the launch of the Emergency appeal in January, the Federation Representative has also been managing that project. Both the senior management of the national society and the Federation representative have spent about 25 % of their time on the emergency situation, delaying implementation of the OD program.

Constraints:

- Diversion of international resources to other emergency operations, both among partnering societies and secretariat staff, delayed implementation of programs in Eritrea as well as late response to the Appeal.

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These constraints unfortunately also mean less efficient program implementation. Suboptimal functioning telecommunications put additional constraints to smooth management of programs in Eritrea.

Expected Result 2:

The direct monitoring of the support to the Red Cross Society of Eritrea by the Federation Representative is effectively handed over to the Federation Horn of Africa Head of sub-regional office by end 2005.

Progress/Achievements:

- Implementation of this activity has been discussed between the national society and the head of regional delegation. The society wants continued presence by the Federation representative in Eritrea, as further support towards recognition, further improvement of partnership management and more coaching is requested. A transitional period, whereby the Federation Representative will conduct regional duties on a part time basis was initiated from August and it is suggested that this structure continues until end of 2006. The development in the recognition issue as well as support from the partnering national societies will impact the specific priorities for the support function in 2006.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

APPEAL No. 05AA001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				308,641		76.3%
OPENING BALANCE				47,527		
CYPRUS - RC				1,327	11.01.05	
NORWEGIAN - RC		150,000	NOK	28,050	04.01.05	
SWEDISH - GOVT		500,000	SEK	85,500	26.04.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				162,404	CHF	52.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			73,000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				73,000	CHF	23.7%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	