

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

31 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. 2; Period covered: July to November 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.](#)

Programme Update no. 1- Please refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA00101.pdf>

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

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

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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

The humanitarian situation in Eritrea has temporarily improved after a reasonably good rainy season in 4 provinces. The rainfall varied, however, in local areas, and some communities experienced no harvest in 2005. Due to the shortfall of rains in previous years, it is estimated that at least three years of normal rainfall will be required in order to restore the ground water level, and also to replenish the food and seed stores in the affected families, as well as restoring livestock that has been sold in order to secure survival during the years 2000 – 2004.

Adding to this, the December seasonal rainfall in Northern and Southern Red Sea did not start as expected, and the eastern zobas is now facing a serious drought this season.

The handing over of responsibility for humanitarian assistance from Eritrean Relief and Refuge Commission (ERREC) to the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare has triggered several changes. One of them is a reassessment of the need for food assistance. The reassessment has in practice lead to a halt in all food distribution since September. The impact of the suspension of food aid is not clear yet.

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The 19,000 internally displaced persons who returned to their villages of origin are being resettled. The national society has two coaching areas covering parts of this population, and even if the process of establishing livelihoods in the new areas is progressing, there are still several challenges to be met. No further resettlement of IDPs has been achieved in 2005.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is still well controlled in Eritrea, the prevalence rate is unofficially reported to be 2.6 %. A polio outbreak in Sudan has triggered a new polio vaccination campaign that was conducted in November and December.

The political situation in the country has not changed during the reporting period. However there is a growing tension between the Government of Eritrea and the UN, as there has been no progress in the border demarcation issue. The impact on the humanitarian situation in the country is devastating, and the ICRC and the International Federation continuously monitor the situation. The most immediate threat to the population is, however, still the lack of rainfall that will continue to be the biggest humanitarian challenge for Eritrea also for the year to come.

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 in 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 Society 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:

- In the beginning of November a joint mission from ICRC and the Federation Secretariat in Geneva visited Eritrea to inform the government about the upcoming diplomatic conference on the third additional protocol to the Geneva Conventions regarding an additional emblem. As the government of the State of Eritrea has a wish to use a double Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem for the national society, the approval of an additional emblem has been seen as giving an opportunity for Eritrea to move ahead with the recognition issue, and it was strongly hoped that Eritrea could play an active role in the conference. The delegates from Geneva met with the Director of the President's office, the Ministry of Foreign affairs, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture.
- During the preparatory conference in September and the diplomatic conference in December, Eritrea was represented by the Mission in Geneva, and the Secretary General of the national society was also invited to attend the diplomatic conference as an observer. The outcome of the conference is now known, but the government has not yet communicated how to continue the process on determining the legal status of the national society.
- The implementation of programs continue as before based on a verbal ad hoc recognition from the President's office that is implemented by the relevant line ministries, however, important issues regarding governance, membership and income generating activities are pending.

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.
- Since the implementation of the NGO proclamation, several new officials have taken charge of dealing with humanitarian aid, and not all of them are familiar with the special status of the Red Cross, creating misunderstandings and increasing the workload for the national society senior management to inform about the situation.

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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:

- The search for finding the best way of following up of branch performance continues in the senior management. The format for the performance appraisal system is now being finalized, and it is decided that the system is to be introduced from 2006.
- Project proposals, documents and reports are being prepared by the national society with support from partnering societies and the Federation. During the reporting period one proposal for EU funding and one for the Norwegian Red Cross has been prepared.
- The new reporting system for the Community Volunteer Facilitators is being implemented through close follow up from the Headquarters, but the quality of the data input for the reports still need to be improved. Reports are being provided to partners on a quarterly and annual basis.
- The impact of the PPP training in July remains to be fully seen. Logframes are being used for some of the programs, but more systematic follow up is required in order to motivate all projects managers to utilize the project planning cycle approach in the planning and follow up of project.
- Final approval of procedures is pending due to lack of legal basis for the society.

Impact:

- The impact of the coaching system has been reviewed internally in the national society, but the results have not yet been shared with the partners.

Constraints:

- Since the proclamation to determine on the administration of non-governmental organisations was submitted, considerable efforts has been done from the national society's side in order to establish a good working relationship with the new officials dealing with humanitarian aid in the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare. This is an ongoing process, as every new official assuming responsibilities related to humanitarian assistance must be informed about the special status of the Red Cross due to the lack of legislation.
- Anseba branch has not communicated with the Headquarters since the beginning of 2005 due to a legal conflict.

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 well-functioning national society self-assessment report has been submitted to Geneva and the national society is awaiting feed back.
- The revised Strategic Plan for 2005 - 2009 has been submitted to the Programme departments for comments and is being finally discussed during the December RCSE management meeting.
- The CAS plan of action is dependent on the finalisation of the Strategic plan.

Constraints:

- The Red Cross Society of Eritrea is small. Being managed by a few key persons, the society is vulnerable to delays in programme implementation if one person is not available due to other commitments. The unwillingness among donors to fund core staff is a continuous challenge for the society, as there is a need to find a balance between taking financial risks and employing additional skilled staff.
- Different requirements from different partners regarding formats for proposals and reports represent a considerable additional workload for a small society that is dependent on several partners.

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- Also requests to the national society from the Federation Secretariat to conduct evaluations, implementing certain activities etc. is putting additional constraints to a small society that sometimes disrupts the day to day management of the society as well as the implementation of programs.

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:

- The system of Community Volunteer Facilitators (CVF) has been reviewed. The system has improved the quality of volunteer management at the local level, and 170 villages are now covered by the CVFs. The challenge is to expand the system with the financial resources available. Attempts to expand the coaching areas by recruiting volunteer leaders covering three (instead of 15 for the employed CVFs) villages has been approved by the senior management. Furthermore strengthened integration between the Community Based Health Development program and other programs has been approved. Recruitments of new Volunteer Coordinators at Headquarters and Maekel have been conducted.

Expected Result 5: A fundraising strategy has been developed and is being followed by headquarters and branches.

Progress/Achievements:

- There is no progress on the strategy for general fundraising due to the lack of recognition. The only source of income for the RCSE is renting out parts of the headquarters and branch office buildings.
- The general economic situation in the country has further deteriorated during 2005, and local fundraising is nearly impossible, but attempts to get more government and local administration funding for the ambulance service is on-going. The final result of this is however not known yet.

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 base.
- The activities for increasing the visibility of the Society have mainly been conducted on the community level related to programme implementation. In addition, an advocacy campaign to increase the commitment from the public authorities to fund the ambulance service has been conducted by the national society.
- The national society had an information pavilion at the Eritrea festival in August. During the 10 day festival, the pavilion was visited by 17,200 persons, and a first aid service to the public was given as well. Arrangements to the public were also conducted on the World AIDS Day and the International Day for Volunteering. A quarterly newsletter from the national society is published to stakeholders all over the country, as well as to international partners.

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 funding through this appeal has been achieved. However, regional activities have secured that a National Disaster Response Team has been established and trained in the basic concepts of Disaster Preparedness and response. Also logistics and fleet management was covered in the training workshop. During the planning for 2006 the national society has decided on how to integrate DP/DR activities better with the annual programs. The ICRC is working closely with the Federation representative in giving coordinated support to the national society in this field. The position of emergency health officer in the national society has been filled with a highly competent person.

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:

- No progress in the documentation of the CAS process has been achieved, but the daily activities of the RCSE are clearly influenced by the new thinking about CAS being a tool for managing relationships. The partners' relationship analysis has been initiated with input from the ICRC.

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:

- Time constraints on the national society side have limited more systematic training and coaching activities. One planning mission and three coaching and monitoring visits from partnering societies have been conducted in the reporting period. Monitoring visits from headquarters to the branches have been conducted, but to a lesser extent than planned.
- There has been a steady progress towards better proposal writing and narrative reporting in the headquarters. Communication with the branches remains difficult, delaying collection of input to quarterly and pledge based reports. Also financial reports are difficult to obtain within set deadlines. Vacancies in the regional delegation have resulted in less support than requested, especially in the field of information/communications. Support from the logistics and IT department has been given as requested.

Expected Result 3: A partnership meeting has been held and attended by PNS as well as other ONS in the region.

Progress/Achievements:

- The follow up of the annual partnership meeting conducted in April has suffered serious delays. The objective from the national society side on achieving more long term commitments has most likely been achieved. Norwegian Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross have already signed cooperation contracts for the period 2005 – 2009. Netherlands is close to finalising a long term contract in the fields of organisational development and HIV/AIDS. Other partners are working on annual projects.

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 Program Update and one operations update for the Federation has been prepared by the national society and further edited and issued by the regional delegation. Serious delays were experienced in the editing and publishing process of Program Update number 1 for 2005. Training in better financial management and budgeting in order to achieve better integration of narrative and financial reporting has been postponed due to unavailability of the trainer.

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 good knowledge about 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 a 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 technical coordination meetings for Food aid, Food Security, Health, HIV/AIDS and WatSan have been suspended by the government.

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 has been more sporadic, as ICRC is the registered diplomatic partner from the RC/RC Movement in Eritrea.

Expected Result 3: External stakeholders like UN agencies, NGOs, 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 national society, updating them on programs and achievements in the Society. Interested stakeholders have been invited to field visits to monitor project implementation, but so far this has not been possible to achieve.
- Towards end of the year, the political differences between the government of Eritrea and the UN have become obvious, and it is difficult to predict the future implications for the humanitarian work. The Red Cross Movement components have, when appropriate, emphasized that the RC/RC Movement is independent also in relation to the UN and that cooperation between the Red Cross and UN agencies is of a purely technical nature.

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, both the senior management of the national society and the Federation representative have spent more than 25 % of their time on the emergency situation, delaying implementation of the OD program.

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- Dealing with the new regulations related to the NGO proclamation, on import of relief food among other issues, has consumed a lot of resources for the Secretary General as well as time consuming consultations with the Federation Representative. These activities are closely related to the issue on recognition of the national society, and have therefore been given high priority.
- These constraints have led to less efficient program implementation and delays in the Strategic planning and the CAS process.
- Regional activities, as described below, have also from time to time coincided with in-country activities, and made it impossible to meet specific deadlines related to planning and reporting.

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 structure of the Secretariat support to all national Societies in the Horn of Africa has been discussed with the concerned Societies.
- The Red Cross Society of Eritrea wants the presence of the Federation representative in Eritrea, as a support towards recognition, further improvement of partnership management and more coaching is requested. A transitional period, whereby the Federation Representative has conducted regional duties on a part time basis was initiated from August 2005. The extent of these regional activities has been altogether 7 weeks during the reporting period.
- The development in the recognition issue as well as support from the partnering national societies will impact the specific priorities of the support function in 2006. The Federation representative presence in Eritrea has so far been extended to 30 June 2006.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/12/2005

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	