

Report 2006-2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Horn of Africa Sub-Regional Programmes

Appeal No. MAA64004

5 May 2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



Red Cross volunteers talk with their peers to encourage tolerance and action against discrimination and social

In brief

Programme Summary: The main thrust of the Federation's efforts in 2006 and 2007 was to support its member National Societies in the Sub-zone, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti (RCSD) as well as to take forward the organizational reform processes which the National Societies embarked on with the intention of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of their services. The reform processes have introduced organizational changes and new ways of working. Both National Societies have made significant progress and are better prepared to respond to the increasing humanitarian challenges in their countries.

The years 2006 and 2007 brought challenges such as climatic shocks and disease outbreaks, exacerbating already precarious conditions of vulnerable communities and demanding immediate humanitarian action. Local capacities were stretched and the National Societies were compelled to divert some of their resources to respond to the unfolding humanitarian crisis. Their efforts contributed to saving lives. Active engagement of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers working within and with local communities has boosted the visibility of the National Societies and encouraged new partnerships. However, more efforts need to be put to strengthen preparedness for emergencies within the organizations as well as at community level. To have greater impact, the quality and scope of the programmes need to be improved.

The National Societies are at a crucial stage with new leaderships and new opportunities for growth, and essentially, determination to become well-functioning National Societies.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 4,343,234 (USD 4,343,234 or EUR 2,759,361) out of which 27% covered.

[Click the links below to go directly to the financial reports:](#)

[Report 2006](#)

[Report 2007](#)

[Report 2006-2007](#)

Related Emergency Appeals.

- [MDRET001](#): Ethiopia Drought,
- [MDRET002](#): Ethiopia Acute Watery Diarrhoea
- [MDRET003](#): Ethiopia Floods
- [MDRET004](#): Ethiopia Acute Watery Diarrhoea Outbreak

No. of people we help: During the reporting period, more than 1,350,000 people received assistance from the Red Cross Red Crescent in the Horn of Africa sub-Zone. In addition, through emergency response operations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies assisted over 170,000 people (Drought response in Ethiopia: over 60,000 people and Floods response and AWD outbreak in Ethiopia: over 110,000 people). For the programmes planned for 2008-2009, the Red Cross Red Crescent is targeting approximately 900,000 beneficiaries.

For more detailed information on 2006-7 activities, please refer to:

Programme Update no. 1: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA6400401.pdf>

Programme Update no. 2: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA6400402.pdf>

Report 2006-2007 (2006): <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA64004ar06.pdf>

Programme Update no. 3: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA6400403.pdf>

Our Partners: The Red Cross and Red Crescent partners in the Horn of Africa sub-Zone included community-based and women associations, various government ministries and offices, as well as United Nations (UN) agencies such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Other partners include the European Union (EU), the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, numerous Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies from United States, Belgium Flanders, United Kingdom, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Kuwait, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden provided bilateral support to the National Societies in the sub-Zone. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) played a major role in both countries and provided valuable support to the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti (RCSD) and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) through its traditional activities, as well as in logistics.

Current context

2006 and 2007 were challenging years in the Horn of Africa sub-Zone. In the beginning of 2006, a severe drought was experienced and, within the same year unusually heavy rains resulted in extensive floods in the area. A year later, new floods were yet again experienced followed by outbreaks of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD). Three Emergency Appeals and a DREF Bulletin were launched for Ethiopia within the reporting period. These emergency operations were implemented alongside the implementation of other long-term development programmes.

At the beginning of 2006, more than 2.5 million people in Ethiopia were estimated to be in need of relief and food assistance. For 2007, the number decreased to 1.3 million as initial assessments indicated a vast improvement in the food security prospects. However, food security remains a big concern for the Ethiopian Government and its humanitarian partners, and the estimates for 2008

show that the number of people expected to need food assistance has again increased to approximately 2.18 million¹ people. By the end of 2007, the country was also affected by the global rise in food prices which increased the cost of living for the general population.

The deteriorating food security situation in Ethiopia and Djibouti is strongly connected to the changing weather patterns and the global climate change that is increasingly affecting both countries as well as the Eastern Africa region as a whole. As the pastoral and agricultural sectors are extremely vulnerable to unfavourable weather situations and the performance of the short and long rains, small deviations are pushing segments of the population into food insecurity. The deteriorating food security situation is being addressed by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement as one of its main priorities.

Djibouti

Health and Care

Goal: The Red Crescent Society of Djibouti has a sustainable impact upon the general health of targeted communities through its health programme.

Objective: The National Society's capacity in community health and care programming is facilitated through Federation support.

Achievements: During the reporting period, the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti (RCSD) health programme was the most active and innovative among all the National Society's programmes. This is evidenced by its fully integrated approach and the number of beneficiaries it managed to reach. The programme focused on health promotion, peer education and HIV and AIDS prevention activities as well as community development by providing Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings to community members and Red Cross volunteers. As an element in the PHAST trainings, a PHAST toolkit was developed and introduced for use to the volunteers. The toolkit consists of drawings made by local artists to reflect on the local culture and conditions. The toolkit was vital for helping group participants to develop the skills and confidence, to think problems through, to identify solutions and plan for change. As a part of the health promotion activities, more than 3,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) were also distributed to vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, new mothers, the elderly and children aged under five years.

In 2006, the National Society participated in a Ministry of Health (MoH)-led polio vaccination campaign targeting children aged five years and below. In 2007, the National Society conducted sensitization workshops on cholera and reduction of tuberculosis and malaria where more than 160 volunteers participated.

Constraints

- Limited staffing structure of the health unit.
- Insufficient funding.

Capacity Development

Goal: Implementation of the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society has improved in the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti in the areas of foundation, capacity and performance.

¹ Estimated numbers are from 2007 Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia, a joint government and humanitarian partners appeal and Humanitarian Requirements for 2008 as well as a Government-Partners Joint Document, published by OCHA.

Objective: The National Society's institutional capacity and its progress towards operating as a well-functioning National Society is enhanced through Secretariat support.

Achievements: The focus of the Federation Secretariat's support in Djibouti was to assist the RCSD to rebuild its organizational structures, as the National Society was dormant for years. An organizational development delegate was deployed and worked with the RCSD in 2006. Thus, significant achievements were made towards the end of 2006 as the National Society held its General Assembly for the first time in many years. At the General Assembly, the RCSD elected a new president, a new board and adopted new statutes.

Constraints

- In 2007, most of the organizational development activities were temporarily suspended due to insufficient funding.
- Inadequate dedication in organizational development at the Eastern African Zone office in Nairobi for a considerable amount of time.
- Significant changes within the sub-Zone office in Addis Ababa since the beginning of 2007 also had a negative impact on the scope and quality of the support provided to the RCSD.

Principles and Values

Goal: Movement Principles and Humanitarian Values are known and respected throughout the region and discrimination against vulnerable groups is reduced.

Objective: The information unit of the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti is an active member of the regional communications forum, has developed its potential to respond to humanitarian emergencies, and has increased the capacity of the National Society to promote Movement Principles and Humanitarian Values in Eastern Africa.

Achievements: The RCSD information unit was active in promoting the image of the National Society through articles in the local media and by ensuring good television coverage of its activities. Quarterly newsletters were also published. Most of the activities carried out by the information unit were covered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and are linked to their programming. The National Society's communication officer has been an active member of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Network for East Africa (RC-net) Regional Communications Forum, which developed and endorsed a regional communications framework for all National Societies in the Eastern Africa Zone in 2006.

Constraints

- Insufficient funding has hindered the RCSD information unit to significantly strengthen its capacities.

Ethiopia

Disaster Management

Goal: The disaster preparedness and response capacity of Ethiopian Red Cross Society at headquarters and branches is strengthened and coherent responses provided to the vulnerability of communities.

Objective: The disaster preparedness and response capacity of the National Society is strengthened through Federation support.

Achievements: During the reporting period, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society responded to three major and several small scale emergencies throughout the country. These emergency operations were related to drought, floods and AWD outbreaks. This sometimes overstretched the capacity of the National Society to its limits, as it involved all the headquarter departments as well as numerous branches. It also gave staff and volunteers valuable experience and trainings for future emergencies.

The National Society is also continuously engaged in disaster preparedness activities including stockpiling of essential items such as water containers, tools and other non-food items for emergency rapid response. ERCS encourages branches to reserve 10 per cent of their net income from their annual revenue for a local emergency fund. They are also encouraged to participate in early warning working groups at national level, together with federal ministries, UN agencies and other non-governmental organizations.

In addition to being involved in national emergencies and preparedness activities, ERCS staff also benefited from participating in Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), food security, climate change and logistics trainings organized by the Federation within the Eastern Africa region. The Federation Secretariat also assisted the ERCS by deploying a finance delegate and a water and sanitation delegate for the 2006 floods operation as well as compile, maintain and share data on disaster preparedness and response activities within the Eastern Africa Zone.

Several trainings for staff, volunteers and community members in disaster preparedness and response were also held by the National Society. These trainings included workshops on SPHERE standards, flood early warning and climate change.

During the reporting period, T-shirts, jackets, trousers and shoes were provided to volunteers to be used for deployment in emergencies. The ERCS emergency operation manual was translated into Somali language and 200 copies were distributed to relevant staff and volunteers.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society collaborates closely with the ICRC, with a special focus in tracing, dissemination and conflict preparedness activities. There is close cooperation between all components of the Movement in Ethiopia, which is observed in particular when disasters strike. The ERCS received assistance from the ICRC, the Federation and Partner National Societies in all the emergency operations conducted during the reporting period.

Due to the deteriorating food security situation in the country, two Food Security officers were recruited by the National Society in 2007 to strengthen the National Society's capacity in this field. The zone office in Nairobi also provided valuable technical support to ERCS in food security.

In April 2007, the National Society organized a road safety week which included activities such as hospital visits, discussion forums, media campaigns as well as distribution of posters, banners, stickers and flyers to all Red Cross branches.

Constraints: The implementation of the emergency operations did at times over-stretch the capacity of the National Society.

Health and Care

Goal: The health and care for vulnerable households and communities – including those affected by conflict, epidemics (including HIV and AIDS), and disasters – is improved while the vulnerability of the community is decreased.

Objective: The Federation facilitates the development of the National Society's capacity in community-based health and care programming (including HIV and AIDS as well as water and

sanitation activities) by strengthening the capacity of staff and volunteers to reach the most vulnerable communities and building their capacity and awareness on disease transmission and control.

Achievements: During the reporting period, an ERCS health strategy as well as a HIV and AIDS strategy were developed with the technical support from the Health and Care Unit in the East Africa Zone Office. Technical support was also provided in the area of HIV interventions, where ERCS participated in the preparatory work leading up to the development of the Global Alliance Appeal on HIV and AIDS that was launched in February 2008.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is currently implementing HIV and AIDS activities in 15 branches, with bilateral support from the British, Danish, German and Netherlands Red Cross societies. The activities include peer education, community conversation with regards to harmful traditional practices (HTP) such as early marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM) and anti-stigma as well as care and support. Within the reporting period, more than 434,000 in school youth, 105,000 out-of-school youth and 75 communities were reached by ERCS volunteers and informed about the basic facts of HIV and AIDS. Consequently, the number of clients receiving home-based care (HBC) increased from 719 in 2006 to 1,420 in 2007.

To improve access to safe water and adequate sanitation, the ERCS constructed water points, distributed water treatment chemicals and raised community awareness on basic sanitation and hygiene, using the PHAST methodology and toolkits. Over 97,000 people were reached through the National Society's hygiene promotion activities. These activities were implemented through an integrated approach, and were a component of bilateral and multilateral supported health programmes and emergency operations.

In March 2007, a new head of the ERCS Health Department was appointed. He was previously the deputy director of the ERCS blood bank. He has greatly contributed in strengthening and improving the service delivery of the ERCS Health Department.

Constraints

- The organizational restructuring process of the National Society affected the health department in a significant way; the position of the head of the department was left unoccupied for several months, which caused some delays in the overall implementation of the planned activities.
- The department's planned activities were also delayed due to the ERCS responding to the recurring emergency situations in the country. In recognition of this, the Horn of Africa sub-Zone office provided short-term technical support to the National Society in the implementation of its AWD and floods emergency operations in 2006 by deploying a health delegate to the field.

Capacity Development

Goal: Implementation of characteristics of a well-functioning National Society has improved the ERCS in the areas of foundation, capacity and performance.

Objective: The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has strengthened its capacity at headquarters and branches to respond to humanitarian emergencies and development needs of communities.

Achievements: 2006 and 2007 were eventful years with regards to the capacity building of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. In October 2006, the National Society elected a new Secretary General, a move that enabled the senior management to bring forward the organizational reform process. A process that is viewed as pertinent in ensuring an adequate organizational and staffing structure responding to programme needs. The objective of the process is also to promote an

effective and efficient communication and coordination within headquarters' departments as well as between headquarters and branches, and ensure proactive planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting of activities. One of the results of the reform process is that the National Society increased the salaries to align with the salary scale of the Government. This is a follow up of the ERCS Governing Board's decision from 2006 that the ERCS will not replace non-core programme positions whenever they become vacant until 2011.

In October 2007, a new deputy Secretary General was appointed, responsible for overseeing the support services such as administration, logistics and finances. The appointment allowed the Secretary General to concentrate on more strategic issues. The new deputy Secretary General will also be responsible for reactivating the human resources review in the course of 2008.

In April 2007, a new head of organizational development dissemination and volunteer management was appointed. Since the appointment, the department has gone through an internal restructuring process, and the head of department took an active part in the RC Net organizational development forum and, was also elected as chairperson for the forum.

A network expansion project was completed in 2006, which included network cabling of the headquarters, replacement of old switches, new HP Compaq server and a new e-mail system based on a new domain (redcrosseth.org). Staff were also trained in basic computer skills. In addition to this network project, the ERCS received a generous donation from Microsoft, worth USD 168,000, for standard software. This was made possible by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Microsoft and the Federation, stating that Microsoft would provide standard software free of charge to selected National Societies.

Towards the end of 2007, the National Society and the Federation secretariat agreed to further develop the financial systems as well as the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) capacities of the National Society. Two positions were opened and delegates identified. These activities are expected to start in early 2008.

Constraints

- One of the major constraints for the Ethiopian Red Cross Society when it comes to capacity development is the lack of qualified staff and a high staff turn over, mainly due to the National Society's outdated salary scale. The ERCS repeatedly experiences staff leaving the organization and seeking employment with other NGOs or UN agencies. The situation is further aggravated by inflation and increased living costs nationwide. The National Society's lack of a performance management system is also adding to the situation.

Principles and Values

Goal: Movement Principles and Humanitarian Values are known and respected throughout Ethiopia and discrimination against vulnerable groups is reduced.

Objective: The Information Unit of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society is an active member of the Regional Communications Forum; has developed its potential to respond to humanitarian emergencies; and increased its capacity to promote Movement Principles and Humanitarian Values in the East African region.

Achievements: During the reporting period, the National Society developed a communication strategic plan, received communications equipment, and developed a web page that is continuously updated with news and information about the National Society's activities. Representatives from the Communications and Information Department have throughout the period actively participated in regional communication forums. In 2007, the head of the department was elected to chair the forum. In September 2007, the head had the opportunity to visit the National Societies of Norway

and Denmark in order to exchange experience with their communication departments. The visit was facilitated by the communications unit at the Federation zone office in Nairobi. The Federation's communications unit provided technical support to the ERCS in preparing press releases and stories to the media.

Constraint: Limited funding restricted the implementation of the planned activities.

Management and Coordination

Achievements: Following the sudden decease of the previous Horn of Africa Head of sub-regional office, a new acting head was sent to Addis Ababa on 1 March 2007, and was later confirmed as Federation representative for Ethiopia, after Djibouti was attached to Eritrea. This decision was made due to the heavy workload in Ethiopia as well as to the recurring disasters affecting the country. Furthermore, Ethiopia has a population of almost 80 million people, while Djibouti and Eritrea together have a total population of less than 5.5 million people.

Regular Movement Coordination meetings took place on a monthly basis until September 2007. The Federation representative holds weekly meetings with the ERCS Secretary General as well as with the ICRC Cooperation Delegate. Regular meetings also take place with the representatives from Partner National Societies present in the country.

By the end of 2007, the Federation office in Addis Ababa comprised of a Federation Representative, a Finance and Administration officer and an Administration and Logistics officer. The Federation Finance and Administration officer resigned towards the end of 2007, and a former ICRC finance staff was identified and recruited in early 2008.

Constraints

- The sudden demise of the then Head of the Horn of Africa sub-regional office early in 2007 inevitably affected the activities related to the 2006-2007 appeal, as well as the nature of support provided by the Federation to the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

Working in partnership

The Red Crescent Society of Djibouti held discussions with WFP and UNICEF to further develop partnerships. The French Embassy was approached and the French Red Cross is now implementing a project funded by the "Agence Française de Développement", after having implemented an ECHO-funded drought preparedness project. The ICRC presence in Djibouti provided the National Society with valuable support throughout the reporting period.

The National Society is actively participating in task force groups and forums both at local and national levels, in the areas of water and sanitation as well as health and disaster management. During the reporting period the ERCS received significant financial and material support from untraditional partners such as embassies present in Addis Ababa. The Danish and Spanish Red Cross societies have representation offices in Ethiopia and the ERCS receives technical and financial support from them and several other Partner National Societies through bilateral activities.

The ERCS is also receiving financial support from local authorities in areas where the National Society is running its ambulance programme. Memoranda of Understanding were signed between the ERCS and various municipalities, where the latter committed to finance the maintenance of vehicles as well as the purchase of new ambulances, when replacements are needed.

In early 2008, the ERCS held a partnership meeting where past achievements and challenges as

well as future plans were presented for all partners. The meeting was initially scheduled towards the end of 2007 but was slightly postponed due to internal and external constraints

Due to the alarming food security situation in Ethiopia, the ERCS is looking at possibilities to launch an Operational Alliance in the south of the country. Further information will be communicated in the first programme update linked to the [Appeal 2008-2009](#).

Contributing to longer-term impact

Both National Societies' programmes have greatly contributed to the Global Agenda goals. Through their community-based health and disaster management projects, the RCSD and ERCS enhanced the capacities of targeted local communities to respond to emergency situations. Moreover, the two National Societies decided to adopt an integrated programme approach which involves programme components being combined and implemented according to local needs, as well as a more holistic and developmental approach to emergency situations. At present, the National Societies are also striving to secure longer-term financial and technical support in order to be able to move from short-term projects to longer-term programming.

Looking Ahead

Looking at past trends, both Djibouti and Ethiopia will continue to suffer from chronic food insecurity and climatic shocks, and thus health and disaster management including food security activities will continue to be the main focus of the National Societies.

As both National Societies have identified gaps and needs related to organizational development and capacity building, the Federation will continue to assist and support these aspects with a special emphasis on planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) functions.

The next appeal, covering the period 2008-2009 will integrate organizational development into all programmes and it is expected that the capacities of the ERCS and the RCSD will be enhanced in the coming period.

How we work	
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 (Sphere) in delivering quality and accountable 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	
The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".	Global Agenda Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
For further information on this Appeal, contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Djibouti: Abdi Kaireh Bouh, Secretary General, Red Crescent Society of Djibouti, Djibouti, email: crd@intnet.dj, phone: +253 35 22 0; fax +253 35 24 51. • Ethiopia: Fasika Kebede, Secretary General, Ethiopian Red Cross Society, Addis Ababa, email: ercs.sg@ethionet.et; phone: +251 11 515 38 53; fax: +251 11 551 26 43. • Ethiopia: Vincent Toutain, Acting Head of the Horn of Africa Sub-Zone Office; email: vincent.toutain@ifrc.org; phone: +251 11 5514 317; fax +251 11 5512 888. 	

- **Kenya:** Dr. Asha Mohammed, Federation Head of Zone, Eastern Africa, Nairobi; email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org; phone: +254 20 283 51 24; fax +254 20 271 27 77.
- **In Geneva:** Sabine Feuglet, Federation Entry point for East Africa, email: sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org; Telephone: +41 22 730 44 27; Fax: +41 22 733 03 95

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