

# Report 2006-2007



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Eritrea

Appeal No. MAAER001

4 April 2008

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

### In brief

**Programme summary:** In 2006, capacity building in the organizational development programme was partially achieved due to lack of sufficient funding. In 2007, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) implemented disaster management activities, with the support of the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID).

During the Appeal period, the International Federation made concerted efforts to promote the recognition of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea by holding meetings with high level Eritrean Government authorities. There was very little progress in the majority of the activities planned for 2007 due to the suspension of RCSE activities - since February 2007 - by a high government body.

Initiatives towards scaling up the capacity of the National Society to implement water and sanitation (WatSan) projects have made a progress. All the necessary documentation related to the African Caribbean Pacific – European Union (ACP-EU) Water Facility support for the rural WatSan project was prepared and the project was scheduled to take off in January 2007. However, the plan of action was put 'on hold' due to the fact that the project manager (though identified and briefed) did not have clearance from the government of Eritrea to take up his post.

Bilaterally-supported programmes of RCSE including the community-based health development programme, disaster management, Humanitarian Values and re-establishment of family links for 2006 were implemented. However, in 2007, these activities were put on hold in 2007 due to the suspension of RCSE. On the other hand, the National Society successfully negotiated long-term partnerships (3-5 years) with the Danish, Netherlands and Norwegian Red Cross societies in community-based health, HIV and AIDS as well as capacity building. RCSE was also awarded the ACP-EU Water Facility grant amounting to EUR 2.9 million. This rural water and sanitation project is being implemented in coordination with the Austrian, Danish and Netherlands Red Cross societies.

**Needs:** Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 5,247,533 (USD 5,247,533 or EUR 3,333,884), out of which 28 per cent is covered.

For more detailed information on 2006 and 2007 activities, please refer to:

Programme Update no. 1: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAAER00101.pdf>

Programme Update no. 2: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAAER00102.pdf>

Report 2006-2007 (2006): <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAAER001ar06.pdf>

Programme Update no. 3: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAAER00103.pdf>

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

**Click the links below to go directly to the financial reports:**

**Report 2006**

**Report 2007**

**Report 2006-2007**

**People we help:** During the Red Cross Society of Eritrea's emergency drought operation which was closed in October 2006, 40,000 beneficiaries received a total of 2,520 metric tonnes (MT) of wheat, 180 MT of lentils, 144 MT of vegetable oil and 12 MT of salt. Due to suspension of the National Society, there have not been any Red Cross activities in progress.

**Our partners:** Eritrean ministries of Health, Labour and Human Welfare, the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID), the Austrian, Danish, Finnish and Netherlands Red Cross societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

## Current context

Eritrea's determination to move away from emergency interventions to development continued during the Appeal period, with significant investments by the Eritrean Government and partners aimed at attaining food security in one of Africa's driest country in the Horn of Africa. These efforts have been complimented by improved performance of the rains over the last two years.

The implementation of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea's (RCSE) programmes in 2006 and 2007 was marked by challenges arising from new policies introduced by the Eritrean Government. These include a proclamation in June 2005, governing the administration of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and a new policy regarding food aid distribution in September 2006. Subsequently, the RCSE's emergency drought operation was not fully implemented. Moreover, the drought operation was greatly affected by restrictions to the field and the unavailability of basic programme-related information. Refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/05/05EA00206.pdf> for more information on the Eritrea Drought operation.

In 2007, the situation of no war and no peace in Eritrea continued and became more critical towards the end of 2007 when the border issue was settled by virtual demarcation. Because of the fears of resumption of hostilities and break out of war, the RCSE had to focus on disaster preparedness. A contingency plan was drafted, shared with Movement partners, discussed and preparation had taken place.

## Progress towards objectives

### Disaster Management

**Goal:** The impact of disasters on the vulnerable population of Eritrea is reduced.

**Objective:** By the end of 2007, the RCSE has strengthened its disaster preparedness and response capacity.

#### **Achievements**

During the emergency drought operation, RCSE's capacity in the distribution of relief items to the drought-affected people demonstrated the importance of disaster preparedness and highlighted

the need to continue strengthening the National Society's capacity in disaster management. In this regard, a new disaster management programme was added to the country appeal in December 2006, and CHF 340,107 was allocated.

A total of 32 Red Cross staff and volunteers from the headquarters and branches were trained in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) techniques. In addition, a well-prepared National Society self assessment for disaster management was also undertaken.

In December 2007, the RCSE conducted the first National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) training. Participants were drawn from six branches. The NDRT workshop provided valuable advanced training in disaster management and identified key people for possible immediate deployment in future. The RCSE's disaster preparedness warehouse was replenished with the disaster preparedness items. The Federation, with support from DFID, supported the replenishment of relief supplies.

## Organizational Development

**Goal:** The Red Cross Society of Eritrea is a well-functioning National Society, recognized by all and operates 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 headquarters level as well as in the branches and local committees, providing quality services for the most vulnerable people in Eritrea.

### **Achievements**

There is positive progress towards the recognition of the RCSE by the Eritrean Government. The National Society and the International Federation held meetings with the relevant government authorities and extensively discussed the recognition of the RCSE. The necessary documents have been provided to the government to facilitate the process.

In March 2006, the National Society hosted its 2006 partnership meeting which was attended by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation and 10 Partner National Societies (PNSs). Following a grand consultative process, the RCSE's annual plan for 2007 was developed and shared with partners. The 2004-2007 strategic plan was also revised to 2006-2010, giving priority to nurturing the community volunteer facilitation network.

During the appeal period, the International Federation's country office worked with the National Society in building capacity of Red Cross staff and volunteers to strengthen its efforts in providing timely and effective response to the most vulnerable people in Eritrea. The community volunteer facilitators' concept has strengthened community participation in identification of needs and implementation of projects, thus significantly improving the quality and quantity of the National Society's intervention at community level. The concept has also attracted a lot of interest from the communities as well as partners who perceive the RCSE as a viable partner on the ground.

With respect to volunteer capacity building and motivation, two exchange programmes at headquarter level and five inter-branch exchange programmes were organized to facilitate sharing of experiences and knowledge. The capacity of RCSE staff was further strengthened through a number of trainings organized in-country and externally. During the course of the year, the RCSE and the International Federation facilitated the participation of 63 Red Cross staff and volunteers in meetings, workshops, forums and trainings such as VCA, financial management as well as documentation and photography.

The recruitment of staff required to fulfill the structure of the National Society was partially achieved. The vacant position of programme coordinator was taken over by the former health coordinator. An assistant disaster management coordinator, one volunteer coordinator at

headquarters, two volunteer coordinators at branch level and one emergency first aid coordinator were recruited. Positions of a fundraising officer, membership recruitment officer and sub-branch staff have not yet been filled.

A number of guidelines, manuals and systems have been developed and are in use by the RCSE. They include Participatory Hygiene And Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) tools, information, education and communication (IEC) materials, participatory development tools, ambulance brochures, peer trainers and facilitators' manuals, HIV and AIDS manuals, dissemination modules, tracing guidelines, financial and staff performance appraisal manuals and volunteers' database.

The RCSE now owns office premises at the headquarters and at its five branches, including the Southern Red Sea Branch. The National Society is generating income through sub-letting some of its buildings. Land was secured for the Zoba Maekel Branch. Internet connection at the headquarters was upgraded to a permanent system which gives internet access to a greater number of staff.

The Eritrean Government participated in the international conference that was held in Geneva. The government's participation at the international conference shows a positive move on their part. A government representative, who participated in the conference, pledged that by 2010 the RCSE would be recognized by the government and as well-functioning national society.

A Red Cross Society of Eritrea extraordinary partnership meeting was held in the Eastern Africa Zone office in Nairobi in July 2007. In attendance, were, major partners of the National Society. The main agenda of the meeting was to inform the partners on the temporary suspension of RCSE, share with the partners the efforts exerted by the Movement to lift the suspension and identify the way forward, if suspension is lifted or sustained.

The RCSE 2008-2009 planning meeting was conducted together with the National Society programmes staff and the Federation Representative. The outcome of the planning session was the development of the National Society two year-plan (Appeal 2008-2009).

## Working in partnership

The Red Cross Society of Eritrea works in partnership with the ministries of Health, Labour and Human Welfare. The International Federation and the RCSE actively participate in inter-agency meetings convened by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Information sharing and coordination within the Movement is enhanced through weekly tripartite meetings between the RCSE, the International Federation and the ICRC.

The International Federation also plays a coordination role between the co-financing partners of the ACP-EU Water Facility, the Austrian, Danish and Netherlands Red Cross societies and the RCSE. The British Government's Department for International Development made a pledge to support RCSE's disaster management programme, which has also attracted the interest of bilateral partners such as the Finnish Red Cross.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

As a result of its active role in disaster response operations, the Eritrean government and international agencies recognize the RCSE as an important player in disaster response, and its training profile has improved. The disaster management programme included in this Appeal further enhanced the National Society's capacity in disaster preparedness and response in line with the International Federation's Global Agenda goals to reduce the impact of disasters and increase capacity at all levels.

The National Society's community based health development programme, which is supported bilaterally, is contributing towards improving the lives of the most vulnerable people in Eritrea. The programme encompasses diversified activities addressing women's and children's needs. In 2006, a set of activities were carried out with emphasis on water and sanitation projects, hygiene and health, which were identified as priorities by the communities.

## Looking ahead

The lifting of the suspension on the RCSE is a fundamental requirement. In the long-term, the recognition of the National Society is a top priority for 2008-2009. The RCSE's ACP-EU water and sanitation project is a huge task that will continue in 2008. Given the current situation, the food security will be a challenge that the National Society should be prepared for with clearly defined vision and strategies.

Improving working relationships between the various components of the Movement that are supporting the RCSE will be further improved. The Movement partnerships can successfully co-exist so long as there is strong co-ordination.

How we work	
<p>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> 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 <a href="http://www.ifrc.org">http://www.ifrc.org</a></p>	
<p>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".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
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