

# Annual report



## Eritrea and Djibouti

Appeal No. MAA64005

29/04/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008.



Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) volunteers under community-based first aid training. IFRC

### In brief

**Programme purpose:** The programmes herein are aligned to the Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the International Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity":

- 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.

**Programmes summary:**

In the year 2008, both National Societies (Eritrea and Djibouti) planned to strengthen disaster preparedness, response and recovery capacities, and in turn, strengthen community resilience. Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) programmes focused on promotion of longer term and sustainable development activities that involved community participation and promotion of cultural work values in construction of community-based check dams, ponds and boreholes to access portable water; and demonstrative VIP latrines for hygiene and sanitation. Capacity building among women, volunteers and staff in the area of community-based first aid skills was also a priority area. All the necessary preparations related to the African Caribbean Pacific - European Union (ACP-EU) funded rural water and sanitation project were done. With the arrival of the project advisor towards the end of 2008, the implementation of the project is scheduled to commence in 2009. Disaster preparedness and response in emergencies and promotion of Humanitarian Values, and training of HIV and AIDS peer

education facilitators were also priorities. The Federation is playing a great role towards the RCSE recognition. Some progress has been made on the issue of recognition with the appointment of the Minister of Health as the patron of the National Society.

The implementation of programme activities was affected significantly by the suspension of RCSE especially in the first half of 2008. However, a lot of effort was made trying to overcome the problems associated with the suspension. The situation became better after RCSE resumed its functions in March 2008 when the government lifted the suspension.

The Red Crescent Society of Djibouti (RCSD) has reactivated its operations after periods of inactivity. Reinforcing its internal capacity is critical and remains pivotal. In 2008, programmes targeted vulnerable people, urban and internally displaced persons (IDPs) severely affected by the drought. In addition, RCSD supported the refugees from neighbouring countries due to the ongoing conflict.

The RCSD used to be part of the sub-office of the Horn of Africa based in Ethiopia. After the restructuring of Eastern Africa Zone, it's now being supported by the Federation office in Eritrea, so its appeal was integrated with the Eritrea appeal.

**Financial situation:** The total 2008 budget is CHF 2,009,118 (USD 1,913,446 or EUR 1,228,818), of which 51 per cent was covered. Expenditure overall was 51 per cent of the total funds received. Funding RCSE programme in 2008 was adversely affected by the suspension of activities and also most partners would like funds to be utilized within specific timeframes as per their policies. Despite this, the disaster management programme was supported by the Finnish Red Cross.

The activities for the RCSD had some regressions due to inadequate funding of the 2008 appeal/plan. However, the organizational development programme was supported by the Swedish Red Cross, while the disaster management and Principles and Values programmes were supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The health and care programme did not get any pledge during this reporting period hence very limited activities were implemented

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

**No. of people we help:** The programmes have focused on capacity building; it is therefore difficult to estimate the numbers of people reached by Federation-supported programmes.

**Our partners:** The RCSE is partnering with the ministries of Health, Labour and Human Welfare, Agriculture and Water Resources department. Other partners include: local provincial, sub provincial and village administrations as well as village and national associations. Movement partners include the Austrian, Danish, Finnish, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian and Netherlands Red Cross Societies as well as the ICRC.

RCSD also partners with government ministries such as Health, Solidarity, Interior, Agriculture, Defence and local and regional government authorities. It also partners with the village administrations and UN agencies. Partners within the Movement include the ICRC, and Swedish and French Red Cross Societies.

## Context

The unresolved border dispute with Ethiopia is the main factor that adversely affects Eritrea. The full potential of the nation remains unattained due to this issue. Moreover, in 2008 shortage of fuel in the country was a major challenge to all humanitarian work. On the other hand, the suspension of the RCSE due to a court case, until the end of March 2008 prevented full swing activities of the National Society. The RCSE handled the suspension issue in close collaboration with the Federation office in Asmara and the Zone office in Nairobi together with ICRC delegation in Asmara. In the meantime, the RCSE continued to cope with implications, advocating and engaging into dialogue with government ministries and Movement partners. In 2008, RCSE revised its five-year strategic plan (2008-2012) which was shared with all the partners.

Djibouti has experienced adverse climatic conditions, including persistent droughts that negatively impacted on the country's food security situation. The drought of 2008, which is felt throughout the country, appears to be more severe than that of 2006. In Djibouti, a total of 118,590 people were affected by the consequences of below normal rainfall experienced in the last four rain seasons. A multiple of other factors added to the drought such as high food prices (100 percent increase) eroded communities' survival coping mechanism in general and pastoralist livelihoods in particular.

The few humanitarian organizations including the RCSD supported by the Federation through the DREF, gave some basic assistance. The scope of the drought consequences required more effort to prevent the country from rapidly sliding into a chronic and complex humanitarian situation. Due to the persistent drought and a couple of other factors highlighted above, prices for most consumer goods continued to rise beyond the purchasing power of most people throughout 2008.

For more details on the Food Insecurity situation in Djibouti as well as the RCSD response, refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/08/MDRDJ001.pdf>

## Progress towards outcomes

### ERITREA

#### Disaster Management

**Global Agenda Goal 1:** Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.

#### **Programme component 1: Disaster Preparedness**

##### Outcomes/Expected results

- RCSE preparedness for floods and drought disasters at community level is enhanced
- RCSE disaster management skills and capacities are increased
- Improved community awareness on avian flu, road safety, disaster risk reduction and first aid

##### Achievements

- RCSE in collaboration with Road Safety Association of Eritrea has conducted training on road safety and basic first aid. Fifty school teachers, 575 students 146 police force members, 155 public transport drivers and 174 industrial workers were trained on road safety and basic first aid. This has improved and increased awareness on road safety and basic first aid among teachers, students and police forces in particular and the community at large.

- Twenty six volunteers were trained in basic first aid Trainers of Trainers (TOT) at the headquarters. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials including 10,000 brochures, 1,000 posters, 200 first aid bags and 380 road safety caps were printed and/or procured for road safety awareness creation.
- To enhance disaster management skills, all DM core staff participated in the branch capacity assessment workshop and the branch capacity strategy development workshop organized by the RCSE. In addition the DM coordinator participated in climate change workshop in Asmara organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Department of Environment of Eritrea. Moreover, 150 staff and volunteers were trained in disaster management.
- To enhance RCSE preparedness for floods and drought disasters, with the support of the Federation and the British government's Department for International Development (DFID), RCSE procured disaster preparedness items including 200 first aid kits and other non-food items.
- ToT community-based first aid training for 200 volunteers and community members was organized by the RCSE in eight training workshops at the headquarters and branches.

## **Programme component 2: Disaster Response - Emergency**

### **Outcome/Expected result**

- The impact of floods and drought disasters on people's lives is reduced through provision of emergency food and non-food items and life saving services

### **Achievements**

Non-food items including 30 blankets, 30 mosquito nets, 63 ten-litre jerry cans, six family tents, two bags of used clothes and six kitchen utensils were distributed to 35 households and 62 individuals displaced in Southern Red Sea by drought and lack of drinking water.

## **Programme component 3: Disaster Response - Recovery**

### **Outcomes/Expected results**

- Improved livelihood of the most vulnerable population affected by floods and drought disasters through enhanced crop production
- RCSE skills strengthened in managing water and soil conservation programmes, and food security (FS) programmes.

### **Achievements**

Two earth dams were constructed and ponds rehabilitated in Maekel and Debub branches to improve livelihoods of the people affected by drought. These provided potable water to the local communities and their livestock. Moreover, crop irrigation was undertaken by the local people and this has enhanced their food security. Around 3,000 people continue to benefit from the two projects.

A multi-disciplinary team from the Federation visited Eritrea to define an immediate and mid-term response to the food insecurity in the Horn of Africa (HoA). The findings indicated that Eritrea suffers from food insecurity as a result of prolonged war and recurrent drought exacerbated by the impact of climate change. Although the assessment findings highlighted food insecurity as a critical issue, Eritrea was not part of the Horn of Africa Food Insecurity appeal due to the food security policy of the Eritrean government that is not in favour of free food distribution.

## Health and Care

**Global Agenda Goal 2:** Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

### Programme component 1: Water and sanitation

#### Outcomes/Expected results

- Access to safe water and sanitation services is improved
- Improved community awareness and understanding of the importance of hygiene and sanitation.

#### Achievements

- Three hand-dug wells were constructed in Debub and Maekel branches and this led to improved access to safe water and sanitation services in the targeted communities.
- To improve community awareness and understanding on hygiene and sanitation, 36 PHAST sessions were conducted and 24 latrines constructed; 29 volunteers on 24 coach areas were trained in PHAST to support the NS sanitation project.
- A meeting was held in Nairobi regarding the RCSE water and sanitation (WatSan) project. Funds have been secured from the European Union (EU) and Movement partners. In relation to that, a programme advisor was recruited by the Netherlands Red Cross to support implementation.
- Several meetings were held with the Minister of Health of the State of Eritrea as well as EU office in Asmara regarding ACP/EU WatSan project. Upon arrival of the project advisor, the recruitment of the national staff was done and project implementation commenced.

### Programme component 2: HIV and AIDS

#### Outcomes/Expected results

- Increased awareness on HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted illnesses (STIs) at the community level and positive behaviour change
- Improved quality of life and productivity of people living with HIV (PLHIV).

#### Achievements

Activities accomplished regarding HIV and AIDS include: preparation and submission of project proposals for community volunteer facilitator (CVF), community volunteer leader (CVL) and community volunteer (CV) training on HIV and AIDS; 70 volunteers trained as peer facilitators in *zobas* of Gash Barka, Maekel and Southern Red Sea. Another 100 peers were reached through peer education sessions in four CVF areas in *zoba* Gash Barka.

A ten-day HIV and AIDS training was organized by the NS for 20 staff and volunteers from Zoba Maekel.

### Programme component 3: Maternal and Child Health

#### Outcome/Expected result

- Reduced child and maternal morbidity and mortality rates.

#### Achievements

No activities were implemented during this reporting period due to lack of funding.

## Programme component 4. Malaria

### Outcomes/Expected results

- Malaria prevalence rate reduced through community training and surveillance
- Morbidity and mortality of children under five reduced in intervention areas.

### Achievements

Integrating first aid with community health workers tasks is a strategic opportunity for branches to reach targeted beneficiaries. Each year, branches organize two sessions of community based first aid (CBFA) training to malaria health agents. This year, five of RCSE branches organized three sessions and trained 35 mothers in malaria prevention.



RCSE ambulance in action. IFRC

## Capacity Development

**Global Agenda Goal 3:** Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

## Programme component 1. Capacity development (branch and national headquarters)

### Outcomes/Expected results:

- Strengthened relationship between RCSE and the Government of Eritrea
- RCSE management, staff and volunteers capacities increased
- Increased RCSE financial resource base

### Achievements

After the appointment of the Minister for Health as the patron of RCSE, meetings were held regularly between the new patron and Movement partners in 2008. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss modalities to develop and strengthen working relationship with the government. As a result, the RCSE relations with the government have since been strengthened.

To prepare the RCSE for recognition by its respective government, after comprehensive discussions with partners, a consensus was reached that a Movement advisor is needed to prepare the ground for the legal recognition of the NS. Terms of reference for the advisor have been prepared and shared with the partners. The government on its part has pledged that the RCSE would be recognized by the end of year 2009.

The RCSE documented their experience in the implementation of the Community Based Health Development Programme (CBHDP) at Maekel branch and shared with all the National Societies in the Eastern Africa Zone.

The National Society conducted a branch capacity assessment workshop; 20 participants drawn from the headquarters and branches attended. The workshop, which was funded by the Swedish Red Cross, was facilitated by an external consultant and the Swedish Red Cross.

Four quarterly management meetings were held at the RCSE headquarters. The meetings were attended by branch secretaries and programme coordinators. These meetings enabled sharing experiences and lessons learnt, and facilitated better planning of activities.

The programme coordinator for RCSE participated in a CBFA consultative workshop conducted in Somalia by the Eastern Africa Zone health and care programme. The workshop involved reviewing the International Federation's CBFA guidelines. Accordingly, the RCSE is currently developing its own CBFA based on the workshop outcomes.

Staff from RCSE participated in most of the technical meetings and workshops organized by EA Zone office in Nairobi in 2008. As a result of the training, the NS has since been able to draft its 2009-2010 plans and share their experiences in various programmes.

To increase the capacity of RCSE human resource, core positions were recruited; these include WatSan engineer, branch volunteer coordinator, volunteer coordinator at headquarters and tracing assistant.

As part of its capacity building, the RCSE organized training for branch community volunteer coordinators and community volunteer facilitators at the headquarters. The purpose of the training was to provide general orientation of the branch staff to the NS programmes and improve programme management at the grassroots. There were 28 participants from six branches.

Good relationship between the NS and PNS continued throughout 2008. Regular visits from Movement partners such as Danish, Swedish, Netherlands, Norwegian and Italian Red Cross Societies were facilitated by the Federation. The outcome of these partnerships led to continued cooperation; this has been formalized through the signing of a five-year cooperation agreement between RCSE and Swedish Red Cross. The cooperation aims at strengthening the capacity of RCSE Maekel branch in the area of CBHDP.

## **Programme component 2: Volunteer development**

### **Outcomes/Expected results**

- The existing RCSE volunteer facilitation system strengthened
- Volunteer management capacity of the RCSE enhanced.

### **Achievements**

No activities were reported mainly because the position of volunteer coordinator (VC) at the headquarters has been vacant since 2007.

## Principles and values

**Global Agenda Goal 4:** Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

### **Programme component 1: Communication development**

#### **Outcomes/Expected results**

- Communication/dissemination capacity of the RCSE is strengthened
- The image of the RCSE has been improved through continuous profiling.

#### **Achievements**

During the Red Cross Red Crescent Day, RCSE celebrated the day with government ministers, diplomats, and Movement partners. This provided an opportunity for the National Society to disseminate the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Values and particularly to improve the NS' image.

Over 120 Red Cross Action Team (RCAT) disseminators were trained on Red Cross principles and values to enhance their knowledge about the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Approximately 1,000 copies of news letters were printed and distributed to the public in 2008.

In order to profile and position the unique image of the NS, 8,365 students, 1,657 community members and 590 officials and potential donors were educated on Red Cross principles and values in 2008.

### **Programme component 2: Humanitarian Principles and Values/ Dissemination**

#### **Outcomes/Expected results**

- Awareness of the public at large on Fundamental Principles, RC/RC values and RCSE activities
- Reduced stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV.

#### **Achievements**

To bring a suitable behavioural change through effective peer education, 200 peer education sessions were organized. Training in behavioural change in communication (BCC) was done for 112 peer facilitators in Maekel and Southern Red Sea in collaboration with the zone ministry of health office.

### **Programme component 3: Tracing**

#### **Outcomes/Expected results**

- Public awareness on the availability of tracing service increased
- RCSE tracing service strengthened and efficient services provided.

#### **Achievements**

To strengthen tracing network and provide efficient service, training was organized in two branches, Maekel and Gash Barka. A total of 76 participants from the volunteers, CVF's benefited from this training. In addition to the message delivery, the RCSE in collaboration with ICRC support the repatriation programme on quarterly basis.

### **Programme component 4: Mine Risk Education**

#### **Outcome/Expected result**

- Reduction of fatalities due to mine/Unexploded ordinance (UXO)

## Achievements

Mine risk education (MRE) awareness sessions were held for 11,200 people. About 6,000 copies of leaflets and 75 t-shirts with MRE messages were produced and distributed to the communities aimed at increasing the communities' awareness of the mine risks and reduce its fatalities.

## Constraints or Challenges

- The unresolved border dispute with Ethiopia is a major obstacle to the country as a whole. It has adversely affected the NS's operations.
- There is an acute shortage of fuel in Eritrea and this has unfavourably affected field operations.
- RCSE faces the challenges of recruiting and retaining capable staff to implement planned activities, overall, it is difficult to find skilled and semi-skilled candidates as most of the capable workforce in the country is still in their national service programme.
- Finally, involvement of NS staff in regional events or workshops is restricted to only a few staff due to national visa regulations.

# DJIBOUTI

## Disaster Management

**Global Agenda Goal 1:** Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.

### Programme component 1: Disaster response (capacity building)

#### Outcomes/Expected results

- Improved capacity of the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti (RCSD) to respond to disasters (drought and floods)
- Disaster response and recovery capacities are built in communities prone to natural disasters.

**Achievements:** To increase grassroots and community's involvement in disaster reduction (DR)/disaster preparedness (DP), the disaster management department conducted National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) training in June 2008. Participants were drawn from six branches. The objective of the exercise was to build RCSD disaster response capacity and ensure the NS is better prepared to timely and effectively respond to small and medium disasters.

In April 2008, the Federation together with the RCSD sent an assessment team, after the drought hit the country. The team was to determine the magnitude and severity of the drought and its impact and to support affected households meet their essential requirements without damaging their livelihoods, health and dignity.

A DREF (Disaster Relief Emergency Fund) allocation was requested to assist the NS to start up emergency water and sanitation activities in semi-urban areas. CHF 212,101 (USD 207,941 or EUR 131,739) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 July 2008 to support the RCSD in delivering assistance to 10,000 beneficiaries severely affected by the drought. The DREF also supported the deployment of a relief delegate to assist the NS with detailed assessment and preparation for the planned food distribution.

The Federation assessment team together with NS undertook a multi-disciplinary assessment mission in November 2008 to confirm the extent and scale of food crisis in the Horn of Africa and an appeal was launched on 11 December 2008. This emergency appeal has been launched after the provisional findings from the assessment mission. The funding acquired from the

exceptional food security crisis appeal is meant to address the food gap in those target countries of the Horn of Africa. The NS of Djibouti is one of those NS to get support from this emergency appeal. The response targets the worst hit areas of Djibouti identified in the urban and pastoralist areas.

The RCSD and ICRC team conducted a joint assessment in the northern part of the country (Obock) to assess the impact of the conflict following the frontier hostilities between Djibouti and Eritrea. The conflict led to the displacement of hundreds of people who left the border zone towards Khor-angar, 65 kilometres from the border. RCSD volunteers also assessed the internally displaced persons (IDPs) situation. The ICRC and RCSD distributed non-food items such as jerry cans and tarpaulin to these IDPs.

With support of ICRC, the NS provided assistance to 300 families displaced in this conflict with Eritrea. The DRCS distributed non-food items in coordination with ICRC.

A workshop was conducted for 40 volunteers (five from each branch and ten in Djibouti City) to be familiarized with disaster response tools and efficient relief management.

To strengthen the capacity of the NS, 200 first aid kits were procured. The kits were distributed to six branches and will be used for the volunteers in their rehearsal and exercise training, especially with the current drought situation the kits will be used for health awareness campaigns to the respective communities.

For improved communication network between the headquarters and its six branches, six HF radios were procured. By providing communication materials at all levels, the NS assured a permanent link with the field and reinforced sharing and smooth flow of information in disaster response.

The RCSD conducted CBFA training for 20 participants drawn from the six branches. Participants are expected to offer training in their communities and create more awareness of CBFA.

## Health and Care

**Global Agenda Goal 2:** Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

### **Programme component 1: Integrated health and care project (Water and Sanitation, PHAST, HIV and AIDS, and health promotion)**

#### **Outcomes/Expected results**

- Increased RCSD capacity to scale up integrated health and care projects
- Decreased incidence of communicable diseases at community level.

**Achievements:** The RCSD drafted a project proposal and submitted to the Finish Red Cross. The proposal was for an integrated health programme that includes capacity building of the RCSD branches.

Similar to the RCSE, the RCSD is a member of the HIV and AIDS Global Alliance. Accordingly, a three-year proposal on HIV and AIDS was finalized and posted on the Federation website. For more information on this programme, refer to:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual08/MAA64006.pdf>

The volunteers of the RCSD and the personnel of the dispensary took part in a vaccination campaign against measles organized by the Ministry of Health to raise the rate of vaccine coverage.

## Capacity Development

**Global Agenda Goal 3:** Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

### **Programme component 1: Capacity development (branch and headquarters)**

#### **Outcome/Expected result**

- Increased RCSD capacity to deliver services to the most vulnerable population.

#### **Achievements**

Two representatives from the NS took part in the Eastern Africa Zone partnership meeting in Kampala in February 2008 which brought together all components of the Movement. The meeting provided a forum to review strategic directions, discuss priorities and challenges and identify mechanisms to tackle priorities. It was an opportunity to discuss the development of partnerships in the region, the role of the Federation secretariat, through the Zone office and underlying structures, in supporting the implementation of the *Federation of the Future* and the resolutions of the Statutory Meetings of 2007.

The Deputy President and assistant to the Secretary General of RCSD participated in the Pan African Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2008. The Congress reaffirmed the primary importance of partnerships within the Movement and welcomed the support RC/RC programmes received from governments, the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations.

The RCSD was also represented in the planning meeting held in Nairobi from 28-30 April 2008. The new planning tools and guidelines for the 2009-2010 planning period 2009-2010 were disseminated and the Federation Representative supported the NS to draft its 2009-2010 plans based on the guidelines. The country plan was posted on the Federation web site in October 2008.

As part of its ongoing capacity building of the RCSD, the Federation recruited and deployed a relief delegate to support the NS implement relief operations. The Federation Relief delegate to Djibouti played a major role in strengthening the partnership of the NS with other humanitarian actors in the country such as the World Food Programme (WFP).

In addition to the HF radios, five laptops and desktop computers were procured.

### **Programme component 2: Governance and management**

#### **Outcomes/Expected results**

- Strengthened the relationship between RCSD governance and management to ensure efficiency and effective fulfilment of the National Society's mandate
- RCSD management systems are strengthened at headquarters and branch levels.

#### **Achievements**

The second advisory meeting of the International Red Crescent conference was held in Istanbul from 10-14 June 2008 and two officials from the National Society took part in this meeting.

## Principles and values

**Global Agenda Goal 4:** Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

### Programme component: Humanitarian Principles and Values

#### Outcomes/Expected results

- Increased respect for diversity and non-discrimination throughout Djibouti
- Red Cross volunteers and staff knowledge of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values, non-discrimination and sexual gender based violence prevention is enhanced.

#### Achievements

To scale up the food security programme of RCSD, a team of communicators from Eastern Africa Zone office visited Djibouti in order to document the work of the NS as well as the needs in the scale up area. The team visited Djibouti from 22-26 November 2008.

Two workshops were conducted for 40 volunteers and regional board members of the RCSD. As a result of the training, more volunteers were mobilized and created motivation to the community at large to join or volunteer to be members of the NS. The impact of the training also contributed to raising the image of the NS in the community.

#### Constraints or Challenges

In Djibouti, the NS' major challenge is lack of adequate funding. RCSD is one of the main actors in the humanitarian activities in Djibouti, but due to limited funding could not implement its programmes as planned. The bulk of funds obtained in 2008 were from the Swedish Red Cross. This helped the NS run its programmes and would recommend that this partnership continues, and also call upon other partners to support the NS.

## Working in partnership

The RCSE maintains close working relations with a number of government ministries such as Health, Labour and Human Welfare, Agriculture and Water Resources department, local provincial, sub provincial and village administration, village and national associations, United Nation agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The RCSE signed a partnership agreement with the Swedish Red Cross for three years to support the Mækel branch. The RCSE proactively participated in meetings coordinated by the United Nations, with regard to food security and improving the humanitarian situation of the people. Partners within the Movement include the ICRC, and Swedish and French Red Cross Societies.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The activities of both the RCSE and RCSD are designed in line with the Movement's strategic choices. The close cooperation with the ICRC and the Federation has been and is still of great importance for further development of the National Societies. Their four main programmes - disaster management, health and care, humanitarian values and organizational development reflect the initiatives of the Global Agenda. The programmes also took into consideration the gender equality and inclusion of the minority groups of both National Societies. The main beneficiaries of the programmes are children and women, particularly through water and sanitation projects. Collection of household water from water sources is the responsibility of women and children. Specifically, the RCSE WatSan programme contributes to alleviate the suffering of this vulnerable group. As the activities are evenly distributed throughout the country it incorporates the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

## Looking ahead

The RCSE's ACP-EU water and sanitation project implementation that started by the end of 2008 need acceleration in order to compensate for the time lost in 2008.

The National Society presented a proposal to Finnish Red Cross to fund the health programme. If and when funded, the National Society will implement an integrated health programme that will include capacity building at the branches.

Focus will also be on attaining strong, reliable and visible National Society across the national territory; improved competency in governance and management for better functioning of operations; functional PMER system/unit and; having sufficient financial resources to manage its programmes.

In Eritrea, focus will be to address the development of strong leadership, workable organizational system/structure, consistent and long term partnership, quality assurance, effective volunteer networking and volunteer management through its organizational and human resource development programme. There is also need for scaling up of response to increased vulnerability to risks/disasters and food insecurity; and to the response to common disasters of drought, flooding, road accidents and fire accidents by strengthening the National Society's disaster preparedness, response and recovery capacities.

How we work	
<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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