

# Programme Update

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Ethiopia

Appeal No. MAAET002

29/08/2008

This report covers the period  
01/01/2008 to 30/06/2008.



ERCS relief officers distributing sweet potato seedlings.  
Source: ERCS

### In brief

**Programme purpose:** Ethiopia being one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, Ethiopia Red Cross Society's Federation-supported programmes are tailored towards making an impact on the lives of targeted communities through lessening the burdens of chronic disasters, diseases and lack of access to water among vulnerable populations in Ethiopia.

**Programme summary:** The Federation supported programmes in Ethiopia are aligned with the Federation Global Agenda Goals, and includes disaster management, health and care, organizational development and promotion of Federation Principles and Humanitarian Values. The various components of these programmes are also in line with the priorities and initiatives of the International Federation.

Due to the recurrence of floods and droughts in the country, the National Society strengthened its disaster preparedness and response capacities. Meetings and trainings were held for enhancing the capacity among the participants.

The National Society is addressing chronic and emergency health needs through its community-based first aid (CBFA) programme, the HIV and Aids programme and the water and sanitation (WatSan) programme. CBFA activities were not in the initial Federation annual appeal; however activities have been implemented with support from the Federation. In addition, several people have been reached through Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has for the last few years gone through an extensive restructuring process. The restructuring, now in its final stages has an objective of improving the National Society capacity and efficiency in responding to local needs.

As the food insecurity situation continues to unfold, time and attention is being diverted from the

implementation of the 2008-2009 programmes in order to respond to the emergency. However, efforts are being made to ensure that the planned activities are taking place.

**Financial situation:** The total 2008 budget has been revised from CHF 1,521,350 (USD 1,448,905 or EUR 930,489) to CHF 1,673,435 (USD 1,593,748 or EUR 1,023,508) this follows a revision of the OD budget from CHF 87,940 to CHF 240,025. Of the total 2008 budget, 66% was covered; expenditure overall was 40% per cent of the funds received.

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

See also:

- [MDRET004 Ethiopia: Floods](#)
- [MDRET005 Ethiopia: Food Insecurity](#)

**No. of people we help:** Over 7 million people benefited from ERCS assisted programmes during the reporting period:

**Table 1: Summary of beneficiaries**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
Ambulance services	1,000,000
Disaster relief	120,000
Disaster preparedness	45,000
Food security	30,000
Essential drugs programme	2,500,000
WatSan	250,000
Immunization	675,165
HIV and AIDS	2,761,132

**Our partners:** The Ethiopian Red Cross Society enjoys an extensive cooperation with a number of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners such as the American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation. This support is both on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

The ERCS also receives support from other Partner National Societies (PNS) and external international actors through the International Federation appeals. The ICRC has played an important role providing valuable support to the National Society through its traditional activities as well as in logistics.

Partners outside the Movement include international donor agencies such as the the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID) and the European Union (EU), including the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO). The National Society also cooperates and coordinates its activities with various United Nations (UN) agencies - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Children' Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) as well as government ministries and offices at national and local level. Through its countrywide network of local branches, the ERCS also cooperates with community-based and women associations, in addition to the Association of People Living with HIV and AIDS.

## Context

Towards the end of 2007 some areas of Ethiopia experienced extensive flooding resulting in outbreaks of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), while other parts of the country suffered from prolonged absence of rain. In February-March 2008 the belg rains failed in large areas of the country and pushed millions of people dependent on subsistence agriculture into food insecurity.

In response, the Government of Ethiopia in collaboration with humanitarian partners on April 10 issued a Humanitarian Requirement Plan appealing for food assistance for 2.2 million people. In June the estimated figure of people in need of emergency food assistance were revised upwards to 4.6 million. According to OCHA the situation is expected to deteriorate further as the hunger season progresses from June to September<sup>1</sup>, being exacerbated by the global rise in food and fuel prices. On the 14 May the International Federation launched an emergency appeal on behalf of the ERCS, seeking to assist 40,000 beneficiaries over a period of 4 months.

As the food insecurity situation progresses, more resources are being diverted from the implementation of the annual programmes to respond to the emergency. However, efforts are being made to ensure that the scheduled activities are taking place.

## Progress towards outcomes

The ERCS programmes in 2008 are tailored towards making impacts on the lives of targeted communities through lessening the burdens of chronic disasters, diseases and lack of access to water among vulnerable populations in Ethiopia. The programme components are aligned to the Federation Global Agenda Goals and follow the policies, principles and initiatives of the International Federation as well as the priorities of the ERCS Governing Board. All the National Society's activities are also based on the needs in the country.

## Disaster Management

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

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

##### **Outcomes:**

- Strengthened ERCS preparedness to floods and drought at community level;
- Improved community awareness on the impact of environmental degradation;
- Decreased number of deaths and injuries from traffic accidents.

**Achievements:** A vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) review meeting, where five representatives from the disaster management department and four branches (Tigray, Oromia, South West Shoa and East Wollega regional branches) shared experiences from the VCA exercises carried out in Tigray and Oromiya regions. The meeting represented the starting point for the ongoing work of modifying the VCA tools to the Ethiopian context, by reviewing the VCA training and exercises in order to develop common standards and procedures for ERCS with regards to VCA.

A disaster management and logistics training, was conducted where procedures and systems in relation to purchasing, warehousing and fleet management during emergency situations were discussed. A total of 23 participants from the central warehouse, fleet management, finance and purchase units in the headquarters attended.

A flood early warning training was held for staff and volunteers from flood-prone regions. In April, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society hosted the launch of the Federation Food Security Initiative for Africa, with representatives from 15 African National Societies, several PNS and the Federation Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> Humanitarian Bulletin 23 June 2008, OCHA: <http://www.ocha-eth.org/>

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

### **Outcomes:**

- Impact of floods and drought disasters on people's lives is reduced;
- Disaster management skills and capacity are improved at institutional level.

**Achievements:** During the first half of 2008, ERCS responded to the needs of 87 households in Addis Ababa who were affected by fire. The households received food and non-food items.

The National Society pre-positioned relief items in Bench Maji and Beneshangul branches anticipating tribal clashes. Emergency items including 100 sleeping mats, 50 plastic folders, 50 box files, sirens, megaphones, traditional flutes and whistles have also been purchased and pre-positioned in three strategic locations of East Harerghe Harari region for Eastern part of the country and for the flash flood prone area of Dire Dawa, in Wolaita for the southern parts of the country and in Amhara Region.

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

### **Outcomes:**

- Improved livelihood of the most vulnerable population affected by floods and drought disasters;
- NS capacity in food security programming is enhanced.

**Achievements:** The National Society sent assessment teams in southern Ethiopia to assess food security situation in Moyale, Bale, Borena, Sidama, Wolaiya and Hadiya. These assessments have been crucial to the implementation of the emergency operation.

One of the long term disaster management projects is tree planting in Wolaiya Zone. Its aim is to contribute towards conservation of soils in two degraded areas and improve food security among the project beneficiaries. This year, 50,696 fruit tree (mangoes and avocado) seedlings and 142,254 agro forestry tree (*Grevillia* and *Acacia*) seedlings have been planted covering about 0.5 ha of land

**Constraints or Challenges:** The implementation of the disaster management programme has experienced delays as time and resources have been diverted in order to respond to the ongoing food insecurity operation in Southern Ethiopia. Experienced technical personnel have also been relocated in order to improve the quality of the emergency response, leaving some gaps in the areas targeted in the appeal.

This challenge was however addressed by mobilizing staff from branches as well as from different departments at the headquarters and also by employing new technical staff.

## **Health and Care**

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

#### **Programme component 1. Maternal and Child Health (MCH)**

### **Outcomes:**

- Reduced child and maternal morbidity and mortality rates;
- MCH service attendance has increased;
- Improved public awareness on the importance of MCH services and immunization.
- Increased immunisation coverage through routine campaigns for children under five years and pregnant women.

## **Achievements**

- No updates to report during this period

## **Programme component 2. HIV/AIDS and TB prevention, control and management**

### **Outcomes:**

- High level of HIV/AIDS and STI awareness at community level and positive behaviour change;
- Improved quality of life and productivity of PLHIV;
- Improved socio-economic condition of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC);
- TB prevention, control and management strengthened.

**Achievements:** With support from the Federation, ERCS developed a Global Alliance on HIV document to solicit for funds and provide technical support to the implementation of the bilaterally funded HIV and AIDS activities. The GA on HIV has since been launched. For more information about the Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS programme, please refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual08/MAA64006.pdf>

## **Programme component 3. Water and sanitation**

### **Outcomes:**

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

**Achievements:** Two extensive evaluations of the British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and the Federation supported water and sanitation projects have been done. Findings will be used to design a national water and sanitation programme to help scale up the interventions.

## **Programme component 4. Emergency Health and Psychological Support**

### **Outcomes:**

- Morbidity and mortality rates related to health emergencies reduced;
- Increased ERCS preparedness (including Avian flu pandemic preparedness) and response to health emergencies;
- The mental and psychological wellbeing of the community and ERCS staff and volunteers enhanced during disasters.

**Achievements:** Two refresher courses in PHAST have also been held for 74 staff and volunteers. A total of 11,690 people benefited from the PHAST training. During the last few months, discussions have been held with partners and agreements have been reached for financial and technical support to scale up the CBFA activities of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

## **Programme component 6. Community-Based First Aid (New)**

**Achievements:** The Community Based First Aid (CBFA) activities of the ERCS were not included in the initial Federation annual appeal 2008-2009 for Ethiopia. However, some CBFA activities have been implemented with technical support from the Federation Zone office in Nairobi as an integrated component in other health activities. Staff from the ERCS health department participated in the regional integrated CBFA workshop held in Hargeisa this year. Also, two health staff participated in the CBFA workshop held in Mombasa, Kenya.

**Constraints or Challenges:** The Federation supported health programme has faced some challenges during the first half of 2008 causing delays in implementation. The emergency health response to the acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak towards the end of 2007 stretched the capacity of the National Society both at headquarters and branch levels. Ongoing fundraising efforts and discussions with partners to solicit for future support have been time consuming.

Apart from recurrent food insecurity caused by climate change, the health and care programmes faces challenges in finding experienced manpower which cause lack of coordination with stakeholders at regional, zone and district branch levels and delay in implementation of activities as well as reporting.

## Organizational 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.** NS capacity development and OD (Branch and NHQ)

**Outcome:**

- Increased service delivery by ERCS branches to the most vulnerable populations.

**Achievements:** The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has for the last few years undergone an extensive restructuring process to increase the organizations capacity and efficiency in responding to local needs. This process is now in its final stages and work is currently being done to establish and implement a performance management system as well as revise the salary scale in order to be able to recruit and retain qualified staff. The process is also supported by a group of Partner National Societies (PNS).

Towards the end of 2007 a joint decision was made to further develop and strengthen the financial and narrative reporting mechanisms of the National Society. As a result, the Federation Country Office was strengthened with a financial and administration delegate and a reporting delegate. The ERCS also recruited a reporting officer. Capacity building efforts are taking place to improve the quality of reporting on both headquarters and branch levels, with technical and financial support also coming from the Zone office in Nairobi and Partner National Societies.

**Programme component 2.** Governance and Management

**Outcome:**

- Strengthened relationship between ERCS governance and management.

**Achievements:** The National Society is currently preparing for the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to be held later this year. So far, board elections have been taking place at branch levels and considerate efforts have been made in order to recruit more women as board members.

**Programme component 3.** Community Capacity Building

**Outcomes:**

- Improved membership base;
- Increased action and participation of ERCS volunteers in service delivery.

**Achievements**

- No updates to report during this period

**Programme component 4.** Volunteer promotion and development

**Outcomes:**

- Increase in numbers of volunteers and youth members providing services to the most vulnerable;
- Increased involvement of volunteers in management and governance bodies;
- Improved quality of work by volunteers and youths;

**Achievements:** The National Society has also developed a volunteer management policy that is expected to be endorsed at the General Assembly.

**Constraints or Challenges:** The implementation of the Organisational Development programme is a steadily ongoing process and has not had challenges.

## 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:**

- Increased communications capacity of the public relations department of the ERCS;
- Improved internal communication between the NHQ and the branches.

**Achievements:** Internet connections have been done at the headquarters therefore communication with stakeholder at national and international level has improved.

The communications department actively participated in the drought assessment tasks in Moyale, Sidama and Wolaita. As a result, articles on drought and flooding have been posted on the Federation website and the issues are addressed for international assistance.

### **Programme component 2. Humanitarian Principles and Values**

**Outcome:**

- Awareness of the Code of Conduct, by all ERCS personnel and volunteers.

**Achievements**

- No updates to report during this period

**Constraints or Challenges:** The main challenge facing the principles and values programme is inadequate funds, which has put severe limitations on the implementation of planned activities.

## Working in partnership

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is actively participating in task force groups and forums both at local and national levels, in the areas of disaster management, health as well as water and sanitation. The Finnish, German and Spanish Red Cross have representatives in the country and give technical and financial support to ERCS. The National Society also receives bilateral support from other PNS.

Financial support is also received from local authorities in areas where the ERCS is running ambulance programmes. Memorandums of understanding have been signed between the National Society and 37 municipalities; municipalities commit to cover ambulance running cost and contribute to sinking fund to be used for replacement of aging fleet. The National Society has also signed an MoU with the Ministry of Health for HIV, blood bank and other health programmes.

The Ethiopian Government is also supporting the society's blood banks. The extensive cooperation with local and federal authorities have improved the society's ability to reach its beneficiaries, evidenced in the ongoing food insecurity operation where the National Society and the government are the only actors able to distribute food to the wider population.

In early 2008, the ERCS held a partnership meeting where past achievements and challenges as well as future plans were presented to all partners. At this meeting the National Society also presented its Strategic Development Plan and Cooperation Agreement Strategy. The ERCS is a partner in the Global Alliance on HIV and Aids and is currently exploring the possibilities that lie in the Operational Alliance concept.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The ERCS long-term programmes are contributing to the Global Agenda goals of the Federation as well as the Millennium Development Goals. By the implementation of the community-based health and disaster management activities, the ERCS is contributing to enhancing the capacities of the targeted local communities to respond to emergency situations.

In November 2007, the ERCS went through a planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) self assessment exercise, as a part of the DFID-supported disaster management programme. The results from this exercise were included in the plans of the PMER unit of the Eastern Africa Zone, and work is currently being undertaken to support the ERCS in further developing their PMER guidelines, the monitoring and evaluation plan for the Strategic Development Plan as well as the overall monitoring and evaluation system. This work is in line with the decision made at the last General Assembly of the Federation, where the National Societies agreed on the importance of moving towards a Federation-wide planning, performance measurement and accountability framework, one of the central points of the Federation of the Future outcomes.

In order to be able to implement development programmes more effectively, the ERCS has embarked on a process with its partners to move from a project approach to a programme approach, striving to secure longer-term financial and technical support in order to focus to a larger extent on integrated programming. As part of this effort, the National Society has been involved in two extensive evaluations of the British Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross supported water and sanitation programmes. The intention is that these two evaluations will feed into the development of a national water and sanitation programme. The National Society has also decided to adopt a more holistic and developmental approach to emergency situations.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society acknowledges that women are underrepresented in the governance of the National Society and deliberate efforts are being made to encourage and recruit women as board members in the ongoing elections before the General Assembly later this year. In the 27 zone branches that have held elections, 20 percent of the board members are female.

## Looking ahead

Looking at past trends Ethiopia will continue to suffer from small and large scale disasters related to droughts and floods, exacerbated by climate change and the global rise in food and fuel prices. The forecast for the food insecurity situation also indicates that this situation may persist until mid January 2009 for *Meher* (July- September) rain dependant subsistence farmers and late May 2009 for *belg* (February- march) rain dependants. Annually, when harvests are realized, *Belg* contributes 20-25% of the total agricultural production.

In order to be able to respond timely and efficiently to future natural and man made disasters, the ERCS will continue to focus on improving their capacity mainly in disaster management and health and care. There is an intention to scale up the HIV and AIDS activities. All programmes being implemented in the present appeal period (2008-2009) have integrated organisational development components.

As the ERCS has 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.

## How we work

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:

- 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.

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