

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Eritrea and Djibouti

Appeal No. MAA64005

26/08/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2009 to 30/06/2009.

In brief

Programme purpose: The programmes herein are aligned with the Federation's 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".

The Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) and Red Crescent Society of Djibouti (RCSD) programmes focussed on strengthening disaster preparedness, response and recovery capacities. Both National Societies (NS) play a leading role to strengthen their respective communities to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability in the country. Red Cross Society of Eritrea programmes focus on Community Based Health Development Programme (CBHDP), Disaster Management (DM) and Principles and Humanitarian Values.

Programmes summary: The year was marked with the change of the Secretary General of the RCSE. The Rural Water and Sanitation Project (RWSP) resumed at the beginning of the year after two years delay. The Netherlands RC takes the lead role in the consortium and has appointed an advisor to the RWSP who arrived in the country at the beginning of 2009. In order to include current needs, the RWSP document was reviewed in consultation with the *Zobas* through the RCSE branches. A consultant was deployed to conduct the review jointly with the project advisor, RCSE and the International Federation. The reviewed document was signed by the RCSE and forwarded to the Federation for approval before sending it to the European Union (EU).

RCSE participated in the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RC/RC) in Solferino, Italy that was commemorated under the theme “*Youth on the Move*”. The objective of the gathering was to bring international youth and volunteers together to share their experiences and develop a common vision for humanity, address human suffering caused by manmade and natural calamities and work together to alleviate human suffering.

One of the major constraints for the RCSE is being in the process of formation and yet to be officially recognized by the government of Eritrea. The change in the management, specifically the appointment of the new Secretary General (SG) was also another factor which slowed down the implementation rate of the major activities planned in the last two quarters. Due to the above mentioned constraints the first half of the year was more devoted to planning and revising project proposals submitted from the six branches. Financial shortage and lack of pledges from Partner National Societies (PNS) was also another major constraint that affected the community based health development programme.

The Red Cross Society of Djibouti (RCSD) is a leading humanitarian actor in the country with limited resources. Due to the food security needs identified by the assessment conducted in the last quarter of 2008, the RCSD was part of the Horn of Africa food security crisis appeal [MDR64003](#). The overall objective of the programme is to supply food to 15,353 most vulnerable people, rehabilitate water pans, establish water trucking system supported by community hygiene promotion programmes and construction of latrines to avoid outbreak of water borne diseases. Moreover, the programme also tries to address other pressing needs of the vulnerable population such as distribution of tarpaulins to help children, pregnant women, breast feeding mothers and the elderly to stay healthy through the cold and rainy season. The programme is ongoing since its inception early this year. Thus, the RCSD is fully involved and overstretched with this Horn of Africa food insecurity operation. Due to this fact the 2009 implementation rate is low for the other programmes. The Federation supported both NS in disaster response to vulnerable members of community through mobilizing resources and providing training to communities, volunteers and community leaders and the staff. The Federation also contributed in supporting the RCSE and RCSD staff participation to regional workshops to upgrade their capacity.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 2,434,133 (USD 2294170 or EUR 1604094), of which 33 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was CHF 357,479

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

See also [Djibouti and Eritrea country plan 2009-2010](#)

No. of people we help: Some 60,000 people benefited directly from the Federation supported programme interventions mainly in disaster preparedness and response, health and care, Water and Sanitation (WatSan). In total about 180,000 people from 180 villages are expected to benefit from the programme by the end of the year.

Our partners: Partners who provide financial and technical support to the RCSE include Danish, Netherlands, Swedish, Finnish, Austrian Red Cross Societies, the Federation and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) among others. Other partners include UN agencies such as World Food Programme (WFP). The RCSE works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources department, National Union of Eritrean Women, National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, Eritrean Demining Agency and the communities.

Eritrea

Context

Eritrea gained its independence in 1991 after 30 years of war that left the country's infrastructure and economy in ruins. In 1998, yet another war broke out with Ethiopia and again this war had great negative impact on the socio-economic and humanitarian situation of the country. The climate change and as a result, the recurrent drought has also affected the country's agricultural productivity for a prolonged period.

The unresolved boarder conflict with Ethiopia compounds other pressing problems including Eritrea's inability to provide enough food. Moreover, economic progress is hampered by the proportion of Eritreans who are in the army rather than in the work force. This has resulted to critical shortage of professional, skilled and semi-skilled work force in both the public and private sectors.

It is very difficult to obtain skilled staff for posts that require qualified persons. Somehow the RCSE managed to get skilled personnel such as a water engineer. Lack of skilled and semi-skilled staff is a major challenge to implement programmes smoothly. The RCSE strives to overcome such challenges by upgrading the skills of the existing staff through providing different relevant training opportunities both locally and outside the country.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme Component: Disaster management planning

Outcomes

- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) are conducted in 24 coaching areas and disaster preparedness plan developed.
- Community members from 24 coaching areas are aware of the nature, causes and possible consequences of disasters.

Achievements

- A total of 150 community members from 10 coaching areas were disseminated in Disaster Management (DM) and consequences of disaster.

Programme Component: Disaster preparedness

Outcomes

- RCSE has improved the capacity of 10,000 community members in the field of First Aid and road safety programmes.
- Commercial First Aid is strengthened and provided to interested authorities, companies and associations.
- RCSE has established, equipped and strengthened 35 disaster response teams and 35 Red Cross Action Teams (RCAT) at all levels.

Achievements

- Training on basic First Aid was conducted for 25 police force members, 98 industrial workers in Maekel and southern Red Sea branches.

- Relief management training was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in three *zobas* to 100 school teachers. Another 435 school teachers and students were trained in basic First Aid.
- A total of 2,000 posters on road safety awareness materials and 10,000 brochures were developed and printed for distribution.
- Staff from RCSE disaster management department participated in annual DM health and care planning meeting in Nairobi, Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) refresher workshop in Tanzania and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) refresher workshop in Rwanda.

Programme Component: Disaster Response

Outcomes

- RCSE has procured and pre-positioned 15,000 sets of emergency stocks at national headquarters and branch warehouses.
- 300 water and soil conservation projects designed and implemented in 24 coaching areas.

Achievements

- Three soil and water conservation projects have been implemented in three coaching areas.

Programme Component: Disaster risk reduction (Food Security)

Outcomes

- Improved food production of 15,000 households by end of 2009.
- Improved food accessibility of 15,000 vulnerable households.
- Strengthened knowledge of RCSE staff and volunteers on food security concept.

Achievements

- RCSE distributed 21 metric tones of early maturing seeds to 600 drought affected households in Anseba *zoba*.
- 20 RCSE staff attended food security training organised by DM department based on the Federation food security guidelines. As a result, the RCSE has drawn its own food security assessment guide.

Programme Component: Climate change

Outcome

Climate change adaptation projects are developed and implemented in target villages

Achievements

The RCSE mobilised volunteers and community members in three branches who planted over 2000 seedlings to combat desertification and reduce soil erosion.

Health and Care

Programme Component: Water and sanitation

Outcomes

- Changed behaviour and attitude of target communities in improvement of hygiene and sanitation.
- The vulnerable communities in the target area have access to safe water supply.
- The targeted vulnerable communities receive supplies of materials for transportation and storage of water.

- The capacity of targeted communities to manage health-related problems (malaria and diarrhoea) is strengthened.

Achievements

- RCSE organised baseline survey training, 20 participants attended from all RCSE branches. The purpose of the training was to prepare the volunteers for the CBHDP mid-term review.
- RCSE commemorated the world health day under the theme '*Save lives. Make hospitals safe in emergencies*'. RCSE volunteers' drama group from the Maekel zone branch gave colour to the event by staging plays and songs that reflected the meaning of the theme. Likewise RCSE deployed two ambulances on the world health day and mine awareness day.
- The final revised RCSE/EU Rural Water Sanitation Project (RWSP) document was submitted to EC delegation in Asmara. The community based health development programme has also received visitors from Danish and Swedish Red Cross Societies, who came to assess the progress of work carried out by RCSE branches of Dehub, Anseba and Gash Barka.
- A hand dug well was constructed in Denbe zawul village in Serejaka coach area. PHAST and community based First Aid trainings for volunteers were also conducted.
- Two RCSE staff from the CBHD program attended a one day communication workshop organized by RCSE and ICRC on April 12 2009. The workshop focused on setting communication strategies within and outside of the RCSE environment. The workshop has helped the CBHD programme staff to understand the importance of communication strategies with different local and international partners for better coordination and collaboration.
- RCSE organized mass dissemination and advocacy campaign on HIV and AIDS to 3,800 in and out of school youth, teachers, parents and the local administration in community volunteers' facilitation areas in Maekel branch on the occasion of students' festival. The RCSE drama group staged a play on HIV/AIDS. The emphasis was on prevention, stigma reduction and care for People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV). RCSE distributed brochures and other information, education and communication (IEC) materials on HIV/AIDS.

Organizational Development

Programme Components: leadership development; development of systems, procedures and staff sustainability; finance management;

Outcomes

- Effective institutional infrastructure in place
- Improved accounting systems for better decision making and accurate financial reports
- Official recognition of the RCSE and election of board members

The organizational and human resource development programme conducted cross cutting activities in partnership development; capacity building; programme support along with facilitation during the period. The National Society worked with various partners including the ICRC, the Federation, EU, PNS like Swedish and Danish Red Cross Societies and others. In capacity building, the NS staff and volunteers participated on different IFRC external consultative meetings and workshops.

The year 2009 brought more changes in the National Society, the former RCSE Secretary General has joined the Federation as health delegate in south Sudan and a new Secretary General was appointed. Orientation of the new Secretary General was successfully done

through meetings with NS staff, the Federation Country office, debriefing sessions with the ICRC, the Federation Zone office and Geneva.

The Cooperation Agreement between the RCSE and ICRC was signed in June after subsequent and several discussions and consultations were made. Two senior management meetings were conducted and were attended by programme coordinators and branch secretaries. The meetings enabled the RCSE to plan and review its programmes.

Programme Components: Youth and volunteer development; branch development

Outcome

- A well functioning volunteer network at branch and community level is developed by 2012.
- The capacity of RCSE staff and volunteers in volunteer management is enhanced.

Achievements

- The RCSE recruited a volunteer coordinator at national level to support branch development
- Volunteer management training was organised at headquarters and all six branches participated.
- Volunteers exchange programmes were conducted and six branches participated.

Humanitarian Principles and Values

Programme Component: Promotion of Principles and Humanitarian Values

Outcome: The knowledge, understanding and application of the fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values is enhanced.

Achievements

- 40 volunteers of NRS and Anseba were recruited from the grassroots and coaching areas.
- The 2009 World Red Cross Red Crescent Day was celebrated through various activities such as Red Cross walk and Red Cross exhibition. The official ceremony was attended by representatives from Government ministries, Diplomats, Embassies, UN and NGO representatives. The good solidarity shown by the Movement Partners and local stakeholders was highly appreciated.
- Dissemination of the Movement principles was undertaken among different stake holders including Government authorities; general public, potential local donors, students and others as indicated in the table below.

Table 1: Dissemination of RC Movement Principles and Humanitarian Values

| Zoba | Students | Teachers | Officials | General Public | Academicians | Police Force |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Maekel | 306 | 304 | 39 | 3,458 | 91 | 46 |
| NRS | 962 | | 158 | 411 | | |
| SRS | 117 | | | | | |
| Achieved | 1,385 | 304 | 197 | 3,869 | 91 | 46 |

Challenges

- Capacity of branch staff to improve programme planning and management needs to be strengthened.
- Funding remains a major constraint to the RCSE, specifically two branches namely northern Red Sea and southern Red Sea have not yet received any pledge from the former donors Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross Societies.

- Unresolved border issues with Ethiopia (no war no peace status in the country since 2000) has had negative implications on the economic growth of the country.
- Lack of fuel and restrictions (code 4) imposed in using RCSE vehicles at branches level.
- Private contractors and construction materials are not available.
- Human resources capacity is limited because majority of the professionals are in the army.

Working in partnership

The RCSE works in partnership 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, UN agencies, and NGOs. This collaboration ensured adherence to national policies and guidelines. The Movement partners include Swedish, Finnish, Austrian, Danish, and Netherlands Red Cross Societies ICRC and the Federation.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The programmes of the RCSE contributed positively and strengthened the capacity of the communities. The programmes targeted the most vulnerable segments of the community, whose coping mechanisms are undermined by years of conflict, displacement, poverty and climatic changes. The change process led by the RCSE management team is expected to expedite the recognition process of the RCSE. The role of the Federation and RCSE partners is vital in this regard. The realisation of the RCSE recognition will transform the RCSE into a dynamic, relevant, effective and well functioning organization. Challenges are imminent but there is commitment, to address them.

Looking ahead

The RCSE recognition is a priority for the rest of the year. This recognition issue is the main challenge of the RCSE in its future endeavours to achieve its mission and vision. In addition RCSE will continue exploring funding opportunities to enable it to implement the planned activities.

Djibouti

Progress towards outcomes

Organizational Development/ Capacity Building

Programme Component: Capacity Development

Outcome: The RCSD is a strong, reliable and visible National Society across the national territory.

Achievements

- The RCSD organized volunteer capacity building training and a total of 25 participants attended the training. The participants were drawn from five branches.
- Volunteers management training was conducted for 50 volunteers, the volunteers are fully involved on the management and distribution of relief items supported by WFP.

- The Swedish Red Cross desk officer visited RCSD in February, the purpose of his visit was to oversee the implementation of capacity building programmes supported by Swedish Red Cross and further cooperation between the two societies is envisaged.
- Planning meeting between RCSD and ICRC were organized. The meeting discussed the RCSD plan for 2010.

Programme Components: leadership development; development of systems, procedures and staff sustainability; finance management; youth and volunteer development; branch development

Outcome: The competency in governance and management of NS is improved for better management of operations.

Achievements

- Four VHF radio base stations were installed at the NS office, Ali sabe, Obock and Dikhil branches. A brief introduction to the radio and a short training was also provided to NS staff and volunteers at all the locations to enable them use the radios without difficulties.
- The NS Finance officer was recruited and trained in finance systems.
- Three regional offices were equipped with office furniture and office equipment.
- Two volunteers participated in the Solferino youth campaign in Italy.

Health and Care

Programme Component: Water and sanitation

Outcome: Improved access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services

Achievements

- A total of 50 volunteers and community leaders participated in HIV and AIDS awareness sessions.
- RCSD organised campaigns to collect plastic bags in Balbala village.
- PHAST training for 30 volunteers and community leaders conducted.

Challenges

- Djibouti suffers from chronic food insecurity. The number of vulnerable people increased tremendously.
- Influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and refugees.
- Lack of sufficient resources since most partners have not been interested in supporting RCSD.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The activities of RCSD are designed in line with the Movement's strategic choices. The close cooperation with the ICRC, French Red Cross and the Federation is of great importance for further development of the National Society.

The Horn of Africa food security programme is a great opportunity to RCSD to attract new partners. Integrating the operation with the existing programmes could further strengthen the NS capacity. This approach could assist the NS to have longer term impact in its humanitarian work.

Looking ahead

Organisational development and capacity building is key to the RCSD's future success. An integrated effort must be made in volunteer management, branch development, staff and

leadership development.

| 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>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <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 | |
| <p>For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Djibouti Red Crescent Society: Abdi Kaireh Bouh, Secretary General, email: crd@intnet.dj; telephone + 253.352.270; fax + 253.352.451• Red Cross Society of Eritrea: Nura Mohammed, Secretary General, email: rcse@eol.com.er; telephone + 291.115.16.93; fax + 291.115.18.59.• In Eritrea: Ahmed Suleman, Federation Representative, Eritrea and Djibouti, email: ahmed.suleman@ifrc.org; telephone + 291.1.151. 693; fax + 291.1 151 859.• In Eastern Africa Zone: Dr. Asha Mohammed, Federation Head of Eastern Africa Zone, Nairobi; email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org; telephone + 254.20.283.51.24; fax + 254.20.271.27.77• In Eastern Africa Zone, Kenya: Annelies Thiele, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; phone: +254.20.283.52.55 ; email: annelies.thiele@ifrc.org | |