

Annual report



ETHIOPIA

Appeal No. MAAET002

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This report covers the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.



Nursery site with apple trees in Shibta Region of Tigray.
Photo: Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

In brief

Programme outcome: In line with the strategic aims of the [Strategy 2020](#), the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) programme contributes to saving lives, protecting livelihoods and strengthening recovery from disasters and crises. It promotes healthy living and social inclusion, as well as a culture of non-violence and peace. ERCS aims to raise the capacity of staff and volunteers in disaster response and preparedness in order to effectively and efficiently deliver better services to disaster-affected populations.

Programme summary: ERCS's activities in 2010 continued to focus on improving the lives of the most vulnerable people of Ethiopia by reducing the impact of natural and manmade disasters, diseases and improving the capacities of its volunteers. A number of priorities were identified by ERCS from its existing programmes and strategic plan seeking Federation Secretariat support in 2010–2011. During 2010, the Secretariat supported ERCS by mobilizing international resources and rendering technical support for implementation of disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities, food security interventions, Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), HIV and AIDS, water and sanitation (WatSan) and organizational development. These programmes received vital support from the Swedish Red Cross and through IFRC global partnership programme with the United Kingdom Government's Department for International Development (DfID).

Considerable achievements were reached in **Disaster Management:** Community preparedness and disaster risk reduction (DRR)/integrated food security. ERCS focused on DRR activities including flood early warning trainings and drills as well as repositioning of non-food items

(NFIs) in strategic locations. Other activities included food security projects to improve the health status of households by establishing nursery sites and distributing tree seedlings. Additionally, food security workshops were held throughout 2010, training up to 700 people in orchard management, dairy cow breeding management, cattle, sheep and goat rearing trainings as well as modern bee keeping training.

In **Health and Care**, ERCS carried out CBHFA and integrated WatSan projects to address the health care needs in the communities. Activities included community sensitization through Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings and a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) given to community volunteers. After the trainings, approximately 670 households dug family latrines, installed ventilation pipes and installed washing facilities including showers. A total of 342 sanitary platforms (Sanplats) were distributed to those households who dug latrines. Five water springs were constructed benefiting approximately 1,080 households (5,400 people). In addition, water kiosks and latrines were constructed for Sheboka elementary and secondary schools in West Shoa in Oromiya Region. A total of 406 ERCS volunteers were trained in latrine construction and elimination of mosquito breeding sites amongst others. In HIV and AIDS programme, ERCS continued projects supported by Partner National Societies (PNSs) at bilateral level and through partnerships with British, Danish, German and Netherlands Red Cross.

In **Organizational Development (OD) and Capacity Building**, ERCS led a programme management human resources review to have a complete overview of the National Society's human resources and implement recommendations with support from Movement partners. The ERCS information technology department developed a unified database system for volunteers and members. A total of 27 branches have been trained on this system. ERCS introduced new membership cards for volunteers and conducted Branch Capacity Assessments (BCA). It presented the findings in a partnership meeting held in March 2010. The recently hired OD officer has been providing support to ERCS branches in planning and implementation of the OD programme.

Financial situation: The original 2010 budget totalled CHF 1,849,242 of which CHF 1,193,771 (65%) was covered, including opening balance. Expenditure during the year amounted to CHF 738,853, corresponding to 62% of available funding (40% of the original budget). Significant disbursements were withheld until Q1 2011 in agreement with donors while awaiting financial statements from the National Society.

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

See also emergency appeals operational during the reporting period:

- [MDRET007](#): Ethiopia: Severe Food Shortages
- [MDRET009](#): Ethiopia: Response to seasonal floods

No. of people we help: ERCS managed to reach approximately 107,000 beneficiaries during 2010. Depending on funding level, at least 120,000 beneficiaries can be reached by 2011.

Our partners: The ERCS implemented several projects in partnership with Partner National Societies (PNS) including Austrian, British, Danish, Finnish, German, Italian, Netherlands, Swedish and Spanish Red Cross Societies. The main areas of assistance carried out during 2010 by ERCS with PNS support in the country were in Water and Sanitation, Capacity Building and Food Security activities in the regions of Tigray (Italian Red Cross), Oromiya (Austrian and German Red Cross) and Amhara (Spanish Red Cross). In addition, the National Society receives financial and technical support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as technical and financial support channelled through the IFRC.

On behalf of Ethiopian Red Cross Society, IFRC would like to thank all partners and donors for

their support to this appeal.

Furthermore, the National Society actively participates in various coordination meetings organized by the Government and UN Agencies. ERCS and IFRC are members of the Ethiopia Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT) and Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF). ERCS is also part of the Global Alliance on HIV, and one of the five National Societies in Eastern Africa participating in the Africa Food Security Initiative.

Context

In 2010, the Government and its partners released two Humanitarian Requirement Documents (HRD) based on the *meher* and *belg*¹ assessments. The first document released on January 2010 stated relief food requirements for 5.2 million beneficiaries but later in November 2010, the second HRD released decreased the number of people to 2.3 million people.

At the end of 2010, the general food security situation was stable in most crop producing areas that benefited from the normal to above-normal long seasonal rains from June to September. Overall, the long seasonal rains were favourable for agricultural activities, which resulted in good harvest as reported by the pre-harvest multi-agency seasonal assessment from the Regional Agricultural Bureaus. However, poor performance of rains between October to December in the pastoral and agro pastoral areas in the south and south eastern parts of the country led to a deteriorating food security situation, according to the multi-agency needs assessment conducted in November-December 2010. The situation was attributed to the prevailing *La Nina* phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean that started in June 2010.

In 2010, about 743,000 MT of food was contributed by different donors, addressing at least 98 per cent requirements for the year. Thanks to considerable efforts from the Government and partners, there were sufficient resources during the year that allowed the provision of full food basket with full ration for all identified beneficiaries.

The second half of 2010 was marked by increased vulnerability of people to drought, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) related disease outbreaks and flooding in different parts of the country. This affected the lives and livelihood of significant proportions of the population. Major parts of the lowland areas in Somali, Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Southern Nations and Nationalists and Peoples (SNNPR) and Amhara regions faced extended drought that impeded adequate recharging of groundwater tables and surface water sources including rivers, streams, *birkas*² and ponds, demanding intensive WASH interventions including water trucking. Heavy *kiremt* rains led to displacements causing flooding, water logging and landslides in some areas including Amhara and Afar regions. As a result, IFRC launched a [DREF operation](#) on 28 September 2010 to address needs of displaced people due to floods.

The overall nutrition situation in the second half of 2010 was generally better than the same period in 2009 and stable in all the six regions prone to malnutrition, including Oromiya, Somali, Afar, Tigray, Amhara and SNNPR regions. Nevertheless, nutritional challenges remained in some areas as well as in new areas such as Harari, Dire Dawa and Beneshangul Gumuz. Additionally, cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) continued to pose significant health threats in at least 23 *woredas*³ in Oromiya, Somali and SNNPR regions between July and December 2010. The main risk factors contributing to the spread of the epidemic are low latrine coverage, poor personal hygiene and

¹ The two main crop seasons in Ethiopia are the *belg* and *meher* seasons, which receive rainfall from February to June and from June to September, respectively. The *meher* crop season is the main season and produces 90-95 percent of the nation's total cereals output, and the *belg* harvest provides the remaining 5-10 percent of cereal output. For the *belg* harvest, corn accounts from one-third to nearly one-half of the *belg*'s cereal production and the remaining *belg* output comprises of mostly short-cycle wheat, barley and teff. The *kiremt* rain season is between June and September. Source: http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/highlights/2008/11/eth_25nov2008/

² Underground water reservoirs

³ Administrative division under a Zone, analogous to a district

sanitation, inadequate supplies of safe water and high population movement. The Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) along with humanitarian partners provided technical and financial support to the Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs) in addition to drugs, medical supplies and equipment for Case Treatment Centres (CTCs).

Progress towards outcomes

The ERCS programmes in 2010 were customized towards making a difference in the lives of targeted communities through lessening the burden of chronic disasters, disease and lack of access to safe water and food. The programme components followed the policies, principles and initiatives of the IFRC as well as the priorities of the ERCS Governing Board. In addition, all the National Society activities were based on the priority needs in the country as described in the context above.

Disaster Management

Programme Component 1: Community preparedness

Outcome: Improved disaster risk reduction mechanisms at community level.

Achievements

ERCS has been implementing disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities since 2006 with the support of DfID, through a Global Partnership Agreement with IFRC. During 2010, DRR main activities included flood early warning trainings and drills, prepositioning of non-food items (NFIs) in strategic locations, construction of small warehouses and development of contingency plans. Additionally, establishing nursery sites and distributing different varieties of tree seedlings contributed to increased food availability and reduced environmental degradation. Prepositioned stocks allowed ERCS to respond quickly to the needs of families affected by floods in several areas of the country.

ERCS conducted several trainings throughout 2010 to improve its capacity in preparedness and mitigation measures. A Community Based Flood Early Warning training was carried out in the Gambella regional branch on 22 and 23 July 2010. The participants were selected from three chronically flood prone affected woredas: Gambella Zuria, Itang and Abol. The overall objective of the training was to contribute to the reduction of flood-induced disasters and the impact of vulnerable people in flood prone areas in the Gambella Region. A total of 49 people participated in the training and were introduced to concept terms such as risk, hazard, vulnerability, disaster, capacity, coping mechanisms and characteristics of different hazards common to the region and the country. Participants discussed causes and types of floods that have affected the region, identified the flood prone areas and discussed traditional flood early warning systems mainly used.

On 22 and 23 September 2010, 24 people participated in the Early Flood Warning Training in ERCS Somali regional office and then between 1 and 2 October 2010 in Gode Town. The training sessions were focused on defining the major concepts of disaster management through elaborated examples relevant to the regional and specific areas. Factors that make people vulnerable to various disasters were discussed including types of disasters and cycles and phases of disasters. The participation of regional Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) and National Meteorological Agency (NMA) offices in the trainings allowed ERCS Somali regional branch to establish a good relationship with the regional government offices. Through discussions, both agencies promised to work together with ERCS in all disaster risk reduction interventions in the area.

As part of disaster preparedness activities, ERCS disaster management department manufactured and distributed 41 of the planned 102 flood resistant beds to households living alongside the Rib and Gumer Rivers in South Gonder Zone of Amhara Region. The beds were made of iron in order to enhance the bed's resistance capacity for small and medium scale flooding. During the last quarter of 2010, ERCS did not distribute the total number of iron beds to households due to the increase in the price of iron.



One of the beneficiaries of the modern flood resistant iron beds.
Source: Ethiopian Red Cross Society

The last quarter of 2010, the ERCS was involved in responding to the floods in Afar Region by distributing non-food items from prepositioned stocks through the ERCS/ECHO drought preparedness project. The ERCS Afar regional branch was the first to provide non-food items to the most affected people. IFRC launched a DREF operation to replenish the prepositioned stocks in order to be prepared for future emergencies. This floods response confirmed the importance of having emergency prepositioned stock to respond rapidly to any disaster.

ERCS held a three-day DRR policy and strategy formulation workshop in the capital city of SNNPR, Awassa from 28 to 30 December 2010. The objective of the workshop was to contribute ideas and experiences to formulate an ERCS DRR policy and strategy document and disaster risk reduction plan based on the 2011 meteorological forecast.

Overall, the expected outcome of improving disaster risk reduction mechanisms at the community level was met since the trainings and disaster preparedness activities conducted by ERCS has better prepared the disaster prone communities for future disasters.

Constraints or Challenges

Despite achievements and positive impact made on communities by strengthening local disaster risk reduction mechanisms the programme implementation did not fully follow the planned timeframe and some of the allocated funds were not fully utilized as originally planned. These challenges were linked to procurement and construction (storage facilities) delays in 2009 and beginning of 2010, that accumulated certain balances that triggered revision of 2010 plans. In addition, it was agreed that ERCS would not use funds for pre-positioning of NFI stocks for 2010 and will be utilizing stocks from 2009. These stocks were depleted during July-September 2010 flood response activities and were not replenished, thus ERCS was left with very limited capacities to respond to floods or other disasters requiring NFI interventions.

Programme Component 2: Disaster risk reduction (integrated food security)

Outcome: Sustainable livelihood of the population affected by disaster is restored through effective disaster recovery programmes.

Achievements

ERCS has been implementing food security projects with support from the Swedish Red Cross in the region of Tigray since 2009. The food security programme aims to strengthen alternative agricultural production methods, improving the food security status of 2,259 households while integrating HIV and AIDS prevention into operational programmes as a crosscutting developmental issue. The project location is in the South Eastern Zone of Tigray Region in Degajen, Derba and Shibta Kebeles/Tabias (villages) of Enderta Woreda (district).

In November 2010, ERCS jointly with Swedish Red Cross and IFRC, organized and facilitated a workshop with the objective of reviewing the project implementation. The workshop targeted beneficiaries, civil society members, NGOs, local administration and other stakeholders so that they could learn about the project. During the workshop, project activities achieved in 2009 were

discussed to capture lessons for future engagement, to enhance solidarity and cooperation among stakeholders, to integrate the activities with the community's development activities and to integrate the project with the woreda's overall plan. A total of 92 participants (63 male and 29 female) attended the workshop.

In the second quarter of 2010, 149 trainees (127 male and 22 female) from the areas of Dergajen, Dedba and Shibta in Tigray Region participated in a fruit garden training for four days. The training aimed to teach orchard management, site selection, preparation of the land, irrigation systems, selection of variety, time of planting and fertilizer application. This training not only created awareness on orchard management and apple fruit management but also an income generating activity for households.

Several activities were carried out to develop a nursery in 2010. In East Hararghe, out of 350,000 varieties of seedlings, 347,050 (99%) were planted and distributed among 1,500 beneficiaries. In Wolaita, 375,000 varieties of tree seedlings were distributed among 5,000 beneficiaries and 30,000 agroforestry tree seedlings were planted on 1.5 hectares of degraded land in Boloso Soro Woreda.

In the second quarter of 2010, a dairy cow breeding management training was held in Enderta Woreda in Tigray Region. Twenty (20) beneficiaries were selected and screened by the *tabia*⁴ and woreda administration from all intervention tabias (Dedba, Dergajen and Shibta). 18 out of the 20 (11 male and 7 female) selected beneficiaries participated in the cow breeding management training. The training consisted of methods of improving dairy farming, criteria of selection for improved breed, genetic improvement, feeding management and improvement among other components. From the 18 beneficiaries that participated in the training, 11 (8 male and 3 female) purchased cross breed cows. Some beneficiaries refused to take the cross breed cows due to high costs maintaining the cows. The ERCS is in process of mobilizing beneficiaries to encourage them to purchase the cross breeding cows.

A cattle rearing training was carried out with participation of 208 beneficiaries (169 male and 39 female) during the second quarter of 2010. In addition, 15 *tabia* cooperatives also participated in the training. The objective of the training is to teach efficient use of the available forage resources, how to use existing farm resources more effectively and how and when to market oxen.

A total of 167 beneficiaries (137 male and 19 female) participated in a two-day modern beekeeping training held in the third quarter of 2010. The objective of the training was to provide relevant and actual information on modern beekeeping technology and harvesting systems. The participants received 220 modern beehives, with some beneficiaries receiving 2 beehives each. Additionally, different beehive accessories such as smoker, hand gloves and bee veils were distributed.

Sixty beneficiaries (all female) were selected to participate in a training for sheep and goat rearing during the third quarter of 2010. This training included major components in sheep and goat management including housing, the use of livestock products, animal feed and seasonal variation that leads to drought and weight loss of animals amongst other techniques. After completing the training, they received cash to purchase sheep and/or goats.

All the trainings carried out by ERCS during 2010 greatly assisted in creating sustainable livelihood for the population decreasing disaster risk.

Constraints or Challenges:

Based on monitoring reports from ERCS branches, several constraints were identified within this outcome. Some beneficiaries did not obtain good quality cross breed cows due to high prices in the local market. In addition, the price increase of important inputs such as labour, seeds, forest soil and sand made it difficult to implement all activities within originally planned budgets, so there is always a need for adjustments.

⁴ *Tabia* or *kebele*-- administrative division under a woreda

Health and Care

Programme component 1: Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA)

Outcome 1: A First Aid system where the community plays an active role and the Red Cross serves as link between the government health care system and the community is established.

Outcome 2: Services and activities at community level aimed at capacity building of the community and strengthening the financial base for the programme are developed and implemented.

Achievements

The ERCS has been undertaking various initiatives to address health challenges in line with [ARCHI 2010](#). The National Society is committed to move towards integrated health projects in order to better address the health and care needs in communities. CBHFA and integrated WatSan project are good examples of this approach. Both projects have been supported by the Swedish Red Cross through the IFRC Country Plan 2010-2011. The health and care department works in partnership with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, government and UN agencies.

A CBHFA manual was translated into Amharic and 100 copies were distributed in the field. CBHFA facilitator modules, volunteer modules, implementation guides and community tools were distributed to Red Cross branches and community members. In addition, ERCS distributed 336 First Aid jackets, 436 caps and 386 CBHFA bags to the branches as part of capacity building activities for ERCS staff, volunteers and community members. Training was conducted for 406 volunteers, who in turn reached up to 74,000 community members with hygiene and sanitation messages. As a result, people actively participated in latrine construction, destroying mosquito breeding sites, early case detection and referral as well as in immunization activities.

Table 1: Number of people participating in CBHFA initiatives

Region	Branch	Trained Volunteers	Community members reached	Latrines constructed
SNNRP	KAT	47	5,730	24
Amhara	South Wollo	42	7,070	49
		24	5,618	32
Oromiya	East Shoa	42	9,505	51
	Jimma	38	5,214	38
	East Wollega	46	7,505	28
	Borena	58	10,685	29
	Bale	69	10,804	39
Beneshangul	Beneshangul	64	15,226	58
Total		406	73,737	348

Constraints or Challenges

ERCS monitoring reports identified lack of a reliable volunteer database. The National Society had difficulties in identifying how many volunteers were available. A dependable data base system needs to be in place to avoid such challenges. Efforts are being made to develop a CBHFA trained facilitators and volunteers database in the health and care programme department.

In addition, ERCS was unable to scale up the CBHFA approach in additional zones and woredas due to financial constraints. To overcome this, the CBHFA approach was integrated with the H2P programme for a short period and additional zones received trainings.

Programme component 2: Water and Sanitation (WatSan)

Outcome 1: Access to safe water and sanitation services improved in the target areas.

Outcome 2: Improved community awareness and understanding of the importance of proper hygiene and sanitation practices/measures.

Achievements

ERCS headquarters' WatSan department continued providing support to the four branches in West Shoa and West Wollega zones of Oromiya Region and in Wolaita and Guraghe zones of SNNPR Region in improving access to water and sanitation and increasing community awareness on proper hygiene and sanitation practices.

A total of 2,000 people (330 families) benefited from three springs constructed in West Shoa including nearly 2,260 students from a nearby school in Korke spring of Abuna Gindeberet Woreda. Two springs that were completed in 2009 were handed over during the first half of 2010 to the Water Resource Office and the trained community Water Committee in Damot Gale Woreda of Wolaita Zone and, a total of 750 families are benefiting from the two springs. In Guraghe, two springs were constructed in Esmandir and Eskut kebeles⁵. The construction of the two springs included washbasins and shower rooms. Additionally, the ERCS distributed 450 sanitary platform (Sanplats) slabs out of 450 slabs produced in 2009 and 342 in 2010 in West Shoa and Guraghe respectively. Slabs were distributed to those families who had dug household latrines and confirmed by PHAST facilitators. In West Shoa, the site selection of two additional springs has been identified and construction will start during the first half of 2011. The chosen kebeles are Jato Dirki and Dire Hareyu from Elu Gelan and Dano woredas respectively.

Water kiosks and latrines were constructed for Sheboka elementary and secondary schools in West Shoa (Oromiya Region). This included the construction of two school latrines each having six seats and provision of safe drinking water through pipe lining of 1,000 meters as well as construction of two water kiosks and installation of a water tanker of 5,000 litres.

During the first half of the year, ERCS concentrated on community sensitization in PHAST and follow up on previous PHAST trainings through its volunteer network in West Wollega. PHAST trainings continued and trained volunteers have been cascading the training to targeted beneficiaries in West Shoa. A total of 378 households attended and completed training in their PHAST groups. Some 750 households in Wolaita Zone received PHAST training through cascading skills to the communities through 15 selected and trained volunteers. Additionally, in Gurage, a PHAST training was conducted for 20 community volunteers and they are now cascading trainings to the community with special emphasis on latrine usage and hand washing techniques.

On December 2010, a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Community Based Health and First Aid was given to 20 community volunteers for five days. The new CBHFA manual in Amharic version was used during the training. In addition, 20 sets of PHAST tool kits were produced and distributed to the trained volunteers assisting them in cascading the trainings down to community level. Trained volunteers on CBHFA and PHAST were jointly cascading the training down to the community in the woredas. In Boni Kebele, 634 households dug family latrines and, 18 of these households installed ventilation pipes to their latrines to avoid flies and bad smell. Some 440 out of the 634 households have fixed hand-washing facilities near the latrines, 16 households installed showers in their residences and 210 households prepared garbage pits. In total, 12 communal latrines were constructed by the community for use by passengers and people from neighbouring areas for marketing purposes. The community in the kebele (Boni) discussed and agreed on avoiding open defecation and decided that anyone who defecates openly will be arrested for 12-24 hours in the local administration. In Worejiru Barko Kebele, 40 households dug family latrines and are practicing hand washing either with soap or with ash.

A woreda level stakeholders meeting was held at the end of the fourth quarter of 2010. Representatives of woreda administration, water and energy office, women's and children's affairs office, kebele administration and health extension workers attended the review meeting. Achievements and challenges of the WatSan project were discussed thoroughly, and solutions proposed to ensure the project makes a change in their communities. This meeting and other that

⁵ Kebele or tabia – administrative division below the woreda

will follow have increased commitment from the stakeholders with respect to improving hygiene practices in their communities.

Constraints or Challenges

ERCS headquarters is closely working with the Guraghe Branch in order to improve the cash transfers since there were some delays with financial and activity reports from the branch. In addition, the increase in cost of construction materials caused some minor challenges within the implementation of the water and sanitation activities. Opportunely, the planned activities were carried out which led to improved access to water and awareness on proper hygiene practices among the targeted communities.

Programme component 3: HIV and AIDS

Outcome 1: Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through expanding care, treatment and support.

Achievements

ERCS continued contributing to overall efforts in addressing the impact of HIV and AIDS and enhancing prevention in Ethiopia. The National Society started the HIV and AIDS projects since early stages of the epidemic in the 90s, initially implementing activities in two branches in partnership with Danish Red Cross and then expanding to 15 zonal branches. Currently, the HIV and AIDS projects are supported by PNS at bilateral level and through partnership with British, Danish, German and Netherlands Red Cross. The ERCS HIV and AIDS programme follows the IFRC Global Alliance on HIV approaches and it is in line with Ethiopian Government Policy and Guidelines. Objectives of the programme include: a) To strengthen the capacity of the community to respond properly in the control and prevention of HIV infection and its impacts; b) To strengthen the capacity of ERCS to respond to the epidemics and organize the community and build its coping mechanisms.

Programme component 4: Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

Outcome 1: Increased MCH service attendance within the targeted communities.

Outcome 2: Improved MCH services through NS community based activities, including safe motherhood and child health initiatives, vaccination and nutrition activities.

Achievements

ERCS was not able to carry out all the activities within this component due to lack of funding. However, ERCS started planning an integrated measles campaign in 2010/2011 which includes measles vaccination for children 9 to 47 months, oral polio vaccine for children 0 to 59 months, vitamin A for children 6 to 59 months, de-worming tablets to children 24 to 59 months and nutrition screening aimed at both children 6 to 59 months as well as pregnant and lactating women. These activities have started in February 2011 in Afar region.

Programme component 5: Avian and Human Influenza Pandemic

Outcome 1: Development of pandemic preparedness plans and protocols of the humanitarian sector in the areas of health, food security and livelihoods in Ethiopia is supported.

Outcome 2: ERCS staff and volunteer capacities along with other significant humanitarian and civil society organizations are strengthened to carry out the humanitarian pandemic preparedness plans and protocols.

Outcome 3: Functional coordination between global, national and district-level stakeholders, including UN agencies, in preparedness and response is established.

Achievements

The Avian and Human Influenza Pandemic programme was integrated into the IFRC's Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) Appeal. IFRC provided financial and technical support to the National Society in order to prepare for, and respond to, an outbreak of pandemic influenza. For more information, please visit: www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual09/MAA0001809ar.pdf.

Organizational Development

Programme component 1: Organizational Development and Capacity Building

Outcome 1: ERCS has strengthened its capacity to deliver quality services to targeted communities through its branches and volunteer network.

Achievements

Organizational development activities are focused on membership and volunteer development, integrated branch developments and supporting overall efforts of the National Society to further strengthen capacities at headquarters and improve overall programme management. Activities are in accordance with ERCS Strategy 2006-2010 and the Strategy 2020, whilst supported by the Swedish Red Cross.

The leadership and senior programme management embarked on commitments to move forward a change process initiated by the ERCS a couple of years ago. One of the main developments in this regard is the commitment to conduct full-scale human resources (HR)/management review and implement recommendations made by a contracted consultant with support of Movement partners. Terms of Reference (ToR) were developed, shared with partners and adjusted accordingly. The National Society had identified a consultancy company through tendering process in October 2010 and a contract was granted to the company to complete the review in six months. The ERCS has established a Technical Committee (TC) to follow up review process and closely work with the consultant on benchmark reports such as inception report, interim report and final report. TC is an advisory group to the NS Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and to the Governing Board on review process. The TC composition is mixed and includes representatives of the ERCS, IFRC, ICRC and PNSs (Danish RC and Netherlands RC).

The ERCS IT department took the lead in developing a unified database system for volunteers and members and has since trained 27 branches. Each branch nominated five to six people (staff members and volunteers) to be trained and be able to operate the newly developed system. Ten computers were procured and distributed to branches that had difficulties in finding additional resources.

New membership cards were introduced by ERCS as a result of the newly developed and adopted guidelines on membership and volunteers. New cards are part of the new database system, thus improving membership management and accountability towards members and volunteers. A total of 800,000 ID cards were printed and are kept at the ERCS headquarters. They are distributed to the branches upon request.

A Branch Capacity Assessment (BCA) tool adapted to Ethiopia context in 2008 was used to conduct assessments in 35 ERCS branches. The first draft assessment report was presented to the ERCS branches and senior management in October 2009 and then to partners during the partnership meeting held in March 2010. Comments received from partners emphasized the need for a rating system of branches based on the results of the assessment. ERCS decided to re-assess the situation in Guji Borena Zone and then complete the report. Based on the outcome of the assessment, pilot branches will be selected to implement an integrated branch development model. Based on the request from various partners working with ERCS, branch capacity assessment result analysis was carried out in Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, East Wollega and East Hararghe to enable partners consider specifics of branches in planned or ongoing humanitarian interventions.

The ERCS recruited an OD Officer who is supporting ERCS branches in planning and implementation of the OD programme. The recruitment was supported by ICRC. Additionally, the twinning programme in South Omo Zone went as per planned activities. With support of one of the local foundations, medical equipment were handed over to Demeka Clinic, which indeed will increase credibility and visibility of the local Red Cross branch.

Throughout 2010, the ERCS continued organizing various events and fund raising activities including the 75th Anniversary of the National Society. OD staff played one of the main roles in organizing activities and supporting various ERCS departments in conducting visibility and fundraising events.

Constraints or Challenges

The twinning project in Gambella Region encountered some delays due to constraints related to administration and recruitment of a new branch secretary.

One crosscutting issue that is affecting the overall programme management cycle within the National Society, is the lack of updated structures and HR management models including relationships between the headquarters and the branches. This will be addressed through the ongoing review and implementation of recommendations given by the consultant. Another crosscutting challenge is quality and timeliness of reports produced by ERCS at headquarters as well as at branch level. This challenge is well acknowledged by the NS management and governance and is to be addressed separately in consultation with RC/RC Movement partners.

Working in partnership

The ERCS has been working with a number of partners during 2010 to ensure effective and coordinated service delivery to vulnerable people. Partnership development was enhanced during celebrations related to the 75th Anniversary of the ERCS. New contacts were established with local business communities that will increase funding contribution towards financial sustainability of the National Society.

A number of government agencies and individuals from the various ministries committed themselves to support ERCS programmes. As an auxiliary to the government in humanitarian activities, ERCS is receiving financial support from local authorities in areas where ERCS is running the ambulance programme.

ERCS has been closely working with PNS in country including Austrian, British, Danish, Finnish, German, Italian, Netherlands, Swedish and Spanish Red Cross at both bilateral and multilateral levels. Close working relationships have been developed with the ICRC delegation in Ethiopia resulting in effective joint activities addressing conflict related vulnerabilities including displacements. The work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners is coordinated by ERCS through already running monthly Movement Cooperation Meetings (MCM) where all partners present in the country get together to share information, discuss matters of common interest and agree on the way forward to better and more effectively deliver Movement-wide services to vulnerable people. ERCS, IFRC and ICRC are members of the EHCT having observers' status, which is a forum for heads of UN Agencies, donors and selected INGOs. The EHCT work is regulated by an agreed upon ToR set by stakeholders.

Contributing to longer-term impact

ERCS programmes implemented within the framework of the Country Plan 2010-2011 are designed to contribute to the IFRC Strategy 2020 and the [Millennium Development Goals](#). By implementing community-based health and disaster management activities, the ERCS contributes towards enhancing capacities of targeted local communities to respond to emergencies. Integrated projects

including food security and WatSan contribute to enhance local capacities, reduce impact of climate change and strengthen community disaster risk reduction activities.

Projects are designed and implemented within the SPHERE standards. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, especially its history and seven Fundamental Principles are included as preliminary sessions in all the trainings.

The ERCS has a tradition of carrying out regional meetings for Red Cross branches where they discuss achievements and challenges in the field, recommendations on how to improve programme/project planning and service delivery to targeted communities.

Looking ahead

Looking at past trends and development in the past year, Ethiopia is likely to face a number of emergencies and disasters resulting from droughts in certain areas of the country and floods caused by above normal *Kiremt* rains, which are exacerbated by climate change. Health related problems may occur in certain areas of the country, especially related to floods and rainy season. Considering the potential hazards and risks, ERCS will continue directing its efforts towards improving National Society capacity in disaster management and health and care. Efforts and resources will be placed on strengthening branch capacities in order to enhance rapid response activities immediately after disasters strike. Emphasis has been made to strengthen integrated projects and develop certain level of capacities at community level so as to cope with the escalating impact of climate change.

Planned HR and management review is of considerable effect on the performance of the National Society and the implementation of the recommendations from the consultancy will be prioritized. The National Society Governance made a clear commitment to its members, volunteers, staff, RC/RC partners and stakeholders that the ERCS will continue with the review process and implement recommendations accordingly. The review process will enable ERCS to right-size the management structure, develop effective HR management system that is attractive to professionals and skilled personnel from the highly competitive labour market. HR/Management review and consequent implementation will trigger embarking on other related changes in programme management, financial management and logistics management. The review process will ensure a more effective, accountable and stronger National Society that delivers quality services to vulnerable communities in Ethiopia.

How we work

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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