

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Ethiopia: Election Preparedness

DREF operation n° MDRET008

10 January 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**Summary:** CHF 33,015 (USD 29,743 or EUR 22,927) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,000 beneficiaries. This allocation was contribution to ERCS contingency plan alongside with funds allocated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Despite the experiences from the previous general election in Ethiopia, there were no major problems related to elections in May 2010: the election process, post-election period and announcement of results witnessed no civil unrest nor injuries, property damages nor displacements. ERCS volunteers and First Aid teams were deployed in all identified locations of high risk and were on duty during the election, post-election period and after announcement of the election results. ERCS deployed a total of 77 ambulances and service vehicles all over the country and trained 900 volunteers in traditional First Aid/Community Based First Aid (CBFA) and ambulance attendance through its 72 ambulance stations. ERCS volunteers and professional staff were ready to assist up to 3,000 people if the need arose. The process of drafting a Contingency Plan as well as coordination with RC Movement and authorities was a very good capacity building exercise for the NS in terms of taking lead and ownership of preparedness activities of that kind. Development and implementation of the Contingency Plan emphasized the very good coordination and cooperation between ERCS, ICRC and the Federation.

The Contingency Plan and implementation of activities was managed by the ERCS through its regional and local branches. The IFRC contributed to the overall plan through this DREF allocation. ERCS and ICRC contributed to the Plan with existing resources, funding, logistics and human resources.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments as well as ECHO. Details of all donors can be found by clicking on the link below <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[\*<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>\*](#)

## The situation

National elections in Ethiopia, the fourth election since 1995, were scheduled on 23 May 2010. Considering experience from the last general elections in 2005<sup>1</sup>, the ERCS initiated a Contingency Plan for the May 2010 elections in order to be more effective in responding to possible consequences of civil unrest. The Contingency Plan focused only on election related violence having learnt from previous experience and anticipating similar events as a possible scenario. The plan was designed to address possible unrest during the election, especially during and after the announcement of results which was scheduled on 21 June 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> A number of people lost their lives, were injured or displaced due to civil unrest. The ERCS rendered First Aid and ambulance services to the affected people.

In the event, the election in 2010 was not marked with violence and unrest, thus the ERCS ambulance teams and First Aid volunteers had no need to respond. Nevertheless, ERCS demonstrated its commitment and relevant capacities to be ready for potential problems and respond adequately.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Prior to the general elections the ERCS, in consultation with the ICRC and the Federation Country Office, developed a contingency plan looking at three possible scenarios: best case scenario, most likely scenario and worst case scenario. In best and most likely scenarios the ERCS would closely monitor the situation at all levels and make ready on stand-by its ambulance services, First Aid teams and blood banks in all branches. Most of the emphasis was put on 'worst case scenario' and ERCS requested support in preparedness for assisting approximately 3,000 people in identified priority areas and towns.

After a number of coordination meetings between the ERCS, ICRC and the Federation, it was decided to adopt the Contingency Plan as a working document and start mobilizing relevant resources for preparedness activities assuming that all partners should have their share of contributions. Using its ambulance service and trained volunteer network all over the country, ERCS deployed teams in various high risk locations. Support to those teams was given by ICRC and the Federation by contributing respective amounts of funds and resources to the Contingency Plan.

As per the agreed upon and adopted Contingency Plan, three committees were established at headquarters level with relevant roles and responsibilities: Ad Hoc, Emergency Response and Communications. The ERCS Regional offices replicated the same coordination and management structures to take more effective and adequate preparedness and response measures. The Ad Hoc Committee held a number of meetings with Federal Army ambulance service, Federal Police, Ministry of Health and, together with ERCS Addis Ababa branch, established communications with City Health Bureau and Fire/Emergency Prevention and Rescue Agency. Special guidelines were prepared for ERCS branches to implement the Contingency Plan.

Certain lessons learnt and recommendations made by the ERCS disaster preparedness team while observing preparation and implementation process of the Contingency Plan include:

- To start working on election related contingency plan at least three months prior to elections analysing situation and anticipating various risks and scenarios.
- To regularly monitor the situation
- To disseminate the Red Cross (all Movement members) mandates and their responsibilities during the time of conflict, internal disturbance or civil unrest for all government offices and other stakeholders at all times to enable better access to affected people during potential unrest.
- To strengthen the working relationship between ERCS and with Federal Army ambulance section, Police, MoH Municipalities and other stakeholders at all levels.
- There was relatively short preparedness time for organizing volunteers, providing training ,mobilizing resources to different branches and deployment of staffs and volunteers

## Achievements

The Contingency Plan and implementation of activities as identified in the Plan was managed by the ERCS through its regional and local branches. The IFRC contributed to the overall contingency plan through this DREF allocation. ERCS and ICRC contributed to the Plan with existing resources, funding, logistics and human resources.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: To provide household utensils, shelter materials and 31MT emergency food for 2,068 people (414 households) displaced from their permanent residences due to the election induced potential violence.**

#### Activities planned:

- Source adequate food supplies for 2,068 internally displaced people.
- Mobilize non-food and shelter material for internally displaced people in coordination with ICRC.
- Distribute food and non-food items to affected people and/or households depending on the actual figures and immediate needs on the ground.

#### Achievements:

As the election process went smoothly and did not lead to displacement there was no need to mobilize additional resources to provide assistance with shelter and emergency food.

## Emergency Health – Ambulance and First Aid

**Objective: To provide ambulance services, First Aid and safe blood for potential 964 victims of election induced violence in almost all priority areas in the country during election date and publicizing the result.**

### Activities planned:

- Deploy 138 ambulances in 100 stations in all identified urban centers and/or towns one day before and/or after elections and announcement of the results on 23 May 2010 and 21 June 2010 respectively.
- Maintain and make ready 10 ambulances for contingency fleet before the elections.
- Organize refresher training for 436 ambulance attendants, 138 drivers and 2,000 First Aiders for 1.5 days.
- Deploy 436 ambulance attendants one day before the election date and 5 days after, one day before election results announcement and 5 days after.
- Deploy 2,000 First Aid volunteers.
- Distribute 670 First Aid kits with all necessary medical supplies in 100 ambulance stations countrywide.
- Establish effective coordination mechanisms with Federal Army ambulances.

### Achievements:

Considering that voting on election date went without major problems, ERCS did not scale up deployment of ambulances and volunteers as per the original plan and maintained only necessary capacity at all major risk areas. ERCS deployed 894 trained volunteers in First Aid and ambulance attendance through its 72 ambulance stations all over the country using 70 ambulance and seven service vehicles. A two-day refresher training was organized for volunteers before deployment. In addition to deployed volunteers, 85 ERCS staff members were on stand by to respond to potential civil unrest. All staff had been trained in conflict preparedness and response. A total of 30 ERCS staff including drivers, blood bank employees and logistics staff had been oriented about the Contingency Plan and were ready for deployment.

In addition, more than 1,200 units of blood at Addis Ababa level and 50 units of blood in each 16 blood banks were mobilized through volunteer blood donors.

Close cooperation and coordination was established with the Federal Army Ambulance services all over the country through Regional and local RC branches depending on existence of relevant units and risk assessments.

ICRC supported Addis Ababa City ambulance services by providing full maintenance and running costs for five vehicles to be deployed within the City. ICRC was also provided with 50 ambulance kits for Oromiya, South Nations, Nationalities and People, Amhara and Addis Ababa regional police offices prior to elections.

## Logistics

**Objective: To provide effective services and ensure smooth implementation of activities planned within the Contingency Plan.**

### Activities planned:

- Produce 150 Red Cross flags and iron poles and/or stands for visibility purposes at Red Cross stations and for ambulances.
- Provide 8 radios for identified priority regional branches for emergency information sharing and early warning purposes.
- Produce 370 Red Cross jackets to be distributed to 370 senior volunteers and/or team leaders and ERCS staff who lead the emergency operations in priority areas.
- Purchase food items for 2,069 potentially affected people such as IDPs.

### Achievements:

ERCS produced and distributed to the regional and local RC branches 138 Red Cross flags and iron stands used for ambulance and RC stations. With support from ICRC, a repeater was repaired in Addis Ababa and nine VHF radios provided for constant information sharing and early warning purposes. Purchase of food items for IDPs was not necessary due to peaceful nature of the elections which did not trigger any displacement.

## How we work

All IFRC 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 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.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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[<final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

MDRET008 - Ethiopia - Election Preparedness

Appeal Launch Date: 14 may 10

Appeal Timeframe: 14 may 10 to 14 jul 10

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/5-2010/11
Budget Timeframe	2010/5-2010/7
Appeal	MDRET008
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>33,015</b>					<b>33,015</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Other Income</b>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	<i>31,950</i>					<i>31,950</i>
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	<b>31,950</b>					<b>31,950</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	<b>31,950</b>					<b>31,950</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>31,950</b>					<b>31,950</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>97%</b>					<b>97%</b>

## II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	<b>31,950</b>					<b>31,950</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	<b>-31,950</b>					<b>-31,950</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>

## III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance A - B
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>33,015</b>					<b>33,015</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Medical & First Aid	5,000							5,000
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>5,000</b>							<b>5,000</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Society Staff	25,000							25,000
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>25,000</b>							<b>25,000</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Information & Public Relation	1,000							1,000
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>1,000</b>							<b>1,000</b>
<b>Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>								
Cash Transfers National Societies		30,000					30,000	-30,000
<b>Total Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>		<b>30,000</b>					<b>30,000</b>	<b>-30,000</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	2,015	1,950					1,950	65
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>1,950</b>					<b>1,950</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>33,015</b>	<b>31,950</b>					<b>31,950</b>	<b>1,065</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>1,065</b>					<b>1,065</b>	