

ETHIOPIA

CHF 1,139,000

Programme No. 01.45/2000

National Context

Over the last 20 years, drought and civil war have left Ethiopia with hundreds of thousands of destitute, abandoned children and orphans, disabled persons, refugees, demobilised soldiers and female headed households, who are unable to support themselves and their families.

To promote development and improve the general socio-economic situation, the Government is pursuing a total transformation of its political and economic system, the success of which will depend on economic stability, a conducive, external trade environment, and the sustained support of the international community.

The health care system has had serious limitations and low structural support due to a lack of funds, a scarcity of health personnel, shortages of drugs, and destruction of facilities during the recent conflict. The health situation of women and children has deteriorated markedly during the last decade. The incidence of communicable diseases and nutritional deficiencies are major problems for the population.

Land degradation or deterioration is causing a fuelwood shortage, low agricultural production and low income in rural Ethiopia, undermining the well being of children and women. Deforestation has reduced the wooded area to 4% of the original forest.

The educational system is facing serious problems due to the low quality of primary education, with an enrollment rate in primary education as low as 23%.

The National Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Commission (DPPC) has proved to be forward looking in regard to promoting integrated disaster management programme activities to respond effectively to the disasters that frequently hit the country.

The assistance under the Grassroots Development activities is typically in the areas of public health and related interventions and represents a flexible “menu of interventions” from which the regions/subregions can select and implement individual activities or a combination of them, according to local needs, capacities and priorities.

Country Assistance Strategy

The Federation will assist the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) to facilitate the implementation of the international resource mobilisation and institutional development programme. Specifically, the Federation will provide support by assisting the ERCS in its co-ordination role; continuing to provide technical assistance to the ERCS in the areas of planning, and monitoring of development programmes; assisting the ERCS in the setting of basic narrative and financial reporting standards, and in creating and strengthening the necessary

disaster preparedness capacities. In times of emergency, the ERCS will make full use of the resources of the East Africa Regional Delegation and the support services of the Secretariat, and assist in joint assessments to determine needs and capacities as a basis for determining the respective roles and responsibilities in disaster response, and finally mobilise the needed support in a timely manner.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) will continue its Comprehensive Development Programme (CDP), the ultimate goal of which is a Red Cross Society fully capable of improving the situation and quality of life of the most vulnerable in the water and sanitation, community based health care, shelter, and environmental sectors.

Programme Objectives

Disaster Response

The Federation and ERCS will respond effectively and in a timely manner to periodic disasters by mobilising Federation resources on a country, regional and international level. A focus will also be placed on mitigating the effects of disasters through appropriate community based responses. New practices for ensuring that aid does not add to conflict will be developed and field tested.

Disaster Preparedness

The Federation will enable the rapid and effective provision to smaller or local emergencies, by upgrading the information-gathering and analysis capacity in Headquarters as well as the branches. The ERCS radio network will also be progressively upgraded, and training in identifying beneficiary needs, planning, the distribution of assistance, and reporting will be provided.

Health

The ERCS is active in the areas of community-based health, blood, first aid training, and HIV/AIDS, and the Federation support will be designed to provide support in these areas as the needs develop and the programmes evolve.

Humanitarian Values

Working in cooperation with the ICRC, the Federation will promote and reinforce a positive Red Cross image through information and dissemination in connection with all ongoing programmes, as well as through ERCS staff and volunteers.

Capacity Building

The Federation will provide assistance to complete the reorganisation and systems development at ERCS Headquarters to more effectively manage information, to promote the development of good governance, to improve Human Resources management, and to identify viable means of generating financial resources.