

Appeal 2001-2002

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Eritrea (Appeal 01.12/2001)

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	<i>In CHF</i>
1. Coordination and Management	151,912



Introduction

National Context

Eritrea gained its independence in 1991 after a liberation war that lasted 30 years and left the country as one of the poorest nations in the world with both its infrastructure and economy in ruins. Almost a decade later Eritrea still ranks amongst the ten poorest countries in the world, although a number of health indicators point towards a slow improvement of the overall human development of the country.

The economy of Eritrea is dominated by traditional agriculture. Industry is still at an infant stage and needs development. The country's over 1,000 km coastline with the Red Sea gives the country a high potential in fisheries, sea trade, tourism and salt extraction, which is at yet not developed.

Eritrea has a resident population estimated at about 3.2 million people, there are nine 9 ethnic groups and two main religions, Islam and Christianity. Eritreans have a strong sense of nationhood, in which both sexes and all ethnic groups share.

In May 1998, a border conflict with Ethiopia degenerated into a full blown war between the two countries. During May 2000, the war escalated further and provoked a massive displacement of people - a total of 1.1 million people (official figures) are estimated to have been displaced. Following a cease fire agreement on 18 June 2000, many internally displaced people and refugees from Sudan have returned to their villages of origin. Significant numbers will, however, remain internally displaced until Ethiopia has withdrawn from all parts of Eritrea, a UN peace keeping force is in place along the border, and a peace agreement has been signed.

Since its independence, Eritrea has been in a process of reconstruction and rehabilitation, for which the country had developed a policy of self reliance rather than counting on foreign relief, assistance or loans. Due to the enormous problems following the war with Ethiopia, the government of Eritrea has again appealed to the outside world for humanitarian and development assistance.

The situation in the country was significantly affected by the recent conflict with Ethiopia, and the Federation responded separately by launching an international appeal on 22 May 2000 for Eritrean refugees

in Sudan. The conflict diverted the National Society's attention towards relief activities, especially during the 2nd quarter of 2000. Renewed efforts have been made during July and August to revitalise the development projects and the change processes of the National Society.

National Society Priorities

The Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) is in a stage of formation. The National Society carries out its activities according to the Fundamental Principles. Even though the Society does not yet have formal recognition from the Government, there is a written agreement with the Ministry of Health and with the Eritrean Refugee and Rehabilitation Committee (ERREC), which is the responsible body in Eritrea for registration and co-ordination of voluntary organisations.

The key priorities of the RCSE - Organisational Development:

- Formal recognition from the Eritrean Government and Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and further improve a clear identity for the NS in Eritrea.
- Develop a clear structure (including governance) and improve its internal communications.
- Improve its accounting system to meet increased demands for reporting and transparency.
- Promote actively branch development and decentralisation.

Key Priorities of the RCSE - Programmes:

- Become a reliable partner in emergency response capable of giving timely and efficient support.
- Develop a realistic and reasonable level of disaster preparedness in strategic branches. This will include both training in skills needed to handle disasters, and increase the material preparedness.
- Following the ARCHI recommendations, develop its health services in the areas that have a significant impact on public health or health related problems. Activities developed will cover the aspects of promotion, prevention and first aid.
- Maintain and strengthen its ambulance service as it provides a valuable service to the communities, gives a clear identity to the NS, and has the potential of covering its own costs through community participation (pending recognition of the NS by the government).
- Increase and broaden its volunteer basis which will contribute to the promotion of humanitarian values already present in all its programmes.

The RCSE has a total of over 1,000 actively involved volunteers distributed over all Zobas, and another 5,000 volunteers that could be deployed if need arises.

In February 2000, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, the Federation and ICRC, and sent to the PNS supporting the RCSE for signature. Most PNS involved have signed the MoU.

In July 2000, the Government of Eritrea signed the Geneva Conventions, and efforts to secure recognition of the national society by the Government of Eritrea are continuing.

Priority of Federation assistance

To support the RCSE, the Federation will focus on strengthening a National Society that is recognized by its government, the ICRC and a full member of the Federation. Furthermore to have the RCSE recognized by sister national societies and other organisations as an effective provider of health and disaster preparedness/disaster response services, receiving co-ordinated support from external donors and also capable to fund raise locally.

1. Coordination and Management

Background and progress to date

The programme priorities of the RCSE fall within the four core areas identified in the Strategic Work plan 2010. The role of the Federation will be to provide technical support and assistance to the RCSE to enable it to develop its capacity and programmes. Support will be mainly provided in mobilizing resources, co-ordinating PNSs input and technical assistance and in policy development. But the Federation will provide technical support to enable the RCSE to develop its institutional capacity and systems and its programmes particularly those related to Disaster Preparedness and health services.

The Federation country and regional delegations will play an important role with regard to development programming. It is not anticipated that this role will involve direct implementation, which will remain the chief responsibility of the RCSE, but more involvement in programme design, monitoring and evaluation is envisaged. This will be achieved by the presence of a Representative and support from the Regional Delegation with inputs from PNS and other supporters.

Goal A strengthened National Society that is recognized by its government, the ICRC and a full member of the Federation. Furthermore to have the RCSE recognized by sister national societies and other organisations as an effective provider of health and disaster preparedness/disaster response services, receiving co-ordinated support from external donors and also capable to fund raise locally.

Objectives and Activities planned

Objective 1 To assist the RCSE in obtaining a formal recognition from the Eritrean government and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Activities to achieve this objective are:

- To establish a transitional committee at central level.
- To re-vitalise committees at provincial levels.
- To establish statutes and elected governance.
- To lobby at relevant government bodies for recognition of the national society.
- To advise relevant government bodies on procedures for recognition of the national society.

Objective 2 To assist the RCSE in establishing a clear national society structure (including governance) and improve its internal communications.

Activities to achieve this objective are:

- To strengthen overall management (restructuring of departments, duties, roles and responsibilities, recruitment of new professional staff).
- To improve human resource development (revision of post classification system, increased staff performance through training, coaching and evaluation of staff performance).
- Membership recruitment (elaborate policy guidelines, elaborate membership activities, training, and development of a data bank).
- Decentralisation (gradual decentralisation of authority to branches, opening of sub-branches and formation of Red Cross Committees, further development of administrative systems, branch development and capacity building).

Objective 3 To assist the RCSE in improving its disaster preparedness and response capacities.

Activities to achieve this objective are:

- To obtain clearly defined operational systems and structures at the national and selected branch levels.
- To prepare a contingency plan for RCSE disaster response.

- To train RCSE staff, volunteers and the public on disaster prevention and mitigation.
- To identify coping mechanisms, developing appropriate training and programmes to address small scale emergencies and disasters.
- Formation of Red Cross Action teams in strategic branches to effectively respond to larger scale disasters in a professional and timely manner.
- To clarify the role of the RCSE in the national disaster preparedness plan

Objective 4 To assist the RCSE in improving its financial resource development and its financial management systems, to meet increased demands for reporting and transparency.

Activities to achieve this objective are:

- To develop financial resources through membership recruitment, income generation schemes, lobby for subsidy from public organisations for the services the national society provides.
- To implement a new computerized finance system for the national society with accounting and budgeting modules.
- To issue guidelines for the new finance system, at headquarters and branch levels.

Expected results

- Expected results of objective 1 by end of 2001: The National Society will be formally recognized by its government and by ICRC, and admitted to the Federation as a full member. The first general assembly has been held, and a functioning governance structure has been established.
- Expected results of objective 2 by end of 2002: The national society has been through a reorganisation process, adequate professional staff has been employed, and clear lines of roles and responsibilities have been established. The society has a minimum of 5,000 active and subscribing members.
- Expected results of objective 3 by end of 2002: The National Society role in the national disaster preparedness plan has been clarified, operational systems and structures have been clearly defined, volunteers and staff are organised and prepared to act in case of disasters.
- Expected results of objective 4 by end of 2001: The national society has obtained local financial resources to cover its core costs and part of the programme activities; a new computerized financial system has been established and is functioning. Guidelines have been issued at headquarters and branch levels. The national society is capable of financial reporting to donors at donor/program/branch and project levels as a matter of routine.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

- The Federation representative together with RCSE key management will undertake monitoring at the national level, with support from the regional delegation in Nairobi.
- Representatives from sister national societies will be monitoring progress during visits to Eritrea and during annual consultation meetings.
- A mid term evaluation will take place by the end of 2001, and a final evaluation will take place by the end of 2002 with the participation of evaluator(s) external to the National Society. The evaluations will measure to which extent the proposed activities have been implemented, the expected results have been achieved, and the positive and negative effects of the Federation's presence and inputs (country representative and regional delegation) on the development process of the National Society.

Critical assumptions

Internal:

- A true commitment from the leadership of the national society towards the change processes, at headquarters and branch levels.
- Sufficient qualified staff available in key management positions, at headquarters and branch levels.

External:

- A delay in the recognition of the RCSE by the Eritrean government will have an adverse impact on the organisational and resource development.
- A continuation of the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia could affect the quality and level of the change processes and divert the RCSE's attention to relief assistance.
- Sufficient funding is available for the program.

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Appeal 2001		
DELEGATION: ERITREA		
PROGRAMME	Coord. & mgt	TOTAL
Shelter & construction	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0
Food & seeds	0	0
Water	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0
Sub total supplies	0	0
Land & Buildings	0	0
Vehicles	0	0
Computers & telecom	4,257	4,257
Medical equipment	0	0
Other capital expenses	2,000	2,000
Sub total capital	6,257	6,257
Programme management	10,243	10,243
Technical services	3,066	3,066
Professional services	3,401	3,401
Sub total programme support	16,710	16,710
Transport & storage	4,400	4,400
Personnel (delegates & expatriates)	94,185	94,185
Personnel (local staff)	7,560	7,560
Sub total personnel	101,745	101,745
Travel & related expenses	12,000	12,000
Information expenses	0	0
Expert fees	4,000	4,000
Admin. - general expenses	6,800	6,800
Training workshops / seminars	0	0
Sub total travel, training, general exp.	22,800	22,800
Total budget	151,912	151,912