

Programme Update



Eritrea and Djibouti

Appeal No. MAA64005

29/08/2008

This report covers the period 01/01/08
to 30/06/08.



Pastoralists in Djibouti queue for water from one of the few remaining water wells.

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".

- 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.

Programme summary: In 2008-2009, both National Societies plan to strengthen disaster preparedness, response and recovery capacities, and in turn, strengthen community resilience. Red Cross Society of Eritrea programmes focus on HIV and AIDS, reproductive health, maternal and child health as well as floods, drought, avian flu and road safety.

The Red Crescent Society of Djibouti (RCSD) has recently reactivated its operation after being dormant for some time. Thus reinforcing its internal capacity remains pivotal. Its programmes first target those living along the borders due to their vulnerabilities in times of drought and rain failure.

The suspension of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE) affected the implementation of the programmes in the first half of 2008; much time has been spent trying to overcome the problems associated with the suspension. The suspension was lifted in March 2008. There is

positive development on the issue of recognition of RCSE after the Federation continued exerting efforts for recognition of the National Society. All the necessary preparations related to the African Caribbean Pacific-European Union (ACP-EU) funded rural water and sanitation project was prepared. Several key activities have been undertaken and the recruitment of a project advisor has been approved by the Eritrean authorities.

Previously, the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti used to be part of the sub office of the Horn of Africa based in Ethiopia. However, it was later realized that the programmes in Ethiopia demanded a lot of attention. During the restructuring of Eastern Africa Zone, it was recommended that Djibouti be supported by the Federation Office in Eritrea and integrate its appeal as part of Eritrea.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget is CHF 2,009,118 (USD 1,913,446 or EUR 1,228,818), of which 38 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 25 per cent of the total funds received.

Funding RCSE programme in 2008 has been adversely affected by the suspension of activities; most partners would like the funds to be utilized within a specific period as per the donor policy. The disaster management programme was to be supported by the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID) and Finnish Red Cross. However, due to the suspension, DFID support was put on hold and Finnish Red Cross provided 80 % of their commitment in 2008.

During the first six months, 2008 activities for the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti had some regressions due to inadequate funding particularly on the Federation part. The organizational development programme was supported by the Swedish Red Cross, while the disaster management and dissemination of Humanitarian Values programmes were supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The health and care programme did not get any pledge during this reporting period.

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

No. of people we help: The programmes have focused on capacity building; it is therefore difficult to estimate the numbers of people Federation-supported programmes have helped.

Our partners: The RCSE is partnering with the ministries of Health, Labour and Human Welfare, Agriculture and Water Resources department. It's also partnering with local provincial, sub provincial and village administrations, village and national associations. Other partners include the Austrian, Danish, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian and Netherlands National Societies as well as the ICRC.

The RCSD also partners with government ministries - Health, Interior, Agriculture, Defence and local and regional government authorities. It also partners with the village administrations and UN agencies. Partners within the Movement include the ICRC, and Swedish and French Red Cross.

Context

The main factor that adversely affects Eritrea is the unresolved border issue. The full potential of the nation remains unattained due to the unresolved border dispute with Ethiopia. Moreover, the present fuel supply in the country is a major challenge to all humanitarian work. On the other hand, the suspension of the RCSE due to a court case, until its resolution by the end of March 2008, prevented full swing activities of the National Society.

The RCSE handled the suspension issue in close collaboration with the Federation Office in Asmara and the Zone Office in Nairobi together with ICRC delegation in Asmara. In the meantime, the RCSE continued to cope with implications, advocating and entering into dialogue with government ministries and Movement partners. By the end of March 2008, with the lifting of

the suspension, the RCSE revised its plans and shared with partners. A new society patron, the Minister for Health of the State of Eritrea was introduced to the RCSE and Partner National Societies.

In the first quarter of the 2008, no significant activity was reported by the RCSE. Fuel shortage also reduced field work activities for the society. On the other hand, capacity building programmes continued in the second quarter of the year; RCSE strategies (2008-2012) were reviewed, and plans for 2008 finalized.

Djibouti has experienced adverse climatic conditions, including persistent droughts that negatively impact on their food security situation. The current drought, which is felt through out the entire country, appears more severe than that of 2006. Many factors such as high food prices, loss of livestock due to lack of pasture, animal diseases and water shortage aggravated the current situation. Due to the severe drought the consumer prices continue to soar beyond the pay and purchasing power of people. For more details on the Food Insecurity situation in Djibouti as well as the Red Crescent of Djibouti response, kindly refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/08/MDRDJ001.pdf>

Progress towards outcomes

ERITREA

Disaster Management

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.

Programme component 1. Disaster Preparedness

Outcomes:

- RCSE preparedness for floods and drought disasters at community level is enhanced.
- RCSE disaster management skills and capacities are increased.
- Improved community awareness on avian flu, road safety, Disaster Risk Reduction, First Aid.

Achievements: To enhance RCSE preparedness for floods and drought disasters, with the support of Federation and DFID, RCSE procured disaster preparedness items including 200 first aid kits and other non food item/materials.

To improve community awareness on road safety, disaster risk reduction and first aid, the RCSE joined the National Road Safety established by the Government. The RCSE shared the experience of the Movement on road safety. Community based first aid training for 200 volunteers and community members was organized by the RCSE in eight training workshops at the headquarters and branches.

Programme component 2. Disaster Response: Emergency

Outcome:

- The impact of floods and drought disasters on people's lives is reduced through provision of emergency food and NFIs and life saving services.

Achievements:

- No activities were implemented during this reporting period.

Programme component 3. Disaster Response: Recovery

Outcomes:

- Improved livelihood of the most vulnerable population affected by floods and drought disasters through enhanced crop production.

- RCSE skills strengthened in managing water and soil conservation programmes, and FS programmes.

Achievements:

- No activities were implemented during this reporting period.

Health and Care

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Programme component 1. Water and sanitation

Outcomes:

- Access to safe water and sanitation services is improved.
- Improved community awareness and understanding on the importance of hygiene and sanitation.

Achievements: A meeting was held in Nairobi regarding the RCSE water and sanitation (WatSan) Project. Funds have been secured from the European Union (EU) and PNSs. The recruitment of a Programme Advisor was supported by the Netherlands Red Cross. The RCSE prepared the job descriptions for a WatSan project personnel and started coordination with concerned ministries.

A meeting was held with the Minister of Health of the state of Eritrea as well as EU office in Asmara regarding ACP/EU WatSan project. This was in relation to the recruitment of a project advisor, of which, hiring an expatriate got full support from the minister.

Programme component 2. HIV and AIDS

Outcome:

- Increased awareness on HIV/AIDS and STIs at the community level and positive behaviour change.
- Improved quality of life and productivity of PLWHIV.

Achievements: The RCSE organized a training of trainers on HIV and AIDS to volunteers selected from all its branches. The training was attended by 24 volunteers and was conducted for 10 days.

Programme component 3. Maternal and Child Health

Outcome:

- Reduced child and maternal morbidity and mortality rates.

Achievements:

- No activities were implemented during this reporting period.

Programme component 3. Malaria

Outcomes:

- Malaria prevalence rate reduced through community training and surveillance.
- Morbidity and mortality of children under five reduced in intervention areas.

Achievements:

- No activities were implemented during this reporting period.

Programme component 4. Emergency Health and Psychological Support

Outcomes:

- Morbidity and mortality due to health emergencies reduced.
- Increased CRC preparedness (including avian flu pandemic preparedness) and response to health emergencies.
- The mental and psychological wellbeing of the community and CRC staff and volunteers enhanced during disasters.

Achievements: The Swedish Red Cross entered a cooperation agreement to support the Community Based Health Development Programme (CBHDP) of Maekel branch. A cooperation document was the base for the Memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two parties.

Programme component 5. Reproductive Health**Outcome:**

- Increased access to reproductive health care for women.

Achievements: RCSE shared lessons and best practice that can influence community attitudes, shape social values and promote responsible behaviour. This social mobilisation was conducted so as to improve knowledge on sexual and reproductive health. The National Society worked in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) based in Eritrea.

Capacity Development

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component 1. Capacity development (Branch and NHQ)**Outcomes:**

- Strengthened relationship between RCSE and the Government of Eritrea.
- RCSE management and staff and volunteers capacities increased.
- Increased RCSE financial resource base.

Achievements: After an interlocutory meeting between the new RCSE patron, the Minister of Health, and the Movement partners, four meetings took place with the Minister to facilitate working together between the RCSE and the Government of Eritrea. As a result, the RCSE relations with the government have since been strengthened.

To prepare the RCSE for recognition by its respective government, after a comprehensive discussion with RCSE partners, a consensus has been reached that a Movement advisor is needed to prepare the ground for the RCSE to be legally recognized. A term of reference for the Movement advisor has been prepared and shared with partners. As a result, the government has pledged that the RCSE will be recognized by the first half of the year 2009.

The RCSE documented their experience in the implementation of the CBHDP at Maekel branch and shared with all the National Societies in the Eastern Africa Zone. This process was facilitated by the East Africa Zone Office.

The National Society conducted branch capacity assessment workshop. A total of 20 participants drawn from the headquarters and branches attended the workshop. The workshop, which was funded by the Swedish Red Cross, was facilitated by an external consultant and the Swedish Red Cross.

Two quarterly management meetings were held at the RCSE headquarters. The meetings were attended by RCSE branch secretaries and programme coordinators. The meetings enabled sharing experiences; lessons learnt and facilitated better planning of activities.

The programme coordinator for RCSE participated in a community-based first aid (CBFA) consultative workshop conducted in Somalia by the Eastern Africa Zone health and care department. The workshop involved reviewing the International Federation's CBFA guidelines. Accordingly, the RCSE is currently developing its own CBFA based on the workshop outcomes. The programme coordinator also participated in a PMER planning workshop organized by EA Zone Office in Nairobi in April 2008. As a result of the training, the National Society has since been able to draft its 2009-2010 plans.

Programme component 2. Volunteer development

Outcomes:

- The existing RCSE volunteer facilitation system strengthened.
- Volunteer management capacity of the RCSE enhanced.

Achievements:

- No activities were implemented during this reporting period.

Principles and values

Global Agenda Goal 4: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme component 1. Communication development

Outcomes:

- Communication/dissemination capacity of the RCSE is strengthened
- The image of the RCSE has been improved through continuous profiling

Achievements: During the Red Cross/Red Crescent Day, the RCSE celebrated this important event with government ministers, diplomats, and Movement partners. The event provided an opportunity for the National Society to disseminate the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Values and particularly to improve the National Society's image.

Programme component 2. Humanitarian Principles and Values/ Dissemination

Outcomes:

- Awareness of the public at large on Fundamental Principles, RC/RC values and RCSE activities.
- Reduced stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS.

Achievements:

- No activities were implemented during this reporting period.

Programme component 3. Tracing

Outcomes:

- Public awareness on the availability of tracing service increased.
- RCSE tracing service strengthened and efficient service provided.

Achievements:

- No activities were implemented during this reporting period.

Programme component 4. Mine Risk Education

Outcomes:

- Reduction of fatalities due to mine/UXO.

Achievements:

- No activities were implemented during this reporting period.

Constraints or Challenges: The unresolved border issue with Ethiopia is a major obstacle to the country as a whole. It has adversely affected the society's operations. There is an acute shortage of fuel in Eritrea and this too has adversely affected field operations. Now that the suspension is lifted, the RCSE faces the challenge of recruiting capable staff to run its planned activities. Most of the capable workforce in the country is still in their national service programme. Furthermore, the pending recognition also limits the society's well-functioning. Finally, involvement of national society staff in regional events is restricted to only a few staff due to national visa regulations.

DJIBOUTI

Disaster Management

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.

Programme component 1. Disaster response (capacity building)

Outcomes:

- Improved capacity of the RCSD to respond to disasters (drought and floods);
- Disaster response and recovery capacities are built in communities prone to natural disasters.

Achievements: To increase grassroots and communities involvement in Disaster Reduction (DR)/Disaster Preparedness (DP), the Disaster Management department conducted National Disaster Response Team training in June 2008. Participants were drawn from 6 branches. The objective of the exercise is to build RCSD disaster response capacity to ensure that the RCSD is better prepared to respond to their small and medium disasters in a timely and effectively manner. In April 2008, the Federation together with the RCSD sent an assessment team, after a drought hit the country. The team was to determine the magnitude and severity of the drought and its impact and to support the affected households to meet their essential requirements without damaging their livelihoods, health and dignity.

A DREF allocation was requested to assist the National Society to start up emergency water and sanitation activities in semi-urban areas. The DREF will also support the deployment of a relief delegate to assist the RCSD with detailed assessment and preparation for the planned, targeted food distribution.

The RCSD and ICRC team conducted a joint assessment in North of the country (Obock) to assess the impact of the conflict following the frontier hostilities between Djibouti and Eritrea. The conflict led to the displacement of hundreds of people who left the border zone towards a locality called Khor-angar located 65 kilometres away from the border. RCSD volunteers also assessed the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) situation. The ICRC and RCSD distributed non food materials such as jerry cans and tarpaulin, among other materials to alleviate the suffering of the IDPs.

Health and Care

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Programme component 1. Integrated Health and Care Project (Water and Sanitation, PHAST, HIV and AIDS, and health promotion)

Outcomes:

- Increased RCSD capacity to scale up integrated health and care projects.
- Decreased incidence of communicable diseases at community level.

Achievements: The RCSD drafted a project proposal and submitted it to the Finish Red Cross. The proposal was for an integrated health programme that included capacity building of the RCSD branches.

Similar to the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, the RCSD is also a member of the HIV and AIDS Global Alliance. Accordingly, a three-year proposal on HIV and AIDS was finalized and posted on the Federation website. For more information on this programme, kindly refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual08/MAA64006.pdf>

The volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti and the personnel of the dispensary took part in a vaccination campaign against measles organized by the Ministry of Health in order to raise the rate of vaccine coverage.

Capacity Development

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component 1. Capacity development (Branch and national headquarters)

Outcome:

- Increased RCSD capacity to deliver services to the most vulnerable population.

Achievements: Two representatives from the National Society took part in the Eastern Africa Zone partnership meeting in Kampala in February 2008. They have notably learnt the new operating model of operation and how to implement it to promote the development within the Partner National Societies as well as to strengthen the cooperation between the members of the Movement.

The RCSD was also represented in the planning meeting held in Nairobi from 28-30 April 2008. The basic principles and guidelines for the planning period 2009-2010 were discussed and, hence, the National Society has since been able to draft their plans for 2009-2010.

Programme component 2. Governance and management

Outcome:

- Strengthened the relationship between RCSD governance and management to ensure efficiency and effective fulfilment of the National Society's mandate.
- RCSD management systems are strengthened at headquarters and branch levels.

Achievements: The second advisory meeting of the International Red Crescent conference was held in Istanbul from 10-14 June 2008 and two officials from the National Society took part in the this meeting.

Principles and values

Global Agenda Goal 4: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme component. Humanitarian Principles and Values

Outcomes:

- Increased respect for diversity and non-discrimination throughout Djibouti.
- Red Cross volunteers and staff knowledge of fundamental principles and humanitarian values, non-discrimination and sexual gender based violence prevention is enhanced.

Achievements:

- No activities were implemented during this reporting period

Constraints or Challenges: In Djibouti, the National Society's major challenge is lack of adequate funding.

Working in partnership

The RCSE maintains close working relations 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.

The RCSE signed a partnership agreement with the Swedish Red Cross for three years to support the Maekel branch. The RCSE proactively participated in meetings coordinated by the United Nations, with regard to food security and improving the humanitarian situation of the people.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The activities of both the RCSE and RCSD are designed in light of the Movement's strategic relationship choices. The close cooperation with the ICRC and the Federation has been and still is of great importance for further development of the National Societies.

Their four main programmes - health and care, disaster management, humanitarian values and organizational development reflect the initiatives of the Global Agenda.

The programmes also took into consideration the gender equality and inclusion of the minority groups of both National Societies. The main beneficiaries of the programmes are children and women, emphasizing water and sanitation projects. Collection of household water from water sources is the responsibility of women and children. Specifically, the RCSE WatSan program contributes to alleviate the suffering of this vulnerable group. As the activities are evenly distributed throughout the country it incorporates the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

Looking ahead

- The RCSE's ACP-EU water and sanitation project implementation is expected to start in the second half of the year. Although the issue of the delegate has been resolved, the national staff recruitment will be a top priority for RCSE.
- The RCSE activities that started in the second quarter of 2008 need acceleration in order to compensate for the time lost on the first half of 2008.
- RCSD's major challenge is funding. The National Society presented a proposal to Finnish Red Cross for funding the health programme. If and when funded, the National Society will implement an integrated health programme that will include capacity building at the branches.

How we work

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".

Global Agenda Goals:

- 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.

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