

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ETHIOPIA

Appeal No. MAAET002

26/08/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2009 to
30/06/2009



Training local women in prevention of Acute Watery Diarrhoea was central to the programme.

Source: Ethiopian Red Cross Society

In brief

Programme purpose: The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) programmes in the first half of 2009 focused on making a real change in the lives of the targeted communities. ERCS reduced the impact of disasters, diseases, public health emergencies and number of deaths and injuries among the vulnerable population in Ethiopia. The ERCS addressed its own capacity building in disaster response and preparedness in order to deliver better services to disaster affected population.

The health and care programme aimed to address HIV and AIDS through preventing/controlling further infection, expanding care and support for People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV), awareness raising, fighting stigmatization and discrimination. In addition this programme improved and promoted maternal and child health (MCH) services through immunization; proper water and sanitation measures through National Society (NS) community based activities.

The organisational development/capacity building programme aimed to address vulnerabilities through mobilising and building capacities of local communities, ERCS volunteers and its staff at both branch and headquarter levels.

The ERCS programmes are in line and contributing to the Federation's Global Agenda goals and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) at global level.

Programme summary: Supported by the Federation, ERCS implemented a range of community based development programmes and community building schemes. Whenever disasters strike the National Society dispatches material, financial and human resources to the affected area to participate in relief operations and respond to the chronic needs of the most vulnerable. Rehabilitation and recovery activities were also undertaken in the affected areas. The International

Federation, based on its mandate, channeled technical and financial support to the ERCS which has a wealth of experience in responding to humanitarian needs.

ERCS has been focusing on improving the lives of the most vulnerable people by reducing the impact of natural and man made disasters, reducing the impact of diseases and improving the capacities of its volunteers during the reporting period. Due to the recurrence of floods and droughts in the country for the past four years, the capacity of the NS has been over-stretched. The impact of disasters and diseases have shown that the National Society needs to mobilize and train more volunteers through strengthening existing and establishing more Red Cross committees throughout the country in order to reach the most vulnerable people.

A high level meeting organised by InterAction within the framework of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported an integrated programme to address preparedness for H2P influenza pandemic. Over 100 people including government officials, United Nations (UN) agencies, USAID, Non Governmental Organisation (NGOs) and Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies participated. The first three cases of H1N1 influenza have been detected and confirmed by the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 2,885,230 (USD 2719329 or EUR1901367), of which 45 per cent was covered. Expenditure overall was 29 per cent of the amount received. The variation between sums received and spent partly results from the implementation of rescheduled activities from 2008 and engagement of ERCS in food security emergency operations and other bilateral activities. Based on available funds, planned activities for 2009 will be largely implemented in the second half of 2009.

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

See also:

[MDRET005](#) Ethiopia: Food Insecurity (Operation update no. 6)

[MDR64003](#) Horn of Africa: Exceptional Food Security Crisis

[Ethiopia Country Plan 2009-2010](#)

No. of people we help: Over 50,000 direct beneficiaries were reached through disaster management and food security projects and up to 4,000,000 rural community members addressed through 320 Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) facilitators.

Our partners: The ERCS and Federation Country Representation work with a number of partners when implementing programmes. Close relationships developed with donors in response to the 2009-2010 Country Plan, particularly with Swedish Red Cross which contributed a bulk amount of funds to implement some of the activities in the country plan. There was also particular support for disaster management activities from the Department for International Development (DFID). Partnership was developed with Partner National Societies (PNS) in Ethiopia implementing bilateral and multilateral activities together with ERCS particularly American RC, Austrian RC, Danish RC, British RC, French RC, German RC, Finnish RC, Netherlands RC and Spanish RC. The bilateral activities implemented complement each other thus ensuring overall coordinated service delivery in the field of health and care and food security. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has played an important role providing valuable support to the National Society through its traditional activities, as well as in logistics.

There were a variety of partnerships outside the Movement, which include Government ministries – especially the federal ministries of health, agriculture and rural development (which is responsible for disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction). There was continuing close cooperation with local and regional levels of government. These collaborations were found to be crucial when implementing community oriented health and disaster management interventions.

Other partners outside the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement include international donor agencies such as the USAID, European Union (EU) and European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO). The National Society also cooperates and coordinates its activities with various UN agencies such as Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Food Programme (WFP) as well as Government ministries and their offices at national and local levels. Through its countrywide network of local branches the society also cooperates with community-based and women associations, in addition to the associations of PLHIV. Other partners were the communities and ERCS volunteers.

Context

Based on the multi-agency assessment conducted in November/December 2008 the Government of Ethiopia and Humanitarian partners issued a joint humanitarian requirements document that identifies emergency food and non-food needs in 2009. According to the document some 4.9 million people are in need of emergency assistance in 2009 in addition to another 7 million who are assisted in a more structural fashion through the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP).

Preliminary findings of the *belg* assessment teams indicate poor harvests in many *belg* crop-producing areas due to poor performance of the February to May rains. Major *belg* crop failure and serious shortages of water and pasture are reported in East and West Hararghe zones, in the lowland areas of Oromiya and in Tigray regions¹.

Transport congestion in Djibouti is hampering import of humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia. WFP and the NGO Joint Emergency Operation Programme (JEOP) resources could jointly address the needs of up to 4.1 million beneficiaries in a fourth and fifth rounds of allocations. However, WFP reports that the planned food allocations will not reach beneficiaries before August unless transport congestion in Djibouti is immediately resolved².

A number of displacements took place in Oromya, Somali and Gambella regions during the reporting period. Conflict between pastoralist communities in the border areas of Borena zone in Oromiya region and Liben zone in Somali region erupted over resources (especially water and grazing fields) or territorial disputes. Around 70,000 people were displaced in Oromiya and around 80,000 people were displaced in Somali regions. A total of 24,000 people were displaced due to cross border (Ethiopia-Sudan) attacks and internal conflict in Gambella region. In addition Gambella region is prone to natural disasters such as floods and epidemics that require additional preparedness and risk reduction activities by humanitarian sector³.

ERCS continued emergency health response operations in Moyale (Somali region) and Borena (Negele, Oromiya) areas within the Horn of Africa (HoA) operations. ERCS is planning to scale up water and sanitation activities in the area thus addressing Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) prevention as well. ERCS had been active in preparations for seasonal influenza outbreaks, particularly for H2P and H1N1. The National Society is actively involved in awareness raising activities and participating in national influenza pandemic preparedness coordination.

Progress towards outcomes

The ERCS programmes in 2009 were tailored towards making impacts on the lives of targeted communities through lessening the burdens of chronic disasters, diseases and lack of access to water among vulnerable populations in Ethiopia. The programme components are aligned to the Federation Global Agenda Goals and follow the policies, principles and initiatives of the International

¹ UNOCHA Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin, 29 June 2009

² UNOCHA Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin, 15-29 June 2009

³ UN/INGO Joint Assessment Reports, April-May 2009

Federation as well as the priorities of the ERCS Governing board. All the National Society's activities are also based on the needs in the country.

Disaster Management

Programme Components: disaster management planning; organizational preparedness; disaster risk reduction; disaster response

Outcomes

- Improved ability to predict and plan for disasters at National Society level
- The ERCS disaster response capacities are improved
- Improved community awareness on the impact of environmental degradation
- Established and improved mitigation mechanisms at the community level
- The impact of natural disasters on people's lives is reduced
- Sustainable livelihood of the population affected by disaster is restored through effective disaster recovery programme
- Increased food production, availability and utilisation at community level

Achievements

ERCS continued supporting vulnerable people with number of activities addressing disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and institutional preparedness issues during the reporting period. The achievements were as follows:

In Gursum East Harerge, tree planting activities were carried out on an area covering 2.15 acres or 0.796 hectare of land. On this area 84 seed beds were prepared. In 2009, 78,000 forest trees, 68,000 fruits and 10,500 forage trees were planned to be distributed among 516 households (2,580 beneficiaries). The beneficiaries have been selected from areas of poor soil fertility and degraded environment. People with poor income and peasant associations handled by safety net program were some of the selected beneficiaries. Currently the seedlings are ready to be distributed among targeted beneficiaries.

In Wolaita zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) region, the nursery site is found in Boloso Sora Woreda. The tree seedlings have been planted on 0.4375 hectare land. On this area 12,415 mango trees and 6,000 avocado trees were planted totalling to 18,415 fruit trees. Additionally, 94,500 *Grabilia Robusta* forest trees and forage trees amounting 15,500 have been planted and ready to be distributed among 15,000 beneficiaries. Out of the beneficiaries, 143 households are selected from model farmers for provision of selected fruit trees. The majority of forest and forage trees are expected to be planted on the degraded and sloppy communal lands in the rural areas and road sides in the urban areas.

Table 1: SNNP region, Wolaita zone, Boloso Sore District Nursery Site

Type of activity	Unit No of	Annual target	Planned	Achieved	% achievement
<i>Land preparation</i>	Hectare	0.375	0.375	0.4375	166.6
<i>Seed bed preparation</i>	seed bed	100	100	100	100
<i>On bed germination</i>	Bed	30	30	36	120
<i>Root bearing</i>	Pots	50,000	50,000	52,000	104
<i>Plastic pots preparation</i>	Pots	150,000	150,000	79,415	52.94
<i>Transplanting germinated seedlings</i>	Seedlings	75,000	75,000	50,300	67.06
<i>Watering</i>	Seedlings	150,000	75,000	50,300	67.06
<i>Shade making</i>	Seedlings	15,000	75,000	50,300	67.06
<i>weeding</i>	seedlings	150,000	75,000	50,300	67.06

Basic non-food items such as jerry cans, blankets, sleeping mats and plastic sheeting are in the process of being procured by the ERCS to re-boost the NS disaster preparedness capacity responding to potential disasters.

Table 2: Non food items for procurement

Description	Size	Quantity
Water jerry cans	25 litter	2,000
Blankets	160/120	1,000
Sleeping mat	1.50x2.50	2,000
Plastic sheeting	2x100m (roll)	100

In order to strengthen disaster preparedness capacity in western Ethiopia and based on storage survey conducted in 2008, the ERCS is planning to construct a small-size warehouse in Nekemt town, the capital of East Wollega zone. This warehouse has been selected to serve for pre-positioning of contingency non food emergency stocks. The branch is preparing bill of quantities for construction of the warehouse.

In response to the Food Security initiative and launching of a five-year strategic framework for food security in Africa initially focusing on 15 sub-Saharan National Societies implementing food security activities, a project was initiated by the ERCS and supported by the Swedish RC. A Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) was conducted in December 2007 which resulted in initiating a four-year project (2009-2012) named “Integrated Food Security project to build the capacity of communities affected by food insecurity in Dedba, Dergajen and Shibta” in Tigrey region. The objectives of the project are: to improve income of vulnerable people (2,259 HH); to improve health conditions of 10,000 people; to improve environmental protection and; building capacity of ERCS Tigrey branch in implementing long-term food security programmes. Initial contribution from Swedish RC for 2009 is CHF 423,450.

Challenges

- The implementation of the planned activities has experienced delays as funds were not secured on time.
- Limited capacity of human resource at the branch levels caused delay in receiving financial and narrative reports in time.

Health and Care

Health and Care immunization activities, Water and Sanitation, and community based basic health services have been executed in order to complement the efforts of the government in improving the health status of the rural community. Activities were carried out in targeted branches and by support of multilateral funds channelled through the Country Plan 2009-2010.

Programme Components: community based First Aid; maternal and child health; HIV and AIDS; water and sanitation; emergency health.

Outcomes

- Increased healthy communities which are able to cope with health and disaster challenges
- Improved MCH services through NS community based activities, including safe motherhood and child health initiatives, vaccination and nutrition activities
- Increased MCH service attendance within the targeted communities
- Improved public awareness on importance of MCH services and immunisation
- Access to safe water and sanitation services improved in the target areas
- Improved community awareness and understanding of the importance of proper hygiene and sanitation measures
- Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment and support, and reducing stigma and discrimination

- Curative and preventive health services are promoted and thus the access to them is improved in the target areas

Achievements

ERCS continued strengthening capacities of its branches and communities in addressing health related challenges. In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and WHO a workshop on Malaria, TB, child growth and polio was organised by the ERCS. The participants were all 38 ERCS branches, volunteers and zone FMoH experts. Swedish Red Cross Society allocated some funding for HIV prevention activities in Tigray region. During the reporting period, 50 Home Based Care (HBC) clients have been selected. HBC and peer to peer education will be provided to 74 selected beneficiaries in total.

ERCS actively participated in social mobilisation activities contributing to two rounds of polio campaigns organised by the FMoH in collaboration with WHO. A total of 5 ERCS branches participated in the campaign including Beneshangul Gumuz, south Omo, Afar, east and west Harerge.

ERCS supported by the Swedish Red Cross Society, is planning to implement an integrated health project focusing on water and sanitation activities in four branches. The project has been designed to be integrated with other health programme components such as CBHFA, HIV prevention, community and branch capacity building activities. All four targeted branches of west Wollega (Oromya region), west Shoa (Oromya region), Wolaita SNNP region and Guraghe (SNNP region) carried out planned activities. So far nine spring development activities have been carried out and a total of 55 and 72 volunteers have trained in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) respectively. Around 93 per cent of the planned activities have been achieved and other activities like San plat slabs production, Income Generating Activities (IGA) and water committee trainings will be accomplished since the project period runs through 2010.

The CBHFA programme is undertaken in collaboration with the Swedish Red Cross in 16 Branches with total budget allocation of SEK 700,000. Training of trainers (ToT) in CBHFA was conducted at head quarter level. Thirty one volunteers from the 16 selected branches have participated in the nine day training. All integrated health issues such as basic First Aid training, Water and Sanitation, HIV and AIDS, integrated health approach and intervention, gender and health and family planning were addressed. Trainees are equipped with CBHFA Amharic version manual and CBHFA tool kit. 320 CBHFA facilitators were trained at branch level and 320 First Aid kits were distributed.

Challenges

- Low coverage of the Country Plan does not allow the ERCS to implement all planned activities and there was frequent need for re-arranging operational plans. Challenges in securing the funds and re-planning process affected transfer of funds and consequently causing delays in implementation.
- More efforts are to be made in strengthening capacities at branch and community levels to deliver better and quality services to vulnerable people.
- Some activities which are carried out at branch level are not always reflected in reports, thus there is a need to strengthen monitoring and reporting capacities at field level.

Organisational Development/Capacity Building

Programme Components: leadership development; development of systems, procedures and staff sustainability; finance management; youth and volunteer development; branch development

Outcomes

- Increased service delivery by ERCS branches to the most vulnerable
- Strengthen relationships between the ERCS governance and management
- Increased action and participation of ERCS volunteers in service delivery
- Strengthened National Society's financial and narrative reporting systems
- Increased number of volunteers and youth members providing services to the most vulnerable
- Increased involvement of volunteers in management and governance bodies
- Improved quality of work by volunteers and youth.
- Increased membership base

Achievements

The ERCS has continued with activities contributing to the NS Strategic Plan 2006-2010 and Global Agenda Goal 3 including workshops for newly elected board members at regional and zone levels, conducting branch capacity assessments, distributing various manuals to branches on membership, volunteering and income generation. The Swedish RC through the Federation Country Plan 2009-2010 has supported various activities as follows:

Table 3: Summary of activities

Period	Activity	Target beneficiaries	Number of people reached
January 2009	Preparation of Intensified Capacity Building support plan document	ERCS,5 branches and National Head quarter (NHQ)	N/A
February 2009	Membership and volunteer development Seminar	ERCS, Regional and Zonal branch secretaries	40
March 2009	Branch Capacity Assessment (BCA) Exercise	ERCS, Region and Zone branches	12 branches
April-May 2009	Printing of 1,033,000 membership cards	ERCS, Region and Zone branches	38 branches
May-June 2009	Induction workshop for newly elected board members at regional and zone level	ERCS Region and Zone branches	109
May 2009	Distribution of leadership certificate for board members who finished their terms.	ERCS, Region and Zone branches	222
June 2009	3 rd World Red Cross Red Crescent youth meeting, Italy	ERCS branches	3
Jun 2009	International experience exchange by Hong Kong Red Cross youth to the ERCS		16

A two days workshop was organised by the ERCS for branches and headquarter staff to disseminate and familiarize with new manuals adopted by the General Assembly in December 2008. This exercise was aimed at enabling branches to use new manuals in the field, to implement the strategy of the NS and to use data base system for members and volunteers. In order to maintain a data base

system for members 1,033,000 new identity cards were printed as per revised membership guidelines. The cards will be distributed in August 2009.

ERCS was selected for ICB support. The proposal was prepared by the NS through participatory approach involving various departments and branches. The document was submitted to the Federation's OD department for review and approval.

Induction workshop for newly elected board members at region and zone level scheduled at three places was organized and carried out in two places. The workshops were aimed at increasing the capacity of board members in the selected areas. Some of the topical issues discussed included the concept on volunteerism, ERCS history, current activities, clear roles and responsibilities of board members in providing the necessary support to branch offices at the grass root levels. National board members, volunteers, headquarter staff and program beneficiaries were involved in presentation of different topics and facilitation of the workshop. A total of 109 board members (17 females and 92 males) from 22 ERCS branches participated in the workshop.

ERCS is aiming at drafting integrated branch development programme to ensure a more coherent and effective approach to its own institutional development focusing on strengthening presence in the field for better service delivery to population in need. A branch capacity assessment (BCA) tool was adapted to the National Society context as a continuation of the exercise which started at the end of 2008. The BCA was carried out in 12 branches during the reporting period reaching a total number of 20 branches. The rest of the branches will be assessed in August 2009.

Two youth volunteers and one national headquarter staff participated in the third world Red Cross and Red Crescent youth meeting held in Italy, Solferino from 23-28 June 2009. Nearly 600 youth volunteers, delegates from more than 150 National Societies participated in the meeting. The major events of the meeting were training, visiting Henry Dunant museum and 8 kilometres walking, regional meetings and travel to Geneva with the aim of commemorating the travel of Henry Dunant to Solferino and back to Geneva. This participation motivated the youth volunteers.

A team of 16 youth volunteers from Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC) visited ERCS to better understand Red Cross work in Ethiopia, with a focus on the NS youth volunteer programmes. The possibility of future partnership and cooperation with the HKRC within the framework of youth exchange was discussed as well.

Challenges

- The major constraint for OD programme is the level of funding in 2009 which is at 28 per cent coverage. It is challenging to mobilise resources for OD programme activities as most donors are incorporating capacity building into the other programmes.
- Scaling up and strengthening existing branch network is one of the main priorities for the National Society. ERCS needs resources to more aggressively expand its network and ensure quality service delivery to vulnerable people.
- The ICB application, which was submitted to the Federation OD Department in February 2009 and later revised, covered a wide range of priority areas the ERCS wanted to address within the ICB. Feedback was delayed and the NS was not able to plan accordingly and explore new opportunities for funding and approaching potential partners with proposals.

Principles and Values

Programme Component: Promotion of Principles and Humanitarian Values

Outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge, understanding and application of the fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values (including non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance and respect for diversity) within the NS.

- Marked change in behaviour by community or target population as a result of awareness on humanitarian values.
- Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values are integrated into all other programmes of the National Society.

Achievements

There have been no significant activities carried out within the framework of Country Plan 2009-2010. Activities were integrated in other programmes such as Food Security operation in Wolaita zone, SNNP region. In order to increase ERCS visibility and accountability through upgrading its web-site the Netherlands RC supported deployment of the team from the company ORDINA.

Challenges

The main challenge is lack of funding to support the Principles and Values programme therefore most of the activities are planned within or integrated into ongoing programmes such as disaster management; health and care; and organisational development.

Working in partnership

The ERCS has been working with a number of partners to ensure effective service delivery to vulnerable people. The main partners were government agencies particularly Federal Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, State Ministers and regional authorities. These partnerships with government agencies strengthened the auxiliary role of the National Society and increased NS ability to effectively engage itself in addressing needs of the vulnerable people in Ethiopia. The National Society has been actively participating in task force groups and forums both at local and national levels, in the areas of disaster management and health and care. The National Society, as auxiliary to government in humanitarian activities, is receiving financial support from local authorities in locations where ERCS is running ambulance programmes. The National Society, supported by the ICRC, has received 65 out of 77 planned ambulances and is in the process of transferring them to branches. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between the society and 37 municipalities; municipalities commit to cover ambulance running costs and contribute to a sinking fund to be used for replacement of aging fleet. The National Society has also signed MoU with Ministry of Health for HIV, blood bank and other health programmes.

The ERCS, supported by the Federation Country Representation office in Ethiopia, established and further strengthened relationships with EU Office, ECHO, UNOCHA, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and International Organization for Migration (IOM). Close partnerships have been established with IOM in Gembella region to address needs of disaster affected population including the internally displaced persons. New partnerships were developed with external partners within H2P project framework in Ethiopia resulting in developing an integrated work plan to collectively address community resilience and develop preparedness plans against pandemic influenza.

The ERCS and Federation are working on formalising partnership and coordination within the Movement through cooperation meetings, Operational Alliances and through other modalities that enable more effective service delivery in a coordinated manner. There are a number of PNS working in partnership with the ERCS at bilateral and multilateral levels including Austrian RC, British RC, Danish RC, German RC, Spanish RC and Swedish RC. The ERCS is a partner in the Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS and is currently exploring the opportunities that lie in the Operational Alliance concept.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The ERCS long-term programmes are contributing to the Global Agenda goals of the Federation as well as the Millennium Development Goals. By the implementation of the community-based health and disaster management activities, the ERCS is contributing to enhancing the capacities of the targeted local communities to respond to emergency situations.

Three agencies participated in the peer review activities in Ethiopia; the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - Development and Social Services Commission/EECMY-DASSC (an ACT member), the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (a Caritas member) and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (an IFRC member) from 25 May to 09 June 2009. The exercise was conducted within the framework of the Steering Committee of Humanitarian Response (SCHR). SCHR is an alliance for voluntary action of eight major international humanitarian agencies and networks. SCHR functions as a forum where operational humanitarian agencies come together to exchange experiences and address issues of common concern. SCHR collaboration is underpinned by trust, an interest in continual improvement, and identification of best practice, learning, and coordination of humanitarian activities where appropriate. The peer review team, looking at accountability to disaster-affected population, visited three operational areas of ACT, CARITAS and ERCS/IFRC (Wolaita zone, SNNPR). A number of interviews were conducted with staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. Recommendations given to ERCS/IFRC by the review team will help to improve accountability and make operations more effective and relevant.

The financial support provided by DFID enabled the National Society to undergo a continuous self assessment exercise in Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER). The assessment was followed by PMER training for headquarter and branch staff. The exercise which was facilitated by Zone PMER and the NS PMER unit helped the NS to develop PMER guidelines, monitoring and evaluation plan for the Strategic Development Plan as well as the overall monitoring and evaluation framework. The National Society is in line with the agreement on the importance of moving towards a Federation-wide planning, performance measurement and accountability framework, one of the central points of the Federation of the Future outcomes.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society acknowledges that women are under-represented in the governance of the National Society and deliberate efforts were made to encourage and recruit women as board members in the local elections before the General Assembly later held in December 2008. The process continued through 2009 NS taking more efforts to ensure more female volunteers and staff are taking active role in programme implementation and decision making process.

Looking ahead

Looking at past trends and development for last 6 months most likely Ethiopia will face a number of emergencies and disasters related to droughts and floods exacerbated by climate change and global economic slow-down. The forecast for the food insecurity situation also indicates that this situation may deteriorate after September 2009 taking into the account low performance of *belg* (February-March) and *meher* (July-September- forecasted) rains in 2009. Pandemic influenza (H1N1) might strike again during the fall-winter as the influenza is spreading into more and more countries and first few cases have been already detected in Ethiopia.

In order to be able to respond timely and efficiently to future natural and man made disasters, the ERCS will continue to focus on improving their capacity mainly in disaster management and health and care. The National Society took major efforts to take all necessary measures in preparing for possible H1N1 influenza outbreak in close coordination and partnership with Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), WHO and other partners. The Federation will continue to assist and support these aspects with a special emphasis on capacity building at branch and community levels as well as strengthening institutional capacities at headquarter level.

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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