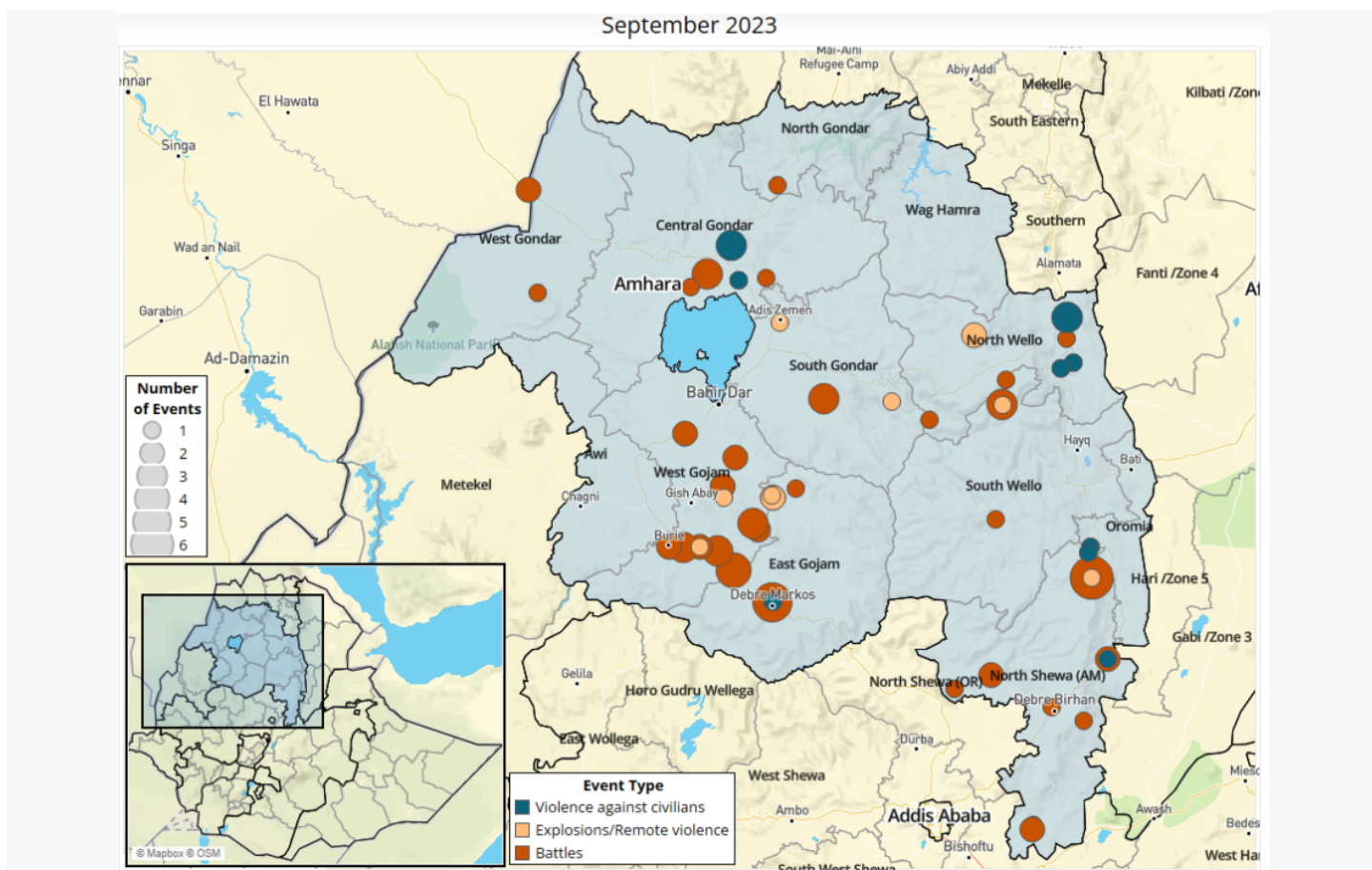




ERCS volunteers in action

Appeal: MDRET031	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 686,066	Crisis Category: Orange	Hazard: Civil Unrest
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 4,575,398 people	People Targeted: 64,725 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 2023-09-05	New Operational End Date: 2024-03-31	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Additional Allocation Requested: 500,204		Targeted Areas: Amhara	

Description of the Event



Amhara map showing hot spots: https://epo.acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/10/Map_Amhara.png

What happened, where and when?

Amhara region has been involved in several crisis and related humanitarian consequences for years but before 2021, it was still one of the less volatile regions in the Northern Ethiopia until recent conflict between the Federal Army and Amhara Militia. The conflict is believed to be provoked since April 2023 following the killing of one senior government official and the government's actions towards the implementation of peace agreement reached in November 2022, in Pretoria where government announced controversial plans to integrate regional special forces into other security institutions. A worrying security dynamic was since then established with continuous fighting between the federal forces and the local Fano militia. The situation gradually escalates to a very complex and volatile situation leading to several civilian deaths, injuries, displacements and complex humanitarian challenges and needs for thousands of people across the region. Continuous isolated fighting and kidnapping in different parts of the region have hindered humanitarian access to affected communities and displaced persons.

In the week of 7th to 13th October, 27 clashes and 43 fatalities were experienced with an increase of 30% from the previous week. <https://epo.acleddata.com/2023/11/01/epo-weekly-21-27-october-2023/>. The deterioration of the situation and the fights trends observed since July continue.

Already in the first week of August, up to 30 clashes were reported by ACLED. On 29 August, at least 183 people were reported as killed in clashes since July, according to information gathered by the UN Human Rights Office. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2023/08/ethiopia-deteriorating-human-rights-situation>. Armed clashes are in an increasing curve with continuous reports of pockets fighting between parties has been increasing in many areas, especially since the beginning of August 2023 when the towns were infiltrated by militias, particularly in Gondar, North Wollo, East and West Gojam, Bahir Dar, Gondar, Shewa and Robit, competing each other to control the major towns.

The state of emergency and imposed curfews declared on 4th August is maintained, aiming to restore security and stability in some areas. Despite the continuous calls by partners for peace negotiation for ceasefire there hasn't been any evidence for possible acceptance from both forces until now. The situation has worsened with blockade of internet communication, phones,

transport, and socio-economical services in some areas for the last 3 months making the situation complex and difficult to monitor. Due to the ongoing conflict, the region is facing accessibility challenges including transport, market, food insecurity, malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and lack of basic services. Following the initial scenario planning by ERCS (detailed in the imminent DREF rationale), the best case scenario was setting the peace dialogue to be successful by October which did not happen and from different sources unlikely to happen. The security situation is likely to remain volatile in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia due to ongoing military operations and failure of peace agreement. <https://crisis24.garda.com>. This requires another approach to tackle the critical emergency needs where access made it feasible.



DIGNITY KITS AND FA KITS PROPOSITIONED



BFA training for volunteers

Scope and Scale

The Amhara conflict is a violent and complex situation involving ethnic, political, and historical factors with an alarming effect on the civilian communities and humanitarian situation across almost all the region. The situation started in April is now beyond 3 months since the emergency state declaration and highest cumulative clashes. The trends of fights remain in average the same over the past months situation (<https://epo.acleddata.com/2023/11/01/epo-weekly-21-27-october-2023/>) but cumulative clashes and impact have led to a more complex and likely protracted situation. This forces us to update the planning, analysis to the current scenario.

For instance, armed clashes are in an increasing curve with continuous reports of pockets fighting between parties since the beginning of August 2023 when the towns were infiltrated by militias, particularly in Gonder, North Wollo, East and West Gojam, Bahir Dar, Gondar, Shewa robit, defeating each other to control the major towns. The current scale of the conflict in the region is covering 11 zones and 137 woredas, leading to the complex crisis experienced in these areas and across the region. According to Ethiopia Peace Observatory, (EPO)ACLED data for September, more than 158 political violence events and more than 1000 fatalities since the start of conflict (Source: Ethiopian Peace Observatory), with a high level of insecurity and humanitarian access complexity.

The displacement scenario foreseen in August is now actual with side humanitarian and socio-economical effects. According to Amhara Region Humanitarian Situation Updates on Disaster Prevention and Food Security Program Coordination Commission by September 2023, more than 670,000 people had been displaced in 6 zones with multiple challenges. It is reported that 578,227 (89% of displaced people) are currently living in host communities and in forests running away from active clashes. This displacement crisis is a high concern in a country which previously rely on Amhara to host people fleeing conflict in surrounding regions. Amhara is the most populated regions with over 20 millions people and have been hosting more than 814,236 total IDPs from multiple regions include Oromia, Southern Nations & Nationalities, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali, and Tigray Region (Amhara zonal branches' initial assessment conducted from 3 to 9 January 2023). The Sudanese refugees also adding to the displacement crisis scope.

The conflict is disproportionately affecting women, children, elderly and people with special needs. It has been reported that the conflict has brought severe violation of human rights causing deaths and gender-based violence (GBV) however, numbers are not identified due to blockade of communication and reporting.

The reports shared by phone and on physical meetings (at HQ) with the branches indicates increasing hostilities in different parts

of Amhara, disrupting the critical humanitarian response in many woredas. Urgent humanitarian support including lifesaving drug supplies for health facilities, overwhelmed ambulance and first aid service, limited partners to provide food, safe and clean water, sanitation, hygiene services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The Limited internet connectivity and security issues including road blockage in parts of Amhara region are affecting humanitarian response activities and report completeness.

The situation has exacerbated other complexities in the region with epidemics such as malaria, measles and cholera affecting the existing vulnerable communities that have limited or no access to medical facilities. Most of the woredas reached by ERCS, have multiple challenges with no humanitarian services because of accessibility and insecurity situations.

Humanitarian access: The region has been experiencing kidnappings and protracted fighting limiting the access for humanitarian actors. This considered and taking into account the scale of the impacts and needs resulting from the context, there is a clear humanitarian demand for now limited to very few organization with access, include ERCS on which many actors also rely in.

All humanitarian actors have evacuated from the region and most of the services are suspended causing more dare situation to the IDP, injured and the most vulnerable groups who are not able to access services. Given the trend of the conflict, ERCS through its mandate and the existence in more than 70% coverage countrywide, has positioned itself to effectively respond to the current crisis, and is considered as most dependable partner to reach more inaccessible areas through its network of branches and volunteers.

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	Yes
Has the forecasted event materialize?	Yes

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

This operation update is developed to scale up the eminent DREF for Ethiopia civil unrest in Amhara region to address lifesaving assistance to IDPs and host communities affected by the ongoing Amhara conflict. This follows the ERCS update of scenario after the 3 months set for the ceasefire to be agreed have past in the previous scenario.

ERCS with support from IFRC will respond to identified humanitarian imperatives caused by the civil unrest. Gaps have been identified in WASH, Health, protection and Livelihoods following the displacement, injuries, death, increased disease outbreak, malnutrition, SGBV and protection challenges, through multipurpose cash, in kind support and community sensitization activity for a period of 6 months. By then, an update will be made on the situation and scenario as this will also match the 6 months curfew.

Since the beginning of August 2023 when the towns were infiltrated by militias, eight out of eleven zones are most affected in the region. These include North and South Gondar, North and South Wollo, East and West Gojam, North Shewa and the capital city of Bahirdar, leaving at least 4,575,398 people affected, more than 1000 fatalities and more than 50 00 injured, nevertheless, data reported has been very limited due to information blockade.

This operation has increased its target from 15,000 people (3000 hhs) to 64,725 people (12,945 HHs) in 4 most affected unsupported zones in south and East part of Amhara region, covering Bahirdar, North Shewa, East Gojam and South Wollo zones. Through OCHA, ERCS has secured funding to support West Gojam zone, and Netherland RC ECHO supported project will cover the Nothern part of the region, including N. Gonder, S.Gonder and North Wollo zones.

Intervention capacity mobilized is revised to 210 volunteers and additional branches staff. A surge also mobilized to support the intervention.

To meet the identified target, ERCS is seeking for funding support of CHF 686,066 for planned activities.

Current National Society Actions



NFI prepositioned ERCS warehouse



Volunteers training Bahirdar city



Training for Ambulance attendants

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The branch through the support of this DREF has conducted orientation to 36 staff and volunteers (18 females and 18 males) participating in the operation on minimum PGI standards, and referral pathways have been identified, including types of service available in the areas with types of institution providing the service. 300 dignity kits have been procured and are in process to be transported to the branches.

Community Engagement And Accountability

With the support from this DREF, ERCS has trained 27 staff and volunteers (15 males and 12 females) on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). 4 community committees of 44 members (29 males and 15 females) have been oriented on feedback mechanism and identified the possible means of communication during emergence, The branch is in the process of capacitating the community with the communication tools identified, and they are organizing the simulation event for the feedback mechanism.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

With the support from Eminent DREF, ERCS has procured water storage equipment's including 20 Lts jerrycan, 10 liters' buckets, Bars of soap, (2 bars per HH), and water treatment chemicals to meet the needs of 500 HHs, in progress to transport them to the branch.

45 volunteers (26 males and 19 female) were trained on hygiene awareness, 6 from each zonal branch, ready to cascade the knowledge to other volunteers.

Shelter, Housing And Settlements

Branch reports identified more than 670,000 people as being displaced, in some areas where information is captured, other areas are not accessible, and information gathering and reporting is still limited. The displaced people reside with host communities in areas where they feel safe, others have evacuated towns to the forests, when battles concentrate in major towns, parties defeating over the town control. ERCS has prepositioned the 500 NFI items, and in the progress to transport them to the branch, the package includes Tarpaulin, sleeping mats and blankets etc. These will be distributed to the most vulnerable HHs in most need of shelter.

<p>Coordination</p>	<p>Considering the prevailing complicated humanitarian situations in the Amhara region, the national board gave direction to establish an ad-hoc committee at HQ. The committee consists of two national board members, an ERCS secretary-general, a secretary-general adviser, a communication head, and an Emergency preparedness and response (ERP) manager to oversee the humanitarian situation and coordinate emergency response in the NS. Two staff from MoH joined the ad-hoc committee to support the initiatives.</p> <p>The ad-hoc committee further established three sub-committee's communication, resource mobilization, and logistics and response responsible for coordinating the routine emergency operation at the HQ level. Each committee prepared an action plan according to the roles and responsibilities entitled and plan to actively engage in response operation as of 15 August 2023.</p> <p>NS maintained coordination with movement partners to follow up the situation with the branch, however the means of communication have been interrupted. NS used the ongoing programs in the region to support with coordination and emergency response operations. The Austria RC conducted the rapid assessment in Jara IDP camp in North Wollo to follow up the situation in the area.</p> <p>Together with internal existing movement coordination mechanism, movement partners have agreed to have a special bimonthly coordination for the Amhara conflict to monitor the humanitarian needs and response. ICRC will take the lead in providing guidance to ensure access and security concerns, compliance, and no overlaps and delays. ERCS will continue to coordinate with ICRC to enhance humanitarian diplomacy.</p> <p>EDRMC has used Multi-agency Coordination (MAC) is a system that provides the architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communication system integration, and information management. MAC systems assist organizations responding to disasters where ERCS is a permanent member through its auxiliary role. ERCS will also coordinate with ECHO 2023 project consortium.</p> <p>To improve coordination of the program, 1 program coordinator at regional level has been assigned at Amhara regional branch, coordinating the implementation of Amhara Conflict response activities. Regional branch is closely coordinating with EDRMC at regional level, despite limited information and data availability.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>The National Society continues providing emergency ambulance and first aid services to wounded casualty since September, in all zones reaching to accessible affected areas. To date, the branch has provided first Aid to more than 5,750 people and referral with ambulance services to more than 4,700 wounded persons in the 11 zones of Amhara region. 32 ambulances are in operational in the region, 15 supported by ICRC, 3 by Canadian Red Cross, and 14 by IFRC, providing EMS and referral services through this DREF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 ambulances deployed for EMS support from this DREF. • 2 ambulances have been serviced to meet the EMS needs. • 36 volunteers (22M and 14F) were trained on BFA, and 34(18 Male and 16 Female) volunteers were trained on Mental Health Psychosocial Support Service. • With the support from ICRC, ERCS has supported 24 health facilities with essential medical supplies across Amhara region. • 420 first Aid kits and 60 stretchers have been procured and distributed to 6 branches to support with EMS.
<p>Activation Of Contingency Plans</p>	<p>The NS has activated the contingency plan, and started the response in accessible areas, with provision of Emergence services through FA and Ambulance. with the support from ICRC, 24 health facilities have been provided with medical supplies. ERCS has also secured funding from OCHA to support the crisis in West Gojam</p>

	<p>zone with MPCT and Health, for 6 months, in response to the ongoing conflict. In country PNS, with the support of the ECHO consortium project (led by Netherland RC) in Amhara have agreed to complement the needs with the ongoing project in WASH and Multi purpose cash. The Canadian RC, scaled their ambulance service with their operation in North Wollo, covering 3 woreda, Mersa, Sekota and Lalibella, hosting IDPs.</p>
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	<p>Following the reduction of humanitarian support there is urgent need of food aid to IDP's, residing in the region The Society HQ supported the branch with various medications and food aid with a budget of more than 13 million ETB, on 18th August, 2023 contributed by ERCS HQ, ICRC and the regional branch.</p> <p>Food amounting to 168.5 quintal of wheat flour; 2100 Lts of cooking oil, 170 quintal of maize flour metric tons has been distributed to internally displace people (IDP)identified as most in need in 3 zonal Branches of north Gondar, North Wollo and North Shewa.</p>
Other	<p>ERCS have been present on the region and active for years. Several operations to support the population displaced and livelihood need was deployed not related to the ongoing conflict. All the interventions ongoing in the region are disrupted by the ongoing situation.</p> <p>However, through these various actions, the NS was present in the branches since the beginning of the conflict and have kept close monitoring of the situation and initiated some responses mainly focused on immediate health services, coordination and contingency planning.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>IFRC has a country cluster office at the premised of ERCS HQ with technical staff supported by AUIO – Addis Ababa’s office. Technical support provided include but not limited to resource mobilization for preparedness, emergency response, resilience, capacity building, and national society strengthening. An imminent DREF was approved to support procurement and prepositioning emergency commodities/ equipment, and to support skills development among staff and lead volunteers in the 7 most affected zones who will cascade the skills to other volunteers at woreda level. This support IFRC will target 4 zones, among the most affected, while other zones will be supported by other bilateral arrangement with PNS and UN . IFRC is also coordinating with ERCS to ensure PNS in country operations support this emergence operation using the ongoing programs in the region.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The contingency plan was shared and is being used to support through the ongoing program such as the ambulance services in accessible areas. The Austria RC conducted the rapid assessment in Jara IDP camp in North Wollo to follow up the situation in the area and supports 2000 HHs with multipurpose cash and water points rehabilitation. The Netherlands RC (and consortium) with support from ECHO is working in North Gondar, North Wollo targeting IDPs and host communities in WASH interventions, EMS, Cash distribution and protection. The Canadian Red Cross are supporting 3 ambulance services and health insurance to 1,000 most vulnerable households in North Wollo.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC is active in the region is supporting wounded with ambulance services in close collaboration with ERCS where access is granted, and have donated medical supplies to 24 health facilities, located in Bahir Dar, Lalibela, Gonder, Shewa Robit and Debra Markos for emergency treatment to overcome the problem of the drug shortage during the emergency response. ICRC has also supported affected areas with WASH and food items.

Together with internal existing movement coordination mechanism, movement partners have agreed to have a special bimonthly coordination for the Amhara conflict to monitor the humanitarian needs and response. ICRC will take the lead in providing guidance to ensure access and security concerns, compliance, and no overlaps and delays. ERCS continues to coordinate with ICRC to enhance humanitarian diplomacy.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	<p>ERCS is working closely with Government to ensure access to most vulnerable people, and coordination at national level for resource mobilization. It also participates in coordination meetings where EDRM at national and regional level.</p> <p>Two staff from MoH are assigned to work with ERCS committee assigned by the ERCS board to support the conflict emergency response and resource mobilization, following the complex situation in Amhara region.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>ERCS and IFRC is participating in the humanitarian coordination platform chaired by OCHA where the humanitarian situation is an agenda, and HTC is planning to strengthen the coordination and Humanitarian response once the access is improved.</p> <p>Other UN Agencies and international actors, have started minimal interventions through local actors at regional level while monitoring the security situation. OCHA has subcontracted ERCS to provide humanitarian support to affected population in West Gojam, specifically on Multipurpose cash, and Health (medical supplies).</p>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The ERCS governing board has established a task force engaging NS senior management to coordinate the operation where sub committees also established to lead specific sectors including communication and resource mobilization.

At National level, there is close coordination at Addis level coordinated by OCHA following the humanitarian situation in Amhara and modality of improving access to the region. Currently Humanitarian actors have evacuated their staff from Amhara, and stopped the services as banks also are not operating. Despite the blockade of communication making exchanges and access complex, ERCS and movement are coordinating to maintain a platform with others partners.

To internal existing movement coordination mechanism, movement partners have agreed to have a special bimonthly coordination for the Amhara conflict to monitor the humanitarian needs and response. ICRC will take the lead in providing guidance and with IFRC will provide support to humanitarian diplomacy and coordination.

ERCS HQ and branches have a well set platform with regular exchanges and the inception meeting with branch zonal heads and HQ sector leads the possible communication and coordination plan were agreed. the meeting also elaborated the indicators, provided tools for reporting, including trigger monitoring.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Community Engagement And Accountability

During emergency preparedness ERCS worked with community's to put in place a complaint feedback mechanism to make sure that the communities are well aware of the services rendered, ERCS is working to strengthen the existing community communication mechanisms for them to be able to access the services including raising awareness and simulation of the system. ERCS will strengthen the community contact centre (toll free line) where communities can call and share feedback and complaints.

- Orienting staff and volunteers at woreda level on CEA
- Raising awareness on the Complaint and feedback mechanism.
- Orientation to community committees on beneficiary identification and complaint management
- Simulate the feedback system with community.
- Strengthen the community contact Centre(Toll free line.)



Health

The current volatile situation in the region is posing additional challenges health services following access to health facilities, the reported cholera outbreak, as well as delivery of supplies, with more than 3,653 cases and 62 associated deaths reported in 29 woredas in eleven zones, as of 24 September 2023, according to Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI). Ethiopia - situation update in Amhara region, Situation Reports (unocha.org).

The National Society continues to provide emergency ambulance and first aid services to wounded casualty. There is apparent need to maintain and scale up this service, ensuring maintenance and running of the ambulance services. Mental health and psychosocial needs are also a concern for those affected by the armed clashes, including staff and volunteers in the response.

In Amhara region, where armed clashes continue to take place, ambulance services have been severely disrupted while health facilities have become periodically isolated and even unreachable at times due to security issues, however, ERCS is working with ICRC to ensure humanitarian access in improved for EMS. Hospitals are stretching to care for the wounded and critically ill in areas where the security situation is particularly unstable (<https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/responding-urgent-humanitarian-needs-amhara-and-other-hard-reach-areas-ethiopia>).

ERCS will continue to support the targeted areas with Epidemic control, EMS and cascade training to staff and volunteers at woreda level to provide Health promotion and active case searching, referral services, PFA and MHPSS to affected population using the initial trained Volunteers.

- Support the 14 Ambulance services in 7 hot spots zones.
- Maintaining 12 ambulance services in the targeted 4 zones.
- Refresher training to Volunteers on BFA, PFA, and MHPSS
- Replenish and repositioning of FA kits and stretchers
- Cascade training to Volunteers on PFA, and MHPSS at woreda level
- Deployment of volunteers to provide MHPSS and PFA
- conduct training on ECV.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In a complex emergency where different armed actors are involved is susceptible to human right abuses and protection violation. ERCS will mainstream gender and diversity action during the operation to ensure the inclusiveness of marginalized groups. Staff and volunteers engaged will oriented on minimum PGI requirements including DAPS, SGBV, PSEA and child protection and safeguarding. Mapping and identifying possible referral pathways, the prepositioned dignity kits will be distributed too people in need and not targeted for Cash. The following activities will be carried out:

- Prepositioning of Dignity Kits targeting 1,000 people
- Cascade the PGI training to volunteers at woreda level
- Distribution of Dignity Kits to Most vulnerable displaced people.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The reports from targeted branches according to available data, shows more than 65,000 people in the targeted zones are displaced. The displaced people resides with host communities in areas where they feel safe, others evacuate towns to the forests, when battles concentrate in major towns, parties defeating over the town control.

The prepositioned NFI including Tarpaulin, sleeping mats and blankets, will be distributed to the Displaced HH and host communities, in most urgent need of shelter and not targeted for CASH.

- Distribution of NFI kits for most vulnerable displaced people, not targeted for CASH support.



Migration

The humanitarian services started by ERCS to the displaced communities in Amhara following the Sudan crisis and the Tigray-Amhara migration crisis is also disrupted by the ongoing situation. Other humanitarian actors are facing the same challenges. Existing needs and vulnerabilities being affected, are especially for immediate first aid and basic needs for these displaced population as well as the host communities. ERCS branches reported that medicines, medical equipment, food, and evacuation of people went to different towns of the region, and some non-food items including sanitary materials are highly required in hospitals and health centers.

There is a growing migration crisis with a probability to continue. 670,000 people had been displaced already in 6 zones. Fights continue and the population is fleeing due to fighting incidence and fear. The challenge accessing information might contribute to even lower the real figures. But with fights spreading to almost 75% of the region this is over hundreds and even thousands people likely to be displaced (temporary or not) as the Amhara region is the 2nd largest and populated region in the country with more than 20M people.

The scope of the displacements are very alarming given the trend and the context of previous migration crisis between Amhara and neighboring regions. Indeed, the region was the most stable region during the Tigray crisis (2020/2022) and hence it was relatively safer area for IDPs in the past three years. Due to the internal conflicts across different parts of the country including Oromia, Southern Nations & Nationalities, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali, and Tigray Region, hundreds of thousands of people were forced to come to the Amhara region. According to ERCS Amhara zonal branches' initial assessment conducted from 3 to 9 January 2023, there were about 814,236 total IDPs. Out of these, 485,945 were living in host communities, while the rest were living in 31 IDP camps mainly in west Gojam, North Shewa, Debarq, Dabat, Raya Kobo, and China camp in south Wollo. All these regions are now priority hotspots with ongoing clashes, with limited or no support, due to suspension of services by humanitarian actors. In addition, there are more than 35,035 refugee and returnees, (24,789 Sudanese and 9,855 Non-Sudanese) arriving through Metema entry point as a result of the ongoing Sudan crisis. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>).



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The food insecurity situation is particular concern, especially since the current hostilities erupted during the harvest season and amid food pause. The recent food pause is believed to have worsened the food insecurity situation. Further deterioration is expected as insecurity continues to disrupt access to humanitarian assistance, transportation, markets, and basic services. Overall, the region continues to face a heightened malnutrition caseload, with recent data indicating global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates at 21 percent for children and over 54 percent for pregnant and lactating women (PLW), exceeding the global threshold of 15 percent.

According to the Bureau of Agriculture, Livestock Development, and Promotion Office in September 2023, six zones, 14 woredas, and 75 kebeles, with a total of 43,888 households, are affected by severe drought, while more than 42,000 animals have been reported dead in the region. The most affected areas include Waghimra, North Gondar, Central Gondar, Oromo Special Zone, and North Shewa Zone. The livestock sector is equally critically affected, with diverse consequences that include a lack of pasture and

feed. Expectations for crop residue also failed, except in very few areas with a minimum feed harvest. Given the current situation, coping strategies for these communities are also being limited with the blockade of other of livelihood support mechanisms.

ERCS is planning to support urgent humanitarian needs targeting displaced households identified as the most food insecure, including women headed HH, HH with malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women, child-headed households, and the elderly, as well as people with special needs who lack livelihood options as a result of the ongoing conflict with Multi purpose cash to meet their basic needs. However, the revised Hunger crisis Appeal will complement the effects of drought in the areas.

For the cash feasibility, general observation is that situation is volatile but still possible for ERCS to operation given that:

- Areas where communities are evacuated are safer and other operations in the region are ongoing.
- Banks and markets operate, NS is transferring funds to Branch through banks and ERCS is operating in close security support from ICRC to meet the population in need.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Currently, the region has reported several Cholera cases which may rise in case of fragile situation. The conflict situation and displacement trends raised WASH needs for urgent actions. According to Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI) reports shows more than 31 woredas are affected by cholera since January 2023, currently, 23 woredas are controlled and 8 are active, including 2 (Bahir dar city and North Shewa, (Debre Birhan Town) in the targeted areas.

However the reporting for Amhara region has not been effective due to communication challenges, there is no effective data reports from health facilities. Reports from Branches and ERCS EMS services shows increasing of cases, with less or no access to health facilities due to security situation.

ERCS has prepositioned WASH NFI to meet the needs of 500 HH, which can be distributed to identified displaced and host communities HH most in need and not targeted for CASH. water treatment chemicals will be distributed in cholera active woredas to ensure community have safe and clean water. ERCS plans to scale up hygiene promotion in all target areas, More volunteers will be trained in the respective zones, using the lead volunteers trained during the preparedness, and strengthen the epidemic control mechanisms.

- Prepositioning of water storage equipment's
- Distribution of water treatment chemicals (chlorine)
- Training of volunteers on Hygiene awareness
- Cascade the Hygiene training to volunteers at woreda level
- Distribution WASH NFI to the displaced HH, not targeted for CASH

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Ongoing conflict between the government and militia forces in Amhara has limited access to 75% of the region leading to 2 considerations in this planning:

- Situation is limiting access to data and information.
- Security concern is also posing challenge to the intervention.

Both being monitored and aside of the mitigation measures detailed below, ERCS since July has put in place the following strategy:

1) In terms of information access, the ERCS rely on his presence at community level, information from branches' network of staffs (monitoring team) mainly and some reports from secondary data, include coordination meetings. This explain the general figures for now and a likely lower evaluation of the scope on this crisis. ERCS is present in all the affected areas and the strength of the presence comes also from the fact that the National Society has been responding for years in Amhara in multi-sectors and different ways, include past similar events. hundreds volunteers involved, knowing the environment and communities.

ERCS has also maintained a monitoring and minimum humanitarian support in the affected branches where access is possible and following the minimum-security measures.

2) To tackle both the security access and the information sharing, through the existing movement coordination mechanism, movement partners have agreed to have a special bimonthly coordination for the Amhara conflict to monitor the humanitarian access, needs and response. ICRC will take the lead in providing guidance to ensure access and security concerns, compliance, and no overlaps and delays. ERCS will continues to coordinate with ICRC to enhance humanitarian diplomacy.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This operation update aims at scaling up the imminent DREF to the response operation following the persisting humanitarian situation in Amhara region resulted from failure of the cease fire, increasing fatalities and injuries and identified needs to be addressed for the affected communities.

With this operations update, ERCS will execute the planned intervention to 4 priority hotspots (North Shewa, South Wollo, East Gojam, Bahirdar Zuria city), currently not covered with humanitarian needs to 64,725 people (12,945HH), 10% of estimated population in need, by sustaining livelihood and basic needs for most vulnerable households, strengthening Hygiene promotion and Emergency health services, including MHPSS. ERCS will coordinate with movement partners to ensure no overlaps.

Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy detailed below will focus on the current most likely case scenario which is for the Amhara conflict to continue with unlikely changes in coming weeks as there still no information on peace agreement. When on the ground, needs and humanitarian situation is getting worst with number of deaths, injuries and needs are increasing with limited records, blocked communication and access to health services. These humanitarian needs identified remained not addressed for thousands of people and especially with the dire situation for the most vulnerable groups requiring urgent scale-up to a response intervention with available information and existing access of ERCS.

Advantage is taken on the strong presence of ERCS and security measures in place. The initial plan is revised from imminent to full response to address emergency humanitarian needs while other recovery planning are in progress.

NS strategy is to contribute to alleviate the multi-sectoral dire needs resulting on this complex situation but also tackle the disruption of humanitarian access to the critical urgent medical and first aid needs; urgent humanitarian support to livelihoods and basic needs, Shelter, emergence health and WASH services for injuries, disease outbreak, maternal, nutrition, SGBV and protection in many woredas.

Hence, intervention will focus on scaling-up the emergency first aid and support to medical services capacity, Multipurpose cash to displaced and most vulnerable HH to meet multiple livelihood and basic needs, WASH interventions especially hygiene promotion, Health and care with a focus on Ambulance services and emergency first aid, with the integration of PGI and CEA mechanism to ensure the conflict affected most vulnerable groups are targeted. ERCS prepositioning strategy and the readiness ensured during the first phase will benefit to this response, while monitoring the situation, and linking the affected areas to the planned long term recovery and resilience programs.

Shelter

The ongoing clashes has forced more displacement in some active clash areas. People moves in areas where they feel safe in other towns, village or to the forests, especially parties defeating over the town control. These new displaced people and communities stretching to host them face shelter challenge which require immediate support. ERCS is planning to use the Shelter materials prepositioned including Tarpaulin, sleeping mats and blankets, to meet the needs of HH most need not targeted for cash or in access to markets. the targeted branches reported more than 65,000 new displacements. The community committee oriented on CEA will be engaged to identify the most needy HHs to be reached with this service, basing on criteria which will be jointly set.

- Beneficiary identification and verification.
- Shelter NFI distribution to 500HHs most in need.

Multi-purpose cash

This aim is to give the beneficiaries displaced the opportunity to address their priority with ownership of the decision and a more likely and accurate support in the context. ERCS planning for this cash is to cover in food or others livelihood, basic needs for hygiene, urgent items.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has experience with cash as a modality of assistance, and CVA officer to support the operation. PNSs in country also have CVA specialists well coordinated to support CVA multiple needs in country. Therefore, through this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), livelihood and basic needs support will be provided through one -off multipurpose cash assistance grant of 7,000 ETB, to 2,500HHs (12,500 people) identified in urgent humanitarian needs targeting women headed and displaced households identified as the most food insecure, those with malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women, child-headed households, and the elderly, as well as people with special needs who lack livelihood options as a result of the ongoing conflict. The transfer value is being worked out by the Regional Cash technical working group covering food,

hygiene and other HH expenditures, in November 2022, and consultation done by other sectors, subjected for review quarterly, however, the value has not been revised due to the ongoing conflict.

Market feasibility assessments, beneficiary identification, registration, and verification exercises will be conducted by trained staff and volunteers with support from ERCS technical experts. The National Society (NS) has identified service providers in the regions. However, due to the security situation, they will need to verify accessibility for each and best to go. This will involve consultations with the government and other partners providing similar services to align policies, coordination, and targeting to avoid duplications and enhance the quality-of-service delivery. To actualize cash, the following activities will be implemented:

- Rapid market assessment and cash feasibility.
- Volunteer and staff training on CTP and Kobo data collection, 20 volunteers per each zone.
- Orientation to community committees on beneficiary identification and complaint management.
- Cash distribution to 2,500 most vulnerable households, targeting IDP and Host communities.
- Post distribution monitoring to each zone targeting 30% of beneficiaries.

Health and WASH

The National Society continues to provide emergency ambulance and first aid services to wounded casualty in the targeted areas, maintaining 3 ambulance per zone in the 4 zones, deploy volunteers to conduct basic FA, psychological First aid and Mental health and psychosocial support for those affected by the armed clashes, including staff and volunteers in the response. Through the DREF, ERCS will also address health and hygiene challenges through awareness rising and health promotion including active case search and referral to prevent disease outbreak, such as cholera, malaria and measles which have been recently reported in the region. 20 volunteers in each zone will be trained to conduct health and hygiene awareness.

- Support ambulance management cost, 3 per hotspot area, in the 4 zones, including fuel, maintenance and volunteer allowances for 3 months.
- Refresher training to volunteers on MHPSS at woreda level.
- Replenish FA kits and distribution of stretchers to woreda branches.
- Training volunteers on ECV.
- Distribution of water storage equipment's and soap (set of 14 ltr bucket and 20 ltr Jerrycan) to 500 HHs identified as most needy not targeted for cash.
- Distribution of water treatment chemicals (chlorine) to 3,000 HHs identified as most vulnerable (cash and non-cash targeted).
- Cascade the hygiene training to volunteers at woreda level.

Community Engagement and Accountability.

The national society has trained 27 staff and volunteers on CEA in Amhara region, the team will provide support in cascading the knowledge and skills in implementing woreda to engage with community committees to establish community feedback mechanism. The trained volunteers' will be supported with the relevant tools to play a significant role in the identification of community needs and action. The community committees will work on the feedback and complaint from the community and share report to ERCS. ERCS will establish community contact Centre (Toll free line), where the complaints will be recorded and tracked.

- Training to 120 staff and volunteers on CEA.
- Equipping branches with identified CEA tools.
- Orientation to 4 communities committee on CEA and identify the feedback mechanism during emergency.
- Simulate the feedback system with community in 7 hot spot areas.
- Support the NS community contact Centre Toll free line.

Protection, Gender, and inclusion (PGI)

Staff and volunteers participating in the program will be oriented on the minimum action for PGI, and identify partners and institutions providing protection services, for referral and linkage. Experienced staff and trained Volunteers in protection standards will be positioned in host spot woreda to provide the required response to persons that have had physical and or psychological challenges.

- Orientation to 120 staff and volunteers on Minimum PGI standards.
- Identify available PGI related referral pathways for linkage.
- Distribution of Dignity Kits to 500 female of reproductive age identified as most vulnerable displace people not supported with CASH.

PMER

ERCS has a well-established PMER department that will provide the relevant tools for data collection, and reporting. Volunteer will be oriented on KoBo tool utilization and engaged in data collection. With support from IFRC, progress will be documented and

reported on to all stakeholders. Weekly updates and monthly reports will be shared with the ERCS HQ and IFRC cluster office. In addition, quarterly operation updates will be submitted to IFRC through Go platform.

Coordination

Together with internal existing movement coordination mechanism, movement partners have agreed to have a special bimonthly coordination for the Amhara conflict to monitor the humanitarian needs and response. ICRC will take the lead in providing guidance to ensure access and security concerns, compliance, and no overlaps and delays. ERCS will continue to coordinate with ICRC to enhance humanitarian diplomacy, and with PNS's consortium implementing ECHO 2023 project supporting the Amhara North.

ERCS will continue to participate in Multi-agency Coordination (MAC) system that provides the architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communication system integration, and information management.

This intervention is the emergency stage response to a likely protracted crisis for which a long term plan is in place. The strategy for the longer term is held in the Unified Plan and also in the work with the African Union on the 5 years plan for Ethiopia North Recovery and Resilience Programme which include Amhara, Tigray and Afar regions.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This DREF will geographically target Amhara region mostly affected unsupported zones of Bahirdar, North Shewa, East Gojam and South Wollo, targeting the highly 64,725 (10%) affected people. Priority to specifically IDPs but also to the people affected suffering from injuries, lost of their livelihood.

Selection criteria will be looking into women and child headed HHs, people with chronic illness, elders, PWD, pregnant and lactating women, women in labor, HH with malnourished children, war casualties and households in urgent humanitarian needs with no support. ERCS will work closely with the oriented community committees in the identification of beneficiaries using the existing CEA mechanisms in place.

The targeting will be coordinated with branches and address the humanitarian support gaps identified in these areas.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria for the targeted population will be based on inclusiveness that mostly focus on disproportionately affected population/ people in need and those people will be identified with consultation of local community and local leaders that have full information regarding the crisis situation. The health needs will be reported through community volunteers, ambulance request, or health facility needs. Needs may be massive but the CEA strategies which is institutionalized with the community will be used to prioritize.

Total Targeted Population

Women	17,443	Rural	40%
Girls (under 18)	14,272	Urban	60%
Men	18,155	People with disabilities (estimated)	17%
Boys (under 18)	14,854		
Total targeted population	64,725		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Risk of failure to deliver cash due to insecurity situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing FSP representation and access in the areas will be evaluated. • ERCS will use FSP and online transfer where the beneficiaries will be supported to open bank accounts and the commercial bank will use its worda existing branches for cash disbursement. • ERCS will update the CVA risk register following the rapid market assessment and adjust the intervention if need be. • Sensitivity will applied to the information and especially on the cash process, withdrawal points to avoid exposing the beneficiaries.
Risk of escalation of Epidemic (Malaria and Cholera) escalation during conflict	<p>Work with MOH to ensure preparedness and strengthen community-based prevention mechanism.</p> <p>Increase awareness to staff and volunteers about the epidemics.</p>
Access challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing mechanism for volunteers safety will be applied in alignment with the MSR. - In addition to the above minimum requirements that are followed by the branches, the NS has established a communication network with the local authorities/officials in place to be informed on access restrictions and received regular updates that serve for team orientation and deployments on a daily basis. - Existing communication platforms are checked with others humanitarian partners, local trusted institutions and movement - ERCS branches staff and volunteers are informed on safe movement and areas where there is a greenlight. Regular communication and checking is done. Information are shared the same way. - Some cities access has improved and ERCS will take that opportunity to act, especially for the immediate first aid supported by IFRC-DREF, and medical services supported by other partners.
Delays in implementation due to difficulties in movement/accessing some areas	<p>Monitor the situation while supporting activities that a more vulnerable in accessible areas, and strengthen Humanitarian diplomacy</p>
Inability to accessing the targeted people due to existing conflict in Amhara region, especially reaching the most vulnerable in rural areas with humanitarian assistance is formidable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting security assessment with concerned body and as soon as the situation allows, continuing the operation. • Use of existing community structures. • Dissemination of ERCS work, to . • communities and ensure visibility and use of the emblem to access hard to reach areas.
Sustained lockdown and restriction of movement due to state of emergency declared by the government that reduce access, transportation, business transactions, group	<p>ERCS will adhere to the restriction. ERCS will continue to conduct advocacy with both groups within the region to ensure safer access ERCS will work with the rest of movement</p>

gathering, and communications Resulting in humanitarian workers being evacuated, poor coordination, and deterioration of humanitarian services

arms to advocate for respect for international humanitarian law and human right as well as access for humanitarian interventions for populations affected. The means of communication are diverse and NS is thankfully operational and has necessary capacity to closely monitor and act in a limited monitoring possibilities from HQ, relying on branches presences. Strengthen the communication between the HQ and the branches.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The recent developments follow increased tensions in Amhara after the federal authorities in April attempted to restructure all regional armed forces into a unified federal force to strengthen the country's military capabilities. Nevertheless, the move was rejected by some soldiers from the Amhara regional security forces, prompting fighting with the ENDF. Fano also rejected the move, deeming it a threat to Amhara interests, and also became involved in clashes against the ENDF. Since 31 July, fighting has occurred in several urban centres, including Bahir Dar, Debre Birhan, Bichena, Debre Tabor, Debre Werk, Gondar, Kobo, Lalibela and Shewa Robit. It is currently concentrated in small towns and rural areas near military depots and Fano bases, as well as police stations and government offices. On 26 August, Fano reportedly retook control of Debre Tabor town amid intense clashes with the ENDF. Separately, on 25 August, the Amhara regional state president Yilkal Kefale resigned from his position and was replaced by Arega Kebede. Several other regional state government positions were reshuffled. Direct clashes have subsided in main urban centres in recent weeks, including in Bahir Dar, Gondar and Lalibela, following Fano's withdrawal. However, sporadic hostilities on the outskirts of these areas continue. The extent of damage and casualties associated with the conflict remains unclear. Reportedly, ethnic-Amhara civilians suspected of supporting, sympathising with or having links to Fano are being detained in the capital Addis Ababa and other major urban centres. While operations at Bahir Dar (BJR), Gondar (GDQ) and Lalibela (LLI) airports are ongoing, the resumption of heavy fighting in their vicinity may result in the suspension of flights with little or no warning. Local reports have indicated that widespread disruption, particularly to internet provisions and electricity, persists across Amhara. Main roads continue to be intermittently blocked by government troops or Fano members. There are also unconfirmed reports of periodic closures of the Metema-Gallabat border crossing with Sudan.

Sporadic clashes between the ENDF and Fano will persist in Amhara over the coming weeks. Despite the ENDF's significantly stronger military capabilities, a decisive military victory will be difficult to achieve. Fano can call on significant support within Amhara and continues to employ guerrilla tactics. Therefore, regular exchanges or gains and losses by both sides will continue. Fighting will remain concentrated near Fano bases and ENDF depots, as well as other government and security force interests. However, given Fano's mobility and previous stated intent to retake control of main urban centres, locations affected by the hostilities will remain fluid. While Fano would struggle to retake control of main cities, this will nonetheless sustain the risk of fighting resuming in these areas.

The general insecurity has increased the likelihood of other security incidents that may also pose challenges to the intervention. Increased robbery and theft for instance are recorded in the region.

To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to conflict, crime, violence, health and road hazards active risk mitigation measures must be adopted.

- 1) Security orientation and briefing for all teams prior to deployment be undertaken to help ensure safety and security of response teams. Standard security protocols about general norms, cultural sensitivity and an overall code of conduct be put in place. Minimum-security requirements will be strictly maintained. All National Society and IFRC personnel actively involved in the operations must successfully complete prior to deployment the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e., Level 1 Fundamentals, Level 2 Personal and Volunteer Security and Level 3 Security for Managers). IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation.
- 2) Area specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC and NS personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. Personnel must have insurance cover.
- 3) Minimum security equipment/measures required will be mobilized as per detailed in procedures for different scenario first aid, evacuation, quarantine etc.
- 4) Ensure an emergency communications plan is in place due to the likelihood of disruption to telecommunications. This include charge all communication devices and, where feasible, keep extra batteries for backup.
- 5) Manage the sensitivity of the situation with measure such as being mindful of engaging in political discussions in public forums, both in person and online.
- 6) Travel/displacement management to apply strict security requirements for this level. RC Personnel not to undertake long-

distance overland travel and conduct journeys by air if possible. Any overland movement requires strong journey management procedures, strong local support networks, access to the latest threat intelligence, route status and a knowledgeable local driver with local language capability. Anticipate additional security force checkpoints and a heightened security force presence. Follow all official directives and carry relevant identification documents to ease passage through spot-checks and checkpoints.

7) On the specific security of abduction of staff or volunteers or vehicles: ERCS conduct security assessment for every mission and always seek for security approval before travel. Always use emblems during services, adherence to humanitarian access guide.

8) Security coordination is in place with meetings on the access and security with others partners. Coordinate closely with ICRC.

9) Strengthen security of the operation office/centers, where possible by insuring the relief items.

Planned Intervention



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 74,145

Targeted Persons: 64,725

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
#reports from monitoring sessions conducted	6	1
# of project staff supported by this intervention	1	1
# ERCS flags prepositioned	200	200
# of communication sat-phone and internet gadget	2	-
# of RC jacket prepositioned	500	-
# of volunteer insured	202	-

Progress Towards Outcome

- ERCS covered the following actions since the launch:
 - Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) organized an inception meeting from the start. This took place at its headquarters due to the complex access situation in Amhara and involved regional and zonal branches, respective HQ departments, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The meeting was convened to discuss the implementation strategy and align with the different people involved.
 - ERCS procured and allocated 200 flags to sensitive branches to enhance the visibility and protection, particularly for vehicles and volunteers during movements.
 - A coordination meeting was conducted with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to discuss the current conflict status and areas of integration and collaboration in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The meeting was attended by a total of 9 participants, including 3 from ERCS, 2 from ICRC, and 4 from IFRC. They agreed to improve the Amhara conflict coordination mechanism on a bimonthly basis.
 - Insurance for volunteers
- Coordination with RCRC movement and non-movement partners will continue with regular meetings and exchanges. A close monitoring security access is done and measures detailed above followed.
- Coordinate the security alerts with ambulance services when deployed.
- A regional-level coordinator, assigned by the Amhara regional branch, will oversee this response for a period of 3 months.
- In the course of scaling to the response, NS is also speeding on security and visibility equipment and measures yet to be done. This include to complete the following:

Operation monitoring branch/region & HQ.

- Procurement of 500 RC Jackets.
- Insurance for volunteers.
- Procurement of communication materials (Sat-phone and router).



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 51,733

Targeted Persons: 8

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# monitoring support conducted	3	1
# and type of security equipment procured.	5	0
# of surge deployed	1	0

Progress Towards Outcome

Due to the complex access situation in Amhara, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) organized an inception meeting at its headquarters involving regional and zonal branches, respective HQ departments, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The meeting was convened to discuss the implementation strategy, reporting and monitoring of the indicators. The branch shared possible means of communication to make sure the update are frequently shared, despite the complex situation. The branch requested IFRC support on strengthening communication amid conflict, if possible to replicate the coordination held during the Tigray crisis, to make sure information reach to HQ on time.

Security equipment in procurement process.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 25,704

Targeted Persons: 2,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of NFI kits prepositioned	500	500
# trips transportation shelter NFI	5	0
# of HH received NFI	500	0

Progress Towards Outcome

A total of 500 NFI kits are purchased and being ready for distribution to people in need of shelter. Currently under transportation process to branches.

Budget: CHF 164,196

Targeted Persons: 32,363

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of ambulances in operation	14	14
# of volunteers trained on BFA	50	36
# of volunteers trained on MHPSS	120	34
# of FA kits prepositioned	700	420
# of stretchers prepositioned	100	70
# of people supported by ambulance services	15,000	-
# of people provided with BFA	15,000	-
# of people provided MHPSS	6,473	-
# of volunteer deployed for MHPSS, BFA	120	-
# of people reached with health awareness	32,363	-
# of volunteers trained on ECV	80	-

Progress Towards Outcome

- The Host spot branches were supported with 14 Ambulances to respond to the affected population through first aid and referral services for the past 3 months. In addition, the branches were supported with operation and maintenance costs.
- A total of 70 volunteer (36 trained in BFA and 34 in PFA and MHPSS) have been allocated to each ambulance to provide health service during emergency. This has been very instrumental in the assistance of the wounded and those who need referrals.
- ERCS procured and repositioned 60 stretchers' and 420 first aid kits these will be used to respond to the emergency. However, the variance is due to partial delivery. The rest of the items will be delivered and distributed accordingly.

In the following weeks, ERCS will be maintaining the following activities:

- Maintaining at least 12 ambulance for EMS services in the 4 targeted zones- for the next months. 3 per targeted areas.
- Cascade training and deployment of 80 Volunteers on ECV, hygiene promotion, PFA, and MHPSS at zonal/woreda level
- Scaling-up awareness raising on vector borne and water borne diseases, especially cholera, malaria and other ongoing disease in the region and surrounding regions.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 39,584

Targeted Persons: 64,725

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of storage equipment's set prepositioned	500	400
# of water chemicals strips prepositioned	15,000	15,000
#volunteers trained on health and hygiene awareness	120	45
# of soap bars prepositioned	1,000	1,000
# of people reached with hygiene promotion	64,725	-
#of HH received soap bars	500	-
# of HH reached with chemicals strips	15,000	-
# of HH received storage equipment's set	500	-

Progress Towards Outcome

During the period under review, 45 volunteers were trained in hygiene awareness, and they are now providing hygiene education to other volunteers at woreda level to support awareness rising to communities and at the household level.

Items have been procured at strategic zones for prepositioning. However, some of the zones have not received deliveries due to inaccessibility.

ERCS through this update is covering the

- Distribution of Water treatment chemicals for 3months usage to the target population (3000HH). The families targeted here include Cash and non cash beneficiaries. These items were already pre-positioned which will speed on the intervention.
- Distribution of WASH NFI to 500 HH identified as most need (IDP and host community) not targeted for CASH. This include water storage equipment, and 2 bar soap to enhance hygiene and prevent from communicable and water related diseases.



Multi-purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 309,131

Targeted Persons: 12,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers trained in MPCT and data collection	80	-
# of community committees oriented	4	-
# of rapid Market assessment conducted	1	-
# of HH received cash	2,500	-
# of Post distribution monitoring conducted	4	-

Progress Towards Outcome

ERCS has Identified cash service provider, and have good relations with the Ethiopia commercial bank for cash disbursement in the country, with coverage if branches at all woredas. ERCS has cash officer, to support the operations and trained volunteers in different branches. ERCS utilize the CASH technical support from PNS s in country who complements where needs arise.

The following actions will be carried out:

- Rapid market assessment and cash feasibility study
- Volunteer and staff training on CTP and Kobo data collection
- Orientation to community committees on beneficiary identification and complaint management.
- Cash distribution to most vulnerable households - 2500 HH targeted
- Conduct post distribution monitoring



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 5,483

Targeted Persons: 6,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers oriented	120	36
# of referral pathway identified	2	2
# of dignity kits prepositioned	500	300
# of people received dignity kits	500	0
# of people reached with PGI services	6,500	-

Progress Towards Outcome

Under the PGI, the NS plan is revised with the following changes to cover the scope of this intervention with minimum PGI standards.

- Orientation to 120 staff and volunteers on Minimum PGI standards instead of 60 initially planned.
- Identify available PGI related referral pathways.
- Prepositioning of dignity kits targeting 1,000 people.
- Cascade the PGI training to volunteers at woreda level
- Distribution of Dignity Kits to Most vulnerable displace people.

At least the 6500 people from the direct targeted communities will be reached with the PGI services.

The current achievements since the launch of the intervention,

- ERCS has in general ensured readiness at branches level with 36 staff and volunteers duly trained and now stationed in hot spot branches to map PGI concerns and address any related feedback link to sensitive PGI elements. They are as well ready to cascade to further volunteers and to support the response.
- Minimum PGI standards actions in the context and referral pathways have been identified, which include service providers and types of services available for a timely response.
- In addition, out of 500 dignity kits, 300 have been prepositioned, while the remaining 200 are yet to be delivered to the region.

Challenges for now: According to the implementing branches, there is a need for protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) services due to increasing cases of gender-based violence (GBV), although these cases are not documented.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 16,091

Targeted Persons: 12,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of staff trained on CEA	120	27
# of feedback mechanisms identified	3	0
# of communities committees oriented on on CEA	7	4
# of CEA simulation event conducted	7	0
% feedback collected that are addressed	100	-

Progress Towards Outcome

- The CEA activities will be extended to the 4 targeted areas, ensuring that up to 120 volunteers have skills and are able to support the community feedback management.
- During the period under review ERCS has strengthened CEA mechanism in the hot spot branches by conducting training for volunteers and engagement of existing community committees. The training aimed at identifying and establishing feedback and complaint channels and improving reporting and feedback handing mechanism.
 - A total 27 volunteers were trained on CEA and integrated with service provision sites.
 - Four (4) community committees were oriented on CEA and identified possible communication channels. More community committees, staff and volunteers are in progress of orientation.

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

About 30 HQ and branch professional staffs, and 202 volunteers will be engaged during the preparation phase who will be leading other volunteers in case the need will increase within their respective zones. 50 for MHPSS, 50 for BF, 60 for hygiene promotion and 42 support ambulance services, 3 per ambulance.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

The surge Deputy operations manager will be deployed to support this operation for 4 months.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Local procurement will be carried out for by ERCS logistic team which have vast expertise in the procurement, logistic and warehouse management. The storage capacity at HQ and branch level is adequate to preposition the items for immediate response, however ERCS will collaborate with other partners for support for storage at zonal level through its well-established base while all procurement will adhere to the sphere standards, for items which are not available in country, ERCS will consult with IFRC for international procurement.

How will this operation be monitored?

Emphasis is made on encouraging continuous assessment of the situation, monitoring of the services requirement basing on the ongoing conflict and security situation. Feedback mechanism will be placed in community to ensure all emergence needs are reported through the right channel. the identified feedback mechanisms simulation will be monitored for its functionality. Analysis of monitoring observations will help with timely decision-making on the review and activation of the response operation. Attention will be paid to data management (including cholera prevalence, security, SGBV and protection cases). Continuous communication and coordination between HQ, branch and RCRC movement partners, along with issuance of necessary updates will be managed accordingly. In coordination with the ERCS EOC center and the security teams, the emergence updates will be shared periodically.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Ethiopia Red Cross will regularly share information and updates on the operation via a range of communications channels and the Secretary General will be the primary spokesperson for communications to external stakeholders within Ethiopia. IFRC will support the Ethiopia Red Cross communications team to communicate with external audiences with a focus on the protracted humanitarian.

The communications director will generate visibility and support for the humanitarian needs and the Ethiopia Red Cross response. Close collaboration will be maintained between the IFRC cluster, regional and global communications unit, and the National Society to ensure a coherent and coordinated communications approach.

Contact Information

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

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