



## ETHIOPIA: ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA OUTBREAK

MDRET002  
10 August 2006

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### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 56,000 (USD 45,418 or EUR 35,601) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 7 November 2006. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### 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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### Background and current situation

An outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) has to date claimed the lives of 17 people with the number of people affected rising from 3,442 to 6,409 in the Oromiya region of southern Ethiopia as at 2 August 2006. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 530 cases have been reported since the beginning of July. Some cases were reported in the East Shoa zone, with the worst-hit areas being Shashemene, Siraro and Arsi Negele, according to a bulletin by the Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN). By mid-July, the outbreak had spread to at least six woredas. By the beginning of this month, three more woredas have been affected. In May 2006, a similar outbreak was reported to have claimed the lives of 10 people while affecting more than 1,400 others in the Gambella Regional State of western Ethiopia.

According to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), the number of cases in the first affected woredas is coming down; however, the disease is spreading to the adjacent woredas making its control difficult in terms of preparedness (finance, supplies, health workers and drugs, among others) for the government. The ERCS indicates that 694,425 people are at risk. Water from a contaminated river is thought to have been the source of the outbreak, but investigations were continuing, OCHA added. The mode of transmission of the disease is faecal to oral, with the possible transmission medium being contaminated water. Poor environmental sanitation and absence of latrines in the woredas aggravates the situation. In general, the health indicators show that the coverage of national and regional maternal and child health services as well as other facilities is low, making the affected communities vulnerable to any kind of health disasters or emergencies.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The ERCS, together with the Danish Red Cross, has conducted a preliminary assessment of the situation and shared the reports with the regional delegation in Nairobi, which is providing technical advice on possible intervention measures. The Regional Health Bureau of Oromiya (RHBO) has established several treatment centres and deployed some health professionals to the affected region. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has asked for water and sanitation (WatSan) assistance from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Due to the shortage of health workers, RHBO closed the Shashemene Nursing School and mobilized undergraduate nurses in the region to provide support in the setting up tents, provision of health education and timely case management.

An inter-agency assessment team from UNICEF and Merlin as well as the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) technical staff travelled to the area on 6 July 2006. An inter-agency meeting was held at the UNICEF offices on 25 July 2006 to share the findings of the assessment, leading to the identification of the needs and their gaps (see the table below). Various response task forces have been established with different functions; they include case management and treatment, surveillance, logistics and WatSan teams. The Red Cross in Shashemene as well as other organizations such as UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Switzerland and Population Services International (PSI) were members of the task forces. WHO and UNICEF have been providing tents, oral rehydration salts (ORS), water purification chemicals and emergency water purification plants.

### The needs

The table below provides a summary of the needs, the organizations that have pledged support and the gaps for which no assistance is available. Other needs that have not been met include medical supplies, drugs, boilers and fencing material.

Item	Quantity required	Quantity delivered	Donated by	Gap
Water maker, Chlor-floc, (5 gm) for household treatment – sachets	1,546,000	25,000	UNICEF (25,000) MoWR (296,000)	1,200,000
PUR (water purification chemical)	636,000	36,000	PSI	600,000
Water guard (disinfectant)	15,000	5,000	PSI	10,000

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Laundry soap (250 gm)	30,000	10,200	UNICEF	19,800
Bathing soap (75 gm)	30,000	10,200	UNICEF	19,800
Squatting plates (plastic)	200	100	UNICEF	100
Water containers, PVC/PE (collapsible,10-ltr)	20,000	5,100	UNICEF	14,900
Plastic jerry cans (20-ltr capacity)	–	50	UNICEF	–
Plastic jerry cans (20-ltr capacity)	–	2,000	RHBO	–
Emwat kit 4000 purification unit	4	1	UNICEF (1) RHBO (2)	1
Tent, 100m <sup>2</sup> , Hungary canvas without ground sheets	–	1	UNICEF	–
Oral rehydration salts (ORS)	–	50,000	RHBO	–
Mattresses (plastic-covered)	200	100	UNICEF	100
Blankets	200	100	UNICEF	100
Emergency food rations, (BP5, 24 x 500g)	30	15	UNICEF	15
Plastic sheets, (4mx5m Pcs)	200	100	RHBO	100
Calcium hypochlorite, HTH, 70% (kg)	150	50	RHBO	100
Aluminium sulphate granules (kg)	400	100	RHBO	300
Cash assistance in West Arsi zone (WES and health)	506,554	473,238	–	33,316

### Proposed plan of action

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society, through its volunteers in Shashemene branch, proposes to implement the following interventions based on the above identified needs and the results of its assessment. The activities will be coordinated by the national headquarters. The NS will liaise closely with RHBO, while the regional delegation's health and care unit will provide technical support.

**Goal: To contribute to the control of the acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak in Shashemene woreda of Oromiya region in Ethiopia.**

**Objective 1: To increase community awareness about the acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and environmental sanitation among the 18,520 affected people in the Shashemene woreda within the next three months.**

**Objective 2: To improve access to safe household water by members of the Shashemene woreda community within the next three months.**

**Objective 3: To improve community-based disease identification and reporting in Shashemene woreda within the next three months.**

#### Expected results:

- Reduced mortality and morbidity from AWD in Shashemene community in Oromiya region.
- Increased community awareness about AWD in Shashemene community in Oromiya region.

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