

EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ETHIOPIA: FLOODS

Preliminary Appeal no. MDRET003
(Glide No. FL-2006-0122-ETH)
18 August 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

THIS PRELIMINARY EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,112,299 (USD 902,000 OR EUR 707,000) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 9,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 6 MONTHS.

This Appeal is being launched on a preliminary basis. The Federation is deploying a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to support the national society in undertaking the assessment of the situation.

CHF 294,000 (USD 238,631 or EUR 185,969) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF). UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO REIMBURSE THE DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached Preliminary Appeal budget>](#)

[<Click here to go to the map of the affected area>](#)

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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Ethiopia: Takele Jemberu, Acting Secretary General, Ethiopian Red Cross Society, Addis Ababa; Email: ercs.dsg@ethionet.et; Phone +251.11.515.38.53; Fax +251.11.551.26.43**
- **In Ethiopia: John Undulu, Federation Head of the Horn of Africa Sub-regional Office, Addis Ababa; Email: john.undulu@ifrc.org; Phone +251.11.551.43.17; Fax +251.11.551.28.88**

Ethiopia: Floods; Preliminary Appeal no. MDRET003

- *In Kenya: Anitta Underlin, Federation Head of East Africa Regional Delegation, Nairobi; Email: anitta.underlin@ifrc.org; Phone +254.20.283.51.24; Fax +254.20.271.84.15*
- *In Kenya: Charles G. Byamugisha, Disaster Management Coordinator, East Africa Regional Delegation, Nairobi; Email: charlesgodfrey.byamugisha@ifrc.org; Phone +254.20.283.51.17; Fax +254.20.271.84.15*
- *In Geneva: Amna Al Ahmar, Federation Regional Officer for East Africa, Africa Dept.; Email: amna.alahmar@ifrc.org; Phone +41.22.730.44.27; Fax +41.22.733.03.95*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the *Code of Conduct* and is committed to the *Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response* in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Appeal 2006-2007 of the Horn of Africa Sub-regional Programmes: Appeal no. MAA64004- <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA64004.pdf>

The situation

Floods with devastating impacts have been reported countrywide in most regions and heavy rains are expected to continue heightening the alert that more rivers will soon overflow. According to a Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net) weather assessment report for the Horn of Africa published on 14 August, the flooding resulted from excessive rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands. With rainfall unlikely to relent during the coming weeks, rivers throughout the region will continue to rise and those whose basins are largely in the highlands and are at risk of bursting their banks.

Torrential rains on 5 August 2006 caused the Dechatu River to burst its banks, causing serious flash flooding in the region of Dire Dawa (525 kilometres east of Addis Ababa). According to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), the floods occurred along the Dire Dawa River, South West Shoa and Bahir Dar River. A situation report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – dated 7 August 2006 – indicated that 3,000 people were reported as being displaced, 300 missing and 200 dead, including 40 children. The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) estimated that more than 10,000 people had been affected by the flooding. The high death toll was largely attributed to the fact that the flooding took place in an urban area after midnight, at a time when people were asleep. As they swept through Ethiopia's second largest city, the flood waters also washed away hundreds of homes and valuable assets, including animals.

While the search continued for the people still missing in Dire Dawa, eastern Ethiopia, officials reported that 6,000 people in the northern area had also been affected. Tekeze River overflowed and caused heavy flooding in Humera town, 1,000 km from Addis Ababa, displacing 2,000 people putting the lives of more than 4,000 people living around the river in danger. Five residential houses were destroyed, 50 others were surrounded by water and 9,000 hectares of farmland was washed away.

On 4 August 2006, heavy rains were reported in the southern parts of Ethiopia; in Sabata Awas and Ejere districts. More than 1,000 people were also reportedly rescued from flooded villages. Flooding was also reported along the banks of the Awash River in the south of the country. DPPA estimated that 15,700 were affected. Further, DPPA has confirmed that floods in South Omo Valley have killed 364 people and displaced approximately 6000 – 10,000 more following heavy rains which forced the Omo River to burst its banks and flood five villages in remote southern Ethiopia. The floods have killed 872 livestock and destroyed large areas of farmland. The affected area is in the isolated delta of the Omo River in Kuraz Woreda, 40km away from the capital city of the Woreda, Omorate (Daseneche woreda) and about 800 km away from the capital, Addis Ababa. The area is inaccessible by road. The South Omo Valley floods are part of a wider crisis affecting the country.

Access to the affected areas is a huge hindrance to the humanitarian effort. The remoteness and difficulty in accessing the affected communities has made accurate estimates of the displaced, missing, dead and needs difficult.

Ethiopia: Floods; Preliminary Appeal no. MDRET003

It is likely that the humanitarian situation will worsen as access improves. Thousands of people are living in flooded areas with little shelter or food and are exposed to terrible weather conditions, with the risk of contracting diseases.

The Ethiopian government has asked for international assistance to contain the effects of flooding as hundreds of people are reported dead or missing. Responding to a request from the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), this Preliminary Emergency Appeal is intended to deliver assistance to flood-affected communities. A key initial activity consists of an assessment of the impact of the floods on the population in the affected region by availing the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) personnel to support the national society (NS) in undertaking the assessment of the situation. This emergency operation is proposed for 6 months, and aims at providing non-food items, rehabilitation of water supply systems (including community training), improving the environmental health through vector control, providing acute watery diarrhoea treatment, and conducting measles vaccination and Vitamin A distribution for children in the affected areas as an outreach programme.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

CHF 194,000 (USD 157,000 or EUR 123,000) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to begin the operation and the delivery of relief. The local ERCS branch has given 500 blankets from its disaster preparedness stock as this is among the most urgently needed items. The ERCS is providing psychological support to the affected families while other volunteers are taking victims to the nearest hospitals.

On 7 August, a one-day joint field assessment mission was undertaken in Dire Dawa by OCHA, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the government in order to evaluate the extent of casualties, damage, and the most immediate needs. The DPPA and its partners will formulate their response and needs based on the findings from this mission. The agency provided food, water containers, household items and plastic sheeting (for shelter) to the people affected by these floods, as the search for survivors went on with assistance from the Ethiopian security forces, aid workers and residents. The ongoing assessments include a health assessment led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Belgium. UNICEF has provided non-food items (NFIs), while the International Medical Corps (IMC) has provided two vehicles with two nurses and two health educators.

The needs

Around 6,000 people are reported to be temporarily sheltered in six schools. Immediate action is required as the school year is starting in less than a month. The current condition of the displaced varies from camp to camp. Some of them are overcrowded, for example, in Hafadisa and Misrak Jegnoch primary schools. The risk of diseases is high in all the six sites due to overcrowding, animal carcasses and buried bodies. There is an urgent need for NFIs such as blankets, water basins and soap. According to the Regional Health Bureau (RHB), supplementary food is also required for children as well as pregnant and lactating mothers. Body bags are also urgently needed.

The ERCS proposes to assist 9,000 beneficiaries who are in need of food, shelter, clean water and basic sanitation facilities. Other NFIs needed include blankets and kitchen utensils, based on preliminary estimates. The information contained in this Preliminary Emergency Appeal is limited in terms of beneficiary figures and needs; these will be revised as the operation becomes clearer. Based on the updated information provided by the FACT/RDRT, the number of beneficiaries, the budget and the plan of action will be adjusted accordingly.

The proposed operation

Overall Goal: To provide humanitarian support to the flood victims in eastern Ethiopia.

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective 1: To meet the nutritional needs of at least 1,000 mothers and children displaced by floods for six months.

Ethiopia: Floods; Preliminary Appeal no. MDRET003

Planned activities:

- Mobilize 40 volunteers;
- Procure 12.6 metric tonnes (MT) of FAMIX (UNIMIX);
- Distribute the 12.6 MT of FAMIX to children and mothers.

Objective 2: To distribute emergency non-food relief items to 9,000 beneficiaries.

Planned activities:

- Mobilize volunteers to participate on registration and distribution of emergency non food relief items.
- Conduct activities of targeting, registration and verification of beneficiaries.
- Purchase and distribute blankets, roll plastic sheets, water jerry cans, ladles, tea pots, bowls as well as plastic plates and cups.

Health

Objective 1: To secure the health of 9,000 affected people by proving long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs) and health education.

Planned activities:

- Purchase and distribute long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITN) – one per household;
- Conduct three-day training for two volunteer from each affected area on LLITN distribution;
- Conduct training for 20 community members (5 people from each affected area as sprayers);
- Conduct spraying activities in the affected areas;
- Provide anti-malarial drugs (details on type and treatment to be provided in follow-up Operations Updates) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH);
- Conduct social mobilization campaigns for measles vaccination and distribution of Vitamin A for children in the affected areas as an outreach programme (with MoH).

Water and Sanitation

Objective 1: To improve the access to clean and safe drinking water for the target communities.

Planned activities:

- To train ERCS volunteers on key hygiene and sanitation messages;
- To reproduce information, education and communication (IEC) materials on health and sanitation;
- To create awareness on proper hygiene and sanitation among the affected population;
- To provide safe water and sanitation facilities.
- Rehabilitate shallow wells, springs and draw off pipelines, 1 motorized system and 1 wind mill driven borehole;
- Protect water source catchments areas;
- Assess the need for water chlorination or disinfection (aquatabs/PUR or Watermaker), and make provision for this as required.

Objective 2: To improve the access to safe sanitation in the target communities.

Planned activity:

- Support the community to construct/cast 350 SanPlats.

Objective 3: To strengthen water point management capacities of the target communities.

Planned activity:

- Train 4 water point committees on basic management of water systems.

Ethiopia: Floods; Preliminary Appeal no. MDRET003

Objective 4: To promote hygiene behaviour in the community.

Planned activities:

- Train 30 community and Red Cross volunteers on Participatory Health and Sanitary Transformation (PHAST) to become Trainer of Trainees (ToTs);
- ToTs training for 6 community groups on PHAST.

Coordination

The ERCS has a well established structure at the grass root level with the capacity to manage and coordinate the overall activities of this emergency operation. The national society's headquarters in Addis Ababa are well equipped and staffed. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has a regional office in Awassa, the capital of the Southern Nation and Nationalities Peoples' Region (SNNPR). The office has a branch secretary, programme coordinators and other technical and support staff. These will enforce the coordination function.

Branch offices also play a leading role in the coordination of emergency operations. Government offices (mainly district administration, agriculture, rural development office and water resource development) will be involved in the emergency operation. The national society will continue to liaise with the Federation's sub-regional office in Addis Ababa and, if necessary, will seek additional support from the Federation's regional delegation in Nairobi.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The regional delegation has produced updates which were published on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) page. In addition, a DREF Bulletin was posted on the country page on the Federation's web site. The Ethiopian Red Cross information unit is tasked with covering the operation and informing the public about the effectiveness of the operation in delivering the planned assistance to the intended beneficiaries.

Capacity of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has adequate technical and support staff and there are thousands of volunteers attached to branch office. The offices are equipped with light vehicles to coordinate the operation.

Branch offices are closely working with government offices such as the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA), health office and water resource development office. These offices also expressed their interest to collaborate with the national society in the implementation of the proposed intervention. The Red Cross headquarters have staff with experience in emergency operations, including floods.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation has a sub-office in Addis Ababa staffed with an office head and a driver. The office is also equipped with two vehicles (4 x 4 and a light vehicle). Technical staff and delegates of the Federation's Nairobi regional delegation are available to support the operation.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[Budget and map below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)