

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ethiopia

Appeal No. MAAET002

29/04/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/08 to 31/12/08.



Water and sanitation activities have been a key part of Ethiopian Red Cross Society projects in 2008.
Ethiopian Red Cross Society

In brief

Programme purpose: Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) programmes in 2008-2009 focused on making a real change in the lives of the targeted communities, by reducing the impact of chronic disasters, disease, and lack of access to water among the vulnerable population in Ethiopia. Due to the repeated occurrence of floods and droughts in Ethiopia, ERCS aimed to reinforce its response and preparedness capacities, which have been overwhelmed and exhausted in recent years as a result of the number of disasters it was necessary to respond to.

The health and care programme aimed to address HIV and AIDS through awareness raising, fighting stigmatization, care and support for PLHIV, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and community-based capacity building in response to the control and prevention of further infection. In addition, this programme aimed to promote maternal and child health (MCH) services and immunization, water and sanitation as well as emergency health.

The institutional capacity of the ERCS to meet the needs of the vulnerable people at present is not optimal. There is a need for more community-based committees to be established throughout the country. In addition to this, the existing branches are highly dependent on the national headquarters' support in terms of human resources, logistics as well as financial and technical support. The capacity development/organizational development (OD) programme was geared towards changing the status quo.

Programmes summary:

Disaster Management (DM) activities have focused on rebuilding capacity within the organisation (through activities including warehousing and pre-positioning of relief supplies, and training on logistics for staff), whilst strengthening the resilience of communities (through leading

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA), disaster response preparedness and planning, and addressing underlying causal factors such as deforestation) and continuing to provide relief in emergency situations (responding to both large and small emergencies across the country). In total there have been approximately 504,100 beneficiaries of the range of DM activities supported under this appeal.

Health and Care activities cover a wide variety of areas, from water and sanitation (developing capacity and infrastructure in several branches) to first aid and epidemic prevention through immunisation drives. Substantial progress has been made in all of these areas. In total there have been approximately 4,059,750 beneficiaries of the range of Health and Care activities supported under this appeal.

Organisational Development has focused on refining working procedures, and improving organisational governance. Guidelines on membership, volunteer and income generating building management were developed and revised. Branch capacity assessment (BCA) tools were developed and tested. Board elections took place at all levels of the organisation and the ERCS's 14th General Assembly was held. Awareness was created within the organisation on the integrated branch development model. Exchanges between staff and volunteers of the branches were held to improve organisational performance. International exchanges were also organized with the National Society of Israel. In total 316 ERCS staff, volunteers and board members directly benefitted from these activities. A further 1244 directly benefitted from the printing of new ID cards, collective agreements and certificates of leadership. All thirty-eight branches will benefit directly from these activities.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget is CHF 1,735,285 of which 68 per cent was covered. Expenditure overall was 77 per cent of the amount received. The variation between sums received and spent partly results from the late start of water and sanitation activities, as well as from delays in implementing a range of other activities resulting from the ERCS being stretched by emergency responses. These activities have largely been rescheduled for the first half of 2009.

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

See also:

[MDRET004](#) Ethiopia: Floods

[MDRET005](#) Ethiopia: Food Insecurity

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

No. of people we help: Across all sectors there were approximately 4,558,670 beneficiaries of ERCS activities supported through this appeal. This number includes an estimation of the number of people reached by Community Based First Aid health messages and numbers of people who will benefit from accurate planning of aid interventions through ERCS support to crop assessment and carrying out Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment exercises.

Our partners:

The ERCS and Federation Country Representation work with a number of partners when implementing programmes. The first crucial set of relationships is with the donors to the Country Plan/Annual Appeal, without which the progress described here would not be possible. A range of National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies support the appeal, including Swedish Red Cross, Belgium Red Cross (Flanders), Cyprus Red Cross and the Government of Greece. There was also particular support for disaster management activities from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

A further set of crucial relationships are with Participating National Societies (PNS) operating bilateral programmes in Ethiopia. Many of these programmes provide an important complement

to the activities supported under the Country Plan (for example with the Danish, British and German Red Cross Societies' work on HIV and AIDS, the Spanish Red Cross Society's work on food security). There are a variety of partnerships outside the movement, which include government ministries – especially the ministries of health, and agriculture and rural development (which has responsibility for disaster management). There was continuing close cooperation with local and regional levels of government, crucial when implementing community-oriented health and disaster management interventions. Finally the most important partners of all are the communities from where we draw the volunteers that implement and are essential to the success of all our programmes.

Context

The reporting period was marked by deteriorating food security situation in Ethiopia. This followed problems with poor harvests in 2007 resulting from widespread flooding and the failure of the short *belg* rains in early 2008. The southern and eastern parts of the country were the most affected. In October 2008 the joint government and United Nations “Revised Humanitarian Requirements” document revised the numbers of people in need of emergency food relief upwards to 6.4 million. This compares with the original assessment of 2.2 million in need in April 2008, itself revised upward to 4.6 million in July 2008. Whilst malnutrition rates and admissions to therapeutic feeding programmes declined to some extent following the harvest in the last quarter of the year, the situation remained extremely precarious. To respond to this situation (not just affecting Ethiopia, but the surrounding countries too), the Federation launched a major regional appeal to address both acute and underlying food security in the Horn of Africa region (see related appeals, above).

Both food price inflation and general inflation were high throughout 2008, though after stabilizing in September and October, food prices began to decline relative to the preceding months. However they remained extremely high compared to one year previously, with prices of *teff* (the staple Ethiopian grain) remaining more than double what they were the year before in December 2008. This stabilization of prices was closely linked to the arrival of foodstuffs from the main harvests on the markets.

Rainfall during the main *meher* rainy season was good, and a recent crop and food assessment by FAO and WFP¹ reported that production of cereals and pulses from the meher harvest was about ten per cent higher in 2008 than in 2007.

It was reported that as the year progressed the intensity of the conflict between the government and armed groups in Somali region (of which the Ogaden National Liberation Front is the most significant) decreased. However, the region is still insecure, and there are regular clashes.

There have been sporadic outbreaks of Acute Watery Diarrhoea, though not reaching the levels of 2006 and 2007, and these were concentrated during the main rainy season.

¹ Special Report, FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to Ethiopia, January 2009

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

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

Programme component 1: Disaster Preparedness

Outcomes/Expected results:

- Strengthened ERCS preparedness for floods and droughts at community level;
- Improved community awareness on the impact of environmental degradation;
- Decreased number of deaths and injuries from traffic accidents.

Achievements:

- Two Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) trainings were conducted during 2008. The first was held in Gisha Rabel district, Amhara region at the end of June, whilst the second took place in Awassa, the capital of SNNP region at the end of October. A total of 22 ERCS workers were trained, eight in Amhara and fourteen in SNNP. In both cases, the participants were drawn from a selection of zone and regional branches. The participatory training explored a range of issues, such as the relationships between vulnerability and capacity and each was followed by VCA exercises involving the participants together with staff members from national headquarters. These are discussed below under programme component 3.
- Two VCAs were conducted at the end of 2007, and the results of these were reviewed in February 2008. The discussions provided the basis for drawing up proposals to improve food security and disaster preparedness among selected communities in Tigray and Oromia regions. A total of six ERCS staff attended the review meeting.
- After the failure of the short *belg* rains, it was clear that in many areas of the country the food security situation was worsening quickly. The ERCS responded quickly by conducting food security assessments, in March 2008, in six zones in the southern half of the country – Moyale, Bale, Borena, Sidama, Wolaita and Hadiya. These assessments provided the basis for an emergency food security operation in Wolaita zone, funded through emergency appeal MDRET005 – Ethiopia: Food Insecurity. There were eventually 76,000 beneficiaries from this emergency appeal.
- Climate Change awareness raising workshops were conducted in two branches (Wolaita and Harar) for school teachers. The workshops conducted in the last quarter of 2008, gave them a basic understanding of climate change, its causes and effects, and appropriate ways to reduce the impact of disasters resulting from climate change. In total, 200 teachers took part in the awareness raising workshops, most of who were already involved in the Red Cross movement through running HIV and AIDS or environmental protection clubs in their schools.
- In order to enhance the ERCS's ability to respond to emergencies, contingency stocks were built up in several locations across the country. Three branches were selected for pre-positioning of non-food relief items – Harar for Eastern Ethiopia, Addis Zemen for Northern Ethiopia and Wolaita branch for the south. It was not possible to conduct a warehouse survey before selecting these locations, but in the west a warehouse survey was carried out in several branches at the end of December 2008.

Table 1: Contingency stocks ordered from the central warehouse

Non food items	Geographic area	Location	Quantity ordered
	Southern Ethiopia	SNNP/Wolaita	
Blanket (1.6mx2.2m)			4,000
Plastic mat (1.50mx2.5m)			4,000
Cooking pot (5 litre)			2,000
Soap (250kg)			2,000
Plastic plate			4,000
Plastic Cup			2,000
Plastic sheeting (Roll)			2,000
Tea pot/kettle			14
Water guard (bottle)			10,000
Jerry cans (20 Litre)			2,000
	Eastern Ethiopia	East Harerghe/ Harar	
Blanket (1.6mx2.2m)			3,000
Plastic mat (1.50mx2.5m)			1,500
Cooking pot (5 litre)			1,500
Soap (250kg)			4,000
Plastic plate			2,000
Plastic Cup			2,000
Plastic sheeting (Roll)			10
Tea pot/kettle			700
Water guard (bottle)			10,000
Jerry cans (20 Litre)			3,000
	Northern Ethiopia	South Gonder/ Addis Zemen	
Blanket (1.6mx2.2m)			4,000
Plastic mat (1.50mx2.5m)			2,000
Cooking pot (5 litre)			2,000
Soap (250kg)			4,000
Plastic plate			2,000
Plastic Cup			2,000
Plastic sheeting (Roll)			14
Tea pot/kettle			700
Water guard (bottle)			10,000
Jerry cans (20 Litre)			2,000

To date the items shown above have been ordered from the ERCS central warehouse using funds from this appeal. However, only soap and jerry cans have been transported to Wolaita, and only jerry cans to Harar, due to the lack of availability of trucks that were planned to be hired from ICRC. Almost all of the items have been delivered to the Addis Zemen warehouse.

- A total of 40 volunteers and staff took part in two separate trainings on flood early warning systems in May 2008. The training events, which took place in Woreta town, Amhara region and Awassa town, SNNP region, took in both general disaster management principles, the specifics of floods, and important steps in responding to floods such as camp management and site selection. The training will allow those staff and volunteers to respond more effectively when next called upon during one of Ethiopia's regular floods.

- Refresher training on flood response was held in Dire Dawa, Eastern Ethiopia in August 2008 for 37 local people. They had previously undertaken training following serious flooding there in 2006, and had gone on to form flood alert and response committees. The previously covered areas of disaster management were reviewed in the training, and a field exercise was conducted to practice and refine the techniques for alerting the communities, based on the use of whistles and traditional flutes. The exercise additionally identified locations for **10** sirens to be installed, which would act as a further layer of flood notification. To integrate the flood alert and response committees better into the early warning set up, a committee drawn from relevant local government offices and NGOs was created. They will serve as the interface between government sources of information and the local flood response committee members. The roles of both committees were clarified in the training.
- The ERCS supported the Government of Ethiopia's pre- and post-harvest multi-agency crop assessments, providing vehicles and experts in two areas identified as lacking these. One team covered East Gojjam, North Shoa and Awi zones in Amhara region, whilst the second covered Amhara region's South Wollo zone, and Oromia's special zone. Taking twenty-three days, the team looked at harvest and crop condition and assessed the likely impact of various environmental factors, including rainfall, hail and frost. Over 289,700 people were identified as in likely need of food assistance through the assessment, and will benefit from accurate government planning to address their situation.

Programme component 2: Disaster Response: Emergency

Outcomes/Expected results:

- Impact of floods and drought disasters on people's lives is reduced;
- Disaster management skills and capacity are improved at institutional level.

Achievements:

- National disaster response team members have been mobilized where the requirements of an emergency operation or response exceeded the capacity of the local branch. As well as in the above mentioned food security operation in Wolaita, NDRT members were mobilized to respond to the September floods in Gambella region, and for the emergency needs assessments in six zones that preceded the setting up of the Wolaita operation.
- The ERCS continues to respond to smaller-scale disasters such as localized floods or fires. In 2008, over 2,600 people have benefitted from this kind of response. This response is made possible through the pre-positioning of relief supplies described above.

Programme component 3: Disaster Response: Recovery

Outcomes/Expected results:

- Improved livelihood of the most vulnerable population affected by floods and drought disasters;
- National Society capacity in food security programming is enhanced.

Achievements:

- As mentioned above two VCA exercises were conducted alongside VCA trainings in order to entrench the skills developed by the participants, but more importantly to take the opportunity to obtain a deeper understanding of the situation faced by people in the areas of Amhara and SNNP regions considered. Issues that emerged included soil degradation and erosion, access to safe water and absences from school during the dry season due to lack of food. This information will provide the basis for planning interventions in these areas, although proposals are yet to be developed. Eventually over 200,000 people in these areas are expected to benefit from the improved understanding of their situation and the ability to plan effective interventions.
- There have been tree plantation / nursery development activities running in Wolaita and Harar branches between 2003 and 2006, originally supported by ICRC. In 2008, these activities were supported through this appeal. Seedlings are distributed in order to prevent

soil erosion and water retention, whilst providing livelihood opportunities such as fruit crops or forage for livestock. As such a range of seedlings are distributed, from avocado and mango for fruit, to grevillea to protect the soil. In total 192,000 seedlings were distributed in Wolaita to 10,000 beneficiaries, whereas in Harar, 1,500 beneficiaries received 100,000 seedlings.

Constraints or Challenges:

- One constraint on the implementation of the disaster management elements of the Country Plan activities has been the recurrent need to respond to major emergency situations. Whilst small scale relief operations can be implemented without great disruption, larger scale responses, such as that run in Wolaita zone, or even slightly more moderate responses such as the efforts in Gambella, stretch very limited resources, making the implementation of the ongoing activities more challenging.
- With reference to the pre-positioning of relief supplies, some problems were discovered with the selected warehouse in Wolaita, and so it is necessary to search for an alternative location that will serve the southern part of the country. An alternative has not yet been found, but the warehouse survey is underway.

Health and Care

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

Programme component 1: Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

Outcomes/Expected results:

- Reduced child and maternal morbidity and mortality rates;
- MCH service attendance has increased;
- Improved public awareness on the importance of MCH services and immunization;
- Increased immunisation coverage through routine campaigns for children under five years and pregnant women.

Achievements:

- Trainings of trainers were organised to bolster the Ministry of Health's national immunization efforts. These trainings reached almost 880 volunteers in between October and December. These volunteers took an active role in the immunization drive in over 80 sub-districts of 5 districts of four zones in the country. These volunteers enabled the immunization programme to be carried out more thoroughly and reach other areas than may otherwise have been possible, acting to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- A review workshop (held in April 2008, in Addis Ababa) on the response to 2007's outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) also included elements on other infectious diseases. This workshop was funded under the emergency appeal for the floods and subsequent outbreak of AWD, but also provided information and training to the participants on malaria, measles and polio control. There were a total of 41 participants in this workshop.

Programme component 2: HIV and AIDS and TB prevention, control and management

Outcomes/Expected results:

- High level of HIV and AIDS and STI awareness at community level and positive behaviour change
- Improved quality of life and productivity of PLHIV;
- Improved socio-economic condition of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC);
- TB prevention, control and management strengthened.

No activities were implemented using Federation funding during the reporting period. However a range of activities were implemented using bilateral funding from the British, Danish and German Red Crosses.

Programme component 3: Water and sanitation

Outcomes/Expected results:

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

Achievements:

- The start of planned watsan activities was delayed as it was first necessary to complete the evaluation of the previous phase of the programme. Following the completion of the evaluation in August, and taking on board the comments, the implementation of the planned activities began only in the last quarter of the year.
- The programme activities combine watsan programme activities with branch capacity building, providing the basis for the programme to be implemented successfully.
- As such and as a result of the late start of the programme, activities focused on the capacity building elements within the four selected branches (West Wollega, West Shoa, Wolaita and Gurarghe) - undertaking maintenance at the branch offices, ensuring vehicles were functioning properly, purchasing basic office furniture and arranging exchange visits with a branch (Bench Maji) that had previously undertaken a similar integrated health project. Exchange visits benefitted a total of four staff and one board member from West Wollega and West Shoa branch. In West Wollega and Gurarghe branches there was also training of district and sub-district Red Cross committee members in the fundamental principles of the Movement and in Red Cross activities in Ethiopia. A total of 114 committee members were trained.
- Start-up of the programme activities has been undertaken and in all four branches the locations for water point improvement or development were identified. Additionally in Wolaita nearly 350 sanplat latrine slabs were produced and were ready for distribution by the end of 2008.
- In West Shoa, 21 volunteers received five days of training as members of water committees. Water committees are essential to the longer-term success of water and sanitation activities as they actively manage the use of the water points, arranging payment for repairs when necessary.

Programme component 4: Emergency Health and Psychological Support

Outcomes/Expected results:

- Morbidity and mortality rates related to health emergencies reduced;
- Increased ERCS preparedness (including Avian flu pandemic preparedness) and response to health emergencies;
- The mental and psychological wellbeing of the community and ERCS staff and volunteers enhanced during disasters.

Achievements:

- Activities relating to emergency health during 2008 mainly focused on the ongoing response to 2007's flooding and consequent outbreaks of AWD. As part of this emergency operation, multiple trainings in epidemic preparedness were conducted targeting women who were prominent in their communities or who already played a role in health care such as Traditional Birth Attendants. In total 15,600 volunteers were trained, with these activities being funded under the appeal MDRET004.

- Additionally, the ERCS began preparations for implementing the Federation's global Human Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) programme, funded by USAID. Implementation of this programme will commence in 2009.

Programme component 5: Community-Based First Aid (new)

The Community Based First Aid (CBFA) activities of the ERCS were not included in the initial Federation annual appeal 2008-2009 for Ethiopia. As such, expected results were not developed in order for them to be reported against.

Achievements:

- A programme of cascading Community Based First Aid (CBFA) trainings was rolled out. In this programme, two master trainers were trained from each of the sixteen participating branches (thirty-two in total). Each master trainer then trained ten further trainers. Each of these trainers trained ten volunteers in the basic health messages that were to form the core of the programme. A total of 3,200 volunteers were trained.
- Approximately 4,000,000 people were reached by the health messages. The trained volunteers requested time to address a variety of community meetings in their villages, and would use a few minutes to communicate the health messages to the assembled people. The number of beneficiaries given is an approximation based on results from the four branches that have already reported. The spreading of these simple health messages is intended to give people the knowledge of the best ways of preventing (and of acting when they are affected by) common diseases or health problems.
- Additionally, around 50,000 people have benefitted from latrines that have been constructed by people who have been reached through the CBFA programme (this estimate is again based on results from four branches).
- As well as this an ambulance was procured for Afar region. This will benefit approximately 5,500 people in its first year of operations.

Constraints or Challenges:

- Especially in the first part of the year, there were difficulties moving forward with the activities due to the ongoing response to AWD outbreaks.
- As mentioned above, the start of water and sanitation activities was delayed due to the need to finalize the evaluation of the previous programme. This delay has led to many activities planned to take place within 2008 being carried over into 2009.

Organizational Development

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

Programme component 1: National Society capacity development and OD (headquarters and branches)

Outcome/Expected result:

- Increased service delivery by ERCS branches to the most vulnerable populations.

Achievements:

- After initial testing in two branches, the branch capacity assessment (BCA) tools were used to examine the capacity of six branches. These included the four selected for the water and sanitation activities discussed above. Addis Ababa branch was also assessed. The results of these assessments will be used to plan further interventions to enhance branch capacity. In the future, the capacity assessment exercise will be conducted in all ERCS branches.

- A branch development seminar was conducted in May 2008, which aimed to develop a national plan for integrated branch development. The seminar was attended by 25 ERCS staff, drawn from both the headquarters and branches, and four representatives from the Swedish Red Cross. A variety of areas were discussed including BCA exercises, evaluation of previous watsan programmes and membership management.
- A set of guidelines was developed and then revised which covered the management of membership, volunteers and income generating buildings. This will be rolled out across the organisation.
- Awareness of the model of integrated branch development was raised across the organisation. As this model is based on the characteristics of a well-functioning branch, this activity also helped to deepen knowledge of these characteristics.
- A number of exchanges and visits took place to build the capacity of staff and branches to manage their activities. The Somali region branch secretary and accountant undertook experience sharing visits in four branches as well as the national headquarters. One volunteer and a staff member from the Organizational Development department's youth section took part in an exchange visit in Israel with the Israeli Magen David Adom. The head of the OD department took part in a branch and volunteer management training in Norway in October 2008.
- In October a membership and volunteer management workshop was carried out which looked at the present situation, examined the needs and provided contributions for developing membership and volunteer management guidelines. There were a total of 20 participants from 5 selected branches.

Programme component 2: Governance and Management

Outcome/Expected results:

- Strengthened relationship between ERCS governance and management.

Achievements

- Board elections were held in accordance to the ERCS charter during 2008. A total of 27 zonal branches held elections, whilst elections were held in eleven regional branches (with seven members sitting on each board at both levels). A total of 266 board members were elected out of which 20 percent were women and 80 percent men. Board members will serve a four year term, from November 2008 to November 2012.
- National board elections were also held in December 2008 at the same time as the ERCS 14th General Assembly, which also received support from this appeal. The new President of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society was elected.

Programme component 3: Community Capacity Building

Outcomes/Expected results:

- Improved membership base;
- Increased action and participation of ERCS volunteers in service delivery.

Achievements

- Activities were mainly aimed at strengthening ERCS capacity and did not include specific community capacity building activities. There were, however, a range of programmes under the Disaster Management and Health and Care programmes that very actively enhanced the capacity of communities, for example in making appropriate, informed health choices or in responding effectively to floods and other disasters.

Constraints or Challenges:

- The elections of regional and zonal boards took up a great deal of time, and drew in human resources from the national headquarters as well as the branches. Preparations for the general assembly were also labour and time intensive. This has reduced the time and

resources available for implementing other activities. Activities affected (including a board management relationship workshop and a BCA exercise) will be rescheduled for the first quarter of 2009.

Principles and Values

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

Outcomes/Expected results:

Programme component 1: Communication Development

Outcomes/Expected results:

- Increased communications capacity of the public relations department of the ERCS;
- Improved internal communication between the national headquarters and the branches.

Programme component 2: Humanitarian Principles and Values

Outcomes/Expected results:

- Awareness of the Code of Conduct, by all ERCS personnel and volunteers.

Achievements:

Federation funded activities under this area have been postponed until 2009, as a result of inaccurate budgeting at a time of organizational restructuring. However, the ERCS's communications department has remained active, preparing articles on the food security situation that were published on the Federation's website, accompanying international journalists to disaster affected areas and engaging with Ethiopian media through events and media releases to raise the profile of a wide range of programmes.

Working in partnership

- Movement partners provide a variety of support to the ERCS, including technical expertise in programme design and management, expertise in strengthening support services, and financial support to a broad range of ERCS programmes.
- The ERCS has a three-year Cooperation Agreement Strategy, covering the period 2008-2010, based on the second phase of the ERCS's five year strategic plan, which forms the basis for partners' support to the ERCS. There is a mixture of multilateral and bilateral support to the ERCS, with contributors to the Federation's Country Plan/Annual Appeal including Swedish Red Cross, Belgium Red Cross (Flanders), Cyprus Red Cross, DFID and the Government of Greece. Bilateral partnerships for ongoing activities are mentioned above and include support from Danish, Spanish, German and British Red Cross Societies.
- Larger emergency interventions which exceed the ERCS's capacity to respond, receive both multilateral and bilateral support from a wide range of Movement partners.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross is a principal partner for International Humanitarian Law and tracing activities.
- Partnerships with the Government of Ethiopia are critical to the success of many ERCS programmes. At the national level, there are strong links with the Ministry of Health, and these links are maintained at the local authority levels, where such links are essential to the success of activities such as immunisation programmes. The ERCS also works closely with the water boards at local authority level, ensuring that there is agreement on water and sanitation needs and priorities and sharing technical knowledge and staff capacity where appropriate. A further key partner at the national level is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Development and specifically the Disaster Management and Food Security Sector (DMFSS) within it. This is the key coordinating body for disaster response and management within the country. Good relations are maintained at the branch level with the regional and local DMFSS staff.

Contributing to longer-term impact

As mentioned above, an important organisational development activity was running volunteer and staff exchange programmes. This enabled a significant degree of learning and sharing between branches and individuals. This has helped to enhance skills across the branches as they were able to learn from each others' strengths. With each having different strengths this provided more learning opportunities than more formal top-down training.

There has been ongoing support to the areas of planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) throughout the year. ERCS recruited a reporting officer, financially supported by the Federation, to facilitate the production of reports for donors and internal audiences. In collaboration with the Federation's Zone PMER unit, training on PMER for branch and headquarter managers was done in August 2008, enhancing skills of 24 ERCS staff.

A particular emphasis is placed on monitoring within the HIV programmes, and a monitoring officer was recruited in order to ensure the reliability and timeliness of information, although this position was not funded through the appeal.

In all its activities the ERCS takes its guidance from the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent, and abides by the Code of Conduct for Disaster Relief. For emergency and humanitarian operations, ERCS strives to abide by relevant Sphere standards.

Looking ahead

Significant progress has been made in achieving the objectives planned for 2008. Those activities that could not be completed within 2008 will be rescheduled and carried out in 2009.

An area that will be strengthened is data gathering on programme outputs and impact at the beneficiary level.

One challenge that will likely continue through 2009 is that numerous emergency responses required a great deal of time and effort, reducing the resources available for ongoing activities. As a country particularly susceptible to disasters, there is a strong likelihood of needing to square this circle yet again, particularly given the scale of the food security crisis within the country. This underlines the importance of the organizational strengthening activities undertaken under the Country Plan.

How we work

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

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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

- **In Ethiopian:** Fasika Kebede, Secretary General, Ethiopia Red Cross Society; email: ercs.sg@ethionet.et; phone: +251.11.515.38.53; fax: +251.11.551.26.43
- **In Ethiopia:** George Gigiberia, Federation Country Representative; email: george.gigiberia@ifrc.org; phone: +251.11.551.4317; fax: +251.11.551.28.88
- **In Kenya:** Dr. Asha Mohammed, Federation Head of Eastern Africa Zone, Nairobi; email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org; Telephone + 254.20.283.51.24; Fax + 254.20.271.27.77
- **In Kenya:** Annelies Thiele, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; email: annelies.thiele@ifrc.org phone: 254.20.283.52.55; Fax + 254.20.271.27.77