

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ethiopia: Food Insecurity

Emergency appeal n° MDRET005

GLIDE n° DR-2008-000043-ETH

Operations update n° 3

5 November 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 12 June to 6 October 2008;

Appeal target (current): CHF 8,157,607 (USD 7,920,006 or EUR 5,035,560);

[<click here to view the attached Interim Financial Report>](#)

Appeal coverage: 20 to 76% multilaterally; 56% bilaterally from ECHO and Austrian Development Agency (ADA) through Finnish and Austrian Red Cross.

[<Click here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 14 May 2008 for CHF 1,847,444 (USD 1,776,388 or EUR 1,143,928) for 4 months to assist 40,000 beneficiaries.
- A Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of CHF 300,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society to respond to the situation.
- The revised appeal seeking CHF 8,157,607 was launched on 19 August 2008 to assist 76,075 beneficiaries for 6 months.



Food distribution in Wolaita, September 2008. Photo: Jose Cendon

Summary: The Federation, on behalf of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), launched a preliminary emergency appeal on 14 May 2008 to assist 40,000 beneficiaries in Damot Pulasa district, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional (SNNPR) state for a period of 4 months. After consultations with the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA), the local government and the ERCS branch, the ERCS began the relief operation with the collaboration of the Federation, using items available on the local market. Following the findings of the emergency need assessments conducted by the National Society, ERCS was obliged to revise the initial appeal to reach a larger population affected by the food insecurity. The total number of beneficiaries in the revised appeal was 76,075 people living in both Damot Pulasa and Damot Gale districts of SNNPR state. In order to produce longer term benefits for the local community, the food distribution was accompanied by recovery activities such as seed distribution for the farmers who have enough land to cultivate and provision of livestock for families with poor or no access to agricultural land. Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training and water point rehabilitation was carried out to mitigate the health impacts of the food shortages.

To date, three rounds of food distribution have been carried out in Damot Pulasa. Beneficiaries in Damot Gale district received their first round in September, at the same time as the third distribution in Damot Pulasa. Anecdotal evidence indicates that the nutritional status of the beneficiary populations is improving (though it has not been possible to obtain numerical nutrition status data for the districts or SNNPR state for the period covered by this Operations Update), and the rate of admissions to Therapeutic Feeding Programmes in SNNPR state, though still high, is reducing. There have been no major disease outbreaks to this point.

The long rainy season which ends in mid September has largely provided adequate rainfall in the area. Bean seeds and sweet potato vines distributed to replace livelihoods assets lost in earlier adverse weather are growing well.

EUR 2,700,000 (CHF 4,239,000) was pledged bilaterally by ECHO through the Austrian Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross, with an additional EUR 200,000 (CHF 314,000) pledged bilaterally by the Austrian Development Agency towards the Emergency Appeal. Ethiopiaid contributed GBP 200,000 (CHF 394,000) towards the Emergency Appeal.

The situation

The failure of the Belg rains at the beginning of the year coupled with a soaring inflation rate and a global rise in food prices has caused a severe food shortage affecting large parts of Ethiopia. The worst hit regions are Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR state, Somali and Tigray. The precarious situation led the Government of Ethiopia to issue a Humanitarian Requirement Plan on 10 April 2008 to assist 2.2 million people. In July 2008 the numbers of people requiring emergency food assistance were revised to 4.6 million, and revised upwards again to 6.4 million in September 2008. The failure of the Belg rains came on top of flooding which destroyed crops during the middle of 2007, and absence of the light rains in the last quarter of 2007, leading to the failure of three harvests in a row.

The food insecurity situation has in many areas led to increased child mortality rates, students leaving school in order to support their families, and households selling off assets and resorting to eating the seeds intended to be planted during the next planting period, thus reducing their resilience for future emergencies.

In SNNPR state, 2,384 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were admitted to Therapeutic Feeding Programmes between the 12 and 18 of September 2008, bringing the total for SNNPR state alone to 39,000 admissions since 27 June 2008. This represents an additional 15,000 cases since 24 August 2008¹.

The total number of people targeted for food assistance within Ethiopia is 9.6 million, including relief beneficiaries, approximately 3.6 million supported through the Government of Ethiopia, World Food Programme (WFP) and Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) designed to cope with the large increases in food prices and decreasing terms of trade between cattle and grain, and those in Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programmes².

However, there has been a severe rupture in the pipeline for food assistance in the country, which has forced WFP/DPPA to reduce the general food distribution by 1/3 in July 2008, and limit the food ration for August (for both relief and PSNP caseload) to 10kg of cereal per person. There is still insufficient availability of food, and WFP will likely to be providing reduced rations in November and December 2008.

In response to a request from the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, the Federation launched a preliminary Emergency Appeal on the 14 May 2008, seeking to assist 40,000 people over a period of four months in Damot Pulasa Woreda, Wolaita Zone and SNNPR state. As the situation continued to deteriorate a revised Emergency Appeal was launched on the 19 August seeking to assist 76, 075 beneficiaries in Damot Pulasa and neighboring Damot Gale district over a period of six months. Wolaita zone is one of the most densely populated areas in the country with a total of 1,699,085 people living in the zone. The density ranges from 370 to 600 people per square kilometre.

Food prices have spiked dramatically this year, partly as a result of the failures of successive harvests, but also as a result of the dramatic increases in global food prices. WFP report that nationally prices are stabilizing. In

¹ OCHA Situation Report: Drought/Food Crisis in Ethiopia, 25 Aug 2008 and 01 Oct 2008

² OCHA Situation Report: Drought/Food Crisis in Ethiopia, 01 Oct 2008

Damot Pulasa and Damot Gale³ districts, the current price of maize and wheat is 263 percent and 214 percent higher than in January 2008 – this represents a change of – 6 percent and +15 percent respectively from July 2008, and relative stabilization in prices in the districts.

The main rains (Meher rains) have been normal and the estimates are that harvest production will be normal. However, this needs to be seen in the context of the overall severe food shortages, including reserve stocks, in the country, and a single normal harvest will not remove the need for food oriented interventions before the end of 2008. In Damot Pulasa and Damot Gale districts, discussions with beneficiaries indicate that some school drop-outs are returning to study, and that in general people are more positive about the situation they are in.

Coordination and partnerships

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society intervened through the provision of food to avert the humanitarian crisis with the support of the IFRC country office and bilateral partners.

In June a taskforce was set up to coordinate the Movement response to the food shortages in SNNP region. Regular coordination meetings continue to be held at the ERCS National Headquarters to oversee the implementation of the programme and give the necessary direction to the operational units.

Funds were transferred in August 2008 from ECHO and the Austrian Development Agency through the Finnish and Austrian Red Cross Societies based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the National Societies.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During this reporting period the principle activity was food distributions. In total, 75,209 beneficiaries were reached in the third round of distributions and almost 1,400 MT of food distributed.

In Damot Pulasa district, two warehouses were obtained free of charge from the local government until the completion of the operation. Each warehouse has a capacity of 300 MT.

The third round distribution in Damot Pulasa started on 16 September 2008 and was completed on 1 October 2008. The distribution took longer than anticipated partly because heavy rain prevented access to Lera distribution centre. Instead maize was offloaded at Shanto town which served as a distribution centre.

A total of 39,445 beneficiaries received relief items at the distribution centre in Damot Pulasa. An increase in the number of beneficiaries requiring supplementary food is observed, and this ties in with more rigorous targeting of households.

Damot Gale's first round of food items distribution was carried out, from 6 to 25 September 2008. Two distribution

SMOOTH DISTRIBUTION REMOVES NIGHTTIME WORRIES

“The distribution process was well organized and very smooth. This gave a good lesson to our community leaders to carry out the same procedure in the future. The distributions ended by midday. Previously, the distribution started late in the afternoon and ended in the dark – which resulted to late arrivals at home”.

Abaynesh Balcha, Shasha Galle Village.

centres for Damot Gale with warehouses with capacities of 500MT and 300MT were secured at Boditti and Buge. Boditti is the capital of the district and Buge is located 13km away from Boditti.

The total number of beneficiaries who received the food items were 35,764. Total number of vulnerable people requiring supplementary feeding was less than anticipated, at 28 percent of the total beneficiary group. The provision of seed for beneficiaries is one of the rehabilitation plans by the ERCS provided that funds are

available, provision of livestock is planned for beneficiaries with poor or no access to farm land.

With respect to early recovery activities, in previous rounds of distributions 100 MT of beans and 18 million sweet potato vines were distributed to 8,500 selected farmers from both Damot Pulasa and Damot Gale. The government agricultural offices at both districts are providing technical support. The selection criteria for seed

³ Ministry of Agriculture, Damot Gale/Pulasa Office

provision were women headed households, farmers with available agricultural land and farmers who are the poorest group of the society. Farmers who totally lost seed stocks and have no other coping mechanism were also prioritized. The seeds planted are now germinating and are visibly making the area green, due to the favorable climatic conditions.

Water and sanitation activities have begun, as well PHAST training which started on 16 October 2008.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective 1: To improve the household food security status of vulnerable household	
Expected result 1.1	Activities planned
Household access to food increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchasing and distribution of 5,760MT of maize, 528 MT of beans and 192,000 litres of cooking oil. Procuring and distributing 548.5 MT of supplementary food/CSB.

Progress

Three rounds of food items distribution were completed for beneficiaries in Damot Pulasa and a first round for Damot Gale beneficiaries. In June 39.216MT, July 39.382MT and for August 2008 allocation 75,209MT selected beneficiaries were reached. August allocation (third round) beneficiary numbers almost doubled because Damot Gale district's beneficiaries were included in the relief operation. Each beneficiary received 15 kg of maize, 1.5 kg of pulses, 0.5 litres of cooking oil. Children under the age of 5 years, lactating and pregnant women or elders receive 4.5 kg of supplementary food (Famix/CSB).

The actual distribution took place in the compounds of the warehouses. In both Damot Pulasa and Damot Gale, distribution was made to heads of households, with the amounts per household pre-calculated on the basis of beneficiary lists in order to facilitate distributions. Necessary arrangements for distribution were made before the arrival of the beneficiaries and on arrival they are informed about the type and amount of food items to be received, based on family size. Beneficiaries are also advised on how to use the supplementary food appropriately for the children. Increased participation of representatives of the community in the targeting and distribution planning process created confidence in the transparency of the process.

Table 1: Food Distribution

District	Maize (MT)	Beans (MT)	CSB (MT)	Oil (1000l)	Total
Damot Pulasa	591.68	58.965	57.662	18.141	726.448
Damot Gale	528.03	52.802	44.646	16.751	642.229
Total (3 round)	1,119.71	111.767	102.308	34.892	1,368.68
Total to date	2,298.68	163.624	131.762	62.912	2,656.98
<i>Total (target)</i>	<i>5,760</i>	<i>528</i>	<i>548.5</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>7,028.5</i>
<i>% of target</i>	<i>39.9%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>24.0%</i>	<i>32.8%</i>	<i>37.8%</i>

Table 2: Population coverage (third round)

District	No. of villages	HH	Beneficiary	Vulnerable
Damot Pulasa	23	8,827	39,445	12,815
Damot Gale	31	9,220	35,764	9,945
Total	54	18,047	75,209	22,760
<i>% of target</i>			98.9%	85.5%

An estimated 35% of the total beneficiary population fall into one of the vulnerable groups. From the total of 75,209 beneficiaries, this would represent 26,626. Therefore the achieved result of 22,760 represents 85% of the target

Table 3: Damot Gale stock level

Type of food items	Quantity In (MT)	Ending balance August (3rd round) dist. (MT)
Maize	540	4.6

Yellow peas	46.6	1.275
Famix (CSB)	50	11.5
Oil	16.499	0.121

Table 4: Damot Pulasa stock level

Type of food items	Quantity In (MT)	Ending balance August (3 round) distribution. (MT)
Maize	700	134.72
Beans	60	1.161
Yellow peas	-	1.075
Famix	-	47.34
Oil	18.4	1.114

The Ethiopian National Food and Nutrition Institute is contracted to undertake a Nutritional Survey in the area and agreement to conduct the survey is being finalised.

Impact

Data from GOAL's therapeutic feeding programmes in the two Woredas show a significant decline in admissions since the operation began in June.

Months (2008)	June	July	August	September
Total admissions	1,682	832	579	343

Total admissions include admissions to both in-patient and out-patient therapeutic feeding programmes in Damot Pulasa and Damot Gale districts. Source: GOAL Ethiopia, Damot Pulasa and Damot Gale.

Whilst this pattern exists most clearly in the figures for total admissions, a similar pattern is repeated for both in-patient and out-patient programmes, and for both Damot Gale and Damot Pulasa districts.

Formal post-distribution monitoring is to start in early November 2008.

Challenges

The percentage of beneficiaries in the vulnerable groups category was much lower than the target of 35 percent. An improved selection process involving local authorities, members of local communities, representatives from women, young people and the elderly also helped to better identify the households with vulnerable members. This process requires ongoing monitoring, as results from some villages gave unrealistic distribution of vulnerable people.

With distributions now taking place in two districts it is believed that the percentage of food distributed will improve significantly during the next subsequent distributions.

There is a lag between distribution times and the plan for distribution of several weeks. Key constraints were procurement (with little availability and high prices on the national market) and transport (heavy rains during the first months of the operation making roads inaccessible and sometimes impassable – leading to a change of distribution site in one instance).

Cash flow has also been a major challenge, with bottlenecks both from the National Society to the branch and into the National Society. This has now been addressed, and it is believed that these problems will not be repeated during the remainder of the operation.

Packaging of food items by suppliers has also proved to be a challenge. In some cases suppliers have used low-quality sacks which are torn easily, leading to wastage. In addition, these sacks were too heavy (100kg as opposed to 50kg), making loading and/or unloading, storage and distribution difficult. These issues have been explicitly discussed with the suppliers for the forthcoming distributions who have promised to solve these problems.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Objective 2: To improve access to safe drinking water and to promote personal hygiene in Damot Pulasa and Damot Gale.

Expected result	Activities planned
Personal hygiene improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training 250 youth volunteers for hygiene and sanitation Promotion. • Procuring and distributing 18,830 bars of soap. • Procuring and distributing 9,415 hand jugs.
Expected result	Activities planned
Household access to safe water improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of 22 shallow wells. • Rehabilitation of 5 boreholes. • Procuring and distributing 94,150 sachets of water maker.
Enhanced capacity of the National Society and the branch office to better respond to future disasters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of information technology and communication equipment to branch office. • Training to ERCS headquarters, branch personnel and volunteers on disaster management, logistics, finance and administration.

Progress

PHAST training started in both districts on 16 October 2008. Surveying of water points, including both boreholes and shallow wells is scheduled for late October 2008 with works to start by the end of November 2008.

Livelihoods	
Objective 3: To protect further erosion of livelihood asset bases.	
Expected result	Activities planned
Disrupted food crop production activities restarted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing and distributing assorted seeds (100 MT haricot bean seeds and 18 million sweet potato vines).
Expected result	Activities planned
Livelihood assets base restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing 10,000 sheep to selected households. • Provision of assorted agricultural hand tools.
Objective 4: To enhance sustainable livelihoods/food security situation of the targeted population through long-term approach.	
Expected result	Activities planned
Relief-recovery activities linked to long-term development intervention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct baseline food security/livelihood assessment. • Developing long-term food security proposal.

Progress

100MT of beans and 18 million sweet potato vines (100 percent of the target) were distributed to the selected farmers, as described in Operations Update No.2. These are growing well as the meher (main rainy season) rainfall was sufficient. Crop performance monitoring started in the week beginning 20 October 2008.

Providing livestock for beneficiaries with little or no agricultural land is planned for the middle of November 2008. Post-harvest monitoring survey is planned for early December 2008.

Challenges

The possibility of attack by pests is a major concern as CHF 338,983 is invested in the seeds and vines. The possibility of procuring pesticides has been raised by the local government agricultural bureau. However, at present there is no sign of a significant infestation of pests and procuring pesticides and not encountering said pests would also be inefficient. It has been agreed that regular monitoring of the level of pests will take place, and if a serious infestation is observed, then the procurement of pesticides will be considered. Planning of procurement (collecting of bids) will take place in any case, in order to speed up purchasing, should it be required later.

Capacity building	
Objective 5: Capacity building for ERCS both at Wolaita branch and National level.	
Expected result	Activities planned

Enhanced capacity of the National Society and the branch office to better respond to future disasters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of information technology and communication equipment to branch office. • Training to ERCS headquarters, branch personnel and volunteers on disaster management, logistics, finance and administration.
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Progress

Office items, information technology and communication materials will improve the branch capacity, and procurement of the same is near completion. The materials allocated to the operation so far are two land cruiser vehicles and two generators for the two warehouses. On the job training was provided to branch office staff in logistics, and further training is to follow, planned for the final two months of the programme. It is intended to integrate as many elements as possible from the capacity building assessment previously conducted for Wolaita branch into this part of the programming.

National Society Capacity Building

Staff deployed for the relief operation at field level included Wolaita Zone Branch Secretary, Accountant, Operation Coordinator, two distribution coordinators, two store keepers, two clerks and six guards. The Branch Secretary was assisted by Disaster Response team leader from the Head quarter and by the Oromia Regional Branch Programme Coordinator.

The intervention has given the branch the opportunity to gain experience for future similar situations. The number of youth volunteers are expected to increase throughout the intervention period as many are required to facilitate the food distribution process. Involvement in the operation itself has benefited the existing volunteers in gaining knowledge on emergency food distribution, beneficiary targeting, monitoring works and dissemination of Red Cross principles.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A news release on the emergency operation was issued by the ERCS communication and information department. Both local and international media gave coverage of the intervention. A documentary film on the programme implementation is under preparation.

For more information and photos of this operation, please refer to the links below:

Drought in Ethiopia:

<http://www.ifrc.org/index.asp>

Ethiopia:

Battling the green drought (article and links to photo gallery, including Food Security):

<http://www.ifrc.org/news/index.asp>

Ethiopia:

The true meaning of grass root volunteer service (article):

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/News/08/08062702/index.asp>

Ethiopia:

Food security, June 2008 (photo gallery):

<http://www.ifrc.org/photo/ethiopia0608/index.asp>

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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 operation please contact:

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- **In Ethiopia:** George Gigiberia, Federation Country Representative, phone: +249.9.123.040.23; email: george.gigiberia@ifrc.org
- **In Kenya:** Nancy Balfour, Disaster Management Coordinator Eastern Africa Zone, Nairobi; phone: +254.20.283.5208; fax: +254.20.271.2777; email: nancy.balfour@ifrc.org
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[<Interim financial report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRET005 - Ethiopia Food Insecurity

Interim financial report

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRET005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	8,157,607					8,157,607
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	101,396					101,396
<i>British Red Cross</i>	553,160					553,160
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>	101,000					101,000
<i>Danish Red Cross</i>	154,338					154,338
<i>Irish Red Cross</i>	71,790					71,790
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	195,552					195,552
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>	16,350					16,350
<i>On Line donations</i>	2,992					2,992
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	410,280					410,280
<i>Unidentified donor</i>	50,000					50,000
C1. Cash contributions	1,656,858					1,656,858
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>On Line donations</i>	339					339
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	339					339

C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1,657,197					1,657,197
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,657,197					1,657,197

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	1,657,197					1,657,197
E. Expenditure	-1,040,827					-1,040,827
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	616,369					616,369

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)		8,157,607				8,157,607		
Supplies								
Food	4,265,565	46,992				46,992	4,218,573	
Seeds, Plants	565,180	-46,684				-46,684	611,864	
Water & Sanitation	629,772						629,772	
Other Supplies & Services	200,000						200,000	
Total Supplies	5,660,517	308				308	5,660,208	

Land, vehicles & equipment

Computers & Telecom	4,400							4,400
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	4,400							4,400

Transport & Storage

Storage	40,183	4,486					4,486	35,698
Distribution & Monitoring	5,280							5,280
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,347,723	3,421					3,421	1,344,302
Total Transport & Storage	1,393,186	7,907					7,907	1,385,279

Personnel

International Staff	267,308	31,712					31,712	235,597
National Staff		262					262	-262
National Society Staff	60,340	743					743	59,596
Consultants		9,056					9,056	-9,056
Total Personnel	327,648	41,773					41,773	285,875

Workshops & Training

Workshops & Training	37,830	3,157					3,157	34,673
Total Workshops & Training	37,830	3,157					3,157	34,673

General Expenditure

Travel	24,960	7,395					7,395	17,565
Information & Public Relation	27,556	35					35	27,521
Office Costs	24,582							24,582
Communications	9,630	515					515	9,115
Professional Fees	5,702							5,702
Financial Charges	4,860	49					49	4,811
Other General Expenses	106,491	17					17	106,474
Total General Expenditure	203,781	8,012					8,012	195,769

Contributions & Transfers

Cash Transfers National Societies		900,000					900,000	-900,000
Total Contributions & Transfers		900,000					900,000	-900,000

Programme Support

Program Support	530,244	79,670					79,670	450,574
Total Programme Support	530,244	79,670					79,670	450,574
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	8,157,607	1,040,827					1,040,827	7,116,779
VARIANCE (C - D)		7,116,779					7,116,779	