ETHIOPIA: DROUGHT

Period covered by this Final Report: 23 February, 2006 to 23 June 2007;
Final Appeal coverage: 72%;

Summary: This Emergency Appeal was launched on 23 February 2006 for CHF 1,452,294 (USD 1,097,224 or EUR 920,338) for 12 months to assist 36,341 beneficiaries. CHF 200,000 was allocated from the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the immediate needs.

Summary: In the beginning of 2006 it became apparent that years of acute drought in several regions of the country had left farming and pastoralist households destitute and unable to feed themselves. The most affected were identified as inhabitants of the country’s southern and south-eastern Oromiya and Somali regions whose traditional livelihoods depend on the fertility of the land and the health of their livestock. The immediate priority of the national society was to ensure the affected communities had access to safe water.

Red Cross volunteers were trucking water to 14 villages in the two hardest hit regions for two months. In total, 1.7 million litres of water has been distributed to 25,000 people. This was an expensive and logistically complicated endeavor that saved lives.

To have a sustained access to sufficient uncontaminated water, the Red Cross helped residents of the targeted villages to build seasonal rain harvest schemes. The ERCS also procured goats to help improve livestock assets of 600 most vulnerable pastoralist households. 2,730 drought-hit Ethiopian farmers received emergency agricultural assistance to help them prepare land for the next planting season after months of devastating crop failure. Promotion of better hygiene practices and use of latrines has been another priority. Red Cross volunteers have been engaged with the local communities to encourage improved hygiene practices. According to ERCS reports, Red Cross volunteers have reached some 72,000 people.

In August 2006, eight of the country’s eleven regions experienced flooding due to heavy rains. Thousands of people were driven out of their homes, livelihoods were destroyed and large communities were exposed to new threats and epidemics. Nearly 2,000 people were affected and 500,000 people were made vulnerable. Thousands of livestock were killed and more than 42,000 hectares of crops were submerged. The outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) added to the concerns and demanded full attention of humanitarian agencies. The ERCS was compelled to
temporarily divert its resources to respond to the unfolding humanitarian crises in northern and central regions of the country. Its immediate priority was to alleviate human suffering resulting from the tragic displacements.

ERCS volunteers worked round the clock and demonstrated an inspiring dedication. Their capacities however were overstretched and hard choices had to be made. This meant that some of the activities planned under the drought operation had to be put on hold. There were logistical constraints too. For several weeks, access to some of the drought affected areas was interrupted because some feeder roads had been damaged by the August 2006 rains. As soon as the situation in the flooded areas improved, the suspended work with the drought-affected communities in the south resumed.

However, the prolonged absence of a Federation representative in Addis Ababa created a gap in coordination within the Movement to adequately support the national society in its work. At the same time, ERCS embarked on a major restructuring process necessary to improve the way it is organized and works both at its headquarters and branches. The combination of the two, however, inevitably slowed the pace of the ongoing operations.

Donor response to the appeal has been good and the Federation takes this opportunity to thank its partners for their much valued contributions.

The situation

Background and operational developments
In January 2006, the Ethiopian Government issued the 2006 Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia, which requested for international aid based on findings from coordinated crop and livestock assessments conducted in November-December 2005. These assessments showed that years of acute drought in several regions of the country had left farming and pastoralist households destitute and unable to feed themselves. The appeal document reported that of those who were in immediate need of assistance, 69 percent resided in the critically affected pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Afar region, Amhara region, Oromiya region and Somali region. The remainder of those affected resided in the Tigray region’s border with Afar, pastoral areas of Southern Nation’s Nationalities and People’s Region (SNNPR) and Benshangul Gumuz region. Of all these regions, the Oromiya and Somali regions were the most affected.

Due to lack of sufficient rain, pastures were not in a good condition, water sources had not been replenished and as the health and production of the livestock decreased, so did also their value. Meanwhile the cost of food and seeds were rising and water rationing had gone into effect in some areas. The document estimated that approximately 694,000 farmers would require seeds, more than 22,800 households in 43 woredas would soon stop irrigating their lands as water systems were failing, 54 million livestock would require emergency and recovery interventions and 339,090 metric tons of emergency food assistance was needed nationally to meet existing food needs.

The health situation was also reported to be critical in the affected areas, particularly for children under five, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

1 The over expenditure is due to a pledge withdrawal, extra funds will be raised to cover the outstanding amount.
For those agro-pastoral and pastoral communities located near border areas, it is a normal coping mechanism to rely on the cross-border movement of livestock to search for water and land suitable for grazing. This mechanism works well under circumstances in which resources are adequate, however in the situation that was experienced, resource-related conflicts and tensions were being noted, as the movement of people and livestock in search of water and fertile land appeared to be increasing. An influx of livestock into Ethiopia from drought-stricken areas of north-eastern Kenya and south-western Somalia further exacerbated the food insecurity situation.

Throughout the year unusual weather patterns continued. Long sunny periods were experienced and rainfall was scarce. However, when it did rain, flooding was experienced. In August 2006, a moderate El-Niño phenomenon, coupled with a warming of the western Indian Ocean waters, resulted in excessive rains that triggered severe flooding. Nearly 200,000 people were affected and 500,000 people were made vulnerable in Ethiopia. Thousands of livestock were killed and more than 42,000 hectares of crops were flooded. Among the floods-affected populations were households whose livelihoods had already been adversely affected by the previous drought.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent action**
The Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS) responded to the Government’s request for international aid in coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). A National Disaster Response Team was sent to the Oromiya, Somali and Amhara Regions and the society worked together with the Federation Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), the Federation’s Regional Delegation in Nairobi, the ICRC and relevant government, non-governmental and international organizations to assess needs, discuss findings and to develop a response.

Based on these assessment findings and revisions made in April 2006 (see Operations Update 2) it was decided that the ERCS response would provide assistance to 14 kebeles (villages) in the Moyale woredas (districts) of Oromiya and Somali regions; seven kebeles in Oromiya Moyale (Gofa, Medo, Denbi, Argene, Mudi Ambo, Tuka and Guchi) and seven kebeles in Somali Moyale (Elkur, Karaya, Sororo, Kukubagna, Elder, Hundure and Majire). The number of people to be assisted was set at 15,905 households or 63,620 beneficiaries; 29,965 beneficiaries in Oromiya Moyale and 33,655 in Somali Moyale.

Activities were planned in two phases; the immediate short term assistance that would last for about two months and include the provision of water and water storage materials (tanks, bladders, jerry cans) for beneficiaries to use for their own water-related needs, and the longer term activities that would include the construction and maintenance of shallow wells, and the construction of surface water harvesting cisterns to improve water availability to the communities. The longer term activities also included food security, health awareness, water and sanitation as well as hygiene promotion.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion / Emergency health**

**Objective 1**: Water availability in the 14 drought-affected kebeles of Moyale woreda of Oromiya and Somali regions is improved.

**Achievements**
For two months, the Red Cross was trucking water to 14 kebeles (villages) in the Somali and Oromiya regions to ensure some 25,000 people had sufficient quantity of clean water. A generator was procured and installed to pump ground water from Guchi in Oromiya region. The treated water was then transported by two ERCS trucks to refill water bladders installed by the national society in each of the 14 targeted villages. The water bladders had the capacity of 10,000-15,000 litres of water each. A few bladders were donated by the International Committee of the Red
Cross (ICRC) while the others were bought through the appeal. In total the ERCS had 22 water bladders available for the operation. Red Cross trucks made two trips every day covering long distances. During the operation a total of 1.7 million litres of clean water was distributed.

Water trucking stopped at the end of April 2006, with the start of the rainy season. This was an expensive and logistically complicated endeavor, but the difficulties were outweighed by the impact the Red Cross made. Although the amount transported was neither satisfactorily nor at the minimum standards, it has contributed to saving lives. In addition each household was provided with plastic water containers and soap. Furthermore, a total of 7,750 jerry cans of 25 litres each and 8,950 bars of soap were purchased and distributed.

ERCS efforts were complemented with the distribution and community sensitization on the use of water treatment chemicals. The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the United Nations Children's fund (UNICEF) donated 84,000 water treatment sachets, while 25,000 bottles of water guard were procured with resources made available through the appeal. The quantity of the chemicals distributed was set at a level to ensure the targeted population had adequate safe water for another three months, as the national society searched for more durable solutions.

During the operation, 5 surface water catchments (cisterns) and 9 roof catchments to harvest seasonal rain water were constructed. The cisterns were built from stone and concrete. Each cistern has the capacity to serve 300 to 500 people (approximately 2,000 people). As the available resources were limited, the national society prioritized schools and clinics. The sites were selected in consultation with the local communities and water bureau offices. Communities were advised to use the filtered water for drinking only and use pond water for their livestock.

In each village where ERCS worked, community water committees were established and trained on how to harvest rain water and maintain the cisterns. In total, 14 such committees were organized and 103 water committee members were trained. The committees liaised with the local water bureaus that provided chemicals to treat rainwater before it was distributed to the population.

Objective 2: The health status of 63,620 drought-affected people in Moyale woredas of Oromiya and Somali regions is improved.

Achievements
To improve sanitary conditions, Red Cross volunteers mobilized communities to construct traditional latrines from locally available materials. In total, 470 such latrines have been constructed.

During the drought operation, a total of 465 Red Cross volunteers were trained in health and sanitation related issues. Sixty-one persons were trained in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST). Trained volunteers then engaged with their communities to disseminate basic, essential messages on personal and environmental hygiene. According to ERCS reports, Red Cross volunteers have reached some 72,000 people through its hygiene promotion efforts.

Sixty-eight volunteers were trained in community-based first aid (CBFA), and the national society purchased and distributed 70 first aid kits to the targeted villages.

Refresher courses were held in PHAST and CBFA. Both courses lasted for three days and a total of 60 volunteers received the trainings.

One hundred and one volunteers received training on malaria prevention in cooperation with Population Services International (PSI), a local NGO, and the trained Red Cross volunteers engaged with their communities to sensitize them on measures that can help reduce the spread of
the disease. Since the start of the operation, the volunteers distributed 3,000 leaflets and brochures on malaria prevention that were developed by the ERCS. 9,150 households were provided with long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs), with each household receiving two nets. The volunteers also assisted the beneficiaries in proper use of the long lasted insecticide-treated nets.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Red Cross also trained 30 traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and provided them with delivery kits. In the country where only 54% have access to health services, TBAs meet a vital community need by supporting women throughout their pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum period. Thirty volunteers received one week training in HIV/Aids community conversation and 72 volunteers received one week training in family planning. The volunteers were also supplied with contraceptives that were distributed among community members.

**Impact:** The immediate response of the ERCS contributed to saving lives and strengthened the communities’ coping mechanisms by easing some of the stress caused by the drought. The risks of water born diseases were reduced by the distributions of water purification chemicals, and access to safe water has improved due to the construction of water points. The numbers of malaria cases were considerably reduced due to the distribution of long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs) and the follow up and monitoring efforts of the Red Cross volunteers. The awareness among the affected population in regards to health and sanitation issues increased as a result of the trainings and dissemination efforts of the trained Red Cross volunteers, something that contributed to reduced pressure on the local health services.

**Livelihoods**

**Objective 1:** The health of livestock in Moyale woredas in Oromiya and Somali regions is improved.

**Achievements**

The provision of animal feed was initially requested by the woreda agricultural office, however rapid pasture improvements eliminated the need for this assistance.

Six-hundred of the most vulnerable households in Somali Moyale were selected for the restocking programme, and each household was provided with 5 goats; 1 male and 4 female goats. Prior to the procurement and distribution, the ERCS had extensive consultations with the local communities, government representatives and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to learn from their past experience and design the most appropriate solution for the affected communities. Goats were prioritised because they have a high resistance to droughts and need a relatively short time to produce milk. The procurement was managed by a restocking committee comprised of representatives of the ERCS, the local government, community elders and women representatives. The beneficiary selection criteria were defined in consultation with the local population. Priority was given to female-headed households, people with disabilities and orphans. However the all the beneficiaries needed to show that they were able to manage the livestock and also be willing to provide the first borne offspring to other vulnerable households. The goats were purchased in the area as to ensure that they could cope with the climatic conditions and they were also vaccinated for communicable diseases.

**Objective 2:** The drought-affected farmers in Tuka area of Moyale woreda in Oromiya region are provided with agricultural inputs and their production capacity is increased

**Achievements**

During the first and second quarter of 2006, the ERCS identified 2,060 of the most vulnerable farming households in Oromiya Moyale in consultation with local residents, community leaders and the local agricultural office. As a result of the consultations, 569 households were then
supplied with 12.5kg of maize and 10kg of beans, and 1.500 households supplied with 20kg of beans. 800 of these were also supplied with tools like ploughs, hoes and finger hoes. The beneficiary selection criteria was defined and guided by the availability of farmland, climate conditions, past experience in farming and beneficiary needs.

Local development workers were mobilized to offer farmers technical advice. Seeds and tools were procured and delivered in time and planning started in mid-April 2006, with the onset of the rains. During the first eight weeks crop progressed well, however in June and July 2006, rainfall reduced in some areas and was insufficient for crops to mature. This inevitably affected the yields and it is estimated that 40-50% of the harvest was lost.

After consultations with local communities and partner organisations it was decided to support the farmers with additional seed supplies for the March 2007 planting season in order to prepare for the anticipated food security gaps. Additional 400 households in Oromiya Moyale and 270 households in Somali Moyale were included in this second phase, where a total of 2730 households received 18.75 metric tons of maize and 30 metric tons of beans. Due to the efforts of all the involved as well as favourable rain conditions this year, the farmers were able to harvest 90% of the expected yield.

Initially plans were made to procure and install a grinding mill in Somali Moyale, as it would assist the population in fully utilizing the food surplus they receive through a food aid programme. However it was not possible to implement this activity as the required and manageable type of grind mill was not available on the market.

Impact: The restocking of livestock contributed to improve the overall situation of the vulnerable groups that had lost their livelihoods, and the agricultural assistance improved the agricultural practices and strengthened the coping mechanisms of the targeted households.

**Capacity building**

**Objective 1:** The ERCS response capacity is strengthened and drought-affected people receive support through timely and efficient interventions.

**Achievements**

ERCS presence in the targeted areas was strengthened with the recruitment of additional staff. Its branches were supported with office equipment and two land cruisers were sent from Dubai to support the operation; one of the vehicles was purchased with the appeal funds. Red Cross committees were established in each of the 14 targeted villages, and two committees were also established on woreda level, making a total of 16 RC committees in the target areas. 105 volunteers were trained on Red Cross knowledge and 3 RC youth clubs were established at Moyale high school, as well as junior and elementary schools.

**Impact:** The Red Cross interventions in the affected areas contributed to an increased awareness and positive attitude towards the organization and the Movement as a whole, especially in areas dominated by a population following the Islamic religion.

**Conclusion**

**Lessons learned:** The drought operation represented a great learning experience for the Ethiopia Red Cross Society in terms of coordination, planning and implementation of activities, especially in light of the absence of a Federation representative, the internal restructuring process and the floods response that the society undertook during the operation. The society also learnt from the experience of trying to manage conflicts between different ethnical groups as well as dealing with the various interests of local authorities.
For future operations it is recommended that the selection criteria for contractors also consider capacity and experience from complex emergency situations. Frequent field visits by senior managers at the national level are desirable as it enhances the understanding and the coordination of the operations.

The Drought operation conducted by the Ethiopia Red Cross Society in cooperation with Movement partners, contributed to alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable people in the Moyale woredas in Oromiya and Somali regions. As the society was able to bring safe water to the beneficiaries during the most critical stage of the drought, the operation contributed to saving lives as well as support and strengthen the coping mechanisms of the local communities. The rehabilitation activities, such as the restocking, the agricultural interventions and the water and sanitation activities have also contributed to support and strengthen local coping mechanisms.

The position and capacity of women in the targeted area were strengthened, as several of the beneficiaries and volunteers who received support and trainings were women. For example, all the participants for the TBA (Traditional Birth Attendant) trainings were females. The interventions in the affected areas contributed to an increased awareness and positive attitude towards the Movement, especially in areas dominated by a population following the Islamic religion. The operation also contributed to enhancing the capacity of the ERCS. The National Society recruited a number of new volunteers, and the branch structures were strengthened.

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**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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The International Federation’s activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation’s mission to &quot;improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity&quot;.</th>
<th>Global Agenda Goals:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</td>
<td>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</td>
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<td>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</td>
<td>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</td>
<td>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</td>
<td>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</td>
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</table>

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**Contact information**

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact: *(note: one contact per level advised)*

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  - telephone: +41.22.730.4349; fax : +41.22.733.0395

*<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>*
I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Budget</th>
<th>Health &amp; Care</th>
<th>Disaster Management</th>
<th>Humanitarian Values</th>
<th>Organisational Development</th>
<th>Coordination &amp; Implementation</th>
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B. Opening Balance

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<td>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)</td>
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<td>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders) (from Belgian Government)</td>
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<td>Monaco Red Cross</td>
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<td>Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)</td>
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<td>Other (from Belgian Government)</td>
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<td>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</td>
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<td><strong>C1. Cash contributions</strong></td>
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Outstanding pledges (Revalued)

| Belgium Red Cross (Flanders) (from Belgian Government) | 0 | 0 |
| **C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)** | **0** | **0** |

Inkind Goods & Transport

| Belgium Red Cross (Flanders) | 58,187 | 58,187 |
| **C3. Inkind Goods & Transport** | **58,187** | **58,187** |

C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5) | 1,360,032 | 1,360,032 |

D. Total Funding = B + C | 1,360,032 | 1,360,032 |

Appeal Coverage | 72% | 72%

II. Balance of Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Opening Balance</th>
<th>Health &amp; Care</th>
<th>Disaster Management</th>
<th>Humanitarian Values</th>
<th>Organisational Development</th>
<th>Coordination &amp; Implementation</th>
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C. Income | 1,360,032 | 1,360,032 |

E. Expenditure | -1,367,938 | -1,367,938 |

F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E) | -7,906 | -7,906 |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)
### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

<table>
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<th>Account Groups</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Health &amp; Care</th>
<th>Disaster Management</th>
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