



Operation Update Report

Ethiopia: Floods in Amhara



DREF n° MDRET023	GLIDE n° FL-2020-000203-ETH
Operation update n° 1; 22 December 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 24 September to 18 December 2020
Operation start date: 27 September 2020	Operation timeframe: 5 months (new end date: 28 February 2021)
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 392,993	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 392,993
N° of people being assisted: 11,316 (1,886HH)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: Austrian Red Cross, Finish Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Swiss Red cross, Qatar Red Crescent, and ICRC are present in country. Swiss Red Cross and Austria Red Cross in Partnership are supporting interventions in Floods response reaching 600HH in Oromia with 82,000CHF.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Disaster Risk Management Commission, National Meteorology Agency, UNICEF, UNOCHA, WHO, WFP. OCHA was key in inter cluster coordination and UNCEP supported through UN CERF other affected regions though not in Amhara.	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This Operation Update is being published to inform stakeholders of a one-month no cost timeframe extension of this DREF operation. This is because the tender technical evaluation committee could not convene the tender evaluation meeting as planned due to unforeseen new emergencies and the engagement of the National Society's relevant technical experts on field missions. This resulted in two weeks delay in overall implementation of the operation.

Moreover, once these tenders were opened and evaluated, the purchase order values were beyond the agreed threshold for ERCS procurement as such, the file was required to be sent to the Africa Regional Office for further review and approval. This second level of processing had not been anticipated or considered in the planning phase. This process is quality and control process, and the operation could not pre-determine how fast the Region would take to finalize.

In this regard, the IFRC and ERCS are taking proactive precaution of risk of time by allowing one-month timeframe extension to ensure all planned activities are implemented. Overall timeframe is now five (5) months with new end date on 28 February 2021.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

With financial support from IFRC, this DREF operation was launched for CHF 392,993 on 24 September in response to flooding which affected Amhara region. Indeed, on 10 September, heavy rainfall was reported in South Gondar zone in Amhara Region, with 62 mm recorded in 24 hours. The above average rain led to the backflow of Lake Tana and overflow of Gumera & Rib rivers, causing severe flooding.

Rapid assessments conducted by ERCS South Gondar zonal branch from 10 to 12 September revealed that 10,505 households were affected with population of 63,030 people; 1,886 households (11,316 people) displaced and accommodated in schools. More detailed assessment was carried out by the operation that validated the needs and target populations. The scope of the operation in terms of targeted direct beneficiaries remains the same displaced 1886HH /11,316 persons.

The flooding events, which had been affecting several parts of the country since June 2020, led to a cumulative 1,017,854 people being affected and the displacement of 292,863 people in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, Somali and SNNPR regions. Please see [EPoA](#) for details of people affected per region.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

To ensure delivery of relief services as planned in this operation, Ethiopia Red Cross Society worked through its South Gondar zonal branch supported by the Amhara regional branch. The NS Disaster Management Coordinator was key in facilitating linkages with the NS headquarter. Some 50 volunteers and 3 NDRTs are currently supporting the implementation of activities.

DREF support from IFRC was planned to meet the needs of people displaced by floods in Amhara, South Gondar. These population were already vulnerable due to multiple hazards that affected them concurrently since 2018 and the floods aggravated their situation. As such, this operation provided basic needs relief and reduced the risks faced the affected target population.



Volunteers PHAST refresher training session ©ERCS

Since launching the operation, the following activities have been implemented:

- Needs assessment
- Cash feasibility and market assessment
- Refresher training of volunteers on PHAST
- Training of volunteers on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)
- Community Engagement and setting up of beneficiary targeting committees.

Below activities are currently on-going:

- Procurement of shelter and HHI tendering process ongoing
- Procurement of Wash supplies tendering process ongoing
- Community level cascading hygiene promotion by volunteers
- Community level cascading RCCE by volunteers
- Cash beneficiary targeting, registration, and linkage with financial service provider for account opening. To note, FSP procurement was undertaken by ERCS as part of COVID19 operation supported by IFRC , which reviewed and validated a long term contract with Commercial Bank of Ethiopia.

The following activities are yet to be implemented:

- Distribution of household items (HHI)
- Distribution of WASH supplies
- Distribution of dignity kits
- Disbursement of basic needs multipurpose Cash.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC provides support to ERCS through an Operations Manager based in Addis Ababa and its Eastern Africa Country Cluster Support Team (EA CCST) and the Regional Office for Africa which are both based in Nairobi, Kenya. There were plans to deploy WASH expert to support at the field level, but this strategy could not be realized due to security restrictions for international staff and alternatively the operation used national disaster response teams with relevant capacities.

ICRC, IFRC and Partner National Societies (PNS) have weekly coordination meetings to discuss ongoing operations and ensure continued coordination on planning and implementation of activities to ensure no overlapping and duplication of efforts. There are seven PNSs' present in Ethiopia- Austrian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and the German Red cross which is new. The ICRC is also present in-country.

The SWISS Red Cross and the Austria Red Cross are supporting similar operation in Oromia region which is affected by the floods and not covered by this DREF. In this complimentary response, they are reaching 600 households with similar intervention strategies.

Overview of other actors actions in country

Please see [EPoA](#) for details.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Rapid needs assessments carried out by the South Gondar branch in September revealed that 63,030 people were affected by the latest floods, while 11,316 people persons were displaced and seeking refuge in schools, other public spaces and with host communities in the target regions of Amhara, South Gondar Zone.

The operation carried out detailed needs assessment using multiple tools and approaches including focused group discussions, interviews, key informants among the community and local sectoral experts as well as transactional observation. The assessment findings are categorised into immediate needs, mi- term and long-term needs.

The immediate needs identified are basic needs including food, water and sanitation since the hygiene conditions are deplorable. Preventive healthcare to reduce water born and vector bone diseases are also needed because of the swamps of stagnant waters and the level of contamination as well as prevention of COVID19 infections which could also be favourable due to the concentration of populations in displacement status. More other basic needs identified were shelter and NFI. The displaced households have lost their household items into the floods and their houses were damaged or submerged.

On the mid-term the livelihood of the affected population is damaged and will lose two seasons until May. The Back flow from Lake Tana has claimed the greatest length of land in 27 years according to elders. This land comprises of settlement, grazing as well as farmland which was the backbone of the livelihood of these population. On the long- term interventions include infrastructural, proper settlement planning and strengthen community prepared capacity to addressing underlying causes and reduce the risk of floods from lake Tana.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the protracted vulnerability of the affected populations due to conflicts, epidemics, and locust invasion that reduced agricultural output worsening food security was exacerbated by the floods-induced displacement. However, the interventions of this operation cushioned the affected population from exposures to secondary opportunistic health crisis like cholera epidemic and scale up of Covid19 pandemic infections through extensive hygiene promotion and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) for effective practice behaviour change.

Refer to [EPoA](#) on details on needs assessment details.

Operation Risk Assessment

- 1) **COVID-19 pandemic:** The flood-displaced people are more vulnerable to the disease because of the crowded conditions in which they live, especially in the temporary shelters. In addition, the destruction of water and sanitation facilities increases the risk of transmission due to poor hygiene practices. Ensuring the flood response intervention are integrated with the COVID-19 response strategy is crucial. The DREF operation is aligned with the IFRC global COVID-19 [Emergency Appeal](#) and ERCS is included in response activities as part of [Africa Region's EPoA](#). The planned DREF activities have been following the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization regulations on hygiene and social distancing especially during distribution of HHIs. For the case of volunteers and staff who are front line responders, the DREF has provided personal protection materials (sanitizers and face masks) together with strict enforcement of all the MOH guidelines.
- 2) **Accessibility:** Most of the rural earth roads are affected by the floods and become challenging for motor vehicles. This may have an implication of access especially for the delivery of supplies in the interior Kebeles. In the event of such a scenario, displaced populations have been advised to strategically locate accessible safe sites and in exceptional cases, traditional means of transport which are ideal for such situation are available. This includes horse carts which are common among the Ethiopia community.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective: The overall objective of the operation is for ERCS to provide immediate support to 1,886 households (11,316 people) affected by floods in Amhara region, South Gondar zone through the provision of emergency shelter and household items, basic needs (cash), health promotion, and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to alleviate suffering and reduce impact of the floods.

To date, the below has been implemented to ensure delivery of relief as planned in the [EPoA](#) to targeted households:

1. **Shelter and household items:** Procurement for the planned household items is ongoing, the operation acknowledges slight delay in the process because of increased workload because of emerging new emergencies in the country. Moreover, this procurement file was beyond the threshold of authorisation of the National Society so, it had to be submitted to IFRC Regional Office for further review and approval. The need status of the beneficiaries has not changed and implementing team is expediting the process to ensure delivery of the HHI.
2. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** Some 30 volunteers have been mobilized and provided with PHAST refresher training and deployed for the implementation of hygiene promotion with engagement of 3 days per week for two months. This activity is ongoing and is showing significant impact as the volunteers reached about 65,000 people. The volunteers diversified their engagement from awareness and information to practical demonstration of good practices.

The WASH materials are being procured with the process being at advanced stage for final review by the Regional Office and by end of December, the items are expected to be distributed. Worst affected most vulnerable families were targeted within specified vulnerability criteria for these supplies and the registration of beneficiaries is finalized.

The dignity kits to be distributed to 500 women and girls of childbearing age are within procurement together with other items. They are expected to be distributed by ending December.

3. **Health:** Hygiene volunteers in the campaign efforts mobilised the community for environmental clean-up within the IDP site, cutting of shrubs and drainage stagnant small pools of water in the homesteads to minimise breeding grounds for mosquitos. These actions will strengthen the community to prevent Malaria and other vector bone diseases. A total 1,886 households have been registered to receive two mosquito nets each.

COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities are being implemented by 20 volunteers. The volunteers were provided with relevant ECV-RCCE and personal protective skills. Volunteers are engaged for two months, 3- days per week. The Branch was already implementing COVID-19 RCCE activities and amongst the volunteers had already baseline knowledge on the subject, which this facilitated roll out.

The community engagement modalities include house to house, public address in social gatherings markets and demonstrations of best practices including hand washing and proper use of masks. This intervention is ongoing as planned and there is no infection upsurge reported in the community. To note, this social mobilization is not limited to the primary target of displaced population but the entire host environment population to minimise community cross infection and spread. The volunteers involved in the operation are exposed to the risk of COVID-19 infection and best practice personal protection measures were ensured including use gear (sanitizer and face masks) and adequate physical distancing. However, a significant gap is that there is no policy framework or insurance coverage for volunteers against COVID-19. IFRC and in-country partner National Societies acknowledged the gap and are discussing for a solution. Some of the proposed strategies include establishing pool fund with internal management policy and guideline. However, these discussions are not conclusive yet.

4. **Food security and Livelihoods:** Short-term food security was identified by the assessment as eminent need since the farms of this agricultural communities were submerged and their crops for the season spoilt. The 1,886 households planned to be reached through this operation have been selected linked to the service provider, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, which is contractual financial service provider for Ethiopia Red Cross to process individual accounts to transfer the cash. Upon confirmatory reconciliation of beneficiary targeting and registration data with the bank individual account particulars, the cash will be transferred expectedly in the next two weeks.

Cash feasibility and market assessment was carried out and assessment revealed that cash intervention is feasible, and markets are functional and accessible with a balanced supply and demand curve to cushion effects of inflation. The market beneficiary interviews and market assessments established a minimum expenditure basket (MEB) of basic stable food commodities and related household domestic expenditures for basic survival and wellbeing needs.

The table below reflects the MEB and forms the rational of the transfer of 3000 ET-Birr per household

COST ITEMS	COST PER HH in ETB
<i>Food needs commodities</i>	
Teff	1,260
Oil	365
Beans	375
Vegetable	150
Sub total	2,150
<i>Domestic energy needs</i>	
Paraffin	250
Cooking fuel	300
Sub total	550
<i>Health needs</i>	
Medical needs	300
subtotal	300
HH. MEB Total	3000

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Community engagement and accountability is integrated into the operation to ensure that people assisted are involved and have access to timely and accurate information on the nature, scope, entitlement, and modalities of delivery of assistance. They are sensitized in their rights of complain and mechanisms of feedback as well as the expected responsibility and behaviour of staff and volunteers.

ERCS volunteers engaged in the operation are applying CEA as a participatory means to deliver service in the project implementation for identification and household registration, information sharing regarding response activities and criteria, distribution of household items, hygiene promotion and COVID-19 prevention sessions, coordination with local Financial Service Providers (FSPs) and collecting feedback from community members regarding project activities/assistance. For consistent connection with the community, a telephone line was provided and a notice pinned at all Werodas administration centre. The same notice boards are also pinned the beneficiary list for public view. These engagements have facilitated participation and cooperation of both target communities and local government administration.

Protection, Gender and inclusion (PGI)

Response teams comprise of both male and female staff and volunteers. The operation ensures the promotion and participation of men and women of different age groups through orientation and consultation. During household needs assessment, Sex, age and disability variables were considered in the data collection tools to analyse, PGI vulnerability in prioritisation of targeting. A continuous dialogue among the different stakeholders continues to ensure programmes mainstream Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) approach relevant to the needs and priorities of humanitarian imperatives on the ground.

Operational Support Services

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

IFRC Operations Manager based in Addis Ababa is working with ERCS team to provide technical back up to ensure quality and accountability. Beneficiary verification will be carried out by IFRC region and headquarters technical staff at different level before approval of final beneficiary lists as quality control measure. Post distribution monitoring (PDM) will be carried out after the distribution of cash and household items distribution. The IFRC EA cluster will conduct a monitoring mission towards the end of the operation. This will also be part of the lesson's learned workshop planned and budgeted at the end of the operation to record the best practices and recommendations for future operations.

Logistics and Procurement

Local procurement will be carried out for the household items (plastic sheets, mats, blankets & kitchen sets), WASH items and volunteer PPE and visibility gear will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC standard procurement procedures. Procurement of items is carried out from ERCS HQ and IFRC Operations manager will support with compliance process, which regard the procurement file for the NFI and WASH supplies for this operation was realised to be above allowed threshold for ERCS unilateral approval and was submitted to IFRC regional office as compliance control measure despite delay/ time consequence on the operation. For the cash to be disbursed for basic needs assistance, ERCS has a pre-existing long – term agreement facilitated and certified by IFRC with financial service provider, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia for provision of CTP services.

Security

The risk environment in Ethiopia is diverse and threats vary widely by location. Amhara region was politically stable and peaceful before the emergence of the unexpected Tigray conflict which affected the region since it shares boarder with Tigray region. Amhara region is now host to both Combatant and civilian injured evacuates serving as referral host as well as displaced populations. IFRC provided together with complimentary support from other movement and non-movement partners second DREF to support the needs of the displaced populations from Tigray in Amhara. Despite regional secondary effects including deploying their logistical and human resources to support Central Gondar which is the epicentre of the current Tigray burden, South Gondar operations are not directly adversely affected. IFRC and partners resource mobilising including regional surge deployments to contain the needs of Tigray crisis and minimise the effects on the front-line responding branches and ongoing operations.

Refer to the [EPoA](#) for details on other aspects of operational support services.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Shelter People reached: 0 Male: 0 Female: 0</p>		
Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter NFI materials (Procurement of shelter and HH items (one plastic sheet, one mat, 2 blankets & one kitchen set per HH))	1,886	0
# of need assessments carried out	1	1
Progress towards outcomes		
Needs assessment was carried out and the assessment confirmed that there is need for shelter and NFI for affected displaced households. Community engagement was carried out to select committees for targeting. The committees were provided with dissemination of the guiding targeting criteria. beneficiary selection and registration.		
The procurement of the NFI materials is initiated through an open tender bidding, the tender documents are analysed, and the value was beyond the threshold ERCS could unilaterally authorise and the file is submitted to IFRC regional office for second level review. Latest start of the first week January the operation expects the distribution of these relief items to be carried out.		
Challenge: The procurement process has taken longer than expected and delayed the timely delivery of the activity. The implementation team is following up with logistic unit to expedite the process and delivery of the relief items which are expected to be delivered by second week of January, to allow distribution.		

 <p>Livelihoods and basic needs People reached: 0 Male: 0 Female: 0</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with cash support	1,886	0
Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with cash support	1,886	0

# cash feasibility ad market assessments	1	1
Progress towards outcomes		
Needs assessment was carried out and prioritized the need of food for the population affected. The operation carried out targeting based on predetermined vulnerability criteria. Targeting committee was established with inclusive representation and beneficiary registration has been finalized.		
Financial services provider was established, ERCS is in long term agreement with Commercial Bank of Ethiopia. Through the COVID-19 operation, IFRC facilitated the process of procurement of this service provider which has successfully delivered cash for COVID-19 operation beneficiaries. The modality of transfer will be through bank accounts since mobile services are not feasible because the network has no uniform coverage and most of the beneficiaries do not possess telephone lines. The process of reconciliation of beneficiary particulars with their respective account details is ongoing and by end December the cash will be disbursed. This activity is on track since it is a requirement to carry out both need and cash feasibility and market assessments before cash targeting. The process of targeting also requires extensive engagement with stakeholders including the government authorities' communities and the service provider.		
Challenge: Some of the beneficiaries did not have identity cards and this was a secondary process for the targeted beneficiaries to process identity with their respective local administrations for opening an account.		

 <p>Health People reached: 65,000 Male: 29,900 Female: 35,100</p>		
Outcome 1: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced		
Output 1.1: Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with community-based disease prevention and health promotion messaging	11,316	65,000
# of HH that receive mosquito nets	1,886	0
#of volunteers trained on RCCE for covid19 prevention	20	20
Progress towards outcomes		
Some 20 volunteers have been provided with refresher training in RCCE which have been cascaded at the community level. The volunteers are engaged 3 days a week for two months. They used different approaches to deliver behaviour change communication to the target beneficiaries including house to house, public address through PA- Audio systems in organised gatherings and other concentration points like markets.		
The operation planned to reach 11,316 persons specifically the population in IDP status, but the administration of awareness campaigns was done blanket for all affected communities and their host. This approach was ideal to control cross infection and spread of any diseases hence the higher numbers reached.		
There were no challenges in the implementation of this activities.		

 <p>Water, sanitation and hygiene People reached: 65,000 Male: 29,000 Female: 35,100</p>		
Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities		
Output 1.1 Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of vulnerable households with increased access to clean and sustainable safe water	1,886	0

# of HH with access to safe water	1,886	0
WASH Output 1.2: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	1,886	65,000
# of volunteers involved in hygiene promotion activities	30	30
WASH Output: 1.3 Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of HH that receive soap and hygiene materials	1,886	0
# of women/ adolescent girls who receive dignity kits	500	0
Progress towards outcomes		
Needs assessment was carried out and the water and sanitation were prioritised need. Beneficiary targeting was accomplished. 30 volunteers are provided with PHAST refresher training and cascaded at the community level. The volunteers are engaged for 2 months, 3-days a week. They applied different approaches for the behaviour change communication engagement with the community including house to house visits, public address, and practical demonstration sessions of best practices like hand washing. Moreover, the volunteers mobilised the community for voluntary clean up environmental hygiene campaigns.		
Challenge: WASH supplies are not delivered due to delayed procurement process. The tender files are with IFRC regional offices for review and approval. It's expected that by next week the file are submitted to ERCS and purchase orders issued. Delivery can take maximum of two weeks and distribution will be carried out immediately.		

Strengthen National Society		
Outcome: S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers actively involved in the operation, with proper training and adequate insurance	50	50
# of volunteers who receive training through the operation	50	50
# of volunteers who are insured through the operation	50	50
Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of CEA feedback mechanisms set up	1	1
# of community feedback comments collected	20	8
#of PDM carried out	1	0
Progress towards outcomes		
50 volunteers are trained and engaged in the operation to carry out hygiene promotion, RCCE, support beneficiary targeting and registration as well as the reconciliation of data with bank account details of beneficiaries. Feedback mechanism is put in place a telephone line was provided to the beneficiaries and volunteers also physically collect and provide feedback on programmatic information.		
Post distribution will be carried out after the disbursement of cash and distribution of relief materials.		

D. Financial Report

The budget for this operation remains CHF 392,993 as granted in the [EPoA](#).

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

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How we work

All IFRC 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 the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate, and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**