This document details the IFRC’s support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.
Ethiopia is a densely populated nation, with 80 per cent of its citizens living in rural areas and 45 per cent under the poverty line. Agriculture is the mainstay and is often at risk due to its vulnerability to natural disasters, especially droughts. Due to the country’s low socio-economic standing, communities often lack the resources to protect against, and recover, from environmental impacts.

Poor sanitation is a significant risk for Ethiopians, with only 6 per cent of households using improved hygiene facilities. This leads to the spread of diseases, in particular because 57 per cent of rural households in Ethiopia do not have access to clean, safe water. The country hosts more than 100,000 refugees from neighbouring countries, increasing demand for these resources.

Ethiopia’s high rate of poverty and unstable political climate greatly affects its population, particularly women and children. One in every 15 Ethiopian children do not survive to their fifth birthday because of factors such as chronic infantile malnutrition. With pregnant and breastfeeding women lacking access to adequate food, this often leads to stunted growth in babies and young children.
In order to achieve humanitarian and development goals within local communities, the IFRC will support the National Society in Ethiopia to enhance its network of local, internal and external partnerships and its advocacy capacity.

The National Society partners with six other National Societies, including the Netherlands Red Cross, Finish Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Danish Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent. These organisations are committed to fostering a strong partnership with the National Society in Ethiopia and to working towards effective cooperation within the movement.

The delivery of Community Engagement and Accountability is a particular focus for the National Society, providing it with clear benchmarks for its success within policies and procedures. The IFRC will support the National Society to implement CEA into all of its programmes and operations, ensuring a wider representation and participation in target communities and enhanced transparency and accountability.

The National Society also engages with external partners, including local banks, Smart Card and UNICEF.
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Ethiopia is regularly affected by natural disasters, exacerbated by the growing impact of climate change. Most commonly, the nation suffers from drought and floods which both destroy crops and homes in equal measure. These events have a trickle-down effect on the population’s food supply and hygiene conditions.

Drought often causes the spread of diseases such as Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and malaria, whereas floods have caused deadly landslides particularly near the Wabishebele, Awash and Gambela Rivers. In 2018, it was reported by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) that 1,017,854 people have been affected by floods across the country, with an additional 292,863 people displaced by the crises.

Climate change remains the single biggest threat to Ethiopia, with 80 per cent of hazards attributed to climatic stressors impacting its natural environment. In order to combat these issues, IFRC and National Society staff will be training volunteers to increase their knowledge and find potential solutions to effect change, including environmental conservation awareness, assessments and implementing positive change within communities.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Conduct tree planting initiatives
- Implement widespread education within communities regarding environmental conservation
- Train volunteers on sustainable practices

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

300,000

**People to be reached**

300,000
Evolving crises and disasters

Ethiopia has been affected by a series of critical disasters in recent years, having just begun to recover from a period of conflict that resulted in mass population movement between 2018 and 2019. In 2020, COVID-19 and cholera outbreaks continued to cause further socio-economic challenges and loss of life for people in Ethiopia, with desert locust invasions and periods of civil unrest already impacting livelihoods and exacerbating food insecurity. Most recently, floods have caused displacement in the Afar, Oromia and Amhara regions of the country.

The nation’s vulnerabilities have greatly increased and as a result, the need for humanitarian services is essential.

Despite these increasing needs, the Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners’ 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), released in September, is significantly underfunded. The main purpose of this funding is to deliver food assistance to the people of Ethiopia in order to combat malnutrition and famine, however only 49 per cent of emergency food needs are met. Agriculture, education, health, logistics and protection are also underfunded by USD 904.9 million.

The longer vulnerable communities are unable to meet their nutritional needs, the higher the likelihood of them drifting into malnutrition, particularly children under 5 years old and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
5.5 million

People to be reached
1.2 million

49% emergency food needs currently being met

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society to increase cash and voucher based assistance
- The IFRC will support the National Society to train communities to prepare for cyclical hazards to reduce impact
- The IFRC will support the National Society to develop early warning mechanisms for volunteers and community members
Ethiopia is striving to become a middle-income economy by 2025. To meet this goal, the Second Growth and Transformation Plan was designed to ensure universal access to a sustainable water supply and hygiene and sanitation services. Additionally, the Ethiopian Government has implemented the One WASH National Programme (OWNP), a comprehensive approach to achieve universal access by 2020.

The main health concerns in Ethiopia are maternal mortality, malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS, compounded by acute malnutrition and limited access to clean water and sanitation. The number of health institutions in Ethiopia is limited due to severe underfunding of the health sector, with inefficient distribution of medical supplies and disparity between rural and urban areas complicating access to healthcare services. It is estimated that more than half of the population lives more than 10 km from the nearest health facility, often in regions with poor transportation infrastructure.

One in every 15 children do not survive to their fifth birthday, and 38 per cent of children under 5 are stunted in their growth due to chronic malnutrition. Safe water, nutritious food, and easy access to healthcare services are the key components in combating these challenges.

**ACTIVITIES**
- Develop WASH strategy
- Implement medical outreach and train staff and volunteers in first aid and emergency response
- Strengthen and improve existing Community Units
- Distribute non-food item (NFI) and dignity kits to vulnerable communities
- Provide safe drinking water, water storage facilities, sanitation facilities, and hygiene packs
- Form community-based cholera prevention teams

**38%** children suffering from chronic malnutrition

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs** 3.6 million

**People to be reached** 400,000
Due to chronic hunger, poverty and violence, many East African migrants flee their home countries in search of domestic and low-skilled employment in the Middle East. In 2013, Saudi Arabia expelled more than 100,000 Ethiopian migrants as part of a crackdown on ‘illegal’ migrants. In reaction, the Ethiopian Government banned the work-related migration of its citizens to all Gulf states. This restriction has since been lifted, but authorities are continuing to enforce against unnecessary migration.

During this period of mass migration, it is estimated that roughly 1,000 Ethiopian women were leaving the country each day to seek domestic work abroad, with Saudi Arabia the most common destination. Women were commonly exploited by their employers, with the confiscation of passports, inadequate pay, and physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

In March 2017, the Saudi Government launched another campaign against migration, granting all irregular migrants an amnesty period of 90 days to leave the country without being penalised. Since then, an estimated 260,000 Ethiopians have returned home.

The people returning must be reintegrated into their communities, with the provision of sustainable and practical options for employment, safe living conditions and rehabilitation. This process begins at the main border points, airports and all entry routes to ensure a successful reintegration into Ethiopian life.

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

200,000

**People to be reached**

200,000

**ACTIVITIES**

- Train local authorities to protect and support migrants
- Ensure peaceful integration of migrants back into home communities
- Establish humanitarian services at strategic entry points into Ethiopia

37% decline in net migration between 2019 and 2020
Ethiopia is experiencing the effects of globalisation, and with economic and technological advancements comes a pushback on elitism and an increased pressure on political, regulatory and welfare systems. The surge in marginalised voices involved in decision making has helped to secure equality for groups defined by ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and religion. Change is also being demanded of much loved and well-known institutions, which has resulted in local governments rejecting outside influence.

The IFRC is supporting the National Society to promote inclusive and fair humanitarian values that encourage positive and hopeful change. Additionally, the National Society will support diversity and inclusion, as well as recognising the importance of women in leadership.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Develop programmes on humanitarian education for youth
- Support training for staff and volunteers to prevent child and sexual exploitation
- Provide gender and diversity targets for communities and volunteers
ENABLER 1
ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The IFRC will support the National Society in Ethiopia to strengthen its engagement with external and internal partners, ensuring that they work collectively on the key challenges facing communities.

As part of its enhanced collaboration with partner organisations, the National Society will take part in movement-coordinated forums to improve planning. With support from the IFRC, the National Society will align its Organisational Development priorities with the appropriate standards and principles of the National Society Development Compact.

The National Society will continue to network with regional and global resource centres, establishing positive relationships and resources for its projects including volunteering, psychosocial support (PSS), gender and inclusion, community education and first aid.

The IFRC will provide the National Society with communications and public advocacy resources and advice, enhancing its impact on the communities it serves and increasing public trust and understanding of roles and activities. The National Society will also integrate a communications strategy into its annual plan, supporting staff and volunteer capacity in communications and media relations.

The IFRC will support the National Society to inspire behavioural changes in the communities it serves, ensuring that programming and communication is informed by science and data-informed approaches.

ACTIVITIES

- Support operational coordination with partners to improve transparency and accountability in planning, technical and funding support
- Integrate communications strategy into annual plan
- Actively play the role of first responder in emergencies
- Participate in knowledge sharing and peer learning among movement partners

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
40,000
ENABLER 2
ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
100,000

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen staff skills in financial management through training in donor funds management, funds transfer modalities and cost management.

The National Society will develop and implement a risk management framework to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. Staff and volunteers will be adequately trained through the support of IFRC and Partners to deliver this framework.

The National Society will enhance its resource mobilisation activities by reviewing its strategy and plan, developing a business plan, mapping the local humanitarian space and exploring investment opportunities and activities. The National Society will also explore and build systems for digital resources.

With the support of the IFRC, the National Society will participate in and apply for opportunities for National Society Development.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Strengthen staff skills in financial management
- Develop and implement risk management framework
- Apply for National Society Development funding
ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

51,000

The IFRC will support the National Society to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action, with the capabilities to act in the global network.

The National Society will continue to assess its branches, creating branch development plans to better address service delivery and bridge gaps in sustainability.

The National Society will develop its financial management through optimisation of software and by rolling it out to branches, and providing staff and volunteers with training. The National Society will also enhance its domestic fundraising capacity through the development and implementation of a business plan that will guide investments.

Internal policies, guidelines and practices will be reviewed, ensuring their responsiveness to emerging operational challenges. These policies will protect staff, volunteers and community members in Ethiopia against fraud, corruption, discrimination and harassment, with additional procedures in place for child safeguarding.

The National Society will develop a youth policy and structure to secure young people’s contribution to its work. It will strengthen its mechanisms to protect volunteers, promoting psychosocial wellbeing and providing greater support to those killed or injured in the line of duty, and their families. Volunteer training will be further developed, and the National Society will build on its ability to provide a duty of care to its volunteers, enhancing security measures and insurance for these individuals.

The IFRC will support the National Society to integrate Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in its existing strategies, plans, guidelines, policies and toolkits, strengthening engagement with, and accountability to, local communities. This will be delivered through mechanisms for communication, participation, feedback and complaints within programmes and operations.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Assess branches and create branch development plans
- Establish financial management software in all branches and provide training for use
- Develop a business plan to guide investment
- Develop a youth plan and structure
- Integrate CEA into all activities and programmes
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.