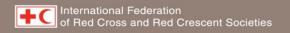


Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Ethiopia: Food Security DREF



DREF Operation	MDRET026	Glide n°:	DR-2021-000121-ETH
For DREF; Date of issue:	27 August 2021	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	31 December 2021
Category allocated to the o	f the disaster or crisis: Ora	<mark>ange</mark>	
DREF allocated: CHF 307,8	12		
Total number of people affected:	253,000 people	Number of people to be assisted:	8,000 people
Provinces affected:	Ataye city administration area, Amhara Region	Provinces/Regions targeted:	North Shewa Zone, Amhara Region

Operating National Society Presence: Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has 37 branches across the country and active volunteers

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners involved in the Response: There is well coordinated Movement partners in the country, including the ICRC, IFRC and seven participating National Societies: Swiss RC, Danish RC, Austrian RC, Finish Red Cross, German RC, Italian RC and Netherlands RC who are involved in the integrated response in different parts s of the country.

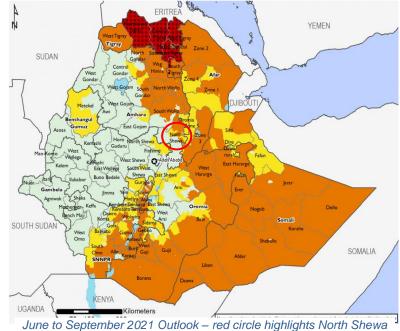
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The operation in Ethiopia is complex and multi stakeholder. However the ERCS partners in its response with key government authorities including the security arms, the NDRMC and EOC as well as UN bosies including WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA and other INGO including Save the Children the children.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Across much of Ethiopia, 2021 assistance needs are at their highest levels since 2016. The country has faced multiple hazards in sequence in the last two years, due to conflicts, civil unrest, desert locust infestation, floods, and drought, which has contributed to a deterioration in food insecurity. The COVID-19 pandemic and locust infestation has further exacerbated the situation.

According to IPC Analysis of Acute Food Insecurity Situation May - June 2021 and Projection for July -September 2021, it is estimated that 5.5 million people are facing acute food insecurity in Tigray and the neighbouring regions of Afar and Amhara in Ethiopia, with 353,000 people in Catastrophic situation (IPC Phase 5), which is the highest number of people in this category since the 2011 Somalia famine. Furthermore, there are 2.1 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), and 3.1 million



Zone ©FewsNet

in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), between May and June 2021.

High potential exists for the situation to worsen given causal aggravating factors remain prevalent, and unaddressed. According to predictions from United Nations (UN) agencies and FEWSNET assessment reports; there are areas of the country which are experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3), that could fall into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) if immediate food security interventions are not prioritized. Latest projections for July to September 2021, are already indicating that the number of people in IPC Phase 5 is expected to increase to more than 400,000 Per FewsNet's outlook from June 2021 to January 2022.

Meanwhile the situation generated from the Tigray crisis has caused authorites and humanitarian organizations to pivot their resources to support the affected populations in the north of the country – namely inside Tigray or in adjacent areas where the cascading effects of the crisis are most pronounced. The undeniable needs in these parts of Ethiopia, make this approach understandable; however, it has left considerable gaps in service provision elsewhere. There is an urgent need for a scale-up of support to underserved communities in other areas of the country.

In **North Shewa zone** and Oromia Special zone, in the southern part of Amhara region the humanitarian situation is of considerable concern. In May 2021, inter-communal violence resulted in the displacement of more than 250,000 people, and destruction of livelihoods, agricultural production assets including seeds and fertilizers, and household food reserves. Though tensions have reduced, its impacts have triggered a worsening of the food insecurity situation in the zones. Latest IPC analysis indicates North Shewa zone to be experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity – and given much of the population of the zone has received only limited assistance from humanitarian organizations. There are growing concerns that the situation could deteriorate even further.

On 13 August 2021, the Movement Emergency Coordination Taskforce which is part of the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) structure in the country, held a meeting which was attended by IFRC, ICRC, all in country Movement partners and chaired by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS). During this meeting, the National Society acknowledged the emerging Acute Food Insecurity crisis in the country, and escalation of conflict in northern Ethiopia. Movement partners were called on to scale up their support across all areas of the country. This DREF operation will support ERCS to initiate response to the acute hunger crisis, particularly focusing on the siatution in North Shewa zone where there is a huge gap of humanitarian assistance in food security.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Operating National Society Response Action

ERCS has a responsibility to provide humanitarian assistance to populations affected by disasters, as enshrined in the amended charter revised on 26 January 2018 for assisting people affected by natural disasters and conflict throughout the country. The main auxiliary role of ERCS is to supplement the government in the fulfilment of its responsibility to address the vulnerabilities that exist in the country. The Geneva Convention and additional protocol and the International Humanitarian Law are other legal basis for Red Cross engagement in such kind of humanitarian interventions being impartial, neutral, and independent as outlined in its Fundamental Principles. The ERCS is a key national humanitarian actor and is present in all the regions of Ethiopia through its network of branches and 44,138 volunteers, 5 million members and 6,000 Red Cross committees at community level. ERCS has representation by regional and zonal branches a total of 11 regions and 37 branches.

At the National Headquarters (NHQ) through the Deputy Secretary General (DGF) for programs, operations are led by a competent technical team in the disaster preparedness and response department. ERCS has trained National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs) and Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRTs). ERCS` auxiliary status ensures that ERCS can move faster and reach areas that are relatively sensitive and where other humanitarian actors cannot easily access. ERCS has been privileged by its local network and acceptance by communities and has not been limited in terms of access across the entirety affected regions Ethiopia.

ERCS has the structural, skills and systemic capacities to implement the proposed food security DREF operation with the support of the IFRC. ERCS in the past two years, has successfully implemented/implementing in collaboration with IFRC four Emergency Appeals: COVID-19, <u>Tigray Crisis Population Movement Complex Emergency</u>, <u>Somali Population Movement</u>, and Locust invasion and three DREF operations (<u>Civil unrest in Oromia</u>, <u>Floods in Amhara South</u>, <u>Election Preparedness</u>) and is recently one of the approved pilot countries for the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for flooding through the DREF. Moreover, ERCS is one of the first National Societies to be validated for Working With Project Partners (WWPP) funds transfer funding mechanism after rigorous assessments and capacity development by IFRC and reportedly one of the most successful in the application of the modality.

ERCS has also considerably strengthened its capacity in Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) programming as a response option. It has an established Financial Service Provider (FSP), the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, which has enabled it to reach populations across the country with CVA programming, and has an appointed CVA focal point. Cash

feasibility and risk assessments have been conducted in most regions of the country – and it presents a viable option for ERCS to efficiently address the multitude of needs, including immediate household food insecurity, that are emerging across Ethiopia. Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (FSP) which is the largest bank network in the country has branch at Weroda level and is accessible to affected populations in convenient distances. Since the disbursement modality is through targeted beneficiary individual account it is safe, confidential and a free service both for ERCS and the beneficiary. In the service provider agreement, the bank provides the service as humanitarian compliment from it's cooperate responsibility and charges no cost on ERCS nor the targeting population nor does this beneficiary accounts have any limits or conditions including account maintenance balance or transaction charges. This applies only for ERCS humanitarian services.

ERCS maintains equal independent and neutral responsibility to reach all in needs in all parts of the country; and has been called upon in its position as auxiliary by its Government to scale up in collaboration with other Movement partners its immediate support to communities experiencing food insecurity across Ethiopia.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provides technical and financial support to ERCS through its newly established Ethiopia and Djibouti country cluster delegaton (CCD) = team with an Operations Manager based in Addis Ababa and through its Regional Office for Africa which is based in Nairobi, Kenya. There are seven participating National Societies present in Ethiopia: Austrian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, The Netherlands Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross. The ICRC has a Delegation in Addis Ababa, Sub-Delegations in Mekele, Nekemte, Jigjig, and Shire. It supports and works closely with ERCS in areas affected by violence.

A Movement Coordination Framework by ERCS, ICRC and IFRC has been ratified, and is operational in accordance with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) structure. It includes a Movement Platform (Strategic-level) and Movement Coordination Meeting (Operational-level), which are supported by following technical committees: Emergency Coordination Taskforce, Election Contingency Planning Taskforce, and a Security Coordination Committee. Terms of Reference (ToR) are in place for all the committees; and meetings are held according to calendar schedules with rotational chairs. A Movement Coordination Agreement and Movement Communications Framework are being are developed and approved and applied.

In January 2021, IFRC launched a Federation-Wide (FW) Emergency Appeal (MDRTIGRAY) to support ERCS provide humanitarian assistance to displaced populations outside of Tigray region, as well as in Sudan and Djibouti. The FW Emergency Appeal consolidated a Secretariat (multilateral) component and RCRC Movement partners (bilateral) component to address the appeal objectives and necessary FW coordination and reporting tools data management infrastructure was developed.

The Ethiopia Plan of Action (PoA) of the FW Emergency Appeal was revised through an Operations Update in July 2021 to better address the acute food insecurity that was emerging from the cascading impacts of the Tigray Crisis. Focus was revised to support communities in areas directly adjacent to Tigray in neighbouring Afar and Amhara, which have been most impacted by the cascading effects of the crisis; and experiencing acute food insecurity. This has been complemented by scale-up of bilateral cash and voucher (CVA) and food security interventions under the FW Approach – including by German Red Cross in Benishangul-Gumuz, Swiss Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) region. Discussions are also underway between British Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross for a collaboration in zones of Afar and Amhara regions, adjacent to Tigray.

Despite the PoA revision, combined with the scale up by the membership, there remain many areas of the country experiencing acute food insecurity that are not being reached by ERCS or other humanitarian organizations. Based on this, IFRC is responding through the release of additional support from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to address immediate and live-saving needs in North Shewa Zone, in the south of Amhara.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

ERCS coordinates with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) in the planning and implementation of emergency response actions; and is a member of the National Operations Centre. ERCS is also part of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), it is represented in clusters and participates in inter-agency working group meetings for various sectors (Cash, Food Security, Nutrition, ES/NFI, Protection, and Education) NHQ and regional levels as well as the NDRMC led national early warning task force and Cash Working Group. Movement Partner focal points are supporting ERCS with engagement in the cluster system. The IFRC Ethiopia and Ethiopia CCD is supporting in the Food and Non-Food Security, ES/NFI clusters, and as part of the Cash Working Group.

Most non-Movement humanitarian organizations have pivoted their resources to the situation inside Tigray region. ERCS has entered partnership with UN agencies including UNICEF and UNFPA; as well as international NGOs (Save the

Children) in their response to the Tigray crisis. In order not to compromise the ERCS's neutrality it has ensured independence of engagement in these partnerships and implemented the interventions based on movement principles.

Table below represents summary ERCS partnership portfolio:

Table 1: Summary of ERCS partnership portfolio

Partners	Intervention sectors	Target population reached	Income (CHF)
RCRC Federation-wide and ICRC support to ERCS	Shelter and Household Items, Livelihoods and basic needs, Health, WASH, PGI and CEA	177,340,337	4,112,510
Other partners support to ERCS	Shelter and Household items, Livelihoods and basic needs, WASH and PGI	109,282,612	2,526,840

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Compounding impacts of climatic shocks, devastating desert locust infestation, the continued economic impact of COVID-19, and below-average rainfall projections for 2021, particularly in the south and south-eastern parts of the country have reduce productivity and household income with serious social economic consequences including escalating food insecurity. The continued impact of COVID-19 has also exacerbated the situation, resulting in estimated loss of approximately 2.4 million jobs, and a correlating decline in income. With 2 million more people (conservatively) are estimated at risk of falling into poverty.

Locust-induced crop and pasture losses rendered fields bare and resulted in a reduction in available food for households reliant on both agricultural and agro-pastoral livelihood activities. "Belg" rains in central and eastern cropping areas, "Gu/Genna" rains in southern pastoral areas, "Diraac/Sugum" rains in northern pastoral areas have contributed to a reduction in household food production capacity as well as income. Macroeconomic challenges resulting in high inflation rates, increasing costs of food production and transportation, and exerting an upward pressure on consumer prices has compromised household purchasing capacity to meet the minimum food basket needs.

The continued impact of COVID-19 has also exacerbated the situation, resulting in estimated loss of approximately 2.4 million jobs, and a correlating decline in income. With 2 million more people (conservatively) estimated at risk of falling into poverty. The food insecurity indicators are alarming and necessitate basic humanitarian response interventions that will alleviate the immediate basic needs of the affected population; as well as contribute to increasing medium-term food security so that it does not deteriorate to catastrophic and complex effects of food insecurity.

The worsening food insecurity poses risk of hunger and high malnutritional effects to vulnerable segments of the populations including pregnant, lactating mothers, aged and children under five who are in a substantial risk in IDPs and other hostile and unstable environments. If the household food security levels further deteriorate or persists for a longer time with no adequate interventions, the potential of nutritional related ailments and complications among children under five, pregnant and lactating mothers will surge. Moreover, due to declining body immunity levels opportunistic diseases like cholera, typhoid and upsurge of the COVID 19 pandemic are susceptible to these vulnerable and exposed populations. This operation in its strategy integrates water bone diseases prevention measures to the food security strategy through hygiene promotion and increased community awareness and knowledge to influence their practice to minimise opportunistic and secondary effects of the food crisis.

Food needs

The North Shewa Inter-agency assessment mission (participated by OCHA, Goal, WHO, Plan Int, AAH, UNFPA, WHO, IOM and Zonal government DRM officers) was undertaken after clashes between Oromo and Amhara communities in North Shewa zone in May 2021. The assessment revealed then that 56% of the affected population responded food as their priority need. In the subsequent months, the food insecurity situation has been deteriorating and the latest FEWSNET IPC classification places the zone in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level, with the projection that the situation can further worsen if no remedial measures are provided.

The North Shewa zone is at a high risk of reinvasion of desert locust swarms that have already destroyed thousands of hectares of crop land and pasture. The fresh infestation could conspire with other concurrent shocks such as the onoing COVID-19 pandemic and droughts worsen food insecurity. The North Shewa zone will be further impacted by the drought conditions should the forecasts of failed rainfall season of October to December 2021 prevail.

An independent ERCS assessment confirmed that the markets are functional, CVA is feasible whichis preferred modality by the affected population to receive basic needs assistance including food.

Health and Nutrition needs

There is need for nutritional surveillance and screening of under fives, pregnant and lactating mothers and sensitising the community for linkage to care facilities for proper management of the nutrition care and support pathway. However, ERCS does not have technical level capacity for nutritional screening and assessment, which justifies why it did not plan for such intervention in this operation. However, in the event the acute malnutrition levels surge with increased caseload, ERCS can partner with the Ministry of Health or any other health and nutrition expert NGO providing facility level clinical and therapeutic care to adequately provide social mobilisation, community awareness and linkage to care facilities.

WASH needs

The Inter-agency assessments revealed that the affected populations is also experiencing gaps in relation to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) - with hygiene needs especially prominent, and a concern given the prevailing risk of exposure to COVID-19. There is a need to integrate hygiene promotion activities (including adherence to handwashing protocols) with COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion needs (PGI)

Food insecurity is a driver of protection issues that results in negative coping strategies including child labour, child marriages, sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, sexual exploitation, and abuse. The Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) inter-agency assessment report revealed that some of the interviewees alluded that commercial sex was one of the coping strategies especially for populations in IDPs.

Various disaster including food insecurity coupled with population displacement and violence does not affect all equally. As a result the need to ensure proper assistnace prioritizing the most vulnerable and ensuring they are involved throughout the intervention is essential. Selecting the target population must include women, children, single headed households, girls, and persons with disabilities. There is need to coordinate with other protection actors in conducting assessments and map safe referral pathways as well as making sure that the referral pathways are shared with staff and volunteers.

PGI will be mainstreamed throughout the DREF operation to ensure communities dignity, access, participation, and safety. This will include competion of PGI tassessments in targeted areas; as well as d gender and diversity analysis. The findings from these will allo individuals and groups in the affected community to be understood, and the operational strategy adjusted based on their specific risks, needs and concerns.

Targeting

In terms of geographical targeting, this DREF operation will target a total of 8,000 people (or 1,600 of the most vulnerable households) in North Shewa Zone. The North Shewa zone had experienced internal clashes which destroyed the livelihoods, agricultural production assets including seeds and fertilizers, household food reserves as well as massive destruction on household shelters, causing internal displacement of 253,000 people according to the ERCS assessment. The ICRC through its program has responded with emergency cash and health interventions in some woredas particularly affected in the zone but some gaps in coverage remain, particularly for recovery, including the Ataye city administrative area. The proposed interventions will be harmonised to ensure there is no disparity between interventions by ICRC and ERCS/IFRC.

Priority will be given to support vulnerable poor households with no alternative coping mechanism - with specific consideration within this group for:

- i) Households with either pregnant and lactating mothers and/or under five children,
- ii) Household with nursing aged persons, and/or persons terminally ill with HIV/AIDS or other similar diseases,
- iii) Households which contain orphans, or are child headed,
- iv) Household with single mothers,
- v) Households with social protection needs.

Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted.

Category	Estimated % of target group	% female	% male
Young Children (under 5 years)	10%	6%	4%
Children (5-17yrs)	25%	13%	12%
Adults (18-49 yrs)	45%	25%	20%
Elderly (>50 yrs)	20%	11%	9%
Total	100%	55%	45%

People with disabilities	12%	N/A	N/A
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Scenario planning

Scenario pianning Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Scenario 1: Food security shocks are within community means and scope of interventions	 Food security situation improves for the affected population improves and there is a reduction in areas classified IPC Phase 3, 4 and Phase 5 Affected population livelihood assets are protected; and negative coping mechanisms mitigated. 	Response is limited to the targeted DREF; and community able to operate within its coping means
Scenario 2: Food Security situation is in IPC 3 with indicaton of worsening projections towards IPC 4	 Food insecurity trends worsening, with an increase in the affected population and areas classified to IPC Phase 4 and IPC Phase 5 Reports of affected population selling livelihoods assets and resorting to other negative coping mechanisms Increase in cases of acute malnutrition reported Increased exposure to diseases due low immune levels and wastage. 	 Revision of EPoA and operational strategy to fit the dynamics and limitations of the DREF; with possible 2nd allocation request. More emergency and recovery assistance will be required, hence there will be investment medium-longer term programs through the Pan African Zero Hunger initiatives 2021-2030; and to the Country Plan
Scenario 3: Food Security situation deteriorates, to IPC 4 and 5 level triggering acute emergency scenrio	 Food insecurity situation worsens with an exponential increase in the affected population and areas classified as IPC Phase 4 and Phase 5. High prevalence of acute malnutrition (critical). Increase malnutritional related ailments and needs for therapeutic care. 	 More humanitarian assistance required – beyond the scope of DREF and/or other operations/programs Launch of a Food Insecurity Emergency Appeal to address immediate life-saving needs, combined with further scale up of investment in medium-longer term programs through the Pan African Zero Hunger initiatives 2021-2030; and to the Country Plan The humanitarian scope will be wide and multi sectoral interventions will be required in collaboration with other movement partners as well as the INGO and UN fraternity.

Operation Risk Assessment

Global COVID-19 pandemic: This operation and its operational strategy considers the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and is aligned with the IFRC Global COVID-19 Emergency Appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the ministry of Health of Ethiopia as of 15 August 2021, a total 289,274 COVID 19 cases have been registered with 265,371 recoveries and 4,349 deaths in a total lab tests of 3,114,870 persons in Ethiopia.

To date, the following measures have been taken to curb the spread of the disease: mandatory mask wearing, handwashing stations, using soap and water or alcohol hand rubs, setting up of COVID-19 screening sites, setting up of testing and treatment centres; advocating with available risk communication resources, providing updated information regularly on the evolving COVID-19 situation. COVID-19 vaccine campaigns have been initiated with 2,077,549 people inoculated (as of 14 July 2021) which equates to < 2% of the overall population (approx. 112 million). ERCS responses to COVID-19 are supported through the IFRC Global COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, which is facilitating and supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19 situation. This operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action (4th Revision) for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Africa Regional Office, in coordination with global and regional partners. This means that the NS will ensure COVID-19 prevention measures are adhered to, in line with regional EPoA and its national COVID19 country plan. IFRC continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crisis should adapt to this crisis and provide necessary guidance to its membership on the same.

ERCS will keep monitoring the situation closely and revise the plan accordingly if needed, taking into consideration the evolving COVID-19 situation and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to

access to the affected population, availability of cash and livelihoods items, procurement issues, and movement of ERCS volunteers and staff as well as international staff. For more information, please consult the COVID-19 Operations Page on the IFRC Go platform. Please refer to the below table, which indicates potential impact of the pandemic on this operation and how ERCS will respond to the situation in the event COVID 19 mitigation measures are made more stringent.

COVID-19 measures	Standard epidemic control measures	Temporary lockdown of society (schools, shops, public functions)	Complete lockdown and restriction of movement during implementation period
Likelihood	High	Moderate	Low
Impact on operation	No impact on ERCS operation will ensure to adhere to epidemic control measures in place	The impact will be relatively low on this operation, as Government has opened its borders and the temporary lockdown has been lifted. ERCS is also assured to be able to implement operation's response activities even in the event of temporary lockdown is imposed.	ERCS is able to carry on its activities as it is part of the presidential taskforce and has been given full access to move during any lockdown. The unlikely event of a complete lockdown is only possible if there is a drastic increase in the number of COVID-19 new infectious cases as well as deaths due to COVID-19 infection in the country.
Mitigation measures	As the epidemic control measures were already in place before crisis, the operation is designed to adhere to the measures. Trainings will be conducted in small groups with due respect to social distancing measures and conducting virtually whenever feasible Distribution of items and awareness raising exercises will be ensured & physical distancing norms will be adhered to.	Same as under standard epidemic control measures. In addition, some delays might be experienced with procurements of some items. If this happens, a timeframe extension may be requested.	Health and hygiene promotion activities will be adjusted in line with any new measures that might come up.

Security risks: The security situation in Ethiopia is fluid and dynamic. This targeted area had experienced some clashes between the Amhara and Oromo which has since been resolved. Nevertheless, the ERCS has good acceptance level with all communities in its neutral role, and did not have any access issues even in many worse case scenarios when there were hostilities between the communities. However, due diligence for safety of staff will be taken and the ERCS has invested heavily in security including technical capacities, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

In addition, the following actions related to security will be implemented:

- These measures include the respect of visibility through the wearing of jackets and regular communication on all the movements.
- Regular briefings will be organized to remind volunteers and staff on their behaviour and Safer Access.
- Coordination will be maintained between the ERCS,IFRC and the ICRC to ensure that all security measures are respected.
- Constant communication check-in measures with base by all operation staff will be sustained.
- The use of two vehicle convoy, compliance with speed limits and other regulations.
- Regular security updates will be organized, and information disseminated.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective: To meet the immediate life-saving food insecurity needs of 8,000 people (1,600 households) in North Shewa zone through the provision of multipurpose cash assistance for food and integrated health/hygiene and nutritional awareness with consideration of CEA/PGI prinples across sectors over a period of 4 months.

Livelihoods and Basic Needs

To ensure survival and right access to food for the affected population is not further compromised; nor the nutritional status of the most vulnerable such as children aged under five years old, lactating, and pregnant mother, the elderly and those living with a disability. The same groups who are also more at risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

Multipurpose cash transfers will be used as a short-term safety net approach to deliver this strategy and act as a short-term buffer against the multiple shocks faced by affected populations. Cash will be delivered using the ERCS' existing Financial Service Provider (FSP) - Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, which has reach in both North Shewa and Oromia Special zones. It will be delivered directly to recipient bank accounts. In cases where recipients do not have existing bank accounts, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia will visit the communities to facilitate this process and in collaboration with ERCS, provide sensitization on how to access the cash assistance being provided by ERCS.

Targeted families will receive ETB 4,000 monthly installments of cash to be disbursed in two tranches (monthly), based on the minimum expenditure basket (MEB). The MEB is derived from cash feasibility and market assessment carried out by ERCS and is harmonised with the transfer value used by ICRC in other Werodas in the same circumstance and zone and adjust areas of Oromo Special Zones.

ERCS as part of the operation activities will conduct at Post distribution monitoring (PDM) to assess the relevance, acceptance and effects of the response which will also inform feedback and as lessons for future programming.

Alongside cash activities, ERCS will engage affected populations on complementary activities that support the utilisation of the cash received; this includes nutritional awareness, discussions on management of cash for example through sensitisation sessions with both women and men on the cash benefitting the entire household, ensuring that volunteers are aware of referral mechanisms between humanitarian organizations as well as public services and know how to make safe and confidential referrals (e.g. to SGBV case management, health, child protection, malnutrition etc.)

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH interventions is essential to reduce the exposures to both water bone and hygiene related diseases including Covid 19, in a population whose nutrition status is at stake. ERCS will provide refresher and reorientation to hygiene promotion in emergency tools to 30 volunteers and will be engaged 3 days per week for 2 months to carry health and hygiene promotion activities for in the target communities. To reduce exposure to COVID-19, the volunteers will integrate RCCE activities and will position hand washing units equipped with soap for target communities in the markets since the markets will be pool sites after the disbursement of cash for food. IEC materials for visibility and with hygiene promotion messaging in local languages will also be provided by the operation to diversify means of communication. Other methods will use of public address using potable megaphones in community meetings including the targeting sites.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

Food insecurity is a driver of protection issues that results in negative coping strategies including child labour, child marriages, sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, sexual exploitation, and abuse.

PGI will therefore be mainstreamed throughout this intervention to ensure communities dignity, access, participation, and safety. As part of the need's assessment and analysis, a gender and diversity analysis will be included to understand and respond to individuals and groups in the affected community, based on their specific risks, needs and concerns, which will inform the operational strategies. IFRC is supporting through the MDRTIGRAY Emergency Appeal the recruitment the position of PGI coordinator which will oversee and technically support relative activities in this DREF.

Acknowledging that women, girls, men and boys with diverse ages, disabilities and backgrounds have very different needs, risk and coping strategies, there is a need to:

- Conduct PGI assessment in targeted area
- Equip staff and volunteers with skills and knowledge on PGI, with more emphasis on practical application of the PGI minimum standards (Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety)
- Include SGBV messages and awareness including safe referral pathways in community sensitisation sessions
- Ensuring all staff and volunteers in this operation receive briefings on Protecton of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and code of conduct and they sign the code of conduct
- Collection and analysis of Sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) in ERCS operations.
- Integrating PGI in assessments and ensuring a gender and diversity analysis guides the operational strategy.

- Provide dignity kits for vulnerable women and adolescent girls
- Coordinating with CEA in handling of sensitive complaints in community feedback and response systems
- Ensure PGI is integrated in all sectors
- In engaging with communities ensure gender and diversity is factored in and that women, persons with disabilities, youth, children are engaged at all levels in the response.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

CEA will be integrated into the response interventions to ensure the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders including the community members of the affected populations. Communities will be consulted with at all stages of the response and be given opportunities to participate in and influence operational and programme decisions. In addition, two-way information sharing approaches will be used to inform community members about the operation including the selection criteria, distribution processes, participation/dialogue platforms, etc. This will be completed as part of the preparedness/set-up activity across the branches involved in the implementation of this DREF; and may include platforms such as community meetings, radio shows and/or social media depending on what the preferred and trusted communication channels of the communities are as well as their appropriateness to the context in the respective area.

Community feedback and response systems will be established to listen to people's feedback, questions, and concerns about the response and the data will be analysed and discussed with communities to understand where improvements need to be made. Communities will be made aware of the established ERCS feedback system, how to use it as well as the role of the volunteers in the feedback system. Community will also be supported in establishment of community feedback committees for reliable and swift relay of information, feedback, and complaints. Sensitive feedback will be handled through the referral pathways highlighted in the ERCS PSEA policy. Communication, and dissemination of Fundamental Principles will be a component of the CEA activities to ensure access and acceptance. To ensure the effective integration of CEA and accountability of the response, staff and volunteers will receive training on CEA and community feedback systems

For all intervention strategies of this DREF the ERCS will ensure coordination with Government authorities at all level, relevant stakeholders and thematic clusters to ensure complementarity, transparency and coordination. As noted, ERCS will conduct PDM of the cash disbursement and will conduct lesson learnt workshop for reflective learning and improving on future programming.

Exit strategy

Acknowledging that funding from DREF is for immediate response during an emergency thus the operations it supports focus on immediate lifesaving interventions, ERCS and IFRC will work to ensure that there is transfer of competencies on the lesson learnt following project implementation, to ensure sustainability of the impact on the community.

In addition, ERCS will carry out advocacy and popularise the impact of the project to attract partners potential partners including ECHO, UN bodies and other multi-lateral agencies and within the RCRC Movement, in a bid to highlight the silent food crisis affecting communities outside of those directly affected by the Tigray crisis and in alignment with the Pan African Zero Hunger Initiative 2021-2030 through sustainable medium- long-term solutions to address the risks of hunger in Ethiopia. The IFRC Ethiopia and Djibouti Cluster Delegation in this regard, is in discussion through the recent call for proposal by Japanese government and has submitted a concept note for a food security, nutrition and livelihood midterm project. ERCS has equally applied in a similar call for integrated multi-intervention call by USAID all in strategic bid to achieve sustainable and durable solution that will build the communities resilience to similar shocks.

Operational support services

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

Emphasis is made on encouraging continuous assessment of the situation, monitoring of the services being provided as well as looking at monitoring of the feedback from beneficiaries. Analysis of monitoring data and reports will be used for decision-making and continuous improvement of the implementation. Attention will be paid to data management, inclusive of collection of disaggregated beneficiary data, storage, and analysis. Continuous communication with the field teams, along with issuance of necessary updates of the operation including the final report will be managed accordingly. The IFRC Operations Manager based in Addis Ababa will work with ERCS team to ensure monitoring of the operation for quality, quantity, scope, and quantity as well as transparency and accountability in its delivery.

Human Resources

ERCS human resources involved in the operation include 65 volunteers engaged in different functions in WASH CEA; PGI The implementation of the operation will be supported by of the ERCS North Shewa head and is support structures. The ERCS Amhara Regional programs coordinator will also oversee implementation, and will be supported from national headquarters (NHQ) by focal operations coordinator delegated from the Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR) team by the DSG for programs.

Finance and administration

Financial resources will be safeguarded by high quality financial and administrative practices supported and monitored by ERCS and IFRC finance staff at national and regional levels. Compliance with IFRC logistics and financial procedures will be observed and continuous monitoring and technical support will be provided by IFRC to ensure agreed standards are met. ERCS is on funds transfer modality and IFRC Finance officers in the AU- delegation in country will conduct spot check for the operation as per the framework agreements and the WWPP funds transfer modality requirements.

Logistics and Procurement management

Local procurement will be carried out for all material requirements like PPEs, IEC and/or visibility of the operation within the National Society's threshold of the WWPP framework in accordance with the IFRC standard procurement procedures. Procurement processes will be administered by ERCS HQ and IFRC Operations manager will support with compliance process. For the cash to be disbursed for food assistance, ERCS will conduct the market and cash feasibility assessment to determine mode of delivery (cash or voucher). ERCS has a pre-existing agreement with financial service provider Commercial bank of Ethiopia for provision services.

Communications

ERCS will regularly share information and updates on the operation via a range of communications channels and the Secretary General will be the primary spokesperson for communications to external stakeholders within Ethiopia. IFRC will support the ERCS communications team to communicate with external audiences with a focus on food security and the Red Cross humanitarian action assisting people affected disasters. The communications will generate visibility and provide advocacy for both humanitarian and sustainable support in food security sector. To note, Movement coordination of communication efforts are being coordinated on the ground and a Movement Communications Technical Committee has been setup. ERCS will ensure close technical collaboration with with all stakeholders, as well as the IFRC Africa regional communications unit for a coherent and coordinated communications approach.

Security

The security situation in the country at large because of the fighting in different regions is fluid. However, since the onset of the Tigray crisis the ERCS in collaboration with the pNShave invested capacity in security. A security delegate supported jointly by in country partner National Scieties partners has been deployed, a National Society coordinator recruited, and stringent SOPs developed to strengthen the security management of the ERCS; and its support to partners. However, it has experienced violence between the Amhara and Oromo communities which before, which has since been resolved but populations continue to live with its impacts.

A Security coordination forum has been established as part of the SMCC structure, comprising membership from ICRC, IFRC, partner National Societies and chaired by ERCS. This provides a platform for Movement information sharing and coordination on all security related concerns and actions. Advisory support will be sought through this forum; as well as in coordination withhe IFRC security officer in Ethiopia; and proactive measures will be taken to ensure that the operation is not adversely affected and or for timely re- strategy in the event of any recurrence. Should the frontline reach the targeted area of intervention, a situation which would warrant close coordination with armed actors, the ICRC will be duly informed and called upon, in accordance with it's mandate and expertise.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 8,000

Male: 3,680 Female: 4,320

Requirements (CHF): 282,715

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especial affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	ally in	disas	ster a	nd cris	is			Housel 0HH)	holds r	eached	d with (Cash as	ssistan	ce (tar	get:	
P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.4: Community awareness strengthening and protection are carried out with target community	•	(Targe # of as # of N (Targe # of vo 20)	t: 60%, sessm lutrition t: 2) oluntee	ents con aware	onduct eness a olved ii	ed (Tai and dis	rget: 2) ssemin	ation s	ession	ogram es held Farget:						
	Activities planned Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP084	Meetings with authorities and consultation with stakeholders and launching																
AP084	Community sensitisation and awareness sessions																
AP010	Assessments																
AP084	Formation Project community committees																
AP081	Targeting, bank registration and verification processes																
AP081	Unconditional/multipurpose cash distributions.																
AP081	Conduct post distribution monitoring																



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 8,000

Male: 3,680 Female: 4,320

Requirements (CHF): 9,573

	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne an targeted communities	d wa	ter rel	lated	disea	ıses iı	n		f targe notion (hed w	vith he	ealth a	and Hy	ygiene
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sp identification and use of hygiene items provided to target popul			ards	in ter	ms of	f the	•	(Targe: # of vo (Targe: # of h awarer	eople : t: at lea bluntee t: 30 vo andwa ness ('	reache ast 8,00 ers train oluntee sshing Target: terial v	d with 00 peoped ned and ers) units TBD) vith hy	health ple) d cond installe	and in and in a contract and i	hygien hygiei demor	ne pror	saging motion on and
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Conduct needs assessment: define hygiene issues and assess capacity to address the problem.																
AP030	Select target groups, key messages, and methods of communicating with beneficiaries (mass media and interpersonal communication).																
AP030	Develop a hygiene communication plan. Train volunteers to implement activities from communication plan.																
AP030	Design/Print IEC materials																
AP030	Construct or encourage construction and maintenance of handwashing facilities in targeted communities.																
AP026	Coordinate with other WASH actors on target group needs and appropriate response.																



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 800

Male: 368 Female:432

Requirements (CHF): 4,862

	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vullence.			eacef	ul, sa	fe and	k		of targ				ched v	vith h	ealth a	and H	/giene
P&B Output Code	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and of equitable provision of basic services, considering different nee diversity factors.		•		um Štards in FRC antion (contion in the standard in the standa	nndard standa d NS s or inte standa rs invo eds (T nd wo Target	s (or i ard/sed taff an grate ard/sed olved in arget: omen r	ntegrate torial to volume a sessentorial to the operation of the colume acheco of total	te a serial raining nteers of sion or caining peration inteers of target	ession us (targ on addr us) (targ us) (targ un to su un) SGBV ed)	on Mir get: 50 ressing ressing get: 50 apport p	nimum staff) g child child staff people					
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP031	Conduct an assessment of specific needs of the affected population based on criteria selected from the minimum standards for PGI in emergencies.																
AP031	Support sectoral teams to include measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including people with disabilities) in their planning																
AP031	Hold basic ½ day training with IFRC and NS staff and volunteers on the Minimum Standards (or integrate a session on Minimum Standards in standard/sectorial trainings).																
AP031	Support sectoral teams to ensure collection and analysis of sexage and disability-disaggregated data (see guidance in Minimum Standards)																
AP033	Use Minimum Standards as a guide to support sectoral teams to include child protection and measures to mitigate the risk of SGBV																
AP033	Include messages on preventing and responding to SGBV in all community outreach activities																

AP033	Hold basic ½ day training with IFRC and NS staff and volunteers on addressing child protection (or integrate a session on addressing child protection in standard/sectorial trainings)								
AP033	Establish a system to ensure IFRC and NS staff and volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct and have received a briefing in this regard including on PSEA								
AP033	Procure and distribute dignity kits to vulnerable women and adolescent girls among the targeted beneficiaries (10% of Total)								

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 10,661

P&B Output Code	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motiva protected	ted vo	olunte	eers v	who a	re		•	# of V target # of vo # of co 100%)	olunte 2) oluntee ommur	er brie ers traii nity coi	fing so ned for mplain	their f	on ro unction red and	n (Tarç	d risk get xx) nded (,
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured																
AP040	Provide complete briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face																
AP040	Ensure volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities																
AP040	Ensure volunteers' safety and wellbeing																
AP040	Ensure volunteers are properly trained																
AP040	Ensure volunteers' engagement in decision-making processes of respective projects they implement																
P&B Output	Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for improved	Hum	anita	rian <i>i</i>	Assist	ance	is	% co		nce to	rules	and p	rocedu	ires ar	nd poli	icies (target
Code	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP049	Ensure that the Principles and Rules, Emergency Response Framework and Emergency Appeal and DREF procedures are well understood and applied																
AP049	Advocate for engagement with partner and operating NS on the promotion and use of the Principles and Rules																

Public

AP049	Regularly check compliance with the Principles and Rules																
AP084	Methods are put in place to ensure communities can participate in the response and influence decision-making																
AP084	Community communication activities ensure people are kept informed of operational plans and progress and have they information they need about the response																
AP084	Community feedback systems (including rumour and/or perception tracking) are established, and feedback acted upon and used to improve the operation																
AP084	Exit strategy developed that includes community consultation and sharing of the final evaluation results with the community																
	Output S2.2.1: In the context of large-scale emergencies the					enha	nce	# of	SMCC	opera	tional h	neld (target 4	1)			
	their operational reach and effectiveness through new mean	15 01	COOL	Jinati	on.		ı			-							
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP051	SMCC and movement coordination (Output S2.2.1)																
P&B Output Code	Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National position to influence decisions at local, national and international vulnerable.										nication I spot d						t 2)
	Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective issues	e adv	ocate	s on	huma	nitar	ian				briefin						,
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP053	Communications work																
AP064	Finance work																
AP065	Administration work																
AP066	Security																

Funding Requirements

The overall amount requested for this operation is CHF 307,812 as detailed in below budget.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

DREF OPERATION

MDRET026 - ETHIOPIA - FOOD INSECURITY

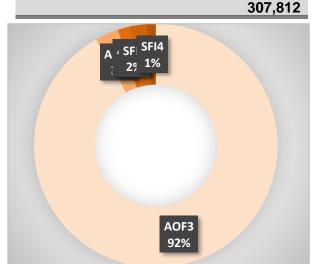
20/08/2021

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,111
Medical & First Aid	2,545
Cash Disbursment	258,560
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	262,216
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,462
Logistics, Transport & Storage	4,462
National Society Staff	3,624
Volunteers	8,440
Personnel	12,064
Professional Fees	0
Consultants & Professional Fees	0
Workshops & Training	6,488
Workshops & Training	6,488
Travel	600
Information & Public Relations	1,495
Office Costs	500
Financial Charges	1,200
General Expenditure	3,795
DIRECT COSTS	289,025
INDIRECT COSTS	18,787
TOTAL BUDGET	307,812

Budget by Area of Intervention

	TOTAL	307 812
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	3,728
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	6,934
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	4,862
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	9,573
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	282,715



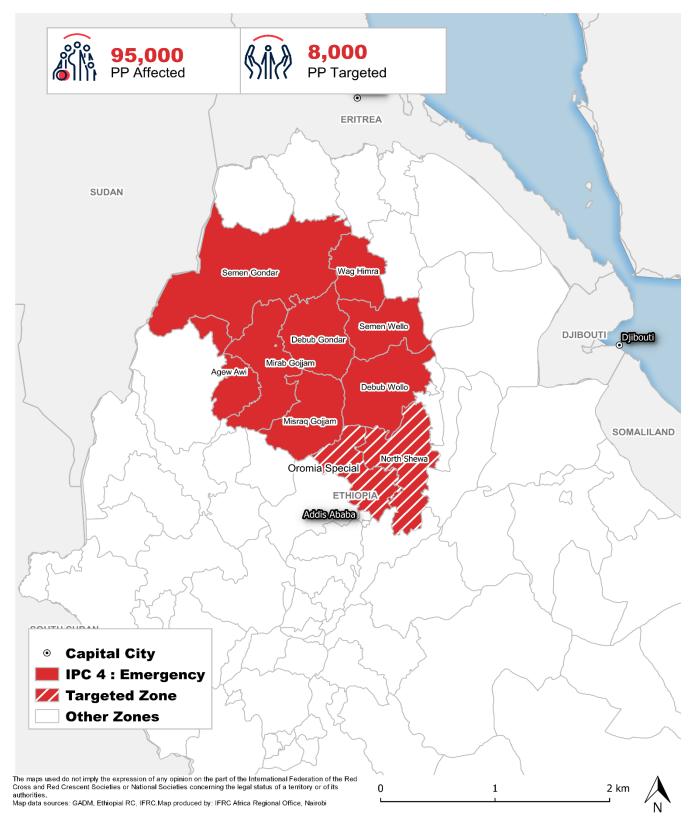




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Reference documents

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Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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

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For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

• IIFRC Africa Regional Office: Philip Komo Kahuho, PMER Coordinator, Email: Philip.kahuho@ifrc.org

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:





