

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Operation Update Report No. 2

Ethiopia: Election Preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRET025	GLIDE n° N/A
Operation update n° 2: 13 September 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 11 May to 10 September 2021
Operation start date: 11 May 2021	Operation timeframe: 5 months (New end date: 31 October 2021)
DREF Budget allocated (CHF): 200,433	
N° of people being assisted: 15,000 People	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: Austrian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), The Netherlands Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Swiss Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Regional, zonal and city authorities in the targeted areas (10 branches), National Electoral Board of Ethiopia, National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC)	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This Operation Update is to inform stakeholders of the progress made since starting implementation as well as inform of a further timeframe extension by one month (new end date: 31 October 2021) to accommodate the new election date set for 30 September 2021.

Indeed, election was initially postponed to 6 September 2021 by the electoral body in two regions Harar (2 constituencies), Somali (14 consistencies) as well as in polling stations in different regions including 8 in Amhara and 4 in Beshangul Gumuz region, 7 in Oromia. On 23 August 2021, the elections authority further postponed the polling date in above mentioned regions to 30 September 2021, leading to the current no-cost timeframe extension. To note, the DREF resources were already shared with Branches and ERCS volunteer teams are ready to intervene on new scheduled date.

Should the elections be further extended, the National Society shall close the operation and report on it, with the consideration that volunteers have undergone necessary preparedness training while the National Society conducted due readiness actions by training the volunteers, providing material for first aid, as prescribed in its Elections Contingency plan. Any ensuing tensions/violence shall then be addressed in a fresh operation in response to the potential unrest.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Ethiopia entered its 2021 election process amidst an increasingly tensed political, security and humanitarian context. As the multi-faceted and polarized situation was foreseen to increase the susceptibility for outbreaks of election-related violence, it was imperative to plan and strengthen preparedness, before, during and after the elections. As such, this [DREF Operation](#) was launched to support Ethiopia Red Cross prepare its branches to mitigate any effects of election violence.

On 21 June 2021, the country held its sixth national multiparty election after two delays due to COVID-19 and upon request of National Election Board of Ethiopia



First Aid training for volunteer ©ERCS

(NEBE) to allow more time to organize the ballot. Preliminary results were announced in some polling stations in Addis and regions. Official NEBE (National Election Board of Ethiopia) reports revealed that over 38 million voters registered, 46 parties and 9,000 candidates contested for Federal and regional seats. NEBE decided to postpone the sixth national election in 63 constituencies in Harar and Somali regions as well as in some polling stations in Amhara, Oromia and Benshangul Gumuz regions to 6 September 2021 due to some irregularities and security issues. An [Operation Update](#) was published on 13 July 2021, extending the operational timeframe by a month at no cost.

However, on 23 August 2021, the National Elections Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) further postponed the polling date in the above-mentioned regions to 30 September 2021, obliging the National Society to further extend the operational timeframe to serve as a buffer, in the event of tensions requiring volunteers to provide emergency support. To note, the DREF resources were already shared with Branches and ERCS volunteer teams are ready to intervene on new scheduled date.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

ERCS has been proactive in its preparedness for the 2021 general elections, as well as ensuring coordination structures are in place to support effective response. As at the end of election day on 21 June 2021, the following activities had been undertaken:

- Movement Election Contingency Planning Taskforce committee instituted within the Strengthened Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) structure.
- A 2021 Election Contingency Plan has been developed to guide preparedness, and if required, eventual response actions.
- The national election committee that comprised members from ERCS, ICRC, IFRC and participating National Societies (Netherlands and Finish Red Cross) has been active since it was officially established by the deputy Secretary General for Disaster Risk Management in mid-March 2021. In the past three months, the committee conducted first four bi-monthly meetings and later three weekly meetings prior to 21 June election day.



Distribution of PPEs and hand washing facilities in Sedama region.

The meetings have been held every Thursday at 2 pm virtually. Issues related to resource mobilization, emergency and security situations, election preparedness progress update, communication, coordination and close monitoring on the planned activities were the major areas of discussions among the national election committee members, among others.

- Emergency Response Committee, Communications Committee, and a Command post were set up in Addis Ababa
- The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) located in Addis Ababa, was activated for information sharing and decision making.
- ERCS wrote cooperation letters to the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Defense (MoD), Federal and Addis Ababa police and NEBE, to reinforce understanding of the role of Red Cross and advocate for free access to ERCS staffs and volunteers in undertaking emergency response.

Key field level activities that have been achieved to date include:

1. National society designated a focal officer (the CEA coordinator) at the headquarters to be coordinating hos operation and act as liaison and focal for all partners and stakeholders involved. Position functionally active to date
2. RCCE training for volunteers and staff, except in Somali and Harar regions where elections have been postponed
3. IEC materials with key messages delivered to the branches
4. First Aid kits were procured and distributed to the branches
5. Procurement and distribution of emblems
6. 400 volunteers trained in first Aid skills
7. 400 volunteers trained in PHEC (prehospital emergency care)
8. 400 volunteers trained in PSS
9. 400 volunteers trained in PGI minimum standards
10. 400 volunteers sensitized PSEA and code of conduct and signed
11. 400 volunteers sensitized on SGBV and child protection
12. 400 volunteers sensitized on IHL basics
13. Contingency workshops for the regions and branches supported

14. The NS headquarters carried out monitoring and strengthening mission to Harar and Somali regions whose elections are postponed for the second time to ensure the preparedness capacities are in place and stan bye till election will be held.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

Please refer to [EPoA](#) and [Operation Update 1](#) for details on Red Cross actions.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in country

Refer to [EPoA](#) for details on the items prepositioned by ERCS and UNICEF partnership.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment.

For details on this section, refer to the [DREF EPOA](#)

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Operational objective:

To enhance the preparedness of the ERCS to respond to humanitarian needs that could arise from election-related violence during the 2021 election process in Ethiopia. The operation will focus on readiness of ERCS NHQ and branches in seven hot spot regions, three cities, and their mapped zones and woredas. This will be done through pre-positioning and deployment of assets, equipment, and training of volunteers to enable ERCS provide emergency health care (Ambulance transportation, First Aid, RCCE and PSS) and PGI services.

The election was generally calm and there was no significant violence reported across the country. However, the DREF substantially supported the National Societies readiness and general preparedness for any violence as the election process continues until announcement of results. However, the polls for different locations where election was postponed to 6 September 2021 still must hold, and overall results will be provided only after this date. The operational strategy thus remains relevant to strengthen the preparedness capacity of the National Society.

Operational Strategy

The EPoA operational strategy involved preparedness of ERCS NHQ, branches and first responders in the seven hot spot regions, and three cities mapped out in the contingency plan. This was to enable ERCS to respond in a timely manner to the humanitarian needs during election campaigns, voting and announcement of results. It also involves strengthening of coordination with Government, Movement partners and other response agencies in the hotspot areas. The operation has strengthened the National societies readiness and capacity to respond to election violence. The election process is still not concluded, since the results are yet to be announced and other election centers in some of the target mapped regions have their elections postponed.

The same strategies in the EPoA are still relevant and this operation update allows for extension of the operational timeframe to cover the polling stations on 6 September, as well as the eventual process of results announcement which is not yet concluded.

Please refer to [Operation Update 1](#) for details on the sector-specific interventions to date. Achievements on the operational strategy are highlighted below.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Health People reached: 7,376 Male: 3,393 Female: 3,983</p>	
Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with emergency health care services	15,000	7,376

Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of FA Kits procured, replenished, and distributed	500	500
# of branches which received jackets, emblems, and other visibility materials	10	10
# of branches which received stretchers	10	0
# of volunteers trained on FA	500	400
# of volunteers trained on PHEC	500	400
# of volunteers deployed	500	400
Health Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of target population reached with RCCE on COVID-19	100%	49%
Health Output 4.1: Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on RCCE	500	400
# of branches that receive IEC materials	10	10
# of volunteers provided with appropriate PPE	500	400
Health Outcome 6.0: Psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of identified people with specific PSS needs who are assisted	80%	49%
Health Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on PSS	500	400
# of staff and volunteers reached with PSS support	400	400
Progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Society disbursed cash to all ERCS branches in the target regions to carry out the different planned trainings including First Aid, PHEC, PSS and CEA. Prepositioning of the necessary logistics including the ambulances in all the branches was carried in good time. Volunteers were deployed on the pre-election days, election, and post-election days. This deployment is pending in all locations where elections will hold on 6 September. A 24-hour command posts were established in the headquarters and the regions. The EOC was activated in full operation for information sharing, decision making and feedback to field teams. Procurement of supplies including emblems, visibility gear and PPEs were done at ERCS headquarters. There was delay in the delivery of stretchers, but the branches planned to use their buffer stock which will be replenished. An additional 100 volunteers are to be trained and deployed for Harar and Somali regions whose election is postponed. The National Society will conduct weeks before the election to have readily available the trained volunteers. 		
Challenges		
The major challenge was delay of procurements, especially for the stretchers and hand washing units. For the stretchers, the tender process was conducted in due time but, there were no qualified bidders. The National Society is exploring options for selective bidding. Materials remain necessary since election is yet to be held in some parts and results will not be known before the entire process is completed across the country.		
Lessons learned		
Need to fast track emergency procurements.		



Protection, Gender, and Inclusion

People reached: 7,376

Male: 3,393

Female: 3,983

Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of identified people with specific needs who are assisted	80%	78.6%

Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of identified people with specific needs who are assisted	80%	78.6%
# of staff briefed on the PGI minimum standards	50	30
# of volunteers briefed on PGI minimum standards	500	400

Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.2: Programmes and operations prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence and other forms of violence especially against children.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers briefed on PSEA, code of conduct and signed code of conduct	500	400
# of volunteers screened and briefed on child protection policy/guidelines	500	400
# of volunteers briefed on SGBV and child protection	500	400

Progress towards outcome

- The selection of volunteers was done making sure of clear gender representation after which, they were briefed on the Code of Conduct and child protection aspects. All volunteers signed the Code of Conduct before deployment.
- The staff and volunteers were also briefed on the PGI minimum standards (DAPS), contextualizing their respective locations. This included awareness on identification of PGI issues in an emergency and how to refer them.
- Sensitization on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was done both in the branches and HQ level. This was focusing on key issues that may affect the volunteers and staff both internally and externally, including how to refer such cases.
- Additional 100 volunteers will be mobilised, trained and deployed for the remaining two regions when elections will be due.

Challenges

- No clear referral pathways at branch level.
- More emphasis will also be put on the feedback mechanism to maximize the service delivery.

Lessons learnt

- Moving forward, there needs to be clear mapping of service providers and strengthening of the existing referral pathways.
- Need for capacity building on PGI and practical application for staff and volunteers. This will also include skills for monitoring and evaluation of PGI activities.

Strategies for Implementation

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
Minimum standards are met for the NS legal, ethical, and financial foundation, system and structures, competences, and capacities to plan and perform.	N/A	N/A

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of deployed volunteers with insurance cover	500	400

# of volunteers briefed on roles and risks associated to the operation	500	400
# of active mechanism in place to share update with volunteers	10	8
Output S1.1.7: NS capacity to support community-based disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness is strengthened		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of management and coordination committees activated	3	3
# of staff and volunteers orientated on election contingency plan	35	20
Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Movement coordination structures under which IFRC-ERCS are participating	5	5
Effective participation in coordination structures	Movement coordination framework in place	Movement coordination framework in place
Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Rapid response personnel are deployed to support the operation	1	1
Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
DREF Financial/Narrative reporting is published as per DREF Guidelines to deadline (<i>Indicator target modified</i>)	Yes	Not due yet
# of community feedback systems established	10	8
% of community feedback responded to	80%	40%
Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of Cluster system and interagency working group meetings attended	100%	100%
Outcome S2.2: The complementarity and strengths of the Movement are enhanced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of operational Movement coordination meetings and committees are attended by ERCS-IFRC (target: 100%)	100%	100%
Output S2.2.1: In the context of large-scale emergencies the IFRC, ICRC and NS enhance their operational reach and effectiveness through new means of coordination.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of FW reporting tools that are utilized in the operation	3	0
Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national, and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of communications products are produced	3	3
Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of communications products are produced	3	3
Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Lessons learnt report produced	1	0
# of monitoring missions conducted	2	1
Progress towards outcomes		

- There was a coordinated RCRC Movement approach the election preparedness response since funding was available from different Movement partners including IFRC, ICRC, Swiss Red Cross and NLRC (ECHO). All the three levels of SMCC structure were active and engaged. Under the technical level three adhoc committees were established thus the election committee, security, and communication.
- Overall, 400 volunteers were mobilised in 8 regions and trained in different relevant skills and were deployed. The operation has provided for both safety gear against covid 19 and insurance for all the engaged volunteers.
- The regional and zonal branches, as well as the EOC were active command centres throughout the election, providing information as necessary to volunteers and respondents. Due to restricted movement, there were no field level monitoring missions, but each region supervised its activities within its administration and reported to command centres and EOC.
- To support the response capacity, the IFRC regional office deployed a surge delegate for month to ensure protection needs are mainstreamed.
- Communication emblems and visibility materials were procured and distributed to the branches.
- SMCC structures were developed. This Movement coordination structure has three levels including the strategic level, operational level and adhoc committees. Regarding this, there was an election committee in the lower category. These coordination structures report to each other and ensure that there is no duplication while enhancing complementarity in the operations. This was also supported bilaterally by other Movement partners (NLRC, SRC, ICRC)
- Federation-wide reporting was not instrumentally developed within this operation. However, other sister operations like the Tigray Population Movement Emergency Appeal are ongoing and Ethiopia is potentially to roll out the tools as part of the new one narrative approach.
- Regarding volunteer insurance, the target was 500 volunteers. This report however covers 400 volunteers who are deployed. The other 100 are not deployed yet since election in Harar and Somali regions are postponed. Nevertheless, the insurance is a group and covers all who are deployed in any one time.
- ERCS conducted one monitoring visit to Harar and Somali regions and reported that the remaining regions have all preparedness facilities including materials and logistics.

Challenges

Election was again postponed at the eleventh hour for some targeted hotspot regions in Somali and Harari to 30 September, hence the need to extend the operation timeline.

Lessons learnt

The cooperation and relation of ERCS with government authorities including the security agencies and the election board was quite good and harmonious

D. Financial Report

The overall amount allocated for this operation is CHF 200,433 of which CHF 178,948 (82%) has been transferred to the National Society under the funds transfer modality. The National Society will report on the expenditure at the end of the operation.

CONTACT

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)
- [Operation Update 1](#)

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

In the Ethiopia Red Cross Society

- Secretary General: Getachew Ta'a Email: ercs.sg@redcrosseth.org

In the IFRC

- Adesh Tripathee, Head of Disaster Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; phone: +254731067489; Email: adesh.tripathee@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Nicolas Boyrie, Operations Coordination, Senior Officer, DCPRR Unit Geneva; Email: Nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org
- Eszter Matyeka, DREF Senior Officer, DCPRR Unit Geneva; Email: eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for resource Mobilization and Pledge: Franciscah Cherotich Kilel, Senior Officer Partnership and Resource Development, Nairobi, Email: franciscah.kilel@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit: Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit, Email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

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:



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**.