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Eritrea Annual Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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30 May, 2014

**This report covers the
period 1 January – 31
December, 2013**

Photo: IFRC

Overview

In 2011 the government of Eritrea issued a directive to all non-state development partners operating in Eritrea to cease operating by end 2012. Humanitarian agencies in Eritrea closed their offices during the first quarter of 2012. The Red Cross Society of Eritrea (RCSE), being registered as a local NGO pending its official recognition by government, was allowed to operate, while being prohibited from receiving any foreign aid. At that point, there were indications that government could pledge funds directly to the National Society through its annual budgetary allocation. Similarly, the NS was informed to only focus on disaster management-related activities, such as relief, first aid, disaster preparedness, and ambulance services, rather than development programmes as had previously been the focus of the National Society.

In 2012, new developments emerged from the government with a new memorandum from the Ministry of National Development concerning reactivating the long-term partnership with UN and EU in Eritrea. The RCSE management engaged in dialogue with government to clarify its new role given the changes. Throughout, the IFRC has maintained its presence in Eritrea, in order to support National Society capacities and governance in anticipation of eventual formal recognition by government.

In July, 2013, the government gave the National Society permission to sign a project agreement for EU funding through IFRC for a four-year urban sanitation project co-funded by PNS. The project commenced in November-December, 2013.



Working in partnership

No funds could be disbursed to the RCSE during 2013. As a result, no programme implementation took place during the reporting period. In the interim, the IFRC East Africa Regional Representative met with the National Society and with the EU office in Asmara. The signing of the EU project will reactivate partnerships, with 75 percent of the funding for the project coming from EU, and 25 percent shared between Swedish Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross.

Progress towards outcomes

In 2013, effectively nothing was achieved for reasons mentioned above in terms of multilateral programming. However, new developments emerged towards the end of 2013 and the NS got approval from the authorities to sign a project agreement with IFRC for peri-urban sanitation for four years co-funded by EU and PNSs. IFRC and the NS signed the project agreement on 1 November 2013 and the process to implement the project has begun. This gave hope that the other programmes could also come on board in the near future.

There is now potential that 2014-2015 plans can be implemented, and the LTPF has been revised to reflect this new scope of programming.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS is not allowed to receive foreign aid, this has impeded all plans to fully implement 2013 plan. Currently, dialog ongoing. Continued delay of government recognition of NS creates uncertainty and undermines sense of a clear role for the NS: Lack of official recognition also means there is no legal framework through which the NS can operate, hence partners reluctant to have long-term partnership with NS. Despite an identified need for an IFRC presence in Eritrea, IFRC is unable to maintain a office in Eritrea due to limited funding for coordination and management and OD related activities, 	<p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p>	<p>Continue dialogue with government and NS.</p> <p>Continued advocacy on recognition, using zonal (HD) and global technical support.</p> <p>“”</p> <p>Proactive resource mobilization by the Regional and Zone offices including a possibility of fully funded delegate.</p>

Financial situation

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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