



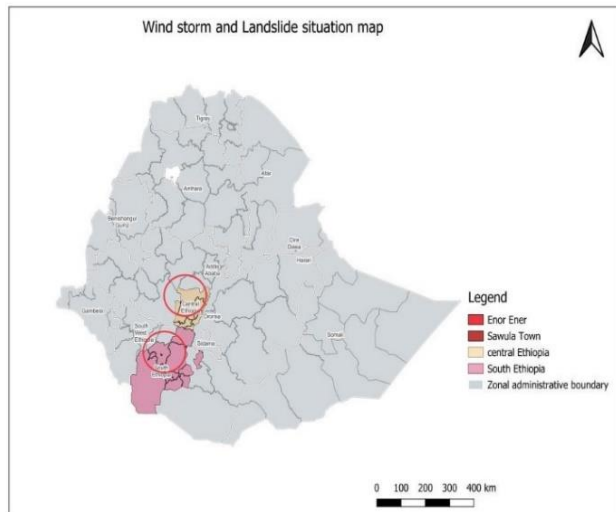
Ethiopian Red Cross Society volunteers from the Sawla zonal Branch working with communities in the search and rescue of people covered with mud in the landslide disaster that hit the Gofa zone of the southern region of Ethiopia. (Photo credit: ERCS Comms)

Appeal №: MDRET036	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 3.5 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 6.0 million¹	
Glide №: LS-2024-000125-ETH	People [at risk]: 143,000² people affected by the windstorm and landslides	People to be assisted: 25,500 most vulnerable people (5,100 households) affected by the windstorm and landslides (18%)
DREF allocation: CHF 1,000,000	Appeal launched: 31/07/2024	Appeal ends: 31/07/2025

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in response to the emergency. It includes the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 2.5 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC Secretariat (CHF 3.5 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

² Estimate of the population at risk encompassing both the area affected by the landslide and the windstorm.

SITUATION OVERVIEW



Heavy rains between 21 and 22 July triggered successive landslides in the remote mountainous Gezei Gofa Woreda of the Gofa Zone,³ Southern Ethiopia Region, causing significant loss of life and devastation. The region's topography and vulnerability to extreme weather make it prone to floods and landslides.

The landslide's toll was staggering. As of 26 July, the situation in Gezei Gofa Woreda is reported to have left 236⁴ confirmed dead and 13 rescued making it Ethiopia's deadliest landslide. The deceased include 30 pregnant and lactating women and one child under the age of five. It is feared that the death toll will continue to rise.

Search, rescue, and recovery efforts, supported by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and community volunteers, are continuing despite resource constraints. The mountainous region has made it nearly impossible for heavy machinery to reach the area. Dozens of people have been digging since Monday (22 July), excavating manually, searching for the missing using their bare hands, shovels, and axes.

According to interviews with key informants, the death toll increased significantly when the second and third waves of the mudslide killed people who had arrived at the sites to provide live-saving assistance and rescue the wounded. The victims include local administrators, teachers, students, and

health and agriculture workers who were living near the landslide incident. Emergency operations are challenging due to the rugged terrain, continuing rains, and the risk of further landslides.

Emergency operations are challenging due to the rugged terrain, continuing rains, and the risk of further landslides. At this time, assessments are still underway, and the true extent of the impact and the population at risk have yet to be fully determined. Assessment teams estimate the total number of people directly affected as of 25 July to be over 15,515,⁵ including 6,750 people in Koncho Gozji Kebele and 7,765 people in Koncho Wiza Kebele.

Local authorities report that more than 5,600 of the most vulnerable individuals require immediate evacuation to safe spaces, though this number is expected to increase as the situation develops. Many of these people are at high risk of further landslides and urgently need to be relocated to safer areas. The federal government is working closely with regional and zonal authorities to finalise plans for their evacuation to safer locations. This includes approximately 1,320 children under the age of five and 5,293 pregnant or lactating women.

Ongoing assessments report damage to housing, social and public infrastructure, and WASH services/facilities likely, resulting in increased risk of disease outbreaks. Significant shocks to income-generating activities are expected, along with prolonged displacement. ERCS assessment teams observed many women and men in need of psychological support.

In addition to the landslides on 18 July, six kebeles of Gurage Zone, Inor Ener Meger Woreda were hit by a windstorm, and according to rapid assessments by the ERCS, over 1,200 households were directly affected with homes and farmland damaged, and property damaged or destroyed. A total of approximately 1,101 hectares of farmland were affected, including *enset* (false banana, the main food in the area), coffee plantations, chat, fruit and vegetable crops.

The southern regions have continued to experience heavy rainfall and flooding in recent weeks. The region is already characterised by intensified

³ Gofa is situated in South Ethiopia Regional State, approximately 450 kilometres from the capital Addis Ababa.

⁴ Information at the time of writing. Figures are continuously updated as needs assessments are finalised.

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-flash-update-3-update-landslide-gofa-zone-south-ethiopia-region-26-july-2024>

epidemics, and food insecurity is likely to increase. The region has also reported outbreak of malaria, with 288,124 cases reported since the beginning of the year, and measles, with 3,246 cases and six deaths. The heavy rains and landslides pose a risk of cholera and dengue, which have been reported in neighbouring regions.

Updated weather forecasts ⁶ predict continued heavy rainfall, the National Flood Contingency Plan for the 2024 Belg/Gu season anticipates above-average precipitation, heightening the risk of further flooding and landslides across southern Ethiopia.

Based on the assessment in coordination with the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission and the South Regional State Disaster Risk Management Bureau, the recommendation is to continue the life-saving interventions (provision of WASH, health, food, protection services,

psychosocial support, and search and rescue operation) in the landslide-affected areas. The country's capacity for rapid response has been severely strained by the escalating disaster and the need for humanitarian assistance.

Since the beginning of the tragedy, the ERCS has been actively providing essential support and remains committed to expanding its efforts to meet the needs of the affected communities. This Emergency Appeal is being launched with a Federation-wide funding request of CHF 6 million to enable the ERCS to support at least 25,500 people affected by the landslides and storm surges in the southern regions of Ethiopia.

ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY RESPONSE TO DATE



Ethiopian Red Cross teams and assets immediately mobilised. (Photo credit: ERCS comms)

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) has an active Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) that coordinates emergencies throughout the country, providing early warning and media monitoring. Through its EOC, the ERCS received alerts of windstorms and landslides and responded immediately by mobilising search and rescue teams and relief items.

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http://www.ethiomet.gov.et/other_forecasts/forecast_viewer/seasonal_forecast/748/Kiremt_2024_outlook/en

The main emergency response activities are as follows:

- The ERCS was among the first responders to arrive on the scene. From Zonal branch, four staff and 54 volunteers joined the search and rescue team with two ambulances, three logistics vehicles, and relief items,
- The ERCS has dispatched emergency food, WASH items, emergency shelter and essential household items from their pre-positioned stocks (500 emergency shelter sets, 1,000 blankets, 1,000 jerry cans (10 litres), 2,500 bars of soap (250g), 1,000 sleeping mats, 500 tarpaulins, and 500 kitchens sets).
- National Headquarters (NHQ) deployed personnel and assets to supplement branch capacity in conducting a detailed assessment with partners.
- The ERCS participates in humanitarian coordination co-chaired by the EDRMC and OCHA at the national, regional, and zonal levels. Through regional emergency coordination, the ERCS was requested by the government to provide search and rescue, evacuation, shelter, WASH, and health (EMS and MHPSS) assistance, together with the provision of emergency food for displaced people.
- The ERCS has an active DREF covering four woreda in the East and West Guji zones, with an allocation of CHF 499,838 to provide immediate support to 62,775 of the most vulnerable people.



The ERCS delivers blankets and other essential household items to affected communities. (Photo credit: ERCS)

TARGETING

This appeal will target 25,500 of the most vulnerable people (5,100 households) affected⁷ by the windstorm and landslides in the Kencho Gozdi and Koncho Wiza kebeles of Geze Gofa Woreda in the Central Ethiopia Regional State and Gurage Zone, respectively, with lifesaving, emergency response, and early recovery activities. This will include support for vulnerable families still at risk of further landslides and requiring immediate evacuation to safe spaces.

People affected by the landslides need immediate emergency life-saving assistance, while the situation for those displaced needs to be stabilised. The ERCS estimates that the full extent of the damage caused by the landslides and the number of lives lost will not be known until a more detailed assessment is carried out.

⁷ An estimated 143,000 people are at risk, encompassing those in the areas affected by the landslide and the windstorm.

The ERCS will strengthen ongoing search, rescue, and retrieval efforts by equipping volunteers with personal protective equipment (PPE) and more reliable equipment, as search and rescue efforts become more complex due to worsening weather conditions. Displaced people need first aid, psychological first aid (PFA), food, clean water, essential household items, and sanitation.

The target groups are vulnerable households who have lost their homes and access to livelihoods, those who have been displaced, and those who are struggling to meet their basic needs. Priority will be given to children who lost their guardians in the landslide, widows, pregnant and lactating mothers, and people with disabilities. These vulnerable groups are at greater risk and need immediate support and assistance.

The ERCS will integrate Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) into all operations to further refine targeting at the household level, with increased attention to the vulnerable and most at risk groups. This includes extended households with pregnant and lactating mothers and/or children under five; households caring for the elderly or people living with HIV/AIDS or other chronic conditions; households headed by children or adolescents; households with special social protection needs; people with disabilities; and internally displaced households.

Trusted and accepted in the community in emergencies, the ERCS has the capacity to operate in hard-to-reach and complex areas and will continue to work with local governments and the national government to provide support to the affected communities, including using technologically improved equipment where needed.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the ERCS to scale-up its life-saving emergency response, focusing on search and rescue, emergency shelter, including replenishment of issued stocks, livelihoods and basic needs, health, water, and sanitation outlined below.

At this time, assessments are still underway and the extent of the impact and population at risk have yet to be fully determined. The planned operations will continue to be informed through assessments and information gathering, especially in informing early-recovery needs.

Integrated assistance



Shelter and essential household items

- Provide emergency shelter and essential household items to the most vulnerable, displaced, and camped populations through the provision of tarpaulins and tents, as well as an integrated package of essential household items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health items, with guidance on their safe use.
- For long-term or permanently displaced/evacuated households, relevant durable solutions may include shelter kits and essential household items and/or conditional cash support based on the results of the recovery assessment.



Livelihoods and Multi-purpose Cash

- Basic needs support in the form of food and/or multi-purpose cash assistance will be provided to the most affected/vulnerable communities whose livelihoods have been partially or completely destroyed.

Health & Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Health and Care

- Support search and rescue and evacuation of the critically ill, injured, and vulnerable people to prevent further harm.



- Strengthen the ERCS's search, rescue, and retrieval capacity with equipment and skills, including special skills development (dignified burials).
- The ERCS will conduct community mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sessions involving local community platforms to provide psychosocial first aid (PFA) and referrals for critical mental health needs.
- Strengthen emergency services to continue providing support to affected communities, including ambulance maintenance, management, and staff training.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



- Implementation of a hygiene promotion campaign to strengthen WASH knowledge and best practices, together with the targeted provision of sanitary towels for women and girls and provision of hygiene kits.
- Hygiene and sanitation promotion with the installation of sanitation facilities in collective centres.
- Sanitation support will be provided through hygiene promotion with the installation of sanitation facilities in collective centres.
- Distribution of WASH items and water treatment chemicals to affected households to minimise the risk of waterborne diseases. During the distribution of water treatment chemicals, communities will be sensitised on their proper use.
- Disinfection of shallow wells and boreholes, protection and improvement of shallow wells, and rehabilitation of other damaged water infrastructure. Water quality testing will also be carried out before, during, and after interventions to ensure the availability of safe drinking water.

Protection and Prevention:

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)



- PGI will be integrated into the targeting process and needs assessment to ensure an understanding and response to individuals and groups based on their specific risks, needs, and concerns, considering gender and other diversity factors, with data disaggregated by gender, age, and disability.
- Support for the search and identification of remains and restoration of family links (RFL).
- Protecting communities, especially the most vulnerable groups, and ensuring their safety and access to opportunities is essential to meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable, both in emergencies and during recovery.
- Further develop community-based information and education initiatives and materials on violence, including discrimination, exclusion, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and child protection, and build the capacity of individuals to effectively address these issues.



Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

- Establish and utilise feedback desks during search and rescue operations to report all missing persons, staffed by CEA/PGI focal persons. Conduct monthly community meetings to understand the progress and views of the community on the response.
- CEA will be mainstreamed throughout the response to ensure active and meaningful participation of affected communities and to close the feedback loop. This will be achieved by committing to the highest principles of transparency and accountability, ensuring that all stakeholders, especially affected communities, are actively engaged and involved throughout the process.
- The operation will also work on gathering comprehensive community insights through assessments (following the EVCA approach). By directly engaging with local communities, the Red Cross can gather valuable information on the specific needs, priorities, and challenges faced by different groups, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This information will also be used to develop specific communications products to support resource mobilisation and humanitarian diplomacy efforts.



Risk Reduction and Recovery

- A detailed early recovery assessment at the community level will ensure a good understanding of who is vulnerable and what capacities exist to implement an early recovery programme, both in the community and the National Society.
- The operation will identify community members living in areas severely affected by the landslide and storm and assist with relocation costs/needs.
- Operations will contribute to recovery and disaster preparedness by mobilising communities to conduct risk assessments of common risks and develop mitigation strategies.
- Supporting community resilience in identifying risks and action plans for disaster risk reduction (DRR) through community-led vulnerability and risk assessments. These will also support sustainability and linkages with longer-term development programming. Organisational contingency planning and coordination planning with national and regional authorities and stakeholders will be supported.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:



Coordination and Partnerships:

- Facilitate engagement and coordination with Participating National Societies (PNSs) and the ICRC in the design of the response, leveraging the expertise and resources available through a Red Pillar approach, and ensuring alignment with relevant external actors, including the government's policies and programmes, development actors, United Nations agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- Connect the response with existing government-led mechanisms for climate and drought, social safety nets and food security, emphasising the auxiliary role of the ERCS. Implement a robust humanitarian diplomacy and communication plan, with appropriate linkages to national, pan-African, and international climate and humanitarian policies.



IFRC Secretariat services

- The IFRC will facilitate an effective Federation-wide response, with support from the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) office in Addis Ababa and the Regional Office for Africa.
- The IFRC Secretariat will coordinate and support the response through the Federation-wide approach. This will include the implementation of Federation-wide tools, the Federation-wide Picture, the Indicator Tracking Table, and reporting to support the positioning of the IFRC and members in the response, as well as promoting external engagement and visibility, which will inform the Operational Strategy, updates, and revisions.
- As Global Shelter Cluster lead agency in disaster response, IFRC is exploring the provision of support to the country-level Shelter Cluster lead agency on Coordination, Technical Coordination, and Information Management.
- Human resources support: Shelter Coordinator, Communications (UAV) and Advocacy, and Resource Mobilisation.



National Society Strengthening

- NSD activities will be developed in line with the ERCS Strategic Objectives and the IFRC Africa Preparedness and Readiness Pan-African Initiative 2024 Plan, with the goal of enhancing response capacity in line with their auxiliary role.
- This will include strengthening response capacity at the national and branch levels in search and rescue, retrieval, safe and dignified burials, replenishment and new disaster preparedness stocks, warehousing, fleet, PMER, financial management, support to the EOC, volunteer management, and NDRT development and training. Particular attention will be given to lessons learned from this response.
- Volunteers’ duty of care will be emphasised through the appropriate management services, provision of PPE, training, and accident insurance.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of launching this appeal. Details of the operation will be updated in the Operational Strategy to be published in the coming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirements.

After 31 July 2025, response activities to this disaster will continue under [the IFRC Network Ethiopia Country Plan for 2025](#). The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country’s action. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned time.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY



Ethiopian Red Cross Society

Core areas of operation	
Number of staff:	2,218

Number of volunteers:	258,525
Number of zonal branches	39
Number of Woreda branches	182
Kebele Red Cross Committees	5,580
Trained NDRT/BDRT	16/229

The ERCS’s auxiliary status to the public authorities allows for faster access and outreach to areas that are relatively sensitive and not easily accessed by other humanitarian actors. The organisation has a privileged core capacity to exist and operate at the local level, which fosters broad acceptance among different communities, and has not been constrained in terms of access to the entirety of Ethiopia’s affected regions.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC has a Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Ethiopia, which also covers Djibouti, and is supported by the Africa Regional Office in Nairobi. The delegation is staffed by international and national experts in programmes and operations, and quality and accountability management. The IFRC cluster supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in operational implementation, reporting, and accountability. It also supports strategic coordination with

in-country PNSs, the ICRC, and external actors, and actively engages in humanitarian diplomacy and resource mobilisation to support the response. The IFRC Africa Regional Office in Nairobi is a backstop multi-technical hub to support the capacity of cluster operations while strengthening coordination and accountability services, including finance, PMER, risk management, communications, and resource mobilisation.

Through its already established Movement Operational Coordination (MOC) platform, the IFRC has been providing information on the current situation, coordinating the flow of information, and mobilising resources. It has deployed two staff members to support the ERCS's resource mobilisation and coordination efforts to reach people in need of humanitarian assistance and has initiated coordination with the national PNS for humanitarian assistance in the disaster-affected areas of the Gofa Zone in the southern region and Gurage Zone in the central region.

PNSs in the country - Austrian, Canadian, Danish, Finnish, German, Italian, the Netherlands, Norwegian, and Swiss Red Cross Societies have a presence in Ethiopia, while others, such as the British Red Cross, are remote partners. PNSs are an integral part of the response to the Gofa landslide crisis in Ethiopia and are expected to contribute and report either bilaterally or multilaterally as part of a Federation-wide approach. PNSs support different operational areas across the country in priority areas of need, interest, and expertise. There is activated coordination mechanism among all partners to mobilize resources, Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) has approved 15,000 Euro contribution, while German Red Cross is planning to contribute 280,000 Euro, subject to donor approval. PNS are also supporting with NLRC as dialogue lead is liaising with ECHO, and other partners with engagement with their government and back donors.

ICRC

The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) has a delegation in Addis Ababa and four sub-delegations, Gondar, Jigjiga, Mekelle, and Nekemte, and provides services to communities affected by conflict with multiple interventions. In addition to its specific operations, the ICRC supports the ERCS in different regions of the country through its annual Cooperation Programme.

External coordination

The Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) established at the woreda level in Sawla Town is the main coordination platform for the humanitarian response. The senior EDRMC team deployed to the area, including the Commissioner of the EDRMC, is providing leadership. United Nations and partner-deployed teams are supporting the ECC. The National Emergency Coordination Centre (NECC) will continue to be the coordination body at the Addis Ababa level.

The ERCS is represented in clusters and participates in an inter-agency working group and is also represented in a number of sectoral clusters, including cash, food security, nutrition, shelter/essential household items, protection, and education. The ERCS works with the EDRMC at the NHQ and regional levels, as well as with the DRMC. The ERCS further participates in the Inter-agency Country Coordination Group (ICCG) and is active in the WASH cluster, which is co-chaired by the Dutch Red Cross and the Austrian Red Cross; the cash working group is co-chaired by the IFRC and the Swiss Red Cross; and the protection cluster is co-chaired by the Danish Red Cross.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and the government, through the NDRM, co-lead the overall in-country coordination. An inter-agency rapid assessment team, coordinated by OCHA, including WFP and DSS, has deployed a team to conduct an assessment. A response plan is currently being developed with humanitarian partners, and this will be presented to stakeholders in the coming days.

Contact information

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

At the Ethiopian Red Cross Society:

- **Secretary General** - Getachew Ta'a; email: ercs.sg@redcrosseth.org
- **Deputy Secretary General**: Abera Lulessa; email: ercs.dsg@redcrosseth.org
- **Operational coordination**: Dires Desyibelew; email: dires.desyibelew@redcrosseth.org

At the IFRC:

- **IFRC Country Delegation (or Country Cluster Delegation)**: Paula Fitzgerald, Head of Country Cluster Delegation; email: paula.fitzgerald@ifrc.org, phone: +251 906 997 720
- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa**: Rui Alberto Oliveira, Regional Operations Lead; email: rui.oliveira@ifrc.org, phone: +254 780 422276
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For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

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For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit**: Allan Kilaka Masavah, Head, Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management, Africa; email: allan.masavah@ifrc.org +254 113 834 921

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

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa** Beatrice Okeyo, Head of PMER & QA, email: beatrice.okeyo@ifrc.org, phone: +254732 404022

Reference



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