Millions of children, women and men face starvation and disease. Without urgent action, the crisis will continue to spiral out of control. Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers, who live in the communities under threat, are working to break this preventable cycle of drought, food shortage, disease and death. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are racing to help stop the crisis. Our three key priorities are to:

- Reach remote and underserviced areas.
- Respond through our volunteer network to help communities prevent and treat malnutrition and disease.
- Build community resilience through programmes that restore dignity and strengthen food security and reduce need in the future.

IFRC appeal

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) is providing vulnerable communities, especially children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers, with supplementary food, improved malnutrition screening and referral, support to community health services, improved access to safe water and hygiene promotion, and reinforce family livelihoods and coping mechanisms.

IFRC impact to date

- Food distribution for over 700 pregnant and lactating women and 2,300 children under five.
- Hygiene promotion and nutrition messages for nearly 900 households.
- Post-distribution visits to 4,500 households.
- A WASH needs assessment conducted for a sample of 280 households.
- Community-based health care, first aid training and tool kits provided for 75 volunteers.
- Household awareness sessions on hygiene and sanitation, acute watery diarrhoea, identification and monitoring of severe acute malnutrition cases and linking with the health facilities.
- Supplementary feeding for over 56,500 children under five, and pregnant and lactating women, with a cost of 840,000 Swiss francs covered through ERCS’ own national and regional fundraising efforts.

IFRC urgent actions

Food security and nutrition
Provision of supplementary food rations, animal restocking, provision of animal fodder and agricultural seeds.

Health
Screening, referral and registration for children and pregnant and lactating women with acute malnutrition.

Water, sanitation and hygiene
Water purification tools, storage containers and buckets, water seal communal latrines, rehabilitation of wells, springs, dams and ponds.

National capacity
Training for community-based first aid and health, provision of first aid kits and mobile phones for reporting.

Community engagement
Health, hygiene and sanitation promotion for schools and households.

Volunteering
38,355 active volunteers.

Key figures

7.7 million people
in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.

35 out of 50 ponds
in some areas have dried up, with others contaminated by faeces.

50 per cent
drop in school attendance in some areas due to lack of water.

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