



# THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

## ETHIOPIA

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The **INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC)** currently works throughout Ethiopia, in 4 refugee camps and with local drought-affected and displaced populations. In the camps, IRC works with Sudanese refugees who fled the 21-year civil war in Sudan, Eritrean refugees who fled during the Ethiopia-Eritrea border war of 1998-2000, and Somali refugees largely from the Mogadishu area who are awaiting better conditions in the capital before returning home. IRC currently provides services for 38,334 refugees and 182,621 Ethiopians; these activities indirectly aid another 730,000 people. IRC Ethiopia provides emergency education, both formal and non-formal, psychosocial support for youth, community services, water supply improvement, sanitation promotion, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, and reproductive health education and services. The IRC has just begun working on a special initiative over the next 4 years to reduce the number of children involved in the worst forms of child labor. The IRC has also just begun implementing a project to improve the livelihoods of drought-affected Ethiopians through agricultural and health interventions. IRC Ethiopia draws on the IRC's Program Framework to inform all its programming; this is done by following the five guiding principles of Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, Participation, Capacity Building, Partnership and Holistic Programming.

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)** IRC Ethiopia introduced GIS into its program with satellite images, digitized maps and aerial photograph features. This information, combined with data collected in the field with GPS units, allows IRC to determine areas of potable water deficit and to produce a groundwater potential map of the zone. The GIS program is being used to analyze the impact of different socio-economic and infrastructural factors on school enrolment and dropout rates in schools by mapping water sources, sanitation facilities, and school availability. This information will be used to develop strategies to reduce girls' domestic workloads so they can attend school and to reduce overall dropout rates in schools.

**EDUCATION** The IRC works to increase the quality of education in the refugee camps by constructing new school classrooms, providing teacher training, launching pre-schools, establishing club-led youth projects and developing non-formal education programs for adults. The non-formal education program targets adults and out of school youth, offering classes in literacy and numeracy. Girls' education is promoted through distribution of sanitary napkins and pants to all girls and women aged 13 and up and through awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of sending girls to school. Youth clubs participate in community service projects such as assisting the elderly and educating the community on environmental and animal-care issues.



**COMMUNITY SERVICES** Through its community services programs, IRC works to increase community representation of vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, and the disabled and assists in the removal of barriers to their access of camp services. Vulnerable groups receive vocational skills training in skills such as embroidery, tailoring, masonry, carpentry, and soap making, and small grants are provided to assist these groups in setting up small businesses such as tea shops, bakeries, and laundry shops.

**HIV/AIDS & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH** IRC's HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health program organizes awareness-raising campaigns, collects data on usage of services, trains community health workers, shows educational videos, distributes condoms to refugees, increases access and awareness of family planning methods, and, in one camp, operates a Voluntary Counseling and Testing center. The program also works with youth groups to create context-appropriate educational materials such as t-shirts, posters, murals, songs, and poetry for event days such as World AIDS Day.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH** IRC maintains and improves water supply systems by building new structures including pit latrines and waste pits, drilling boreholes, and educating the refugee and local communities on sanitation and hygiene. Additionally, IRC distributes mosquito nets to stem rampant malaria. In all sites, IRC works closely with the local water bureau to build capacity and transfer knowledge.

### **PROGRAM STRATEGY**

IRC Ethiopia is committed to protecting and improving the livelihoods of refugees, refugee host communities, internally displaced persons, disaster affected and disaster prone populations as well as conflict-impacted communities by providing a well balanced mix of emergency relief, rehabilitation and development oriented programs that focus on participation, capacity building and sustainable self-reliance.

### **OPERATIONS STAFFING**

IRC Ethiopia operates with 7 expatriate staff members and 145 national staff.

### **BUDGET**

In the 2005 fiscal year, IRC Ethiopia has an operating budget of \$5.5 million USD. Funding for IRC Ethiopia programming was provided by OFDA, USBPRM, PEPFAR, UNHCR, UNFPA, WFP, the Band Aid Trust, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Ambassador's Fund. Thus far, donors for the 2006 fiscal year are the same as for fiscal year 2005.

### **OPERATIONS**

IRC Ethiopia has 6 operating offices: Addis Ababa, Assosa, Shire, Jijiga, Chagni, and Asebe Teferi.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

IRC Ethiopia is pleased to share any additional information about its current programming or concepts for future projects.

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