



SUDAN: DROUGHT

Appeal no. 11/2001
2 March 2001

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS A NET TOTAL OF CHF 2,582,404
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 289,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 6 MONTHS***

Summary

Severe drought across many parts of Sudan is affecting several million people, many of whom are at acute risk of severe food insecurity over the coming months. Low and sporadic rainfall has severely affected agricultural production and depleted water resources. Stagnation in the livestock trade has reduced access to this traditional source of extra income, hence further eroding the coping capacities of the affected communities. A low immunisation coverage and the usual health risks related to a scarcity of safe drinking water threatens to increase the incidence of mortality and morbidity through preventable diseases. Access to safe water, as well as emergency food and medical care have been identified as the most critical interventions required.

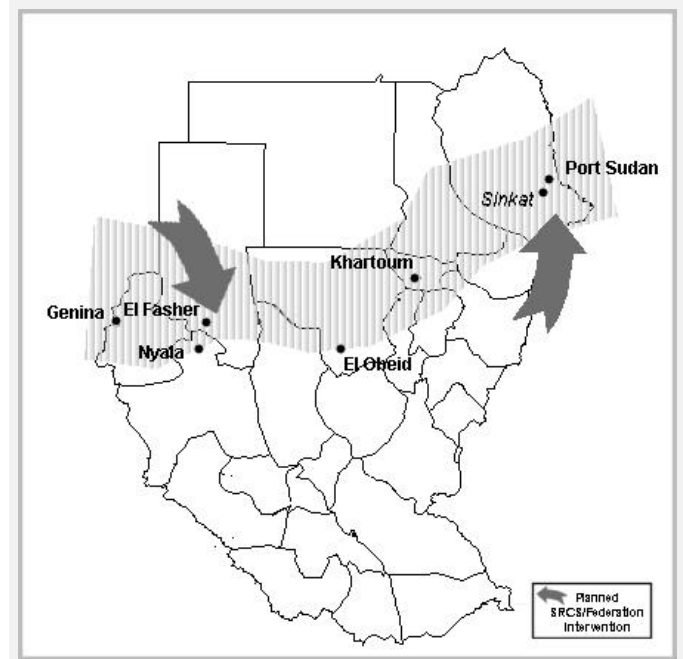
After consultation with the government and other partners and detailed field assessments, the Sudanese Red Crescent/Federation have decided to concentrate relief activities in three areas (North and South Darfur and Red Sea States) for a period of six months.

The Disaster

Low and sporadic rainfall (100-200 mm compared to an annual average of 400 mm) has severely affected agricultural production and has depleted water resources. Livestock is dying as pasture and grazing lands become unproductive, and water is increasingly unavailable. The price of food staples in the markets has increased dramatically over recent weeks, and the value of the pastoralists' livestock has correspondingly decreased. In normal times, a goat can be exchanged for one bag (90 kgs) grain; now between five and six goats are required. Statistics from the Red Sea State veterinary department, for example, show that over the last two years the total number of the pastoralists' animals has reduced by over 21% for sheep and 9% for cattle and goats.

The most vulnerable people are either subsistence farmers or small scale pastoralists whose means of livelihood is now threatened by the drought: many of the poorer families have already lost or traded all their animals. Sudanese Red Crescent (SRCS) assessments in early February indicated that 80% of households interviewed in the Sinkat and Gebiet localities (Red Sea State) already had no animals left.

A secondary source of income - from agricultural labouring - is also becoming scarce and families are beginning to migrate further to try to find work. Although traditional in March or April, in Darfur this migration has already been taking place since September 2000.



The lack of water is also causing growing concern for the overall health of those affected. More than half of all surface water sources are dry and others will soon be depleted. Many of the water yards and hand-pumps are non-functional. Access to health and sanitation facilities, already low in normal times, is being further reduced as people move to find food and water. An already-low expanded programme of immunisation (EPI) coverage and the usual health risks related to a scarcity of safe drinking water are bound to lead to a sharp rise in mortality and morbidity due to waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, scabies, dysentery, and conjunctivitis.

The nutritional status of the population is expected to deteriorate rapidly unless an additional provision of food can be assured until the next harvest. While some 10 million people in total live in the worst affected areas, international NGOs and the United Nations estimate that some 2.1 million people in the northern half of Sudan are at risk, excluding those in the east of the country: the Red Sea and Kassala States.

As part of the effort coordinated by the government to manage the situation, and in close conjunction with other national and international agencies, the Red Cross/Red Crescent focus is on areas/sectors not covered by others, notably in the States of Red Sea in the north-east and Southern and Northern Darfur in the west of the country.

The Response so far

Government Action w

The government of Sudan (GoS), under the office of the humanitarian aid commission (HAC), is coordinating the data gathering and practical response of all partners. Chaired by the vice-president, the higher committee on humanitarian aid policy is monitoring the developments at the federal level; a new food security emergency committee, led by HAC is composed of various ministries and UN agencies. Four sub-committees focus on food assistance and nutrition, agriculture and animal resources, water and sanitation, and information. International and national agencies are participating in these committees with the SRCS playing an active role.

Realizing the depth of the problem in late 2000, the GoS started to boost its response. The government has already taken the following steps:

- The provision of subsidized food to stabilise the markets in parts of Darfur and Kordofan;
- Plans to increase imports of food to support the provision of relief supplies;
- Interventions in parts of Red Sea State to control commercial food hoarding;
- The removal of import tariffs for the commercial import of grains;
- Provision of some financing to support emergency water interventions.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

The SRCS branch network, and its large numbers of volunteers, has also been monitoring the situation for several months and is working closely with the government. In cooperation with the Spanish Red Cross in Darfur, the SRCS is scaling up and adapting its ongoing water projects to the emergency situation.

In January/February two field assessment teams (composed of staff from the SRCS, the delegation, the regional delegation for East Africa and several PNS delegates) undertook comprehensive field assessments in South and North Darfur and in Red Sea States. The plans of action and budgets are the results of these assessments. At headquarters, an emergency committee has been established to coordinate the response.

Other Agencies' Action w

The United Nations in Sudan in conjunction with the GoS, has compiled the most urgent needs in the field of food, water, health, education and agriculture in a revision to the CAP 2001 (consolidated appeal process). The World Food Programme has decided to concentrate its emergency response efforts in support of approximately half a million people in seven states, through an emergency operation aiming to supply approximately 50,000 mt of food. CARE, SCF (UK) and other international agencies are likely to be the distributing partners for this aid and additional food supplies. An early warning system and regular monitoring of household food security has been ongoing in the Darfurs for a number of years. The availability of this data and information on market trends has contributed to highly reliable estimates of the food gap and overall knowledge of the household economy in the region.

Co-ordination w

The responsibility for overall co-ordination rests with the HAC at national and regional levels. To date this has been very good, and has ensured that each region is adequately covered by at least one agency. The international NGOs meet regularly, WFP has recently informed donor representatives about the current situation, OCHA is coordinating the UN response and the European Union has held meetings for coordination of its planned support.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

Two assessment teams were deployed in Sudan between 31 January and 8 February, to collect data and verify information available from other sources. Copies of the two teams' reports will be available in full with all collected data if required. Clear priority areas for SRCS interventions were identified by the teams.

In North Darfur, consensus exists amongst all parties that water is the critical sector at present, and the supply of technical support and spare parts to rehabilitate handpumps in priority areas is most important in a short term perspective. The distribution of seeds at a later date would be the next priority in time to prepare for the next harvest. (In this State, food distributions are likely to be handled by other agencies).

In South Darfur, food distributions are now the top priority area for Red Cross / Red Crescent input, targeting some 88,000 people. Seeds are also required.

As a second priority, CBFA volunteers will receive additional training and be involved in reporting and data collection.

In Red Sea State, the first priority is urgent supplementary food intervention to the most vulnerable groups in order to improve the nutritional status and prevent potential population movements. Access to health services for the targeted food beneficiaries needs augmenting as a second priority. The third priority would be the rehabilitation of water resources, especially handpumps in rural areas which have become unusable. The water supply situation in and around Sinkat town is already desperate, and the people who have migrated there have no access to clean water. Water distribution to five urban distribution centres may be implemented by the SRCS as a temporary emergency measure if sufficient supplies of clean water can be confirmed and transported to Sinkat town by the authorities.

A Federation/SRCS initiated nutritional survey in Red Sea state is underway and will provide baseline data for the planned intervention.

The World Food Programme has agreed to make 7,000 mt of food available for SRCS distribution (2,000 mt in Darfur and 5,000 mt in Red Sea State), and will ensure delivery to the final distribution points. The food basket is to be made up of sorghum, beans and oil.

Immediate Needs •

The SRCS will be involved in food distribution (using WFP supplies) in South Darfur and the Red Sea States (in North Darfur, food assistance will be the responsibility of SCF (UK)). The SRCS will concentrate on the rehabilitation and repair of existing water sources (open wells, boreholes and handpumps), which are the most important interventions in the short term perspective, and on mitigation of distress migration.

Anticipated Later Needs •

Rehabilitation of water resources will continue to be the most needed assistance to affected areas. There is also a clear need for improved data collection and early warning systems in Red Sea to provide a better basis for decisions on modes of assistance. To restore production levels of affected farming households, distributions of seeds and tools are anticipated in South and North Darfur.

Red Cross Objectives •

North Darfur (total number of targeted beneficiaries: 33,000)

- ◆ To mitigate distress migration;
- ◆ To promote sustainable use of handpumps and efficient use of water resources and increase community awareness of health promoting hygiene practices;
- ◆ To restore normal production levels in severely affected farming households.

South Darfur (total number of targeted beneficiaries: 88,000)

- ◆ To mitigate distress migration;
- ◆ To stabilize and reduce community health vulnerabilities and institute a surveillance regime;
- ◆ To restore normal production levels in severely affected farming households.

Red Sea (total number of targeted beneficiaries: 168,000)

- ◆ To address the immediate humanitarian needs of drought affected persons in Sinkat and Red Sea provinces;
- ◆ To support community based data collection systems for health and nutrition indicators in Sinkat and Red Sea provinces, in cooperation with concerned parties;

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: March - June 2001 •

North Darfur

Water is the critical sector at present. The SRCS/Federation plan to supply technical support and spare parts to rehabilitate 30 handpumps and five boreholes in priority areas not covered by support from others. In addition, training of 24 village health committees (VHCs) to deliver community health messages, particularly on water management, hygiene promotion and sanitation but also on handpump maintenance will be carried out. ARCHI tool kits, adapted to the Sudanese environment and translated into Arabic, will be used.

South Darfur

The SRCS State branch is well positioned to be involved as a major partner to WFP, having participated actively in the food needs assessment and the recently initiated registration exercise in Shiarria province. The support is expected to include the distribution of some 9,000 mt of food commodities to 88,000 beneficiaries. In view of the impending emergency and inadequacy of the current health care system, SRCS will increase numbers from 50 to 400 community health workers for health promotion in rural communities north of Nyala. Training will also cover surveillance and reinforcing of the reporting component so that the branch can provide reliable and current data on the development of the situation.

Red Sea

The SRCS, as implementing partner to WFP, will distribute supplementary food (half rations) to 113,000 persons in Sinkat and Red Sea provinces, through five distribution points in Sinkat and two in Red Sea. Local relief committees will be mobilised to assist in verification and registration of beneficiaries and in food distribution. Health interventions will include distribution of drugs and referral services via established government structures for displaced persons and rural settlers, increasing the target population to 168,200. Two hundred and ten trained volunteers will promote health behaviour messages through education sessions and community mobilisation and participation, some for women only. Special training of volunteers in the nomadic groups is planned. Maintenance of 60 open wells and 80 handpumps are the next level priority.

Trucking of water to five designated distribution points (within 5kms of Sinkat town) has been identified as an urgent need to assist those families already displaced to Sinkat. This activity is heavily dependent on input from the authorities, and would only be undertaken as a temporary emergency intervention.

A further need is to assist displaced persons, currently estimated at 15,000, and shelter materials and blankets will be distributed. There is also a planned follow-up of the nutritional survey conducted in late February, through a system for regular collection of data on health, nutrition and food security in order to better assess the impact of the food distribution.

Phase Two: July - August 2001 •

North and South Darfur

Distribution of millet seed to affected farming families (75% of whom are severely affected) - many exhausted their stocks in repeated sowings this season - will be an essential component of recovery. In the revised CAP 2001, FAO is appealing for seeds and tools and SRCS would be the implementing partner in the selected areas in Darfur.

Should the situation deteriorate rapidly during the next few months, forced migration will create additional demands.

Red Sea

The need for improved availability of strategic health and nutrition information is the rationale behind SRCS plans to engage its volunteers in collection of data in Sinkat and Red Sea provinces. With the MICS (multiple indicators cluster survey) data collected in late 2000 expected to be released soon and a nutritional survey initiated by the Federation and the National Society in February 2001, the SRCS data collection project is expected to fall under a more permanent structure during the second phase of the operation. Although the main objective is to concentrate on health and nutrition data, SRCS is also prepared to reestablish and strengthen the food security monitoring system (market prices, livestock conditions, population movement, rainfall and crop situation), established some years ago with Oxfam and relevant authorities.

Capacity of the National Society •

SRCS, its State branches and some 25,000 active volunteers have played a substantial role in alleviating the suffering of people during all emergencies which have hit the country in the 1980s and 1990s. The State branches now in focus were very active during the famine of 1984/85 and were engaged in emergency interventions in 1995/97. SRCS at all levels has retained experienced staff. With this ready advantage, the key shortage is access to transportation and the need for rapid training of volunteers who were not involved in earlier disaster response projects.

The North Darfur Branch has 18 volunteer units with the largest, El Fasher, made up of 1,650 members; five hundred volunteers can be mobilised quickly. One staff member is responsible for water projects and involved in activities carried out by volunteer health committees, responsible for water management in their villages. Fifty per cent of the VHC members are Red Crescent volunteers.

In South Darfur, the SRCS State branch is an active member of the humanitarian community with a close collaborative relationship with HAC and regular involvement in surveys, assessments and surveillance activities. The volunteer base of the branch is strong and dynamic. In Adaan, the volunteers are working in food distribution and camp management for IDPs. In both North and South Darfur, the Spanish Red Cross has been active for more than two years with SRCS in water resourcing and water and sanitation projects.

Red Sea State branch has been involved in major relief operations, especially in Sinkat province and presently in Halayeb province, distributing food to drought victims. The branch has a considerable logistics capacity including a 4,000 sqm warehouse in Port Sudan and rubb-halls in three locations. Some 1,500 active volunteers are available, most of them in Sinkat and Port Sudan towns.

Present Capacity of the Federation in Sudan •

The country delegation in Sudan is not operational. This is underlining the advisory and consultative role vis-à-vis the National Society. At the moment, the delegation consists of three delegates and eight professional staff. It is located in the premises of the National Society. One main objective of the country delegation is the creation and strengthening of disaster preparedness capacities and, in times of emergencies, initiating the necessary co-ordination for optimal disaster response.

Further technical delegates, particularly in the fields of water and sanitation and health, would be available to provide support from the regional delegation in Nairobi.

To be able to assist the SRCS in implementing the proposed drought operation, four additional delegates are required: a relief coordinator to support the SRCS headquarters; water and sanitation delegates in North Darfur and Red Sea and a relief delegate in South Darfur (for food distribution).

Evaluation •

An external evaluation will be conducted at the close of the operation to assess the impact, to document lessons and to make proposals for RC/RC long term intervention to reduce vulnerability by addressing some of the underlying causes.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

At present, few of the classic warning signs of an acute drought emergency can be confirmed: there is no large scale distress migration, animal mortality figures are not yet high and human morbidity/mortality figures are not increasing rapidly. Market indications, however, are worrying and the insufficiency of available surface water to sustain the population and livestock over the six coming summer months is not in dispute. If access to food and water is not augmented by April-May, significant distress migration, notably in the west, will surely occur. An early response to this subtle disaster will undoubtedly save lives and alleviate the suffering of thousands more of the most vulnerable. The Federation, with the National Society, is well prepared to assist in a well coordinated effort to bring food, water and health services to the affected areas, once this appeal is covered.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

		ANNEX 1
<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 11/2001
Sudan - drought		
TYPE		VALUE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>		IN CHF
Shelter & constructions		204,000
Blankets		42,000
Food (provided by WFP): 7,000 mts		3,000,000
Water and sanitation		305,500
Medical & first aid		42,000
Utensils & tools		27,500
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		3,621,000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Vehicles (2 Landcruisers)		75,000
Computers		7,000
Telecom. equipment		40,000
Office furniture & equipment		21,000
Generators & lightning		28,000
Other equipment		5,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management		376,422
Technical support		112,681
Professional services		124,962
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		209,800
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff (4 delegates - 6 months)		240,000
National RC & temporary staff		483,108
Training		18,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses		4,940
Information expenses		55,620
Administrative & general expenses		159,872
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		1,961,404
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		5,582,404
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (food from WFP)		(3,000,000)
NET REQUEST		2,582,404