

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SUDAN: FLOODS IN KASSALA STATE

12 August 2003

Appeal No. 19/2003; Operations Update no. 2

Appeal launched on 5 August 2003 for CHF 1,917,000 (USD 1,412,563 EUR 1,250,535) to assist 140,000 beneficiaries on a preliminary basis for 3 months.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000

Period covered: August 7 – 12, 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 69.7%; for details please refer to the attached Contributions List, also available on the Federation's website.

Outstanding needs: With the contributions and pledges currently being confirmed with donors and/or recorded in the Federation's system (to be reflected in the next Operations Update to be issued shortly), this appeal is very close to full coverage.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeal for Sudan (no. 01.10/2003) and Sudan Drought (no. 17/2003)

Operational Summary: With timely and effective donor support, this appeal is now almost fully covered. A Water and Sanitation Emergency Response Unit (ERU) deployed by the German and Austrian Red Cross Societies arrived in Kassala on 8 August. The second team is due to arrive on 14 August after a 24-hour delay caused by a technical problem with the aircraft. The complete ERU has the capacity of assisting up to 100,000 people. The Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC) completed its house-to-house campaigns and continues to provide preventive and curative health services through 8 clinics. Other clinics will be set up as appropriate. The SRC in collaboration with the WFP distributed token cards to 700 families in Wau Nur area. Fifteen SRC volunteers also participated in the distribution of food items to 120 families in Alramla area consisting of flour, lentils, oil and sugar donated by the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent.

While the SRC, with effective support provided by the Federation, is prepared to respond should the situation deteriorate with regards to flooding in other areas (including a potential revision of this appeal to respond to any new needs), at this moment the needs articulated in appeal and budget remain valid. Further operational developments will be communicated shortly.

Operational developments

Continuous rainfall in Eritrean highlands and in Kassala severely hampered the distribution of relief goods to the affected population. Despite this, the SRC was able to complete the identification and registration of those affected by the floods disaster. The distribution of relief items received from the Federation's stock in Amman commenced today (Wednesday 13 August). The second consignment of relief items from Amman is also due to arrive in Kassala on 13 August (for details please refer to the mobilization tables available on the Federation's Disaster Management

Information System, or DMIS; contact person: Armen Petrosyan, Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department; email: armen.petrosyan@ifrc.org).

Kassala is still at risk of further flooding given the temporary dam repairs and the weather forecasts that predict more storms and rain. The water level of the Gash River constantly rises and falls depending on the rainfall in the region or in the neighbouring Eritrean highlands. The water levels had stabilized back to normal levels at the time of writing this report.

51 metric tonnes of relief goods from Amman consisting of 400 rolls of plastic sheeting, 16,000 blankets, 8,000 jerry cans and 4,950 kg of soap arrived yesterday (12 August), accompanied by a logistics delegate from Amman. Their distribution is scheduled to begin on 13 August.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress and impact

The human resources required to carry out the operation is now in place; 1,000 SRC volunteers and 260 staff are assigned to the operation in Kassala, in addition to the 7 member ERU team. The SRC and the ERU team were also supported by the Federation's regional water and sanitation delegate, the regional disaster preparedness and response Delegate, and a Federation coordinator based in Khartoum.

Health

Water borne diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea in particular have risen sharply in the past six days; stagnant pools of water have exacerbated this since no spraying has taken place so far. The SRC clinic through its surveillance system and network of volunteers report a daily increase in cases of diarrhoea and malaria. During the period of 5-9 August, the cases of diarrhoea steadily increased from 2.6% to 12.8%. Prior to the floods the SRC clinics had recorded 19.9% of malaria cases among people being served at the clinics; this had risen to 41% by 9 August.

There is a need for drugs and medical supplies. Some of these needs will be covered with two New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK) and one Cholera Kit scheduled to arrive in Kassala by 13 August with the second consignment of ERU equipment from Germany.

The SRC in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health have started impregnation of mosquito nets; 600 pieces are ready for use.

Water and sanitation

A German and Austrian Red Cross Water and Sanitation ERU consisting of two modules capable of supplying and distributing potable water as well as mass sanitation services arrived in Kassala on 8 August. The items in this first ERU consignment included 2,000 blankets; 2,000 mosquito nets; the two ERU Mass Sanitation Modules; spraying equipment and vector control materials; 6 VHF handsets for the SRC Kassala branch; and one land cruiser vehicle. A second plane carrying the rest of the supplies is scheduled to arrive in Kassala by 13 August.

The Ministry of Health and OCHA have requested the Red Cross ERU team to take over the distribution of drinking water. The team will also rehabilitate latrines during the emergency phase to be followed by reconstruction of the destroyed latrines. The SRC and the ERU team are now in the process of establishing water distribution points; the production of 4,000 slabs has already begun. The team has taken a first sample from affected boreholes to test for E coli.

The water and sanitation ERU is expected to be fully operational by 16 August and potable water should be available to the inhabitants of Kassala. Twenty SRC volunteers have been identified to assist with the distribution of water.

Distribution of emergency relief items

Over two hundred SRC volunteers and staff took part in the identification and registration of persons in need of relief services; 14,000 families have been identified, out of which the State Emergency Committee has requested the SRC to provide services to 8,000. The remaining 6,000 families will be covered by other agencies.

The SRC has subsequently prioritized 2,000 families for immediate emergency relief assistance and has completed their full registration. The SRC is searching for new warehousing facilities as the present one is too close to the Gash River and might be affected if flooding continues. Two smaller warehouses are now under consideration.

The distribution of relief commodities consisting of sorghum and oil donated by WFP to 1,812 families in Albanat area started on 12 August after the rain had stopped. The distribution of token cards for 1,527 families in Bereyai area was also completed. In the Sinnar and Rabat areas, the Spanish Red Cross has provided 316 affected families with plastic sheets, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, blankets, utensils and jerry cans.

Federation coordination

The Federation Secretariat in Geneva, its Sudan Country Delegation and Nairobi Regional Delegation have continued to support the operation with technical and coordination services. The ICRC deployed two trucks, one light vehicle and three drivers to Kassala on 10 August to assist in transporting relief items to the distribution centres and warehouses.

A logistics delegate who accompanied the relief items from the Amman Delegation has also been seconded to Kassala to assist in their distribution. Bilateral representatives of the Spanish and Netherlands Red Cross Societies continue to support the SRC.

National Society Capacity Building

In order to build its water and sanitation capacities, the SRC will identify 10 volunteers and staff from other flood prone regions to be seconded to the relief team in Kassala for hands-on training. It is expected that in the post-emergency phase, health, water and sanitation activities of the national society will be consolidated under a health and care unit. The Federation's Nairobi Regional Delegation will support the SRC with this effort.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

During the period covered, the Regional Information Unit together with the media service of the Secretariat issued two news releases. Three feature articles were published (www.ifrc.org one, and www.alertnet.org two) on the current disaster and the response of the SRC and sister national societies through the International Federation.

Media interest in the Sudan floods has noticeably increased; several interviews and briefings were given by phone to a number of news media such as CNN, BBC French and English services, AFP, Reuters, UN Radio, Radio France, Radio Vatican, and WRG. The regional water and sanitation delegate and the regional disaster preparedness delegate both gave numerous telephone interviews, including to the Arabic radio programme of the United Nations by the latter. This follows specific efforts by both the regional information unit and the Secretariat to alert the media who also gave numerous interviews themselves. A press officer from the Federation's Media Service Department briefed Geneva-based news organisations on 8 August at the United Nations press room.

The deployment of the German Red Cross ERU unit on 9 August was followed by an increased interest of the German media and the news agency Deutsche Presse Agentur to the events in Kassala. A German Red Cross information delegate was deployed on 10 August from Nairobi to Kassala. The response of the Red Cross and the government of Germany was publicised through its web site. Websites of national societies have also gradually picked up on the Sudan floods situation.

The level of technical preparedness of the Federation's Nairobi Regional Delegation's Information unit for rapid deployment of personnel to the field has been improved with immediate effect. Two information delegates are on stand-by to respond to a possible deterioration of the flood situation in the Sudan. An information officer from the

Kenya Red Cross Society has also been put on alert for the eventuality of having an opportunity to build regional capacity in this important field of disaster response expertise.

For further details please contact:

- *Omer Osman, Secretary General, SRC, Khartoum, mobile: +249 12307 41*
- *Atoussa K. Parsey, Federation Coordinator, Khartoum, mobile: + 249 121580 15 or + 249 122 799 31
email: ifrcsd04@ifrc.org*
- *Erja Reinikainen, Regional Delegation Programme Coordinator, Phone 254 20 271 425; Fax 254 20 271 8415; email ifrcke69@ifrc.org*
- *Martin Zak, Head of Operations, Africa, Phone: +41 22 730 4551, email: martin.zak@ifrc.org*

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Sudan - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 19/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13.08.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					1'917'200		TOTAL COVERAGE 69.7%
DANISH - RC		277'500	DKK	57'859	08.08.03		
FINNISH - RC		30'000	EUR	46'470	06.08.03		
JAPANESE - RC		46'600	USD	63'609	08.08.03		
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'000'000	NOK	189'750	08.08.03		
SWEDISH - GOVT		700'000	SEK	118'300	12.08.03		
SWISS - RC				5'525	07.08.03		PROGRAMME SUPPORT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				481'513	CHF		25.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRIAN - GOVT/RC				200'681	12.08.03	ERU
GERMAN - GOVT/RC				336'835	12.08.03	ERU
GERMAN - GOVT		149'922	EUR	232'229	12.08.03	RELIEF ITEMS
SWISS - RC				85'000	07.08.03	RELIEF ITEMS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				854'745	CHF	44.6%