

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

26 August 2006

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No.MDRSD002; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 19 August to 25 August 2006; Appeal coverage: 3.3%; <[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List](#)>

Appeal history:

- **Preliminary Appeal** – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRSD002.pdf> – **launched on 19 August 2006 for CHF 607,407 (USD 492,625 or EUR 386,146) for 6 months to assist 3,000 families (15,000 beneficiaries).**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 225,000.**

Outstanding needs: CHF 589,512 (USD 478,111 or EUR 374,769).

Related Emergency Appeals: South Sudan: Cholera – <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRSD001.pdf> – **Appeal no. MDRSD001.**

Operational Summary: Upon request from the Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC), the Federation launched the floods Preliminary Appeal on behalf of the national society (NS) so as to support its efforts in responding to the flooding situation following torrential rains since the beginning of August. One of the key activities was to conduct an assessment of the impact of the floods on the population in the affected region by availing Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) personnel to support the NS in undertaking the assessment.

Initial response of more than 1,000 SRC volunteers continued in various affected areas, providing assistance and support to the communities. The activities of the volunteers included; evacuation, provision of shelter, first aid and home nursing. Several of the SRC state branches have their response teams on stand-by, should there be more flooding. These teams include people specially trained to deal with floods and health emergencies. Branch volunteers are working tirelessly on evacuation, distribution of necessities such as tarpaulins, as well as providing first aid services and psychological support. The volunteers are also managing temporary camps that have been set up for the displaced, helping people erect tents, mobilizing and helping the population to dig latrines and registering newcomers to the camps.

The NS has also established health units in each camp in cooperation with the state's Department of Health and Health Insurance. It has brought in and installed water bladders filled with water in collaboration with fire fighting units. Over the next few days, the volunteers will start raising health awareness in the camps and promoting good hygiene.

As the volunteers continue providing essential services, SRC the disaster management staff – augmented by the Federation's Sudan delegation, the SRC National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), RDRT-trained personnel and a number of partner national societies (PNSs) operational in the country – continue assessing the situation and preparing for stepping up the Red Cross/Red Crescent response to the growing emergency.

The plan outlined in the Preliminary Emergency Appeal is to provide relief assistance to 3,000 identified households (15,000 people) in four regions – Khartoum, Sinnar, Kassala and Hamadab. The assistance will include; provision of tarpaulins, blankets, mats, jerry cans, soap, aqua tabs (for purifying drinking water) and insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs). In addition, the SRC volunteers will continue to promote good hygiene and provide psychological support to the affected.

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Further technical assessments are underway and based on the situation development and the assessment team's findings, needs and recommendation, the SRC may consider revising the current Preliminary Appeal.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- **Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.**
- **Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.**
- **Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.**
- **Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.**

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Since the beginning of August, torrential rainfall caused flooding in most parts of Sudan. According to a Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) reports and daily updates, the levels of the Nile, Atbara and river Atbara have reached critical thresholds, particularly the Blue Nile at Atbara, Diem and Khartoum, and the Nile at Shendi and Dongola. The Ministry of Irrigation and Civil Defence authorities have reported that the water level is exceeding the 1988 rates which led to unprecedented disaster in the history of Sudan.

Impacts of the floods to population have been significant and widespread, with major loss and damage to houses, property and crops. To date, some 9,000 families in communities along the Nile and Blue Nile in Sudan have had to leave their homes over the last few weeks. More than 7,000 homes have been totally destroyed and another 2,000 partially. Schools, shops and clinics have been damaged in the floods and large swathes of agricultural land have been flooded; in Kassala State, east of the capital Khartoum, all agricultural land is reportedly under water. Supplies of food and fresh water are already dwindling and the floods are now destroying expected crops.



The SRCS is targeting to assist 3,000 of the people affected.

Sinnar State, south of Khartoum towards the Ethiopian border, has been worst hit by the flooding – with the homes of 3,100 families totally destroyed by the floodwaters coming down from the Ethiopian highlands. The state capital, Sinja, has not been affected so far but that could change with more rains. The capital's eastern side is protected by a

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two-metre high earth embankment, which is being strengthened daily. The SRC volunteers monitor developments in the water levels on the embankment and are ready to move immediately if the situation deteriorates.

According to issue 7 of the Humanitarian Aid Commission's (HAC) flood watch update, dated 24 August, the peak of the flood extends from mid-August to the mid-September in the northern states. Satellite images indicate that much portion of Eastern Sudan, Central Sudan, Darfur and Kordofan have been receiving heavy rainfall, making further flash flooding likely.

Operational developments

Following the disaster, the government of Sudan – through HAC – called upon humanitarian actors to participate in providing assistance to the people affected by floods in the various affected areas. The initial response of more than 1,000 SRC volunteers continued in various affected areas, providing assistance and support to the Communities. The activities of the volunteers included; evacuation, provision of shelter, first aid and home nursing.



Ten thousand have lost their homes and livelihoods in the flooding.

According to SRC information, the total affected families are above 10,000 families at the various floods affected states in Sudan. This is mainly due to further information on increasing number received from some areas in the North and Omderman. Serious situations related to water and health has been reported in Khashim el Gerba in Kasala State, Sinnar and Tokar in Red Sea State. In Khashim el Girba, 70 volunteers are working mainly on the cases of the diarrhoeal diseases.

In Sinnar State, the Red Crescent branch conducted an initial assessment and identified the main needs as non- food items (NFIs), shelter, sanitation, water supply and health interventions in hygiene related infections. A joint SRC/Federation and partner national societies (PNSs) assessment team left Khartoum for Sinnar on 24

August to provide technical support for the local branch and further assess the situation.

Updates on the exact figures of the affected population and areas with their needs as well as action taken will be provided shortly. On the basis of the concrete information from the assessment team, a decision on the plan of action and further response strategy will be developed through a task force in place and with PNSs involvement.

The SRC team of volunteers, in coordination with the Civil Defence teams, is closely monitoring the situation in Kassala and Toti Island due to the heavy rains in Eritrea and Ethiopia with expectations of water level to rise at El Gash and Blue Nile Rivers. The volunteers are also managing temporary camps that have been set up for the displaced, helping people erect tents, mobilizing and helping the population to dig latrines and registering newcomers to the camps.

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

Objective 1: To provide the means for some 3,000 families affected by the floods to protect themselves from exposure to harsh weather and environmental conditions for three – six months.

Progress/Achievements

Several of the SRC's state branches have their response teams on stand-by, should there be more flooding. These teams include people specially trained to deal with floods and health emergencies. One of these is the Red Crescent branch in Sinnar, which is a part of the state emergency apparatus and has specific responsibilities in the health sector. Branch volunteers are working tirelessly on evacuation, distribution of necessities such as tarpaulins, as well as providing first aid services and psychological support. The volunteers are also managing temporary camps that have been set up for the displaced, helping people erect tents, mobilizing and helping the population to dig latrines and registering newcomers to the camps.

With funds provided from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), 1,500 pieces of tarpaulins were procured. Other items are: 4,000 blankets, 4,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs), 7,500 pieces of soap and 10,000 empty sacks.

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The allocation of materials was made by SRC to support floods affected families, in the targeted states, as follows:

- Sinner (600 families);
- Khartoum (300 families – in addition of providing the branch with extra 4000 empty sacks for strengthening the banks of River Nile);
- Northern State, Daba (200 families);
- Red Sea, Tokar (200 families);
- North Kordofan (200 families);
- Kassala (only 1,000 blankets, 1,000 ITNs and 6,000 empty sacks).



SRCS volunteers filling sand sacks for strengthening river banks in Khartoum.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Khartoum, provided logistical support in form of three trucks to deliver relief items to Sinnar and Northern State. The German Red Cross is preparing a proposal, building on the Preliminary Appeal, to support the response with 5,000 tarpaulins, 10,000 blankets and 10,000 ITNs in addition to some operational cost and volunteers support.

Objective 2: To improve the public health situation of at least 1,500 households (at least 7,500 beneficiaries) affected by the floods for three months.

Progress/Achievements

The Sudanese Red Crescent has established health units in each camp in cooperation with the state's Department of Health and Health Insurance, and brought in and installed water bladders filled with water in collaboration with fire fighting units.

Over the next few days, the volunteers will start raising health awareness and promoting good hygiene in the camps. Spraying against vectors has started in the camps.

Federation coordination

Within the SRC headquarters office, an operation room has been set up for the daily follow up and update; it consists of SRC and Federation technical staff as well as PNSs. The room has a duty officer keeping hot line connections with all branches and field personnel round clock.

The Secretary General of SRC, the Disaster Management team (DM) (SRC and Federation) jointly with Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and other concerned departments visited the affected areas in Khartoum state on 21 and 23 August. The SRC branch in Khartoum State had already deployed volunteers in these areas to assist the affected communities. The branch had established a health unit, with support of the Federal Ministry of Health, and is providing health kits and administrative support.

HAC called for coordination meeting on the floods at their office on 22 August. The meeting discussed the floods situation and the response so far and requested the activation of a contingency plan of all the humanitarian actors to respond to the floods emergency. Among the participants were; UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF), International Rescue Committee (IRC), CARE, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Sudan Red Crescent (SRC), the Federation and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), among others. The issue of coordination, at various and particularly at the affected states, was discussed.

Communications – advocacy and public information

The disaster management team of the SRC has prepared regular updates which are posted on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) page. The regional delegation in Nairobi has produced press releases and distributed them to international media in Eastern Africa and beyond. Media stories have also been prepared for the Federation website. The Federation, through the communication delegate at the regional delegation, will provide all the necessary support to the national society's operation by taking the initiative to alert major international media about the situation in Sudan. The regional delegation will also provide regular updates on the Red Cross/Red Crescent action on the ground on the basis of assessment findings

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

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ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRSD002

PLEDGES RECEIVED

25/08/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				607,487		3.3%
JAPANESE - RC		16,200	USD	19,975	22.08.06	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				19,975	CHF	3.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	