

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

CHAD: SUDANESE REFUGEES

20 July 2004

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 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 1/2004) is being issued for information, and in anticipation of a revised Emergency Appeal to be launched shortly. This appeal revision will be based on up-to-date assessments by Federation and UN agencies, will capture the Federation's strategy in this refugee crisis, and will better define the broader extent of needs in the refugee communities.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#)¹ and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#)² 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>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's [Annual Appeal for Chad, no. 01.42/2004](#).³

The Situation

Severe armed conflict erupted in the Darfur region of western Sudan in early 2003. After several rounds of talks between the government of Sudan and various dissident factions, a cease-fire agreement was signed on 11 April 2004 calling for immediate cessation of hostilities in the Darfur region.

The armed conflict had the immediate effect of displacing thousands of people: the vast majority internally displaced, but many thousands have fled into neighbouring Chad. In December 2003, UNHCR and the Government of Chad estimated the number of refugees at 65,000 persons. It was at this time the Federation and the [Red Cross of Chad](#)⁴ launched an [Emergency Appeal](#)⁵, seeking to provide aid and assistance to the refugees in

¹ Code of Conduct - <http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/conduct/>

² Humanitarian Charter - <http://www.sphereproject.org/>

³ Annual Appeal - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/014204.pdf

⁴ Red Cross of Chad - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=45>

the eastern zone of Chad. A later evaluation by UNHCR resulted in revised figures of 110,000; as a consequence, the Federation Appeal was extended until the end of 2004, and the budget revised. (Please refer to Operations Update no. 3 dated 25 June 2004)⁶.

More recent assessments have defined the total refugee population at approximately 200,000 in eastern Chad, with 130,000 of those staying in nine refugee camps. (See annexed map supplied by UNHCR). As well, the rainy season has commenced; heavy rains are forecast throughout July and August. (See annexed meteorological chart available on Reuters AlertNet).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Federation and the Red Cross of Chad have worked closely and with good collaboration since the onset of this operation. They issued a Letter of Intent on 5 July; this will be followed by an Operations Agreement that defines roles and responsibilities for the Refugee Operation.⁷

Red Cross of Chad has prior, extensive experience with disaster response in floods, epidemic control, and refugees, most recently along the border with Central African Republic. The national society has long-term relationships and cooperates well with the French Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross. These bilateral partner national societies are operational in the context of this current refugee operation.

A Federation FACT⁸ was deployed on 21 June to assess the current situation of the refugees in Chad, to assess the ongoing operation in view of scaling up activities, and to identify areas of emergency interventions as well as longer-term support. The FACT proposed a preliminary emergency Plan of Action on June 28 and continued assessments for longer term needs at the same time. The FACT completed its mission on 11 July, and recently issued its Mission Report with Plan of Action and estimated budget; this Plan of Action will be the basis for a revised Emergency Appeal, anticipated for issuance before end of July 2004.

Based on this FACT Mission Report, the Red Cross of Chad and the Federation office have developed the following strategy for intervention:

Refugee Camp Management

The Federation envisages the possibility that this refugee operation may last through 2005. As recommended in the FACT Mission Report, and in agreement with UNHCR, the Red Cross of Chad will immediately begin operations in Tredjin refugee camp; this will be supported by the Federation Refugee Operations office. Red Cross of Chad, in partnership UNHCR the Red Cross will be responsible for setting up the camp, and, in the longer term, will be responsible for Basic Health Care, Sanitation, Camp Management and Social Welfare.

In a positive light, this operation will provide opportunity to build the capacity of the Red Cross of Chad in community health and sanitation services; this will not only serve the refugees, but will also provide a basis for extended programs in these fields in future Red Cross of Chad programs throughout the country. The Camp Management experience and the logistics of the refugee operation should provide valuable experience in program management reporting and financial procedures.

Capacity Building of the Chad Red Cross

A major long term goal of the interventions will be to build capacity of the Red Cross of Chad through four primary means:

- Training: During the course of the operation all key positions will be either filled with Red Cross of Chad staff or an experienced delegate who will support a counterpart from the national society. Training will be

⁵ Emergency Appeal - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/2303.pdf

⁶ Operations Update no. 3 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/230303.pdf

⁷ All internal documents referred to in this Bulletin (Letter of Intent, Operations Agreement, Preliminary Plan of Action, Mission Report) are available on the Federation's DMIS website; however, DMIS access is limited through prior subscription. https://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis/specialfocus/refugees_chad/refugees_chad_docs.asp

⁸ FACT – Field Assessment and Coordination Team- <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/fact>

provided not only in technical fields but also in project cycle, management, reporting and financial management. Key senior management of the national society will also benefit from training that will have immediate affect on the operation but will also provide the basis to leave a stronger society in place at the end of the refugee crisis.

- Reinforcing National Society infrastructure: Immediate needs are sufficient tools to run an effective and modern national society. This includes not only physical equipment such as computers and vehicles but also the procedures and software that will assist the national society to plan, manage and report on the projects implemented, both now and in the foreseeable future. Not the least of these needs is to assure that the national society has an office building that is suitable to the needs of a well-functioning national society and will also provide the visibility and stature of a premier humanitarian organization. The current offices of the Red Cross of Chad are clearly inadequate for that. The national society, the ICRC and the Federation are committed to this effort, and encourage all partner national societies and donors to recognize and support these needs.
- The Federation Central Africa sub-regional office in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and the Federation Regional Delegation in Dakar, Senegal, are both committed to support the long-term development of the Red Cross of Chad. In addition to providing managerial and technical support to the refugee operation, these Federation offices will provide accelerated and complementary support to the development of longer-term programming in Organizational Development, Disaster Management (including food security) and Health.
- The Federation office in Chad will become a country delegation. This expansion of responsibilities is intended to provide the infrastructural support to the refugee operation. As well, it will offer assistance to the Red Cross of Chad throughout its operations in the country where needed, including support to the ongoing Central African Republic refugee program in southern Chad.

Support to the local Population.

The experience gained in the operation along with equipment and infrastructure deployed will provide the opportunity for the Red Cross of Chad to develop programming to support the population of Chad in the zone of operations. The needs of the population have always been substantial, but their situation has been exacerbated by this recent massive influx of refugees. The welcome extended by the local population up to this time has been exceptional despite their own precarious living conditions. Red Cross of Chad has plans to develop programs in health and food security that in the short-term will ameliorate serious health and nutrition problems. In the longer-term, branch development will go hand-in-hand with community-based projects designed for longer-term impact. The increased presence of the Red Cross of Chad in the region will also provide the opportunity for increased visibility for the national society as well as attract new membership.

Reinforcing the Transport Support Package (TSP)

In early June, the Red Cross of Chad received an additional nine M6 trucks from the Norwegian Red Cross. This brought the total TSP fleet to 29 M6 and 4 Land Cruisers. Of the 29 M6 trucks, 23 are currently working in the Abéché zone around the camps in Iriba and Bahai. They are primarily responsible for transporting refugees to camps but are also heavily involved in transport of water and non-food items (NFI). Once the relocation of refugees is completed, with the onset of the rainy season, the TSP fleet will be used primarily to transport food and NFI, predominantly but not exclusively to refugee camps supported by the Red Cross of Chad operation. For the time being, this will require the continued support from a fleet manager; the Red Cross of Chad will assume management of the vehicle workshop once the fleet manager departs. Although TSP is planned to last only as long as the refugee operation itself, the training and the material donated to the national society will have a long-term, beneficial impact on the national society.

Based on the above strategic points, the FACT Mission Report recommends the following actions:

- 1) To launch an operation in support of the Sudanese refugees in the eastern region of Chad.
- 2) Emergency intervention in the eastern region of Chad for 6-12 months but with a longer term perspective, capacity building component and utilizing existing Red Cross of Chad capacity, covering the needs of a refugee population of 20,000-30,000 refugees in one camp (Tredjin), including water-sanitation and basic health care.
- 3) Immediate set-up of a support structure with prioritization to security, communications, administration and transport. The Federation initiated (19 July) a call for deployment of ERU⁹ in telecom, logistics, basic

⁹ ERU – Emergency Response Units - <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/eru/>

health and mass sanitation; these ERU will allow the operation to quickly accomplish the start up of the refugee camp, with completion anticipated within 4-6 weeks

- 4) On-going, continual assessments and contingency planning, taking into consideration the needs of the surrounding local population and longer-term capacity planning including organizational development support and extension of the logistics support.
- 5) Evaluation of the operation after six months, and recommendations for branch development, volunteer management, and handover procedures to Red Cross of Chad.

Security was also assessed by the FACT in an internal memo dated 24 June. The following are key points:

- North Chad: There are unconfirmed reports of active rebellion in the area north of Bahai. There are no refugee operations in this region; special governmental authorization is required.
- South Chad: Red Cross of Chad has ongoing operations in two camps in the area bordering the Central African Republic. The national society is implementing these in coordination with MSF and UNHCR. In any case, this is outside the scope of the Federation Appeal.
- Central Chad: previous rebellions are reportedly calm at present. The road from N'Djamena to Abéché is calm with occasional reports of road blocks. ICRC is considering a 2-vehicle convoy strategy for road movements. Travel is restricted to daylight hours (06:00 to 18:00).
- Eastern Chad: incursions from Sudan have threatened refugees, grouped along the border. UNHCR is actively relocating refugees to sites further from the border to avoid the potential for cross-border attacks. There are no security problems in Abéché.
- Bahai region (200 km northeast of Abéché): refugee population has a different profile from that in the east. Armed refugees are common, and armed rebels are in the town.
- Federation Security: regulations covering staff were drafted in French, and will be finalized in the coming weeks. Existing practices and 'hardware' need to be further reviewed and upgraded.

The following table offers comparative data on health indicators between Sudan and Chad.

Indicators	Chad	Sudan
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	933	352
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	115	77
Total fertility rate	6.65	4.39
HIV prevalence (%) – male / female	2.35 / 4.30	1.10 / 3.10
Annual growth rate	3.0	2.2
Births per 1,000 – women aged 15-19	195	55
Contraceptive prevalence (%) – all methods	8	8
Contraceptive prevalence (%) - modern methods	2	7
Births attended by trained personnel (%)	16	86

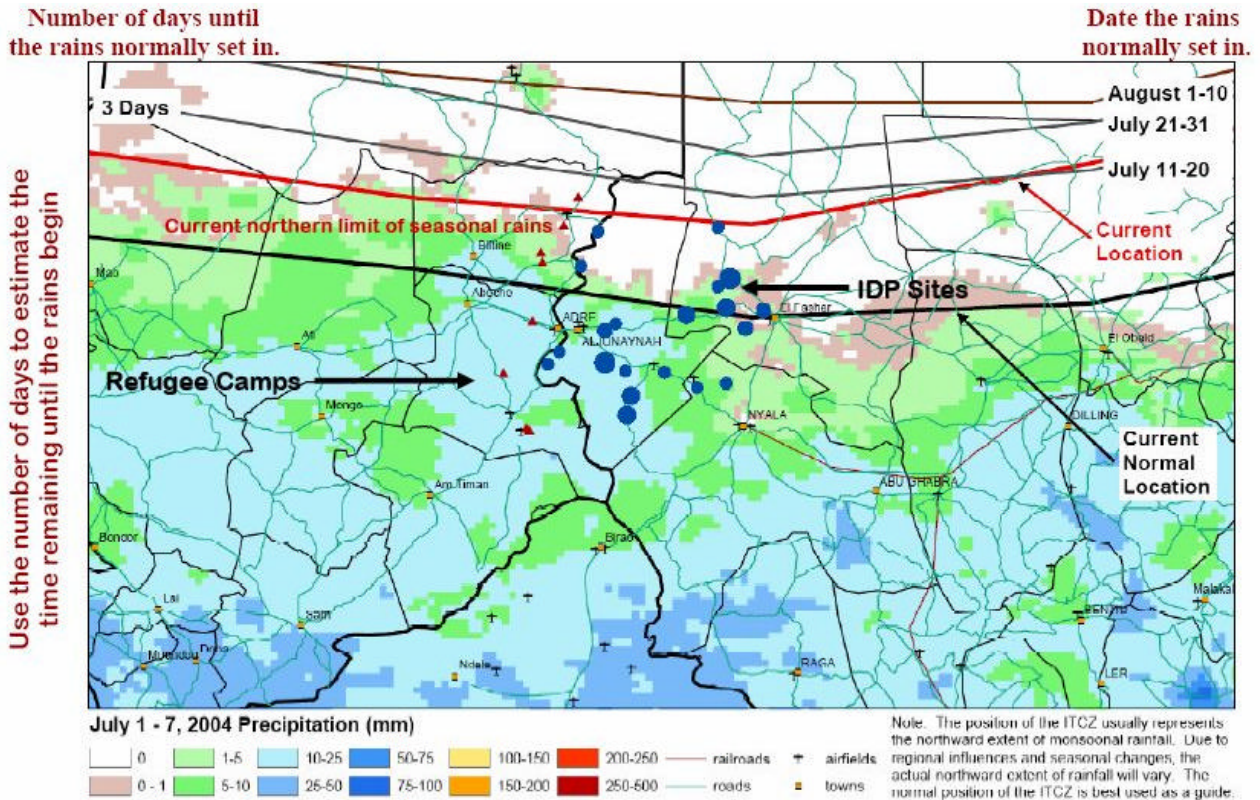
Source: State of World Population 2003, UNFPA

Several scenarios were addressed by FACT:

- Influx during or after rainy season: An influx of between 200,000 and 500,000 people would lead to the opening of 1-15 more camps between Abéché and the existing camps (see annexed map).
 - FACT recommends taking a lead role in two camps with the possible addition of the water sector.
 - Health and sanitation needs would be greater with this influx, especially during rainy season. A recent survey by UN and other agencies identified dirty water, not food shortage, as the cause of malnutrition amongst the refugee population.
 - Basic health care and WatSan ERUs would likely need to be deployed.
 - Preparedness stocks (cholera and emergency health kits, BP5 rations) (see also below)
- Interruption of WFP food supplies: This is mitigated by the recent agreement between WFP and Libya for a cross-Sahara route. Still, this contingency was addressed.
 - WFP stocks (early July) were equivalent to a two-month supply, at current refugee levels.
 - Contingency food stocks should be pre-positioned in N'Djamena (30,000 beneficiaries for three months).
 - (Possible) provision of animal fodder for refugee livestock for after the rainy season.
- Return of refugees to the border or other areas after the rainy season: this would be addressed on an *ad hoc* basis by the refugee operation management.

The FACT mission report identified the required human, financial and material resources to implement the key features of their recommendations. The resulting budget is in draft, and will be the basis for the revised Emergency Appeal.

The current meteorological situation is reflected in the chart below. Rains have begun in the border area, and are predicted to last throughout July and August. This will impact operations as indicated above.



Source: Reuters AlertNet - <http://www.alertnet.org/thefacts/satelliteimages/SUDrains12Jul04.htm>

A map of refugee camps and sites, provided by UNHCR, is annexed on the following page.

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