

# 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***

5 November 2001

*This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.*

*Appeal No. 24/2001*

*Launched on 10 August 2001 for CHF 1,293,933 for three months.*

*DREF Allocated: CHF 50,000*

*Beneficiaries: 10,000 (Note: while the original number of intended beneficiaries was 10,000, some form of assistance was actually distributed to approximately 17,500 persons)*

*Operations Update No. 01; Period covered: 1 August to 8 September; Next Ops Update (No. 2) expected December 2001*

### *“At a Glance”*

*Appeal coverage: 97.3%*

*Related Appeals: 01.17/2001 - Sudan Annual Appeal*

*Outstanding needs: There are no outstanding needs for this appeal.*

*Summary/Update: With timely donor support, the Sudan Red Crescent Society (SRCS), supported by the Federation, has played an important role in complementing the efforts of the government and was quick to respond to the emergency needs of some 17,500 persons (exceeding the originally planned appeal figure of 10,000 beneficiaries), immediately establishing emergency operation committees at the headquarters and branch levels for mobilization, dispatching relief items from its available emergency stocks, monitoring, and follow up.. Several problems were encountered, however, including insufficient quantities of DP stocks to meet the initial demands of the situation. As a matter of priority, the National Society's emergency medical and relief stocks are in urgent need of replenishment. In spite of the fact that this year's floods have been the highest recorded since 1988, fatalities have been minimized due to preparedness efforts. Experiences from previous floods also led to improved coping mechanisms.*

### ***Operational Developments:***

This year's floods came earlier than usual and are considered to be the worst in 20 years, displacing over 7,000 families and destroying schools, mosques and entire villages. Preliminary reports by the Sudanese authorities indicate that the worst affected areas of the country are to the north of the capital Khartoum in the River Nile State where more than 36,000 people have lost their homes. A joint assessment of the damage has been done by the SRCS, government authorities, UN

agencies and NGOs, revealing that about 70,000 acres of productive land in the Nile State have been damaged by the floods.

At present, the floods have receded and the water levels continue to go down. There had been fears of a second wave of flooding in early September and as forecasted, the water level rose to the highest peak ever recorded on 7 September. Fortunately, the flood level has now stabilized and the water level is expected to begin to go down. The disaster preparedness department of the SRCS is monitoring the situation closely. As the water levels decreased, the health situation continued to be an area of great concern with cases of water borne diseases, and chest and eye infections being reported.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent action w**

Flooding in Sudan has become a seasonal event since 1988 with a total of 6 seasonal floods have taken place (1998,1994, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999). The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) with support from the Federation has managed relief operations during each flood. Based on past experience and lessons learned, the SRCS and Federation developed a proactive contingency plan in 2000 for seasonal floods in Sudan. This years contingency planning process started as early as March 2001 before the floods season in August.

The disaster preparedness department of the SRCS, supported by the Federation closely monitored the situation in collaboration with the Civil Defence, Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and Nile Water Directorate; Ministry of Irrigation. The preliminary reports by the Sudanese authorities indicated that the worst affected areas of the country were River Nile State to the north of the capital Khartoum, and Sinnar and Gezira States to the south of Khartoum . A total of 62,000 people were reported to have lost their homes.

**Table (1) Affected populations and areas in Sudan**

State Branch	No. of Areas affected	Affected population	No. of houses affected
Sinnar	15	16,715	1,000
River Nile	7	33,174	1,150
N. State	13	3,690	3,658
Khartoum	3	2,550	212
Gezira	13	2,420	-
Kassala	8	1,760	-
S. Darfur	6	1,250	-
White Nile	-	410	-
N.Kordofan	-	1,245	-
	65	61,559	6,020

Two rapid assessment missions took place during the first days of the floods. The first mission was to Sinnar State on 20-21 August 2001 with representatives of the SRCS, the Spanish Red Cross, OCHA, UN, MSF - Holland and Care, and revealed that 3,200 families were affected in nine villages. Many villages were not accessible at that time of the assessment due to road problems and water. A second mission to the same States was organized (with the participation of the SRCS, the Federation, Government authorities, UN agencies, and NGO’s for monitoring and follow up, and revealed that about 70,000 acres of productive land in the Nile State had been damaged by the floods.

On the basis of these missions and assessments, the proposed intervention was divided into two priority areas: immediate support in the form of shelter, health care, and non - food items, and health activities to treat water borne diseases, chest, and eye infections.

Compared to the SRCS reaction and response to previous flood situations, the national society was more prepared this year. The branches in Khartoum, Sinnar, River Nile and Gazira contributed to the preparedness activities in regards to monitoring teams, the provision of sand bags, cleaning water drainage systems in Umbaddah, and conducting community awareness

session in three affected areas in the risk areas. The SRCS's coordination with local authorities in Khartoum, which started before the floods period, had a positive impact on the interventions. In Sinnar, the volunteers (50 per day) contributed in building 5 kms along the river bank using sand bags. The effective SRCS response in Khartoum, Sinnar, River Nile and Gazira was appreciated by the respective communities due better preparedness, coordination with the local authorities, and timely access to information and communications (the Federation provided handsets and radios to the branches). Accordingly, these branches were very much relied on by the authorities and the affected communities, and were considered a main source of accurate information and acted as lead agency in all distributions .

The SRCS and the Federation co-ordinated closely on how best to make use of the resources at hand before the arrival of donor support.

**Monitoring and Assessments w**

**Objective: Through emergency volunteer teams, assess further disaster response needs, population displacements, property damage, and the health risks.**

SRCS staff and volunteers played an active role during the floods in health education and community mobilization activities. Through the established emergency teams and health teams in all States. The SRCS volunteers played a major role in the following:

- Provision of first aid services.
- Regular monitoring of the flood situation in collaboration with other partners, carried out through the emergency teams (with 10-15 volunteers per team). The teams were mainly established in Khartoum (12 teams), Sinnar (5 teams) and the Northern State (15 teams).
- Assessment of the affected areas using questionnaires to collect data from the affected flood victims (door to door visits).
- Health education and environmental health activities.
- Distribution of relief items, and
- Technical support to the mobile health clinic

The SRCS mobilised 957 volunteers in 5 States who participated in emergency teams, mobile health clinics, hygiene/sanitation and health education activities (250 in the north, 260 in Khartoum, 287 in Sinnar, 60 in River Nile and 100 in Gezira States). The volunteers have been instrumentally involved in distributing emergency supplies to the flood victims. A priority was also given to preventive action against the spread of malaria and water borne diseases and volunteers were engaged in spraying and disinfecting stagnant water and digging of drainage canals to prevent mosquitoes breeding. Volunteers have also been involved in resettling people to higher ground, applying first aid, preparing meals for the displaced, clearing debris, assisting in repairing bridges and keeping vigil on the water levels.

**Relief distributions w**

**Objective: To provide non-food relief items to an estimated 10,000 vulnerable, displaced persons.**

At the onset of the floods on 1 August 2001, the SRCS immediately dispatched emergency relief stocks (available at headquarters) to the field, including plastic sheeting, blankets, tents and jerry cans to the flood victims (see table 2 below).

**Table (2) indicates the distribution of SRCS emergency stocks**

State Branch	Blankets	Jerry cans	Tents	Hospital Tents	Plastic sheeting
Sinnar	2'000	1'000	1	1	0
River Nile	2'000	1'000	1	0	0
N. State	1'000	500	1	0	0
Khartoum	0	0	0	0	0
Gezira	1'000	500	1	1	0
Kassala	0	0	0	0	800
S. Darfur	1'000	0	0	0	0

Total	7'000	3'000	4	2	800
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A distribution plan was prepared by the local emergency committee in collaboration with SRCS branches and the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) at the Federal and State level. With funds made available by the German and British Red Cross Societies the following items were procured and distributed. However the distribution is continuing in some areas of the affected States.

**Table (3) Non-food item distribution to different States during the period of this report**

State	Blankets	Plastic Sheeting	Chlorine Tablets	Cooking Sets	Mosquito nets	W&S sprayers	W&S abate/ k-othrine	NEHK
River Nile	1'500	3'000	56'000	408	2'000	20	55 lit/35lt	2
Sinnar	550	1'500	30'000	200	1'000	8	25lt/20lt	1
N State	350	500	40'000	100	700	7	20lt/10lt	1
Khartoum	500	500	0	0	500	5	25lt/15lt	1
Gezira	200	0	40'000	100	800	5	25lt/15lt	0
Kassala	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.Darfur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.Kordofan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Nile	100	100	20'000	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3'200</b>	<b>6'000</b>	<b>186'000</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>5'000</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>150 lt. abate 100 lt. k-othrine</b>	<b>5</b>

The Libya and Kuwait Red Crescent Societies provided support and assistance in the form of tents, drugs and food items that were received by the local emergency committees and directly distributed to some 250 families comprising 1,250 individuals in Northern State, River Nile State and Sinnar. At the request of the local government, the relevant SRCS branches assisted in the distribution and monitoring of these relief items.

**Health w**

*Objective: To provide first aid, health education and basic health care by setting up mobile health clinics.*

Health interventions focused on both curative and preventive activities, and between 7 August and 7 September, a total of 2,579 patients in Northern State were treated for various diseases, ranging from diarrhoea, measles, and eye infections. Based on the medical information from the Ministry of Public Health in River Nile State, the number of communicable diseases has increased dramatically this year in comparison to 2000. The operation was also faced with severe shortage of drugs after the emergency stock of the SRCS ran out.

Dissemination of health information was done through public sessions, home visits, and via radio and television. A total of 1,000 homes were visited and a targeted 7,500 people reached through public meetings in various locations. The SRCS volunteers were used to disseminate preventive health information against water borne diseases and to destroy mosquito breeding grounds. The main problems and constraints encountered during these activities were insufficient transportation and limited accessibility to the remote locations, which caused delays in reaching the affected people.

Several fixed and mobile clinics were re-activated to provide services to the flood victims. These included 3 health clinics, and 5 mobile units in Sinnar State in addition to another 5 mobile clinics in the Northern State. The Danish Red Cross donation of 8 New Health Emergency Kits (NEHK) positively contributed to fill the medicine gap in the Northern State and Sinnar. The distribution of the 5 NEHK was co-ordinated together with the Ministry of Health to the Dongola Teaching Hospital in Northern State, Singa Hospital in Sinnar State, and the SRCS advanced clinic in Aslama Hara , Khartoum. The remaining 3 NEHK have been stored for future disaster response needs.

### **Water-sanitation w**

**Objective: To provide clean water and sanitation facilities to an estimated 10,000 vulnerable, displaced persons.**

The volunteers participated in affected areas had actively participated in water drainage, general hygiene and environmental health. In Sinnar, river Nile and Khartoum States, the volunteers carried out spraying campaigns. In collaboration with Umbinain locality, 100 volunteers carried out a three day spraying campaign using fogging machine provided by SCOVA (Sudanese Council for Voluntary Agencies). In River Nile State, 150 volunteers sprayed stagnant pools of water with a mixture of diesel and used engine oil to prevent the breeding of malaria spreading mosquitoes.

In coordination with the Ministry of Health, SRCS volunteers helped to ensure the supply of clean and sanitary water to displaced persons at the SRCS centers and temporary shelters. Clean water was provided to a total of 480 displaced at Sinja center and Sinnar State.

### **Shelter w**

**Objective: To provide essential shelter to an estimated 10,000 vulnerable, displaced persons.**

The main objective of the SRCS was to protect flood victims whose houses and belongings were completely destroyed by the floods from being exposed to the elements. Initially, some of the flood victims were accommodated by relatives, while others took shelter in schools and public buildings. The conditions in the public buildings were far from desirable with people cramped in limited spaces with inadequate sanitary conditions. Quick and speedy action by the SRSC provided people with temporary shelters, easing the congestion. In the River Nile State, some 500 families comprising 3,000 individuals were the recipients of shelter items, where 2,000 blankets were distributed at two pieces of blankets per family. 1,000 plastic sheeting were also distributed to the people, some of which were used to cover partially damaged houses while others stood as roofing cover for temporary shelter constructed out of branches of felled trees.

The State Government seeks support from all partners to build 76 living compounds for the affected population in Abu Hamad, Barbar and Eddamar. The affected population were asked to leave the affected areas and live in the villages (compounds) that will be build by the State Government in safe places.

According to the joint SRCS/ Federation field visit during 11-12 October to Sinnar State, it was reported that 7 villages in Dindir Province were severely affected with a total population of 3034 people (500 families) who lost their home. The respective SRCS branch, in collaboration with the local authorities to provide shelter and health services to these groups. Due to the fact that such support exceeds the capacity of the branch, the affected population are still living under trees and the mobile health clinic will be soon closed due to shortage of medicine.

### **Logistics w**

A procurement committee was set up to procure, receive and transport the essential relief items to ensure quality of goods, applying standard procurement procedures. The committee consists of members representing relevant SRCS and Federation departments. The implementation of the procurement process took a bit longer than anticipated due to lack of SRCS logistical capacities as well as the fact that the SRCS headquarters staff was stretched to the maximum by various other responsibilities, especially since the drought, IDP and refugees programmes are running concurrently. However, joint SRCS /Federation team work prevailed at the end of the day.

### **Telecommunications w**

To ensure smooth and quick flow of information between headquarters, volunteer units and branches, 5 handsets were put at the disposal of volunteers teams who were out assessing the extent of the damage. This allowed for the immediate feed back of information for processing and the necessary action.

### ***National Society Capacity Building w***

Recognizing the need for sound contingency plans, the SRCS organised a one day refresher workshop in Community Based First Aid and Disaster Preparedness for 125 volunteers and leaders from the branches. This was conducted in River Nile and Khartoum State as a starting point to establish the emergency teams in these States.

### ***Federation Delegation w***

A Relief delegate was recruited by the Regional Delegation as a consultant and put at the disposal of the Sudan Delegation and SRCS for a one month mission to assist in monitoring the flood operation.

### ***Coordination w***

To maximize the use of available resources, all NGO efforts are co-ordinated by the Disaster Preparedness lead agency co-chaired by the HAC and OCHA. The SRCS is well positioned to receive up to date information from the Council of Civil Defence which comprises five ministries in the Sudan. Jointly with the SRCS, the Federation attends the NGOs flood meetings chaired by the HAC or OCHA. Moreover, the SRCS Secretary General is frequently contacted by the relevant authorities to participate in meetings and in assessments related to the floods activities. He participated in the Council of Ministers meeting chaired by the vice-president of the Sudan to assess the situation and coordinate relief efforts.

### ***Lessons learned***

In spite of the fact that the water levels this year have been the highest recorded since 1988, fatalities were minimized due to preparedness efforts. Experiences from previous floods also led to improved coping mechanisms. Although the SRCS was quick to respond to the emergency and immediately dispatched relief items from its available emergency stocks, several problems were encountered. The most pressing was that relief DP stocks were not sufficient to meet the demands of the situation. As a consequence, many response interventions were hampered when the emergency stocks ran out. This was compounded by the fact that earmarked funding does not always provide flexibility for pre-positioning of stocks. By the end of August and early September, funds were made available and relief items and required equipment were procured and distributed. Assistance to victims of floods is still ongoing and as a matter of priority, the National Society's emergency medical and relief stocks are in urgent need of replenishment.

It is expected that the project activities in Sinnar and River Nile now will concentrate on medical activities due to the increase in diseases incidence following such floods. There are need to be considerably more advocacy work done with the government in flood mitigation, including a permanent move of people from flood prone areas.

It is clear that the SRCS can play an important role to complement the efforts of the government, especially in Disaster Preparedness. In order to effectively play this role however, skills and capacities need to be further upgraded to enhance the capacity of the branch personnel in disaster preparedness and management. Delays in planning and reporting have negatively affected timely access to accurate information. Such delays are due to a lack of technical knowledge of reporting and data analysis. Training courses will now concentrate on ToT on reporting and methods on statistics compilation and record keeping. These courses should be linked to disaster preparedness and mitigation activities. The branches also need to be well equipped with the necessary resources to both mitigate and respond to disasters. The branches, in particular, urgently require additional communication equipment such as an HF base station and telephone facilities.

**Outstanding needs w**

At this time the appeal is fully covered and there are no outstanding needs.

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*Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.*

*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.*

*This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.*

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

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<b>Sudan floods</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 24/2001</b>						31.10.2001
<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1'293'933</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 97.3%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT(USAID)		25'000	USD	41'838	12.09.2001	
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID)		98'039	GBP	234'313	28.08.2001	FOR LOCALLY PURCHASE OF PLASTIC SHEETING, MOSQUITO NETS, WATER SPRAYERS & CHEMICALS, VOLUNTTER COSTS
DANISH - RC		14'474	DKK	2'954	13.09.2001	
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		314'943	DEM	242'292	22.08.2001	NON-FOOD ITEMS, MEDICALS, HF MOBILE, LOCAL STAFF
IRANIAN - RC		1'370	USD	2'293	23.09.2001	
JAPANESE - GOVT		67'316	USD	112'653	05.09.2001	
MONACO - RC		50'000	FRF	11'465	13.08.2001	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2'200'000	NOK	412'586	21.09.2001	PURCHASE OF RELIEF ITEMS & RUNNING COSTS
PRIVATE ON LINE				120	14.09.2001	
SWEDISH - GOVT		400'000	SEK	65'720	03.09.2001	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>1'126'234</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>87.0%</b>
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - RC		426'491	DKK	87'047	13.09.2001	8 NEHK 98, TRANSPORT & INSURANCE
IRANIAN - RC		27'416	USD	45'881	23.09.2001	2'000 BLAKETS, 5'000 KGS RICE, 2'000 KGS EDIBLE OIL, 2'000 KGS SUGAR, 1'000 KGS TEA, 3'000 PULSES, 20'000 SOAPS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>132'928</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>10.3%</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SAUDI ARABIAN - RC		1'594'427	SAR	711'473	22.09.2001	FOODSTUFF, TENTS, MEDICINES, BLANKETS, CARPETS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>711'473</b>	<b>CHF</b>	