

# EMERGENCY APPEAL



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**

*Appeal no. 19/2003  
5 August 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](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### ***In Brief***

***THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,917,000  
(USD 1,412,563 OR EUR 1,250,535) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES  
TO ASSIST 140,000 BENEFICIARIES  
ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS FOR 3 MONTHS***

### **The situation**

Heavy rains in eastern Sudan's Kassala State, which began on 28 July, caused severe flooding, affecting in particular the town of Kassala (see attached map), but also Swakin, Sennar, Tokar, and Barbar. The rains are expected to continue, and further areas may be included in this emergency operation depending on the evolving situation and the needs.

New flooding on 29 July broke through the banks of the Gash River that divides Kassala town. Twelve people have been confirmed dead; the casualty figure is expected to increase. An estimated 200,000 people have been affected by the flooding; most are now sleeping outside in the open on higher ground. Water levels had been decreasing until the town was hit by a fresh flash flood on Saturday, 2 August.

Official government statistics indicate the town has a population of 350,000 people, in addition to 59,294 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from a civil conflict last year, and 24,000 Eritrean refugees (the IDPs and refugees have not, however, been affected by the floods due to their location on higher ground). The Governor of Kassala State declared the disaster to be beyond their resources on Friday 1 August, and requested Government assistance from Khartoum. Relief goods from Khartoum have been distributed to those initially affected, and the SRC has been appointed lead agency to coordinate the relief operation. The Federation is deploying a water and sanitation Emergency Response Unit (ERU) to provide critical support to this operation.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action to date**

CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to begin the delivery of assistance and to carry out the assessment. A team led by the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, and the SRC, initiated a joint assessment on Friday, 1 August. Initial reports from the team indicate that shelter materials, including tents, plastic sheets and blankets, are a priority need. Water and sanitation services, including water trucking and purification tablets, are also required since the few functioning wells in the town are largely inaccessible or contaminated. Kassala town faces a severe shortage of food, and the little that has been coming in is from neighbouring districts, which SRC volunteers are assisting with distributing. Other needs include medicine for the clinics, communication equipment (radios, megaphones) and tools (spades, shovels, generators).

The SRC, as the lead agency for this operation, has requested the Federation to launch an international appeal on a preliminary basis in order to begin to deliver the required essential relief items and services to some 140,000 beneficiaries.

The SRC's Kassala branch has mobilized 1,000 volunteers and 263 staff members who have been evacuating people to higher ground. Further volunteers from the Halfa and Girba Provinces arrived in the morning of 3 August to complement and reinforce the team. The SRC has established two emergency clinics at the Kassala teaching hospital, which is also being managed by volunteers. The hospital has suffered structural damage and has very limited medical supplies. Any potential outbreaks of water borne diseases such as typhoid or malaria would result in an influx of patients, which would easily exceed its 12-bed capacity.

### **Coordination**

Coordination meetings are taking place on a regular basis between the SRC, Federation representatives, the ICRC participating national societies (Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross), the Government, other operational agencies (the International Rescue Committee, ACCORD, GOAL, the Humanitarian Coordination Committee in Sudan), and the UN (OCHA, WFP, and UNICEF). The Federation's Disaster Management Division (DMC) will manage this operation in Geneva. The Federation's delegation in Khartoum will be strengthened with an experienced programme coordinator and deployment of staff from the regional delegation as required. Regional Watsan Delegate will be leaving for Khartoum shortly to assist the Sudanese Red Crescent with the arrival and establishment of the ERU team. Nairobi Regional Delegation will continue to provide support to the operation as required, and will take over the operation from DMC within the standard ninety-day period. It is envisaged that except for the technical specialists provided by the ERU team and the programme coordinator no additional delegates will be required as the society in general and the Kassala branch in particular has experienced technical staff that will be managing this operation.

### **The proposed operation**

Since 1999 the Federation has provided support to the SRC to successfully respond to two flood emergencies. As a result the Federation and the SRC have accumulated considerable experience in implementing emergency flood relief and response operations in Sudan. In addition to the immediate need for the delivery of relief to those affected, the Federation intends to focus on reinforcing the capacity of the SRC formed during these recent operations, and to supplement the existing experience with well targeted support. The preliminary nature of this appeal implies that the approach of the Federation and the SRC will be flexible; to assess the situation, deliver well targeted assistance, and adjust the operation in response to evolving needs and areas affected.

### **Procurement and distribution of emergency relief (basic non-food)**

**Objective: to provide shelter, hygiene, and sanitation to those affected, and to avoid the outbreak of disease.**

Activities planned:

The Federation will assist in the procurement, transport, and delivery of:

- 8,000 tarpaulin sheets.
- 16,000 20-liter jerry cans.
- 10,000 bars of soap.
- 8,000 blankets.
- mosquito nets and kitchen sets (secondary priority).

### **Water and sanitation**

**Objective: To provide potable water and sanitation services for a period of 3 months.**

Activities planned: deploy 1 water/sanitation ERU that will comprise 3 modules: treatment and supply line, distribution and trucking, and mass sanitation. This unit is capable of supplying potable water, and providing distribution of treated water to a dispersed population of up to 100,000. The ERU will be mobilized from the German Red Cross, with support from the Austrian Red Cross. Given the nature of repairs required to the existing water supply system, the ERU intervention is considered crucial to bridge the gap. The ERU will: set up intake points and distribution points within Kassala; mobilize water trucks locally to assist in transporting water from the treatment plant to the distribution points; construct latrines in the city for the target population; undertake vector

control activities to prevent the outbreaks of water borne diseases such as malaria. The volunteer network in the state will play a key role in the management of water points and passing of key messages on hygiene and sanitation.

## **Health**

### **Objective: To prevent the outbreak of water borne diseases through the provision of appropriate drugs.**

The health situation of the communities is at the moment not jeopardized. However in standard flood response operations there is a need to keep kits on stand-by to combat potential outbreaks of malaria, typhoid, cholera and diarrhoea. A modest health surveillance system that is built on the volunteer base and supported by the health department should be appropriate. The strategy for possible health intervention will however change as the situation evolves and develops.

Activity planned: undertake hygiene promotion activities, with the assistance of volunteers.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and priorities**

The Federation response will be carried out in a manner governed by the Principles of the Movement, the Principles and Rules of Disaster Response, and the Code of Conduct. Wherever possible SPHERE Guidelines will be respected.

The SRC does not have emergency stocks available at the moment, and the Spanish Red Cross is negotiating with ECHO to allow for the ECHO stocks of non-food items to be released to SRC for use in assisting those affected.

### **Communications – Advocacy and public information**

This disaster has not received wide media coverage, and the Federation will provide media and public information support to the SRC and other societies in order to raise the visibility of the situation and increase the public awareness of the operation. The Federation human resources currently in the region will be able to deliver immediate support in communications and reporting through the presence of information and reporting delegates to assist the SRC. The DMC's Disaster Management and Information System (DMIS) will continue to supply daily updates and information on the disaster and the response by the SLRCS and Federation staff and resources.

### **Capacity of the National Society**

The SRC is the most decentralized and widespread humanitarian organization in Sudan, and covers nearly the entire country with 21 State branches and numerous sub-units in the provinces and localities. The SRC also has a nationwide community-based network of 20,000 active volunteers who can be deployed as the need arises.

The SRC's Kassala branch has 21 staff members who have prior experience in flood and other relief programmes. The branch also has a network of 5,000 active and trained volunteers of which 1,000 have already been mobilized and are assisting in the crisis. The branch also has 5 vehicles and some telecommunication equipment available. The Federation intends to improve the SRC's telecoms capacity by providing additional radio equipment.

Programmes being run by the branch include: a Community Based Health Care Programme for IDPs (curative and preventive health, health promotion, home visitation, and a disease surveillance); 3 basic health clinics and a surgical hospital with 12 beds and an ambulance; food distribution in partnership with WFP; a refugee programme with UNHCR; a reproductive health programme with UNFPA; and a women in development programme. The branch is thus well placed to assist in the relief operation.

### **Capacity of the Federation**

The regional disaster preparedness delegate is in Khartoum coordinating Federation support to the operation, and is assisted by a regional programme officer in Khartoum who has been re-assigned to provide assistance to the SRC with the disaster. The Federation's regional delegation in Nairobi is also offering technical support, including the capacity to mobilize stocks of non-food relief items through framework agreements with suppliers. Bilateral representatives of the Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies based in Sudan are also supporting the operation. The Federation considers bilateral contributions directed to the SRC appropriate.

## Monitoring and evaluation

The operation will be monitored by the SRC through the established mechanisms. The SRC will be assisted in this process by Federation delegates in country, and, as needed, technical specialists from the regional delegation. An evaluation of this operation will be carried out and coordinated by the Federation in full consultation with the SRC. Budgetary provision for this has been made in the Appeal.

## Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

### *For further information please contact:*

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*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 support to or 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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Abbas Gullet  
Director  
Disaster Management and Coordination Division

Markku Niskala  
Secretary General

**BUDGET SUMMARY - PRELIMINARY**

APPEAL No. 19/2003

**Sudan - floods**

TYPE	VALUE
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>IN CHF</b>
Shelter - blankets (32,000) & tarpaulin sheets (8,000)	204,000
Water and sanitation - (ERU; & soap - 40,000 pieces)	777,600
Drinking water (procurement & water trucking)	80,000
Jerry cans (16,000)	64,000
Other relief supplies (mosquito nets)	60,000
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>1,185,600</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>	
Computers	15,000
Telecom. equipment	15,000
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	125,000
<b><u>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</u></b>	
Transport (air) and storage	252,000
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	
Expatriate staff	72,000
National staff	192,600
<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u></b>	
Travel & related expenses	10,000
Information expenses	10,000
Administrative & general expenses	20,000
Evaluation and monitoring	20,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>	<b>731,600</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>	<b>1,917,200</b>
<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>	<b>NIL</b>
<b><u>NET REQUEST</u></b>	<b><u>1,917,200</u></b>

(\* Note: the ERU is not subject to programe support costs)