

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

SUDAN: EXPLOSION IN JUBA

17 March 2005

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. 1/2005) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through subsequent Minor Emergency Bulletins and through the DREF update.

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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>

The Situation

On 23 February 2005, a store of ammunition at a military depot exploded in Juba in southern Sudan. The blast killed 31 people and wounded another 150 persons while a number remained unaccounted for. An official statement from the government of Sudan attributed the explosion to high temperatures.

The explosion and the ensuing fire extensively damaged and burnt 900 tukuls (local housing units) in a nearby residential area. The Customs Market, the second largest market in the area, was also completely gutted, disrupting the livelihoods of thousands of people who depend on the market.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A team from the Sudanese Red Crescent¹, the Netherlands Red Cross and ICRC was among the first to respond to the disaster; they provided first aid and ambulance services, evacuated the wounded to Juba hospital and removed the dead bodies.

The Sudanese Red Crescent distributed non-food items to the affected families on 26 March, in collaboration with ICRC, UNICEF and other organizations. WFP and the local authorities have distributed food; local authorities are also providing water through trucking services.

The national society conducted an assessment to determine the extent of damage and the immediate needs of the affected population. Approximately 660 households have been affected by the explosion; over 3,000 people are homeless after losing their homes, household property and food reserves to the fire.

Among the critical needs identified by the assessment are shelter, water, and food and non-food items. There is an urgent need to provide building material to renovate the burnt houses, particularly since the rains are expected to start in April. Most of the walls of the tukuls are still standing but their grass thatched roofs and wooden doors were all burnt down.

The devastation from the explosion has exacerbated the hardship facing the town which suffers from high levels of poverty and acute water shortage. The affected families are currently being supported by their extended family members and neighbours; this is bound to increase the pressure on host families.

The Federation has allocated CHF 200,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Sudanese Red Crescent to respond to the immediate needs of the affected population; see the budget below. The regional delegation is working closely with the Sudan delegation and the Sudanese Red Crescent to monitor the situation and decide future action.

Table 1: Budget for construction of 900 tukuls damaged or destroyed by Juba explosion

Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost SDD	Total Cost SDD	Estimated Cost CHF
Grass	Bundle	36,000	500	18,000,000	84,746
Babmoos	Bundle	4,500	1,500	6,750,000	31,780
String	Roll	1,800	600	1,080,000	5,085
Zinc and timber doors	Each	900	11,500	10,350,000	48,729
Transport rental	Trip	180	35,000	6,300,000	29,661
TOTAL				42,480,000	200,000

Further reports will use the Minor Emergency Bulletin format.

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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>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's 2005 Annual Appeal for Sudan, no. 05AA003 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA003.pdf

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¹ Sudanese Red Crescent – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=161>