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Information bulletin

Sudan: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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| Date of issue: 6 August 2014 | |
| Date of disaster: 22 – 31 July 2014 | Point of contact: Rahama M. Ibrahim, Head of Disaster Management Department, Sudanese Red Crescent Society |
| Host National Society: The Sudanese Red Crescent Society | |
| Number of people affected: Over 12,500 families | |
| Other partner organizations involved in the operation: Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), Flood Task Force (FTF), state authorities, government ministries, UN agencies | |

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), however, accepts direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

The situation

Eight states of Sudan - Khartoum, River Nile, Northern State, Sennar, North Kordofan, South Kordofan, Kassala and Gezira - have experienced heavy rains and consequent flash floods over the past two weeks, which affected nearly 13,000 families according to the latest reports of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS). Houses were washed away and many others were flooded with water destroying belongings of people. The floods caused damage and destruction of houses and interruption of public services in the affected areas, with Khartoum and Sennar states being the hardest-hit. At least 9 people are reported to have been killed, with nearly 60 more people injured in various states. Initial reports of the SRCS branches in the affected states,



Picture 1: Recent flash floods across seven states of Sudan left over 11,000 houses damaged or destroyed according to the Sudanese Red Crescent estimates. Photo by SRCS Khartoum Branch.

drawn on rapid assessments, indicate that over 12,500 houses and some 1,500 latrines have been damaged (please refer to Table 1 below for more details).

Table 1: Impact of the flash floods as of 4 August 2014. Source: SRCS.

| Affected States | Human Losses | | Houses Damaged | | Institutions Damaged | Latrines Damaged | Other Damages | | No of households affected | No of people affected |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Injured | Death | Completely | Partially | | | Death of Animals | Crops | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gezira | 0 | 1 | 193 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 258 | 1,548 |
| South Kordofan | 0 | 0 | 234 | 143 | 0 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 377 | 2,262 |
| Northern State | 22 | 2 | 264 | 625 | 3 schools (partial) | 66 | 11 | 0 | 889 | 5,334 |
| River Nile | 35 | 2 | 519 | 344 | 2 schools (complete) | 226 | 0 | 400 fedan of onions | 863 | 5,178 |
| Kassala | 0 | 0 | 442 | 916 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,358 | 8,148 |
| North Kordofan | | | 1,151 | 440 | 4 schools (complete) | | | | 1,591 | 9,546 |
| Sennar | 0 | 0 | 1,004 | 1,217 | 0 | 1,059 | 0 | 0 | 2,221 | 13,326 |
| Khartoum | 0 | 4 | 3,468 | 1,925 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,393 | 32,358 |
| Total | 57 | 9 | 7,275 | 5,675 | 9 schools | 1,501 | 11 | 400 | 12,950 | 77,700 |

The government of Sudan has been coordinating the immediate assistance of various stakeholders to the affected population, undertaking evacuation of people in the high-risk areas (led by the Sudanese National Civil Defence Council and Humanitarian Aid Commission), providing emergency shelter and essential relief items, and food distributions, while the more detailed assessments in the affected areas are taking place. Under the Humanitarian Aid Commission, the Flood Task Force has also been reactivated (in collaboration with the Sudan Meteorological Authority and the Ministry of Water Resources) to closely monitor the situation in Sudan during the rainy season and to facilitate timely preparedness and response across the country. The Flood Task Force has members from respective sector line ministries, UN and other international agencies, and NGOs.

Sudan experiences floods every year during the rainy season (June – September). The last year's floods in August-September affected over 60,000 families. According to the forecasts, more floods are expected, if heavy rains continue, with the already increased levels of the Nile rivers posing threats. While emergency relief assistance is being provided, critical needs remain in emergency shelter, non-food items, clearing the areas from stagnant water, particularly, in the states of Khartoum and River Nile.

Red Cross Red Crescent Action

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) has mobilized over thousand volunteers in the affected states to carry out immediate response activities and has activated the Emergency Operation Centers / Rooms at the headquarters and branches. The National Society, in collaboration with state and national authorities as well as other actors, has been providing the following essential services to the floods-affected population:

- extraction and discharge of water from homes and affected areas;
- search and rescue and provision of first aid services;
- conducting rapid assessments, and registration of losses and damages of houses and public properties;
- provision of non-food items;
- provision of psychosocial support.



Picture 2: SRCS has mobilized a total of 105 pumps across eight states in order to clear the affected areas from stagnant water. Photo by SRCS Northern State.

The following table reflects the assistance provided by the SRCS in different states:

Table 2: SRCS response to flash floods as of 4 August 2014. Source: SRCS.

| Affected States | No of SRCS volunteers mobilized | Non-food items distributed | | | | | | Water pumps mobilized for cleaning areas | Generators mobilized |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | Tents | Tarpaulins | Mosquito Nets | Sleeping Mats | Blankets | Kitchen Sets | | |
| Gezira | 195 | 25 | 175 | 250 | - | 250 | - | 10 | 5 |
| South Kordofan | 35 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 5 |
| Northern State | 172 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 5 |
| River Nile | 55 | 300 | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 5 |
| Kassala | 181 | - | 1,150 | 3,100 | 600 | 841 | 100 | 15 | 5 |
| North Kordofan | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 5 |
| Sennar | 200 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 5 |
| Khartoum | 200 | 520 | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 5 |
| Total | 1,053 | 845 | 1,325 | 3,350 | 600 | 1,091 | 100 | 105 | 40 |

In addition, the SRCS Khartoum Branch has reached 1,753 families in the state with potable water and ready-made food.

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society is coordinating their activities with respective governmental and non-governmental actors at state and national levels through the established coordination mechanisms, including through the Floods Technical Committee of HAC, sector clusters, Flood Task Force, and other fora. The National Society is also sharing information with the in-country participating national societies on a regular basis. The SRCS will continue to assess and monitor the situation, while providing services to the affected population with available in-country resources.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.