

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

CHAD: SUDANESE REFUGEES

29 January 2004

Focus on the Transport Support Package

Appeal No. 23/03; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 2 December 2003 to 27 January 2004. Appeal launched on 2 December 2003 for CHF 2,303,000 (USD 1,779,508 or EUR 1,4480,063) for 6 months for 65,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 60,000

*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*

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 34.3%; See the attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,512,625

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2004 Annual Appeal for Chad (01.42/2004)

Operational Summary: further refugee influxes into Chad occurred in December 2003 and January 2004. The most recent figures released by the Government estimate the number of refugees at 135,000. UNHCR is using a working figure of 95,000 refugees along the border between Sudan and Chad. Many of the refugees, in particular the 18,000 or so that have recently arrived (the last ten days) are camping in open areas, with limited food, water and shelter, exposed to the hot sun during the day and near freezing temperatures at night.

The Chad Government with UNHCR support has identified areas for 4 refugee camps, and the first one at Farchana started receiving refugees in mid-January. It is anticipated that up to 80,000 refugees will eventually be relocated to the four camps. The Chad Red Cross has continued to carry out sporadic distributions to the most vulnerable from among the refugees, but given the large area over which the caseload has been spread, systematic distributions have been limited so far.

After a relatively slow start, the response to the Federation's Appeal has picked up. The twenty M6 trucks in the appeal (the Transport Support Package or TSP) have been prepared for departure and funds have been secured to airlift the vehicles in two rotations in the first week of February. Delegates together with support material in particular in telecommunications have been identified and will all be deployed by the first week of February. A relief Agreement with the Chad Red Cross has been drafted and an operational budget is being finalised.

Operational developments

The conflict in Darfur continued during December and January with further influxes of refugees into Chad. The Chad Red Cross, with Federation support, continues to work with the UNHCR-generated working figure of 95,000 refugees, though it is accepted that with recent arrivals there may be as many as 135,000 refugees currently in Chad.

Some distributions have taken place in the reporting period. However due to the large area over which the caseload has been settled, only a limited number of beneficiaries have been reached by the UN and its partners. With the decision to set up four refugee camps and move into Farchana (started in mid-January), it is hoped that the caseload will be supported in a more systematic manner.

The arrival of the twenty M6 all terrain vehicles with the TSP and expatriate delegates to support the Chad Red Cross in managing the operation should significantly enhance the operational capacity in the area, and access to the refugees. The package was made available by the Norwegian Government through the Norwegian Red Cross, and will be donated to the national society to support the refugee operation, in close cooperation and coordination with UNHCR and other partners.

The Federation has agreed with the French Red Cross, who has long experience in the area, to assist with the establishment of a functioning telecom system both in N'Djamena, but more importantly in the eastern part of the country. Equipment has been purchased and dispatched to Chad together with a telecom specialist who will install the radios and computers, and, together with the Chad Red Cross, identify and train counterparts.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Objective: Deployment of the TSP.

Progress/Achievements:

The twenty M 6 trucks have been secured and are being prepared for the transport through effective cooperation between the Federation, the Norwegian Red Cross, and the Norwegian Ministry of foreign affairs. The trucks will be donated to the Chad Red Cross upon arrival, and will be driving under the Chad Red Cross markings.

Two light vehicles were purchased already equipped with telecommunications equipment and driven to Norway to await the airlift to N'Djamena. A third light vehicle has been leased from the Federation programme and driven from Yaoundé.

Delegates have been identified and contracted to be deployed together with the package, to assist the national society to set up the programme and to ensure a functioning workshop, including the supply of spare parts.

After some initial difficulties a transporter has been identified, and the TSP will be airlifted to N'Djamena in two rotations, the first arriving on 2 February and the second on 4 February. With support from the UN, and in particular UNDP, the ground has been prepared for the receipt of the package, its registration, and quick deployment to the affected areas (six of the M6 trucks will be used to support the ongoing Chad Red Cross refugee operation for refugees from CAR in the south of the country.)

Impact:

Once the TSP is deployed it is anticipated that the work of the national society, the UN, and other partner organizations will be considerably facilitated.

Constraints:

It took longer than anticipated to get the transport package together, primarily due to the initial limited donor response and the holiday season.

Objective: Telecommunications: ensure effective communications in the operational area and between Abeche and N'Djamena to facilitate the operation and enhance security for expatriate and local staff.

Progress/Achievements:

The initial plan of fielding an assessment mission prior to installing the equipment has been modified and a specialist has been identified to do both tasks. The initial equipment has been purchased and will be installed in shortly. Given the uncertain response to the Appeal and the need to have telecom equipment in the area prior to the arrival of the TSP, it was felt that the telecom component should be implemented as soon as possible. An agreement has been signed with the French Red Cross to implement this activity, and it is hoped that the French Red Cross application with the French Foreign Ministry will be successful to finance this aspect of the operation.

The objectives in regards to health and agriculture have so far not been implemented, but this will be addressed once access to the area has improved. Initial discussions with UNHCR and UNICEF have been taking place in the field.

Federation coordination

The Federation deployed an acting programme coordinator to N'Djamena in early January (courtesy of the British Red Cross, and pending the arrival of the selected incumbent who was not available until the last week of January). The field coordinator for Abeche has also been deployed to the region. This has improved the coordination of the Red Cross intervention and further strengthened links with the national society. Problems and challenges remain, primarily in the area of communications. Cooperation with the Norwegian Red Cross in preparation for the deployment of the transport package has been excellent. Close contacts are maintained with the ICRC, both in N'Djamena and in Geneva, to ensure that Federation support under this appeal is complimentary to the ongoing ICRC programming in the region.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

Negotiations were successfully concluded to have the donated trucks marked with the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem (stickers).

National Society Capacity Building

A relief agreement has been negotiated with the national society, and will be signed shortly. Operational budgets have also been prepared for approval. There is a significant component for national society capacity building in the programme, and significant parts of this will be implemented shortly. The society will also benefit from the transport package both in terms of the equipment as well as support to its human resources base.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The DMIS page on Chad is being frequently updated, and there have been stories related to Chad and this operation posted on the Federation's website. A number of interviews have been given to different media, including most recently the CNN. The secretariat continues to participate in the UN lead briefings both in Geneva and in the field.

For further information please contact:

- ***In Chad: Chad Red Cross, Andreas Koumo Gopina, Secretary General; phone (235) 523434***
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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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

Chad - population movements

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No.23/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

29.01.2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					2'303'000	TOTAL COVERAGE 34.3%	
DANISH - RC				57'933	19.12.03		
FINNISH - RC		40'000	EUR	61'940	19.12.03		
JAPANESE - RC		58'700	USD	76'222	12.12.03		
LIBYAN - RC				7'000	11.12.03		
MONACO - RC		2'500	EUR	3'900	31.12.03		
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'200'000	NOK	222'000	23.01.04		
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		31'850	NOK	5'892	23.01.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT, GOODS	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		14'950	NOK	2'766	23.01.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT, STAFF	
SWEDISH - RC		1'000'000	SEK	172'000	10.12.03		
SWEDISH - RC		126'000	SEK	21'672	01.01.04	IN-COUNTRY COST & PROG. SUPPORT	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				631'325	CHF	27.4%	

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		490'000	NOK	90'650	23.01.04	RELIEF GOODS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC				42'000	23.01.04	DELEGATE
SWEDISH - RC				26'400	01.01.04	RELIEF & LOGISTIC DELEGATE, 6 MONTHS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				159'050	CHF	6.9%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	