

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

SOUTHERN SUDAN: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO RETURNEES AND AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

30 November 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

Appeal No. 05EA025; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 10 November to 19 November 2005; Appeal coverage: 4%;

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 7 November 2005 for CHF 8,383,957 (USD 6,418,345 or EUR 5,433,127) for 12 months to assist 650,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 500,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 8,048,587 (USD 6,285,503 or EUR 5,207,756).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Operational Summary: Following the launch of the appeal, funds have been committed by the Swedish Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross. In kind donations have been received from the American Red Cross while the British Red Cross, the New Zealand Red Cross, the Icelandic Red Cross, the German Red Cross and the Federation regional delegation in Nairobi seconded staff for the Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) along with Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) personnel from the Uganda and Rwanda national societies.

The Field Assessment and Coordination Team, which is made up of a Returnees Assessment Team and an Operational Team was deployed from 8 November to Sudan. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society¹, local authorities and international agencies welcomed the deployment. A number of key tasks have been achieved, including:

- An assessment of returnee scenarios, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society branch capacities, agencies responses;
- A draft strategic framework for response;
- Establishment of a sub-delegation/presence in Juba including airlift of vehicles and basic camp equipment.

Other tasks underway are:

- Completion of assessment report;
- Assessment of logistical needs;
- Evaluation of security risks and drafting of a security plan;
- Revision of the Emergency Appeal and budget;

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

- Implementation of the plan of action;
- Coordination of deployment of Federation tools; and
- Coordination with other organisations.

The FACT team has found that the situation of returnees, internally displaced people (IDP), and refugees and host communities emerging after decades of conflict, is one of the most vulnerable in Africa. The situation is further compounded by the insecurity and significant logistical challenges resulting in the delay of humanitarian agencies to scale up the necessary assistance programmes. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society/Federation strategy remains in line with that of other international organisations to provide support to the returnees and the host communities both of whom are vulnerable. The needs and the challenges to deliver support are enormous. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the Federation will therefore need to scale up their capacities urgently.

Plans to assist returnees include:

- Information monitoring and dissemination;
- En route assistance through way stations, transportation and emergency preparedness/response;
- Resettlement and reintegration through water, sanitation, health, food security, resettlement packages and livelihood programmes; and
- Capacity building of Sudanese Red Crescent Society, its branches and opening of new branches particularly in former SPLM areas.

Agencies on the ground are gradually establishing themselves, but lack of adequate humanitarian agency capacity has been widely reported, and the local authorities are asking for assistance. Needs have already been identified for water, in particular in Juba, but lack of Watsan expertise in the FACT team has limited the ability to assess the need for Federation Emergency Response Units (ERUs). UNHCR has requested Sudanese Red Crescent Society/Federation assistance to establish a way station in Juba for returning refugees and IDP. The commitment discussed with UNOCHA to prepare non food items for 40,000 families urgently needs funds.

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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>

Background

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) concluded between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Sudan on 9 January 2005 brought to an end over two decades of conflict, it set the stage for a Government of National Unity (GoNU) and presented an opportunity for the return of millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to return home with some 580,000 expected to return in the coming six to twelve months. It further provides a historic momentum for the reconstruction of a war-torn land, the beginning of a process to build a democratic and accountable administration, and the restitution of the rule of law. The interim national constitution was ratified on 9 July 2005, authorising the creation of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS).

Prior to the peace agreement, mass voluntary returns, estimated to be around 600,000 had already begun. Since the signing in January 2005, another 250,000 people have arrived back in a region void of infrastructure. Roads are largely non-existent, extensive numbers of land mines exist, harvests have failed and malnutrition is widespread. The entire country faces enormous humanitarian challenges, in particular in the south where people are grappling with some of the lowest human development indicators in the world. However, but there are hopes that decades of almost exclusive humanitarian assistance by the international community will now transform into recovery and reconstruction programmes and activities.

The situation in Southern Sudan is one where barely minimal services have been provided for a highly vulnerable population. The international community have moved slowly in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for Sudan.

According to the Department of Rural Water, Central Equatoria, local people usually harvest their water from rivers, ponds and occasionally boreholes. There is need for a comprehensive survey. South of Juba, the water level is very low and the water is developed through the crack strata basement of the rocks which is usually very deep in terms of drilling of bore holes and it can reach a depth of about 32 to 60 metres. North of Juba town to Terekeka areas along the Nile river, the strata is sandy and it is easy to drill. It takes about 20 to 40 metres down to get to the water level. The FACT team observed that the water situation in Juba town is very poor. Some water systems including large Oxfam tanks were originally installed by UNICEF, which once treated and distributed the water using a reticulated system to points within the town. This system is now completely defunct. Apart from boreholes, water is pumped from rivers to tankers, which distribute 44 gallons/200 litre drums at a cost of between 100 and 200 SD per drum. This water is untreated, very dirty and claimed to cause many health problems among the population.

Operational developments

I. New Facts and Analysis

The CPA and the optimism it has generated have led to the movement of refugees and IDPs. Many humanitarian agencies seem to agree that there are difficulties to ascertain accurate statistics. However, IDPs and refugees are returning and the humanitarian system, while scaling up, is inadequate to assist both the returnees and the host populations. Many agencies and authorities visited stated the huge developmental needs, in particular for water. This was also confirmed by an assessment in Juba town.

Now there is considerable movement of population, with IDPs returning to some areas, refugee returns increasing, and new movements brought about by recent insecurity in the area south of Juba in particular. Meetings with UNHCR indicated that their plans for refugee returns from Central African Republic (CAR) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been delayed to the end of 2005/early 2006. However, the plans for CAR refugee returns are likely to be imminent. Numbers of spontaneous returns from CAR have increased² and there are some indications that refugees from Kenya may wish to return sooner than expected. There is considerable south to south movement, such as IDPs movement from Yambo to Raga, as well as urban to urban returns notably from Kosti to Malakal. It is expected that in 2006 there will be continued movement from north to south. UNOCHA estimates that to the end of 2006 some 683,000 people will return (543,000 IDPs and 140,000 refugees). The IDPs estimate is based on an increase of 500,000 people from the last dry season (October to March). Apart from the spontaneous returns, some 10,000 IDPs will be assisted to return before the end of March 2006 and 60,000 others before end of 2006 (i.e. a further 40,000). Of the 140,000 refugees, some 55,000 are expected before the end of March 2006. There is however much debate over the anticipated numbers of returns due to the varied and changing factors such as security, transportation, development and humanitarian assistance.

There is an emerging returnee picture of north to centre, and north to south-east flows to South Kordofan and Nuba mountains in particular, that continued throughout the rainy season. More statistical information is becoming available through surveys by IOM and UNOCHA. One such survey by IOM in Khartoum found that 70% of those sampled indicated a willingness to return.

² The German Red Cross reported that the numbers of refugees returning to Raja from Central Africa Republic have increased from 250 in 2003, 1,000 in 2004 and 7,000 in 2005.

The returnee operation is still largely a paper exercise with all actors not in Juba yet, although IOM has stated that they will be operational very soon. UNOCHA has only just received the budget for tracking returnee numbers. However, it is reported that returnees may increase in numbers in the central-south and later, in Juba (logistics constraints of the rail and river routes). In early 2006 to April or May returnees could increase in numbers, notably, with the new operation to construct and commission barges and the opening of new roads. The IDPs who are coming into many locations such as Juba town are not congregating in specific areas but are dispersing among the general population once they have re-established contact with family members.

II. Security

There were two security incidents resulting in the death of international staff of NGOs in early November. These incidents were attributed to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The UN has, therefore, placed the area south of Juba at Phase 4 – no movement without armed escorts. The situation remains unpredictable and volatile east of Juba town due to the presence of the LRA armed groups that roam in the area. The road from Juba to the Kenyan border to the east is not in use for others except the military, as well as southwards towards Nimule to the Ugandan border. Reports indicate that there were some clashes between the SPLA and some local tribes (cattle keepers) south of Juba town in early November. Similar occurrences have been reported in the town of Yambio, among the Zande tribe and the Dinka tribe, near the DRC and CAR borders which has prompted UN agencies to evacuate their staff from the area.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) presently has approximately 30 staff, mainly medical, in Juba. It will close down the hospital in Lokichokio (northern Kenya) and patients will be treated in Sudan from February 2006. Primary health centres (PHCs) have been handed over to partner national societies (PNSs), while some operational support, including flights, will continue for the time being. A Juba orthopaedic workshop will be set up in 2006 to offer continuity of service to orthopaedic patients. The ICRC will continue tracing activities, eventually handing over to Sudanese Red Crescent Society, and increase International Humanitarian Law (IHL) activities, both ad hoc and formal training.

A number of national societies are supporting activities in South Sudan and for returnees:

- Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are supported in Raga (and health services for returnees in South Kordofan) by German Red Cross, in Wau by Danish Red Cross, in Juba by the Netherlands Red Cross and in Yirol by the consortium of Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross societies.
- Health services in a way station in Kosti and on barges are supported by the German Red Cross.
- Food security and supplementary feeding in Raga by the German Red Cross.
- Non food item distribution for returning refugees from Ethiopia by the Spanish Red Cross.

While the Memorandum of Understanding between the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the GoSS is being put in place, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (through a letter from the Secretary General to the Federation Head of Delegation Sudan on 6 November 2005) requested the Federation to take the lead in the operation, to start the operation immediately and set in place the operational alliances concept. At the request of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society the Federation deployed a FACT team to Sudan. In addition to staff and volunteers from Sudanese Red Crescent Society, the British, New Zealand, Icelandic and German Red Cross seconded staff for the FACT Team. The Regional Delegation Nairobi deployed the Regional Disaster Management Coordinator as Team Leader and staff from Uganda and Rwanda Red Cross from the Regional Disaster Response Team.

Emergency relief

Objective: Provide assistance to spontaneous returnees.

Progress/Achievements:

It appears that the plan to establish 21 way stations by the end of the year is behind schedule. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society supported by German Red Cross and ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) are working in a way station in Kosti for returnees taking barges on the Nile to Malakal. The UNHCR requested the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the FACT team for assistance to establish a way station in Juba. A way station is being established 1.5 km outside of Juba on the road to Yei where a compound of 200 x 200 metres is being mine cleared/checked, to handle 500 people for 72 hour stopover. ADRA has been asked to undertake construction, and

will be responsible for sanitation. UNHCR has invited the Federation/Sudanese Red Crescent Society to become a partner in water, health and provision of non-food items (NFIs). It is aimed to have this station operational by the end of December 2005. Plans are under preparation for way stations in Damazin (Karmuk), Kaduguli (land has been identified) and also possibly in Malakal, Bentiu and Wau.

The combined agency planned capacity for NFIs is for 100,000 households with a further 50,000 households in reserve. The needs are greater than this, but there is a limited agency distribution capacity. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society/FACT team proposed to UNOCHA that NFIs for 40,000 households (200,000 beneficiaries) would be immediately sourced and pre-positioned in Southern Sudan in line with the Federation's preliminary appeal.

The critical lack of trucking capacity was highlighted and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society/FACT team were requested to provide additional capacity.

Information Campaign

Objective: Provide timely and accurate information which will help people make informed decisions on when and how to return or settle in the area of their choice.

Progress/Achievements:

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society has already been approached in Kosti by UNOCHA and ADRA for assistance in returnee monitoring and tracking. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society branch in Wau has developed a proposal for their branch to be involved in monitoring returnees. UNOCHA have increased their activities for tracking and monitoring returns through the employment of 96 enumerators, 29 field protection monitors and salary support to SRRRC for the Joint Operations Centre. A new Information Management Unit has been established. Whilst agencies are recently gathering statistics on returnees such as IOM, this area seems to require additional support if closely coordinated and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society could play a valuable role.

Emergency Response

Objective: Establish emergency response teams to monitor assess and provide emergency humanitarian support as foreseeable in a large scale population movements in complex post conflict situation such as this.

Progress/Achievements:

The FACT team arrived in Khartoum and met with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, and key international organisations and donor organisations. The returnee assessment team of the FACT made four separate assessments in White Nile (Kosti) and Blue Nile (Ed Damazin), Upper Nile (Malakal) and Bahr Al Juba (Juba), South Kordofan (Al Fula) and Unity (Bentiu) and Western Bahr Al Ghazal (Raga and Wau). They returned for debriefing and planning with Sudanese Red Crescent Society, the HoD and FACT Team Leader. An Operational Framework was drafted.

The FACT team established an operational base and office in Juba in the Sudanese Red Crescent Society compound. Contact has been made with all the principal agencies and authorities in Juba. A mobilisation table has been posted on DMIS. The FACT team's IT and telecom unit has set up computers, email accounts and testing equipment in Khartoum, bought GSM telephones and initiated the process to investigate the current HF installation and planning for Sudanese Red Crescent Society broader IT and telecom requirements. 4 telephone land lines have been ordered. An IL76 cargo aircraft was chartered from the Federation fleet/logistics base in Dubai air-lifting 3 Land Cruiser hardtops for the delegation in Khartoum and proceeding with another 4 Land Cruiser hardtops and one Land Cruiser pickup for Juba (one of the hardtops is for the Sudanese Red Crescent Society branch in Juba). Tents for the camp in Juba provided by American Red Cross were also air lifted. The aircraft also transported a vehicle for Netherlands Red Cross. A request for one rub-hall warehouse required urgently in Juba has been submitted and discussions initiated with the ICRC and Norwegian Red Cross. Non food items for an initial 10,000 people (2,000) are under requisition to be airlifted once the rub-hall warehouse is set up.

Airlift options were investigated by the Regional Delegation Nairobi for non food items from the DP stock of 10,000 households in the regional warehouse in Nairobi.

Constraints:

The inability to resource the FACT team with information and security components provided additional burden on the team members to complete these tasks. The need for replacement of the FACT team with delegates is critical. The FACT team leader position was not replaced due to the illness (necessitating the present team leader returning to Sudan). 7 delegate positions for Programme Coordinator and DM Delegate (in Khartoum) and Head of Sub Delegation, Operations Manager, Programme delegate, Watsan delegate, and Logistics delegate (in Juba) were posted. Other positions have been requested such as Health delegate (Khartoum) and IT Telecommunications, Information, Security, Branch Development delegates (in Juba).

As the FACT team's accommodation is one of the constraints in Juba, an order has been made for 10 tents, a 12 kva generator set and 50 pieces of tarpaulin in order to establish a camp at the Sudanese Red Crescent Society compound in Juba. There is currently no internet access in Juba, and other possibilities are currently being investigated, especially VSat. Office equipment needs to be ordered, including a fax machine, a printer, a copier and radios. There are plans to order at least one HF base station, one VHF repeater and 10 handsets.

Federation Coordination

The FACT team has established good working relations with personnel from the Sudanese Red Crescent Society branch in Juba who have been helpful in the initial setup stages. Meetings have been held in Khartoum with UNMIS, UNHCR and PNSs; in Juba with SRRC, UN, UNICEF (health), UNOCHA, ICRC, Returnee Reintegration Working Group, UNHCR, UNJLC, WFP and International NGOS.

The GoSS is establishing itself in Juba; line ministries are beginning to bring staff to Juba to coordinate sectoral activities.

The UN is planning to have field offices in all 10 southern states. It is supporting the SRRC whose offices are headed by former SPLM and HAC members as deputy heads, in developing monitoring and tracking systems. The UN is funding salaries to the end of 2005 and expecting GoSS to fully assume this. SRRC will move fully to Juba in December. UNOCHA coordinates a multi agency EP/R team that has been based in Rumbek, Nairobi and Loki and moving its coordination to Juba. UNHCR - Juba Office is the co-chair of the multi agency Returnee Reintegration Working Group. UNHCR is very interested in looking for partnerships with other agencies to become involved, especially in the way stations. A new UNHCR planning team arrived to open new field offices in preparation for the first repatriation. WFP registered 6,000 IDPs coming across the south in April. In Juba their case load is 1,435 people. WFP is providing 15 days ration on arrival, and for those who settle in the locality, 3 months ration and thereafter food for work/education etc. Numbers coming on the barge recently to Juba were 85, and then 60. The water sector has a co-ordinating body in Juba for Central Equatoria. The Department of Rural Water, Central Equatoria, is working with Swedish Free Mission and ACF who have drilling equipment for the purpose of drilling boreholes. SFM can also drill for other agencies on contract. Other agencies are needed due to the huge gaps that still exist in assistance provision.

A common humanitarian fund has been created (UK, Netherlands Swedish and other governments). Meetings have been held with DFID.

National Society Capacity Building

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society and branches, including the Juba branches are very involved in the operation and lending considerable practical support. Sudanese Red Crescent Society HQ and branch staff have also significantly participated in the needs assessment and subsequent planning exercise. Capacity building for Sudanese Red Crescent Society is a major component of the plan of action.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The FACT team were not provided with FACT information role. However the Sudanese Red Crescent Society Head of Media and a photographer were requested to visit Juba on 21 November.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Sudan - Assistance to returnees

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA025

PLEDGES RECEIVED

25/11/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->						TOTAL COVERAGE
				8,383,957		4.0%
BRITISH - RC		5,000	GBP	11,370	11.11.05	ASSESSMENT TEAM
SWEDISH - GOVT		2,000,000	SEK	324,000	11.11.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				335,370	CHF	4.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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