

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

SUDAN: EXPLOSION IN JUBA

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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

Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 17 March to 28 May 2005.

This Minor Emergency Update no. 1 is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 200,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be completed by 31 December 2005, and a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (1 March 2006). Replenishment of DREF by unearmarked contributions is welcome and needed.

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>

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Sudan: Mahmoud Omar Osman, Ag. Secretary General, Sudanese Red Crescent, Khartoum; Email: omer.osman@srcs-sudan.org; Phone: + 249.11.78.48.89; Fax: + 249.11.77.28.77*
- *In Sudan: Mathew Varghese, Head of Federation Sudan Delegation, Khartoum; Email: ifrcsd02@ifrc.org; Phone +249.11.77.10.33; Fax +249.11.77.04.84*
- *In Kenya: Anitta Underlin, Federation Head of Regional Delegation, Nairobi; Email: ifrcke03@ifrc.org; Phone: +254.20.283.51.24; Fax: +254.20.271.84.15*

Background

On 23 February 2005, a store of ammunition at a military depot exploded in Juba, 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 it. See Information Bulletin no. 1/2005- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts05/sd050317.pdf for detailed background information.

The Federation responded to the victims needs by allocating CHF 200,000 (SDD 42,480,000) from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to the Sudanese Red Crescent¹ for the renovation and reconstruction of the tukuls that had been destroyed by the explosion. The allocated amount was to cover the cost of grass, bamboos, zinc sheets, timber and transportation.

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

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

Objective: To renovate and reconstruct 900 tukuls through the provision of local building materials to the affected households

In April 2005, almost two months after the explosion, the Sudanese Red Crescent carried out a house to house re-assessment in the residential areas which were affected by the explosion. The findings from the re-assessment identified the following needs:

- 900 tukuls needed timber and zinc sheets for doors.
- 693 tukuls out of the 900 still needed roofing with bamboos and straw.
- Destroyed toilets had not been repaired, resulting to poor sanitary conditions.

Progress

A committee comprising of the Sudanese Red Crescent, the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the fire committee- from among the victims- was tasked with the responsibility of distributing building materials to the affected population. The distribution started on 29 April 2005 and ended on 28 May 2005. Each tukul received four pieces of timber and a zinc sheet (for the door), five bundles of bamboos and 40 bundles of grass.

The table below outlines the quantity of materials distributed.

| Item | Item | Quantity purchased | Quantity distributed | Number of tukuls |
|-------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Grass | Bundles | 21,296 | 21,296 | 535 |
| Bamboos | Bundles | 2,675 | 2,675 | 535 |
| Timber | Pieces | 2,772 | 2,772 | 700 |
| Zinc sheets | Pieces | 701 | 700 | 700 |

Following the provision of timber and zinc sheets (for doors) to 700 tukuls and the renovation of the roofs of 724 tukuls, the affected population (especially women, children and the elderly) is now protected from rain and cold. The renovated housing units also provide security and privacy to the victims.

Impact

The DREF allocation has allowed the Sudanese Red Crescent to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of the population affected by the explosion. The assistance has contributed to the increased visibility of the national society in a disaster situation.

Constraints

Some of the victims have not been able to reconstruct their tukuls due to the collapse of walls following the rains. The cost of building materials was considerably high due to scarcity, high transportation costs and the rains. The scarcity resulted in a high demand for the building materials.

158 tukuls have not been renovated due to limited funds while sanitation is very poor because the damaged toilets have still not been repaired.

Coordination

A team from the Sudanese Red Crescent, the Netherlands Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was among the first to respond to the disaster. The team provided first aid and ambulance services, evacuated the wounded to Juba hospital and removed dead bodies. The Sudanese Red Crescent deployed 45 volunteers and two vehicles for this operation.

A preliminary assessment conducted by the national society and humanitarian agencies, under the umbrella of HAC, revealed that over 3,000 people (more than 660 households) were rendered homeless after losing their homes, household property and food reserves in the fire. The Humanitarian Aid Commission includes the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Accord, Sudan Aid and Help Age among others.

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On the basis of these findings, human, material and financial resources were immediately mobilized by humanitarian agencies, faith-based organizations (FBOs) and the local authorities to provide the much needed assistance to the victims of the explosion.

Details of the contributions received are outlined below:

Financial assistance

The local authorities distributed SDD 70,000 (CHF 350) to each household that was affected by the explosion.

Food items

300 tins of tahania 20 bags of sugar 26 bags of dates and 16 bags of beans 100 sacks of onions

Non-food Items

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1,773 pieces of blankets | 1,200 bowls | 2,982 cups and 100 jugs | 1,782 plastic buckets |
| 395 bales of blankets | 2,391 plates | 525 bars and of laundry soap | 1,182 jerry cans |
| 1,182 kangas | 1,200 cooking pots | 1,050 tablets of carbolic soap | 1,182 basins |
| 591 kitchen sets | 700 beds | 100 cartons of laundry soap | 1,182 sleeping mats |

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