



SUDAN: FLOODS

DREF Bulletin no. MDRSD004

(Glide no. FL-2007-000093-SDN)

16 July 2007

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 249,000 (USD 207,386 or EUR 150,379) 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. An Emergency Appeal is being developed for this operation, and will be launched shortly.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

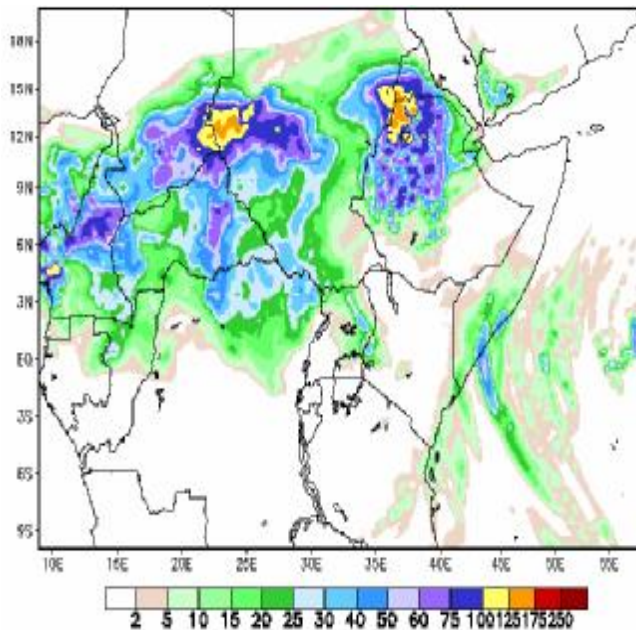
- **In Sudan:** Osman Gafer Abdalla, Secretary General, Sudanese Red Crescent Society, Khartoum; Email: srcs@sudanmail.net; Phone: + 249.11.78.48.89
- **In Sudan:** Gunnar Strom, Country Representative Sudan; Email: gunnar.strom@ifrc.org; Phone: + 249.83.77.10.33
- **In Kenya:** Dr. Asha Mohammed, Federation Head of Eastern Africa Zone, Nairobi; Email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org; Phone: + 254.20.283.51.24
- **In Kenya:** Youcef Ait Chellouche, Acting Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, Nairobi; Email: youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org; Phone: + 254.20.283.21.17
- **In Geneva:** Niels Scott, Federation Operations Coordinator (Africa); Email: niels.scott@ifrc.org; Phone: + 41.22.730.45.27

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) 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 national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

Abnormally heavy and early rainfall in Sudan since the end of June has caused the Nile River and other seasonal rivers to overflow, resulting in extensive flooding. According to the Government civil defence authority the flooding has directly caused the deaths of 20 persons, and initial reports indicate that some 16,300 houses have been partially or completely damaged (as at 11 July, 2007). This figure is likely to increase over the following days. The flooding has occurred principally in or around Kassala, Red Sea, Blue Nile, Kosti/Rabak, El Obeid, Sennar and Khartoum (see attached map). The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) Sudan forecasts heavy rains over the Ethiopian and Eritrean Plateaux which would result in a rising water level along the Blue Nile River and the main River Nile within the coming days with a high water level reaching Khartoum around 14 July. The situation in Darfur also remains critical with more rain expected in the next few days (see below).

Rainfall intensity. Source- HAC Sudan



Flood damage assessments continue in Kassala State to determine the number and needs of affected families, however NGOs estimate as much as 20,000 people may be affected in Kassala State, partly in urban and partly in rural areas which have limited protection barriers. In Red Sea State, two villages in Dolobiaya area were significantly affected with many people displaced and villages in South Tokar have also been affected. In Blue Nile, an estimated 1,270 households are affected around Tabamom locality near Damazine – road access is difficult, inhibiting more detailed assessments. In Kosti/Rabak the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) have indicated a high level of damage due to flooding of the White Nile – approximately 2,000 households damaged, of which 500 are seen as severely damaged. In El Obeid, around 2,850 families are estimated to be affected by flooding – of these 500 house are destroyed. In Sennar, flash flooding has damaged infrastructure, while assessments continue. Lastly, in Greater Khartoum a multi-agency assessment indicated a very serious situation with an estimated 10,000 households

either displaced or rebuilding their shelters. In all areas significant amounts of stagnant water, flooded latrines, contaminated wells and damaged or destroyed water systems have sharply increased vulnerability to malaria, gastric and respiratory infections.

The SRCS is collaborating with other agencies to carry out assessments in the affected areas. The SRCS is in constant contact with its branches and authorities to generate updated information and respond in accordance with available resources and in coordination with other key respondents.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The SRCS has to date distributed 1,080 tents, 1,860 plastic sheets, 5,960 blankets, 1,005,000 chlorine tablets, 500 plastic jugs, 900 boxes of laundry soap, 6 water pumps, 160 jerry cans and 100 pick axes from its preparedness stocks to start response operations. Branch Disaster Response Teams are already active in seven states – White Nile, Sennar, Gezira, Kassala, Khartoum, River Nile and Northern State, and are being mobilised in three others – Gadarif, North Kordofan and Red Sea State. The SRCS has mobilized volunteers at both headquarters and branch levels. About 40 volunteers have been mobilized in Kosti and Rabak town to assist affected families in evacuation. In Rabak, a mobile clinic has been set up in coordination with state Ministry of Health. In Kassala, Gezira, Red Sea, North Kordofan and Blue Nile States, the SRCS is involved in assessments, evacuation of affected families and relief distributions.

The SRCS has formed a Floods Task Force (FTF) to mobilize resources and coordinate response activities. The FTF consists of key national society staff and representatives of the Federation's delegation. The SRCS has updated its Floods Contingency Plan 2007 and produced a related Plan of Action to deal with immediate needs which will shortly be shared with Movement partners.

This DREF is intended to kick-start the response activities and support comprehensive assessments to determine the extent and magnitude of the damage and the relief support required in the affected communities. The two will take place concurrently. The findings of the assessment will form the basis of an Emergency Appeal which will be updated or adjusted as the operation unfolds. The planned response activities include the distribution of empty sand sacks in high risk areas, plastic mats and hygiene kits for affected households. The SRCS will also provide basic health care by mobile clinics. Approximately 320 volunteers in the eight affected states will support the implementation of various activities and more will be mobilized as necessary.

Coordination

The SRCS branches in the flood-prone areas have been active, and with Federation support, are working closely with State government, humanitarian agencies, and local communities on mobilization, logistics and relief assistance. The Government of Sudan has established a coordination mechanism known as the Joint Emergency Committee (JEC). The SRCS is a member of these emergency working groups at state level. The SRCS's headquarters in Khartoum is also working closely with the Ministry of Irrigation, Humanitarian Aid Commission, Meteorological Department and other stakeholders in monitoring the weather conditions in the country. The ICRC and participating national societies are participating in the Movement coordination mechanisms and have expressed their willingness to assist in transportation and non food items.

The UN's Joint Logistics Centre (JLC) is facilitating the delivery of relief items in the affected areas and have issued a detailed Floods Assessment Matrix detailing UN and NGO assistance to date. The SRCS is included in this planning matrix.

Plan of Action

Goal: To provide immediate relief assistance to an initial 2,000 families (10,000 beneficiaries) affected by flooding in eight states of Sudan.

Objective 1: To carry out assessments in eight states and provide non-food items to an initial 2,000 families for three months, and contribute to recovery from disaster as well strengthen coping capacities of communities at risk by mobilizing branch volunteers.

Planned activities:

- Continue assessments in flooding-affected States in tandem with NFI distributions;
- Provide assessment teams of volunteers with necessary support and equipment;
- Mobilize 320 volunteers and provide them with necessary tools in the targeted eight states for various response activities including distribution of relief items, health education and hygiene promotion;
- Procure 20,000 empty sacks for communities in high risk area to strengthen their coping mechanism capacity and readiness level.
- Provide affected households with 4,000 plastics mats.

Expected Results:

- The living conditions of households affected by floods have improved;
- Resilience of communities living in high risk areas has increased.

Objective 2: To meet the basic health needs of at least 2,000 households (at least 10,000 beneficiaries) affected by floods.

Planned activities:

- Conduct assessment of health needs of the affected population;
- Procure and distribute 2,000 hygiene kits, 4,000 plastic water containers for affected communities;
- Provide affected communities with basic health care;
- Organize health education and hygiene promotion activities among the affected and high risk population.

Expected result: Risk of hygiene related infections and malaria within communities affected by floods is reduced.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)