

# **SUDAN: FLOODS**

22 September 1998

*appeal no. 26/98*

*situation report no. 1*

*period covered: 1 - 15 September 1998*

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*Severe flooding in Sudan has affected 338,000 people and caused extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the International Federation identified 95,000 people in need of basic relief, but based on available resources only 55,000 victims have been assisted to date. There is also an increasing need for preventative health measures against the spread of waterborne diseases due to water stagnation and the overflowing of latrines and wells.*

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## ***The context***

Between 29 August and 2 September, severe flooding took place in the Blue Nile, White Nile, Kassala and Northern States. The high water levels of the Atbara River, River Nile, Blue Nile and White Nile coupled with unusually heavy rains caused many deaths, homelessness and the destruction of homes, schools, health facilities, roads and bridges. Most of the affected are among Sudan's poorest. The Government declared a state of emergency whereby 338,000 flood victims required emergency food, shelter and medical services.

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) immediately carried out 4 assessment missions to the affected areas and confirmed the severity of the situation. In order to facilitate an effective emergency intervention, the International Federation released CHF 70,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). This coupled with USD 510,000 worth of shelter and medical goods from the United Arab Emirate Red Crescent Society (directly donated to the SRCS prior to the launch of the International Federation's Appeal) made it possible for immediate Red Cross/Crescent response in the high risk emergency phase of the operations.

The magnitude of the disaster, however, called for additional and immediate external support. On 6 September, the International Federation launched an Appeal on behalf of the National Society for CHF 2.9 million. Although there has been a generous response to this intervention from Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the complete emergency needs of the affected population have yet to be met. Also, the potential for outbreaks of water-related epidemics remains. To further assess this situation, the International Federation is deploying members of its Health Relief team to Sudan.

### ***Latest events***

Since the launch of the Appeal, the situation in the four affected states has stabilised although the problems associated with water stagnation continue. However, Gedaref and Sinnar States have been affected by new flooding which occurred last week along the Ethiopian border. The SRCS/Federation are currently carrying out a detailed assessment in all affected areas. These are undertaken in co-ordination with the United Nations whose relevant agencies are also involved in health/damage assessments in various parts of the country.

The Sudanese Meteorological Department was expecting another rise in the Blue Nile River. The Government of Sudan has since closed dam gates in Blue and White Nile rivers to control the water flow.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

Based on the objectives presented in the Emergency Appeal no. 26/98, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society has achieved the following for this reporting period:

<b>Operational Area:</b>	<i>White Nile</i>	<i>River Nile</i>	<i>Kassala</i>	<i>Northern State</i>
<b>Relief Action:</b>	2000 Blankets 500 Tarpaulins Essential drugs	2 Medical kits 20 MTs food* 5250 Blankets 2000 Tarpaulins 15 Sprayers Chemicals 1000 Hand Tools	144 MTs sorghum 18 MTs pulses 5.5 Mts oil	2 Medical kits 5250 Blankets 1000 Hand tools 15 Sprayers Chemicals
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	15,000 (originally 9,750)	15,000	10,000	15,000
<b>Additional Notes:</b>	numbers increased in a recent assessment	* provided from SRCS resources.	target of 50,000 beneficiaries pending funding	target of 20,000 beneficiaries pending funding

#### **Changing Needs •**

The needs of the flood victims are rapidly changing with environmental sanitation and health related concerns becoming a priority. Therefore, there is a need for additional supplies of sprayers, water pumps and chemicals (such as malathon and abate). These materials will aid in preventing propagation of disease-carrying flies, and for the rehabilitation of shallow wells and latrines. In the meantime, the Government of Sudan has confirmed that food distributions will not be carried out in the River Nile and Northern States as these communities have expressed that they wish to take care of their own food needs. In terms of food requirements for other states, WFP, pending the outcome of its current assessments, has agreed to cover food requirements of SRCS/Federation as outlined in the Appeal document. This will be WFP's contribution to the SRCS/ Federation Emergency Appeal. In the meantime, the SRCS/Federation has served as the main point of reference for IOs and NGOs alike.

### ***Outstanding needs***

Since the launch of the Appeal, the original quantities solicited for sprayers, chemicals, malaria kits, tools and medical equipment have been covered. However, as per the changing needs

reflected above, donors should be advised that additional health/sanitation input is likely to be required following the upcoming Relief Health assessment. The need for blankets and tarpaulins is only partially covered. In addition to cash contributions towards running the operation, other immediate needs are outlined below and it should be noted that these are not available in Sudan:

<b>Tarpaulins</b>	17,100 pieces
<b>Blankets</b>	8,500 pieces
<b>Cooking sets</b>	20,000 pieces
<b>4WD Vehicles</b>	4 at estimated cost of CHF 35,000/each
<b>Water pumps</b>	35 Units
<b>1 Reporting Delegate</b>	4 months, estimated cost per month CHF 5,000

The SRCS/Federation are in continuing conversation with the ICRC regarding the latter's support to Kassala where conflict is ongoing.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The SRCS, with support from the Federation, is the only national humanitarian organisation currently working in the 4 affected states. However, close collaboration is in place with the UN agencies and the Government of Sudan who are currently carrying out joint assessment missions. The SRCS through its state branches is also participating in these assessments. The Federation's Director of Disaster Response and Support Department met with the Humanitarian Aid Commission last week in Khartoum to ensure that all Red Cross/Crescent assistance is carried out in full co-ordination with governmental and UN bodies.

At the onset of the disaster, international and national media coverage was impressively high. The SRCS/Federation issued many press releases and continues to maintain the public information angle. These efforts are led by the Federation's Regional Delegation information team.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society proved its response capacities once more with its swift and timely actions to ensure speedy service delivery to the victims of these disastrous floods. The International Federation immediately augmented its support services to the National Society and to its Country Delegation. From the onset of the operation, the water-related health implications of this disaster and the need for preventative measures against outbreaks of malaria and other epidemics were duly noted. Donors are asked for timely responses to the Appeal in order to minimise the potential risk of epidemics. For more information, please contact Atoussa K. Parsey, Desk Officer, at +41 22 730 4335 or e-mail: parsey@ifrc.org.

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