

SUDAN - FLOODS

**Appeal no:21/99
25 August, 1999**

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,216,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST MORE THAN 100,000 BENEFICIARIES
FOR THREE MONTHS***

Summary

Severe flooding in Sudan, caused by unusually heavy and early rains, has destroyed or damaged more than 20,000 homes and left over 100,000 people in urgent need of assistance. The level of major rivers are exceedingly high for this time of the year, and as the rainy season will not be over for several more weeks it is anticipated that conditions will remain the same or worsen.

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) has begun a relief operation with limited in-country resources. Teams of trained SRCS volunteers have been mobilised in all affected states and a public information campaign is ongoing, warning of health risks and providing advice on preventive measures.

Joint SRCS/Federation assessments show that the immediate needs of flood victims are shelter, blankets, medical intervention and access to clean water.

The Disaster

Unusually early and heavy rains have already caused severe flooding in a number of states in Sudan. On 2 August, the rains in Khartoum state caused extensive flooding in Umbada locality (west Omdurman), destroying or damaging thousands of houses (see Table 1). On 4 August the Commissioner for Umbada announced that the disaster is beyond the capacity of the government in an area that has not suffered a flood of this magnitude in 60 years. Reports from River Nile, Sinnar and North Kordofan states also indicate damage to a number of areas during the past week and consequent homelessness and lack of shelter for hundreds of families.

The scale of the disaster is alarming as it comes so early in the rainy season. The victims have not only lost their homes and livelihoods, they are now threatened with exposure to the elements and epidemics of infectious diseases, while coping mechanisms are stretched to their capacity. During the last two weeks more thorough surveys and assessments have been carried out. Reports have also come in from three additional states (Northern, Red Sea and Kassala) where more rains west of Omdurman have caused further damage, increasing the number of affected people. The most recent figures available are reflected in the table below:

Table 1

State	Khartoum	River Nile	North Kordofan	Sinnar	Gezira	Northern State	Red Sea	Kassala	TOTAL
Deaths (flood related)	25	-	11	-	-				36
Houses destroyed	5'682	1'327	687	104	60	499	100	60	8'519
Houses damaged	7,638	1,459	522	517	10	210	205	113	10'674
Schools destroyed	15	11	10	1	-				37
Schools damaged	48	2	26	2	-				78
Health centres damaged	4	3	2	2	-				11

Besides damage to infrastructure (including traditional wells and latrines), the floods have caused serious sanitation and health concerns. Stagnant water is not only providing breeding grounds for mosquitos, but is the also source of outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases which have already been received from Khartoum, Gezira and Sinnar.

Ongoing rapid assessments are taking place with the participation of UN agencies, SRCS/Federation, and other humanitarian organisations. The total number of affected is therefore anticipated to increase further. Based on information to date, approximately 20,000 families (100,000 people) have been directly affected.

At the same time, the Nile river is now very close to overflowing its banks in some states. The Meteorological Authority predicts rainfall above the average for August and September, and the Federation is assisting the SRCS to prepare for a situation which may require further substantial relief assistance.

The Response so far

Government Action w

HAC is responsible for the overall co-ordination. The Commission's Emergency Room is compiling information on river levels from affected states on a daily basis. HAC hosts briefings once a week (or when required) with UN agencies, INGOs, and NGOs. The Government of Sudan (GOS) has provided relief assistance to some of the victims in Umbada. The State government is opening and clearing canals and cleaning obstructions under bridges and culverts.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

SRCS and the Federation, with the limited resources available, have provided assistance with SRCS volunteers who have been mobilised in all the currently affected and alerted states. Disaster preparedness training during the previous emergencies has left the National Society in a strong position to act quickly in meeting the needs of those made vulnerable by the flooding.

The major SRCS intervention has been carried out in Khartoum state, but assistance has also reached River Nile, Gezira and Sinnar. Teams of trained volunteers are alerting the populations in the affected areas of the health dangers and preventative measures that can be taken. Chemical spraying of stagnant pools of water is taking place, and SRCS pumps are being used to clear standing water.

Limited DPP stocks of blankets and jerrycans (mainly supplies left over from the floods operation last year) are being distributed to the worst affected, and medicines are being supplied to support the clinics in those areas. However the major constraints are lack of material and financial resources to obtain and distribute crucial relief and health supplies.

A Diarrhoea Referral Clinic has been set up by the SRCS in the Wad El Bashir Refugee Camp for displaced people (operational now for over two weeks).

Other Agencies' Action w

A number of humanitarian organisations have participated in assessment missions to West Omdurman, River Nile and North Kordofan. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has responded to the needs of victims in areas where the organisation is engaged in health projects, and UNICEF will assist people in River Nile.

Co-ordination w

As mentioned above, HAC is responsible for the overall co-ordination of assistance to the flood victims. SRCS and the Federation has also initiated informal meetings with some organisations (e.g. UNICEF, IRC and CARE International).

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

SRCS State Branches in the affected areas are all collecting information on the magnitude of the disaster and forecasts regarding the risk for increased flooding. Frequent assessment missions to the field have been undertaken to specify exact needs.

Immediate Needs •

With the rains not yet over, the most immediate assistance is shelter. Tarpaulins (1-2 per family) and blankets (2 per family) are the most essential items. Medical supplies to fight diarrhoea and sprayers and chemicals to prevent the further spread of malaria are also on the priority list. A shortage of field vehicles is limiting the capacity of the response teams.

Anticipated Later Needs •

According to available forecasts, a major disaster affecting a large population along the Nile can happen within the next few weeks. Having exhausted the existing stockpile, SRCS now urgently needs replenishment and access to adequate quantities of shelter material and medical supplies. To follow up on last year's DP training, staff and volunteers now need additional training in needs assessment, budgeting and narrative and financial reporting.

Red Cross Objectives •

- Assist the most vulnerable victims in eight affected states by providing shelter, malaria prevention and medical supplies.
- Prevent the expected increase of morbidity and mortality of major child killers (diarrhoeal disease, malaria, ARI).
- Build the capacities of SRCS staff and volunteers in responding efficiently to floods and other recurrent disaster situations.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: August 1999 •

Priority needs for the victims at this early stage are shelter, blankets and access to clean water, medical supplies, and vector control. The incidence of diarrhoeal disease is rising and has been worsened by the contaminated stagnant water; health kits (cholera and NEHK) and supplementary drugs need to be procured urgently. The pools of water are also prime breeding sites for mosquitoes, and must be pumped away and sprayed to prevent the further spreading of malaria. Most states have pumps and sprayers available, but lack stocks of larvacide and funds for fuel for the pumps.

Assessment missions to affected areas.

Distribution of available shelter material and medical supplies.

Phase Two: August-October 1999 •

- Support efforts to improve co-ordination of planned assistance.
- Mobilise and train volunteers.
- Receive, transport, and distribute emergency supplies.
- Monitor ongoing operations and initiate disaster response as required.

Capacity of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society •

At Headquarters, a team led by the Secretary General is co-ordinating the SRCS operations. Facts and figures from the State Branches are collected, analysed and distribution of available relief material planned and executed. In each State Branch one staff member is responsible for activities carried out in that state. Major constraints (aside from lack of relief items) are insufficient means of transport and communication (field vehicles and HF radios) and weak reporting skills.

Present Capacity of the Federation Delegation in Sudan •

Delegation staff are participating in the work of the Headquarters' team, concentrating in planning and narrative/financial reporting, information gathering and field surveys. The delegation will receive additional assistance from the Regional Delegation's (RDN) Relief & Health Delegate.

Evaluation •

An internal evaluation by the Secretariat, RDN and PNS representative(s) is anticipated.

Conclusion

There is a compelling need to intervene to assist those already affected by this disaster, particularly as assessments indicate the likelihood that flooding will occur over the coming weeks as the rains continue. The need to strengthen the capacity of SRCS in the areas of communications, logistics and reporting will also be addressed as part of this emergency response.

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Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARY

SUDAN - Floods

IN CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

NON FOOD ITEMS

Tarpaulins/plastic sheeting (15.000 pieces)	195,000
Blankets (30.000 units)	150,000
Jerrycan (20.000 units)	60,000

MEDICAL ITEMS

Cholera kits (15 kits)	135,000
New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK)	127,500
Supplementary drugs	75,000
Fenitrithiom spray (2.500 lt)	52,500
Abate spray (1.500 lt)	64,000

TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS **859,000**

Capital equipment

Vehicle (1 car)	30,000
Telecommunications (radio equipment/mobile phone)	14,000
Computer/Hardware	7,000
<u>Transport, storage & vehicle costs</u>	80,000

Personnel

Personnel (1 expat staff/Regional Delegation support)	46,000
Personnel (local staff)	60,000
Training	23,000

Administrative, office & general expenses

Assessment/Survey mission/Evaluation	10,000
Printing Costs/Information	5,000
Secretariat operational support	57,000

TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS **357,000**

TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND **1,216,000**

LESS PLEDGES ANOUNCED **0**

NET REQUEST CASH & KIND **1,216,000**

All items are going to be purchased locally