

SUDAN

CHF 4,560,000

Programme No. 01.12/2000

National Context

Sudan has been at war for 32 of its 43 years of independence, the longest ongoing civil war in the world. The effects are manifold, including an extreme level of vulnerability to famine and disease. With so many war-related civilian deaths and internally displaced people in recent years, Sudan is considered to be in a severe humanitarian situation, with an extremely high infant and maternal mortality rate. Malaria, pneumonia, malnutrition, diarrhoea and maternal health complications are among the leading causes for hospital consultations and death.

In addition to the impact of the ongoing conflict, other concerns are a chronic food deficit, floods, and epidemics. The civil war also presents severe access problems in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Basic indicators confirm the humanitarian situation: life expectancy at birth is 52 years. The infant mortality rate is 110 deaths per 1000 live births. Only 66% of the urban population and 20% of the rural population has access to clean water, a major reason for the high prevalence of water borne diseases. In addition, only 74% of the urban population and 51% of the rural populations have access to adequate sanitation. Vaccination coverage goes from 90% where infrastructure is relatively good to below 50% in the more isolated states of Kordofan and Darfur, with no record for the 10 southern states.

A critical factor in efforts to respond to the situation is donor fatigue, but there are hopes that ongoing peace efforts will promote more confidence.

In view of the humanitarian situation, people rely on coping mechanisms to remain alive. The Sudanese tradition of sharing whatever means are available has saved thousands of lives. But there are limits to this lifeline. Aid organisations are focusing on further developing the capacities of the communities, requiring a well coordinated effort.

Country Assistance Strategy

Facilitated by the Federation, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) is currently undergoing a change process and decentralising its activities, aiming at autonomy and self reliance for the State Branches and full participation of the volunteers in all Society affairs. The Sudan Country Delegation serves in an advisory and consultative capacity to support and encourage the capacity building of the Society. Implementation of a new financial system, assistance in planning and reporting and continued support to governance are the main foci of the Institutional Development strategy. The second priority is technical assistance to the development of new programmes and project models in the field of Basic Health and to promote integration of existing health programmes. Thirdly, the Federation will continue to support the ongoing SRCS disaster assistance programmes

with refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Efforts will also be made to increase preparedness and response for the natural disasters to which Sudan is particularly prone. Finally, improving co-operation and co-ordination of the branches of the SRCS in Sudan is imperative.

Programme Objectives

Disaster Response

The disaster response activities will focus primarily on assisting internally displaced women's awareness of health problems and social development through promotion of their self-reliance; to improve the income generating skills of the most vulnerable women's groups; and to foster social relations among the participating women in order to promote a family atmosphere.

Disaster Preparedness

The Federation's disaster preparedness assistance strategy will focus on enabling target branches of the SRCS to prepare for and respond to emergency situations and disasters in a timely and effective manner; to equip SRCS with the technical capacity for disaster management and response as well as necessary materials, logistics and communication. In addition, a drought monitoring and early warning system programme will aim to establish an information network within SRCS in order to facilitate the flow of information which can be used to mitigate the effects of disasters (natural or manmade) and respond at early stages.

Health

With Federation assistance, the health interventions will focus on the areas of malaria control, reproductive health, home based child health care, water and sanitation in the Khartoum area, HIV/AIDS education, and healthcare rehabilitation in the Kassala and Gedaref areas.

Humanitarian Values

Dissemination of the fundamental principles and International Humanitarian Law will be a major concern, integrated in all programmes as well as serving as separate projects.

Capacity Building

Institutional and Resource Development are integrated components in most programmes, serving the strategic goal to create a wellfunctioning society. The capacity building efforts over the next 24 years will focus on improving and increasing human, material and financial resources; staff and volunteer recruitment and training, increased productivity and quality of staff performance and further development of the governance structure. The overall objective is to strengthen SRCS not only on the national level but also at the branch level in terms of institutional, human and financial resources. The ultimate result of the Institutional Development programme will be improved capacity to deliver consistent services throughout the country.