

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

SUDAN

Appeal No. MAASD001

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This report covers the period 01/01/2009 to 30/06/2009



Sudanese Red Crescent Society's volunteers engaged in water management activities in north Kordofan.
Source: **International Federation**

In brief

Programme purpose: Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) is a leading national community-based organization in Sudan. It is committed to contributing to the Federation's Global Agenda goals and seeks Secretariat support in mobilizing resources. One of the top priorities identified by the National Society is to reduce vulnerability of the targeted communities to climatic shocks and related epidemics.

Programme summary: The first half of 2009 witnessed the beginning of changes in the Federation's presence in Sudan. An agreement was reached between the Federation and the Movement Partners on its role and structure within the country. Despite the challenges and constraints occasioned by the decision of the Government to de-register 13 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and dissolve 3 national NGOs, SRCS managed to mobilise its resources in addressing the needs of the vulnerable people. The humanitarian gaps left by the de-registered or dissolved organizations placed a lot of pressure on SRCS's capacities and resources. The outstanding achievement for this reporting period includes establishment of emergency action teams within the community and the training of volunteers. Other milestones include the successful response to several health related needs; strengthening the financial management systems and scaling up of efforts in branch development in southern Sudan.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 8,551,505 (USD 8,059, 793 or EUR 5,635,442), of which 23 per cent is covered. Expenditure overall was 88 per cent. Variance between the annual budget 2009 indicated in the Country Plan 2009-2010 and actual budget for 2009 is due to carry over balances from 2008 programmes.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report](#)

See also:

[MDRSD006](#) – Operation update

[MDRSD006](#) - Complex emergency

[Sudan country plan 2009 - 2010](#)

No. of people we have reached: SRCS reached 150,000 beneficiaries within the reporting period. This number is expected to double over the next reporting period.

Our partners: The Federation country office and SRCS were actively involved in all coordination forums at national and state levels. Regular contacts were also maintained with various Government ministries including Ministry of Health (MoH), the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) as well as United Nations (UN) agencies and European Union/ European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (EU/ECHO). PNS supporting SRCS include Austrian RC, American RC, British RC, Canadian RC, Danish RC, German RC, Finnish RC, Iranian RC, Netherlands RC, Norwegian RC, Spanish RC, Swedish RC, Swiss RC, Qatar RC and Saudi RC.

Context

The reporting period was marked by rising tensions and the outbreak of meningitis in various parts of the country. Violence, inter-tribal clashes and massive population movements were common throughout the reporting period. Disease outbreaks, rising commodity prices and inflation worsened the humanitarian conditions of people in Sudan.

On 4 March 2009, the Government of Sudan decided to dissolve three national non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and ordered the departure of thirteen international NGOs. Resulting from this government decision, SRCS was approached by the authorities to explore filling the resulting humanitarian gaps in Darfur state as well as the rest of the country. In responding to the request, SRCS sought for assistance from the Federation which resulted in the Federation's deployment of a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to assist SRCS. The FACT team from the Federation managed to analyze the evolving situation, coordinate with all key stakeholders and developed a strategy based on their mandate as requested by the National Society.

Towards the end of March 2009, over 100,000 people had been displaced by inter-clan/tribal fights. The fights are said to have been occasioned by cattle raids and competition for grazing fields. Another conflict causing factor has been the constant armed attacks from the Uganda rebel movement, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Contributing to further resource competition and conflict is the huge number of refugee returnees in southern Sudan. Southern Sudan refugee return operation achieved the 300,000 record returns from the 418,270 refugees who were registered in the countries neighbouring Sudan in December 2004¹.

Progress towards outcomes

The SRCS as a leading national, community-based organisation continued making efforts to address emerging needs of vulnerable people through mobilising volunteers and its staff at both Headquarters (HQ) and branch levels. SRCS constantly has been strengthening its own capacity to deliver better services and improve community-driven activities addressing health risks.

¹ Sudan Humanitarian Overview – UN, Vol 5, Issue 01

Disaster Management

Programme Component: Community preparedness/risk reduction

Outcomes

- 100,000 people in 10 hazard-prone states have improved their ability to predict and plan for disasters.
- 100,000 people in 10 hazard-prone states have strengthened their response capacities to a variety of sudden and slow onset of disasters in their locality.
- The SRCS has improved and scaled up longer-term food security support to communities vulnerable to disasters and/or affected by HIV/AIDS to ensure they have improved physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy and active life.

Achievements

A number of community-based disaster preparedness activities were implemented by SRCS during the first half of 2009. Most of these activities are linked to the ongoing ECHO funded Community Based Development Programme (CBDP) which started in 2008. The programme covered three states: north Kordofan, White Nile and Gedaref.

A Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) was conducted in all three targeted states to identify the most vulnerable communities. Localities were identified together with SRCS focal points, community leaders, local NGO representatives and branch directors of targeted states. The actual VCA was facilitated by a consultant recruited by the SRCS and assisted by CBDP programme coordinator. Each of the targeted communities was trained in VCA methodology followed by a field exercise to map vulnerabilities within communities. All three branches of the SRCS held meeting with representatives of the state Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner and local networks to discuss the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The SOPs will respect and integrate the existing procedures to facilitate and clarify roles and responsibilities of local networks in emergencies.

Almost 14,000 people were reached through HIV/AIDS sensitisation and awareness sessions through street dramas in all three targeted states. Volunteers conducted 16 drama performances each depicting relevant risk reduction themes. The volunteers tailored their messages to the risks specific to their communities with reference to VCA findings.

Nineteen community-based action teams have been established in all target communities with 325 members trained in the main disciplines of disaster response with a focus on evacuation, First Aid, needs assessment and emergency relief. Action teams were provided with First Aid kits, stretchers, loudspeakers, torches, rain coats and gum boots. Around 100 community leaders and members were trained on safe sanitation and water management in emergencies.

Programme Component: Disaster management planning

Outcome: The ability of SRCS to predict and plan for disaster has improved.

Achievements

Despite funding constraints the SRCS continues to strengthen its planning capacities within available resources and bilateral support from Partners. Seven SRCS staff members from the branches and HQs participated in a two weeks health and disaster management training hosted by the Iranian Red Crescent.

Floods contingency plan which was developed in 2008 supported by the Federation is under revision in consultation with partners and relevant government structures. SRCS is working closely with partners to mobilise resources for contingency stocks and disaster mitigation.

SRCS was invited to participate in the Flood Preparedness and Early Warning (FPEW) Project. These fast-track projects identified priority action under the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP). The project is preparing communities for disasters and facilitates development of community action plans.

Programme Component: SRCS institutional disaster preparedness and response

Outcome

- SRCS has improved its human resources, financial and material capacity for effective disaster management, including the management of emergency water and sanitation services.

Achievements

The SRCS strengthened its capacity in water and sanitation by conducting training in WatSan emergency response for volunteers. Representatives from local water, environment and sanitation unit (part of local authorities) supported by the Austrian RC were among the participants. Five water kits were donated by the Austrian RC and one week emergency preparedness training was held in Kordofan and in Unity states.

Health and Care

Programme Component: National Community Health Volunteer Programme

Outcomes

- Local communities in ten targeted states have strengthened their capacity to address the main causes of morbidity and mortality.
- SRCS has strengthened its capacity to support community-driven action to address health risks.

Achievements

The programme started as a pilot initiative in 2006 in an attempt to build the local knowledge in dealing with the most common health risks. It is now addressing capacity building of volunteers at grassroots levels to act as catalyst for community driven activities in responding to various disasters and health emergencies. SRCS target is to have some 1,000 volunteers in each locality about 48 per cent of this target has been achieved.

Despite the low level of funding, the SRCS continued with activities and managed to train about 9,300 volunteers during the reporting period and conducted around 22,000 home visits. Output of these interventions is the reduction of vulnerability through knowledge transfer and support of locally driven actions.

The National Community Health Volunteer Programme (NCHVP) became a backbone of the SRCS health activities. Considering that concept was piloted in 2006 and is still relatively a new concept conceptual issues were ironed out and adjusted through NCHVP Steering Committee.

Table 1: National Community Health Volunteer Programme activities from January to June 2009

| State | Sessions TOT | Trained TOT | Sessions Volunteers | Trained Volunteer | Activities | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Clean up campaign | Home visits | Health Education | Mosquito nets |
| Gazeera | | | 54 | 1,929 | 44 | 1,402 | 100 | |
| Sinnar | 1 | 25 | 46 | 1,320 | 2 | 195 | 149 | |
| Gadaref | 5 | 112 | 89 | 2,802 | 61 | 18,938 | 143,352 | |
| Red Sea | 1 | 25 | 30 | 900 | 6 | 500 | 50 | |
| North Kordofan | 2 | 35 | 60 | 1,439 | 28 | 298 | 55 | |
| Upper Nile | | | 10 | 461 | 10 | 200 | 5 | |
| Unity | 1 | 30 | 5 | 225 | 4 | 421 | 8 | 5,000 |
| Central Equatorial | | | 2 | 50 | | | | |
| Lake | | | 4 | 100 | | | | |
| Warrab | | | 2 | 50 | | | | |
| Total: | 10 | 227 | 302 | 9,276.0 | 155 | 21,954 | 143,719 | 5,000 |

Organisational Development/Capacity Building

Programme Component: SRCS grassroots units and service development

Outcomes

- SRCS has expanded its national presence through a country-wide network of branches.
- Ten selected branches have strengthened their governance and management functions to support more effectively services aimed at alleviating suffering of the vulnerable.

Achievements

The SRCS is working closely with PNS, ICRC and the Federation to scale up activities in southern Sudan. This is in line with the framework of South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP) 2009-2010 which was developed by the SRCS in consultation with PNS and the Federation in February 2009. The Movement task force formed a technical committee on south Sudan to discuss SSDP and advise SRCS south Secretariat on feasibility of the plan, implementation, coordination and resource mobilization. The committee which is chaired by the Danish RC has developed a questionnaire to collect more baseline information and mapped out the capacity of the SRCS branches in southern Sudan. The collected data helped Partners to analyze their capacities on the ground and gave recommendations to SRCS about SSDP implementation and coordination program.

The Nairobi meeting in February 2009 was a breakthrough in reaching agreement between Partners and the Federation about the role, size and structure of the Federation presence in Sudan. The Federation will now be concentrating on coordination, representation, humanitarian diplomacy and capacity building. These changes had an impact on coverage of the Country Plan 2009-2010.

Programme Component: SRCS programme development and management capacity

Outcome

- Effectiveness and efficiency of SRCS programmes improved through improved planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Achievements

There were a number of adhoc trainings supported by Partners and funded from the SRCS such as the financial management training in Cairo, Egypt. It is hoped that the training will enhance the capacity of the NS in financial management.

Programme Component: SRCS systems, procedures and staff sustainability

Outcomes

- SRCS financial management capacities have improved by shifting from manual to computer-based accounting system.
- SRCS human management capacities have improved through a more structured approach to SRCS staff and volunteer development, essential to the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery to the vulnerable.

Achievements

The Federation Zone finance unit conducted an analysis of a new Financial Software system which was introduced by the SRCS in seven state branches. One week assessment of the computer-based system was done at headquarter level and recommendations have started to be implemented. Overall, the system is well designed and the use of it is promising for ensuring proper reporting and accountability procedures.

SRCS developed and enhanced capacities of their staff and volunteers at headquarter and branch levels through trainings and exchange visits. There were a number of trainings conducted for the NS staff and volunteers in Cairo. The participants were the five branch directors (three from the north and two from the south). German Red Cross also funded a training which was attended by seven people including branch directors and HQ staff. The training which was hosted by Iranian Red Crescent covered topics related to health and disaster management. The Health Coordinator from north Darfur got support from Finnish RC to attend training in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The benefits of these trainings will be assessed in the next reporting period.

The first phase of an exchange programme of youth delegates between the SRCS and the Norwegian RC has been completed. Both sister National Societies are preparing delegates for the second phase.

A quarterly meeting of all branch directors was conducted in Kadugli, south Kordofan from 14 to 16 April 2009. A total of forty participants attended the meeting to share their achievements and challenges while identifying the lessons learned. A practice of monthly meetings was introduced by the SRCS during the reporting period. These meetings have enabled the staffs to share knowledge and experiences with the HQ staff.

Principles and Values

Programme Component: Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

Outcomes

- SRCS volunteers and staff act on the basis of the Fundamental Principles in their work with vulnerable people in times of peace or disaster.
- Discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class or political opinions decreased at all levels of the SRCS and in the population served by the National Society.

Achievements

There was no funding for this particular programme during the reporting period. The only Activity related to this section was the three delegates who represented SRCS during Solferino 150 *Youth on the Move* event in Italy and Geneva, Switzerland.

Challenges

The biggest challenge faced by the Federation office in Sudan was the underfunded Country Plan and absence of clear vision on the role of the Federation in Sudan. The issue had been discussed number of times with PNS, ICRC and EA Zone office. SRCS implemented only limited activities within the country plan due to unavailable resources. SRCS is now scaling up bilateral efforts to mobilise resources from the Movement Partners to support its national programmes such as NCHVP, disaster management, branch development and institutional capacity building. The Movement partners are urged to mobilise all possible resources financial and technical to fulfil expectations from the SRCS and support the NS in implementation of recommendations given by FACT deployed in March 2009.

SRCS has developed its Food Security policy and long term programme to address food insecurity in a number of states in Sudan. The programme was developed within the regional food security initiative and was supported by the Federation country office and the Zone office. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding the programme has not taken off.

The capacity of SRCS branch staff to implement plans successfully stills needs to be enhanced. The increasing numbers of volunteers necessitates measures to be put in place for volunteer management. SRCS has a young and dynamic leadership committed to transforming the NS into a credible, efficient and effective organization. The leadership has embarked on an important reform process and it needs resources and support which has not been forthcoming in the past.

Working in partnership

SRCS is actively involved in all coordination meetings at national and state levels. It maintains regular contacts with HAC of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, and takes part in UN-led interagency task force meetings. Planning and implementation of SRCS operations is well represented at cluster levels' coordination forums. SRCS works with a number of United Nations (UN) agencies. It has developed an excellent partnership with UN Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC), World Food Program (WFP) and United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF)

Within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Sudan, coordination is managed through the Framework for Movement Cooperation in Sudan. This was developed after the meeting of eight Partner National Societies, ICRC and the Federation Secretariat in Nairobi, in February 2009. The framework provides for a coordinated approach to a number of different types of partnerships and does not preclude bilateral partnerships between the SRCS and the PNS. This has helped to secure a coherent and coordinated Movement response to humanitarian needs in the country. The coordination is managed at three levels: strategic, operational and technical.

SRCS is working with number of Partner National Societies at both bilateral and multilateral levels to address needs of vulnerable people. PNS supporting SRCS include Austrian RC, American RC, British RC, Canadian RC, Danish RC, German RC, Finnish RC, Iranian RC, Netherlands RC, Norwegian RC, Spanish RC, Swedish RC, Swiss RC, Qatar RC and Saudi RC. Qatar RC has expanded its activities since February 2009. It is currently addressing PHC in Darfur region and mine awareness, reconstruction plus food security in Kassala region. French RC has visited Sudan recently to assess the situation and agreed with SRCS on future cooperation possibilities and possible intervention areas. Netherlands RC continued supporting SRCS in implementation of the integrated health and livelihood programme in Kassala, HIV/AIDS programme in Kassala, Gezira and Darfur.

Contributing to longer-term impact

To ensure its programmes are relevant, the SRCS encourages the full participation of the targeted population in both planning and implementation. Regular meetings with the target population were incorporated throughout the period. The responsibility for day-to-day monitoring of the operation was left to SRCS branches and units but was closely supervised by their national headquarters. This ensured appropriate accountability, transparency and financial management of the operations. The targeted states were regularly visited by joint Federation and SRCS monitoring teams. This helped to identify and resolved the issues which emerged during the reporting period.

The introduction of monthly meetings between headquarters and field staff enhanced reporting process and information sharing including lessons learned. Efforts were made to disseminate programme achievements and lessons learned through various inter-agency coordination meetings. It was therefore evident during the reporting period that SRCS' long-term programmes is contributing to the Global Agenda goals of the Federation as well as the Millennium Development Goals. Ongoing implementation of the community-based health and disaster management activities by SRCS is a good example. The program is all gender inclusive and the results are highly appreciated by the community.

Looking ahead

Partners confirmed the resources available for SRCS were limited. Due to the failure to achieve the ambitions and vision set in 2005, the meeting between partners in Nairobi felt compelled to advise the Federation to scale down to a leaner office structure. The focus now is to strengthen the coordination in order to achieve greater results *within* the available capacities while making full use of the Movement's potential.

The Federation Country Representation together with SRCS will develop a new country plan relevant to new developments and will start implementation of the new vision. The process will be led by the SRCS and the new management of the Federation Office in Sudan.

| How we work | |
|--|---|
| <p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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".</p> | <p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
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