

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SUDAN: FLOODS

15 August, 2002

Information Bulletin N° 1/2002

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: N/A

This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider international support through an Appeal.

The Situation

Heavy rains between 3 and 8 August have caused severe floods in the Western Kordofan, White Nile, Gazira and Khartoum States. The rains caused extensive damage and made thousands of people homeless. The 25,000 inhabitants of El Nhoud Town in Western Kordofan and 26 villages in Gazira and 20 villages in White Nile now face serious health risks and water/sanitation threats. The government (Humanitarian Aid Commission) and the local authorities have officially declared an emergency and have called for national and international assistance.

SRC branches in the affected states indicated significant damage to a number of areas and consequent homelessness and lack of shelter for hundred of families. People are now living in the open or are temporarily accommodated with relatives. In the White Nile State, floods have affected about 18 villages in EL Gitaina Province, and 8 kms of the Khartoum to Kosti highway were washed away. In Khartoum State, heavy rains coupled with flash floods on 3 August hit around 126 houses in El Safa village, south Omdorman Province. Further rains during the morning of 14 August hit the Khartoum itself, causing severe damage. More than 180 mm of rain has fallen so far and more is expected as this is only the start of the three month rainy season. Preliminary assessments show that around 100,000 are affected, mainly in shanty towns populated by those displaced by the conflicts and drought. In Gezira State, flash floods on 8 August hit some 26 villages in Managil Province close to the border of White Nile State, severely affecting houses, dispensers and health centres. Over 2,220 families were severely affected and 1,850 houses were completely washed away.

The most disastrous event struck the town of El Nhoud Western Kordofan State (700 kms West of Khartoum). The damage caused to the town has been substantial, with a trail of destruction and thousands of homes washed away. The population is facing immediate health risks from a lack of shelter and clean water and sanitation.

According to an initial survey conducted by the authorities in cooperation with the SRCS and humanitarian organizations, 3,000 families have completely lost their homes, while 1,933 families saw their huts partially damaged. Over 600 latrines were affected, and a number of public facilities were also affected such as schools, mosques, churches, and water pumps. Due to flooding of the sewerage system, contaminated water has caused a considerable rise in diarrhoea cases. In total almost 1/3 of the population was affected or almost 18,000 out of 54,000 residents in El Nhoud Town. Some people made homeless by the floods have received some local assistance, but for many the continuing rain remains a serious threat.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Responding to the needs, an emergency operation team was formed consisting of the Secretary General, the Federation Representative, the DP/R delegate, and the information officer and finance director. Emergency volunteer teams are already active in four affected states - Khartoum, Western Kordofan, Gezira and White Nile State. Committees and subcommittees have been established with the relevant government bodies and humanitarian organizations.

The SRCS State branch offices in all states affected by floods have mobilized in total some 2,500 volunteers to assist the people made homeless, distributing the limited supplies available. Health centers and clinics run by the national society have extended their services but are facing shortage of drugs as the main obstacle.

In El Nhoud, the SRCS West Kordofan branch has mobilized around 560 volunteers to provide rescue and relief services. To recoup belongings from destroyed buildings, providing psychological support, first aid and distribution of food and shelter material provided by the UNICEF and Government.

The team responsible for the coordination at SRCS headquarters has collected information from the State branches and are providing technical back-up to the affected branches accordingly. The ICRC in Khartoum responded to the disaster by immediately donating 2,000 family kits and staff and volunteer support.

Plans are underway to dispatch part of the limited disaster preparedness stock available from the SRCS headquarters to the most affected areas. This includes plastic sheeting and jerrycans.

In addition to the release of emergency stock, volunteers of the Western Kordofan, White Nile and Gezira State branches participating in a number of the disaster response actions, including providing communities with first aid services, cleaning water drainage systems, conducting community awareness in different affected areas.

In Khartoum State, the level of the Nile is now approaching the records of that at this time in August 2001, when Sudan suffered its last major floods. In line with the existing contingency plans, the national Society has dispatched teams to areas at risk, alerting people to a possible rapid deterioration of the situation. Support for such contingency planning has come from the British government's Department for International Development.

Needs

The primary needs are: shelter (plastic sheets or tents) blankets. Essential drugs and medical equipment for mobile health clinics are in short supply and will be needed at the earliest. Water purification, mosquito nets and water pumps are also needed. A food ration for one month to 25,000 people. Support for staff and volunteers involved in the operation. Transportation for the assistance, emergency teams and the mobile health clinics are also a constraint as the SRCS branches involved in the planned responses have only a few old vehicles. Cash contributions are therefore urgently needed to cover the cost of deployment of staff and volunteers for assessment, transportation of materials, and the local purchase of water purification, sprayers, drugs and blankets. Lastly, regional delegation support through the mobilization of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) is needed.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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