

FINAL REPORT



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: ERITREAN REFUGEES

30 April 2001

This Final Report is intended for reporting on emergency appeals

Appeal No. 12/00

Preliminary Appeal launched on: 22 May, 2000 for 2 months for CHF 1,310,393. Revised Appeal launched on: 22 June, 2000 for 4 months for CHF 1,651,827. Programme extended until December 31, 2000 (see Situation Report no. 3 issued on 21 September, 2000).

DREF Allocated: CHF 150,000

Beneficiaries: 80,000, increased to 100,000 in the Revised Appeal

Operations Update No. 4 (Final)

The Context

The resumption of fighting between Eritrea and Ethiopia prompted massive population movements from affected areas within Eritrea and across the border to eastern Sudan. The majority of refugees arriving were women, children and the elderly. The refugees crossed at the Lafa, Gulsa, Shagarab and Gergef entry points, areas where the refugee communal facilities and infrastructures were already stretched beyond capacity. A Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and Federation assessment mission to border areas initially concluded that 10,000 refugees needed to be provided immediate shelter and basic assistance in the form of water, sanitation, shelter, food, health care, and essential drugs. Two hundred SRCS volunteers were immediately mobilized and operational, and CHF 150,000 was released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). By mid-June when a ceasefire came into force, some 92,000 Eritreans had entered Sudan. A revised appeal on June 22 elaborated plans to extend assistance to 100,000 refugees for 4 months. The operation was later extended to the end of December 2000.

Following negotiations between the Sudanese and Eritrean Governments a programme of voluntary repatriation commenced on July 25, facilitated by UNHCR and resulting in the return of some 25,000 Eritreans. In addition, the spontaneous repatriation of some 57,000 finally brought the figure down to 10,000 by the end of the year. Discussions between the Eritrean and Sudanese governments and UNHCR are expected to result in the repatriation of the remaining refugees who had arrived in 2000. In all some 160,000 Eritreans are still residing in the Sudan.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

Objective 1: Assist the authorities with the registration of refugees.

Achievements

The SRCS volunteers immediately assisted in the reception of the newly-arriving families in conjunction with the authorities. The assistance included transportation and registration.

Constraints

Lack of registration material and coordination between parties involved during the first few days resulted in some miscalculations regarding the number of refugees.

Objective 2: Provide health services

Achievements

The SRCS branch in Kassala had been involved with Eritrean refugees for several years, particularly in the provision of medical services, and therefore had a very good understanding of the social dynamics of the Eritrean population as well as the needs. The existing infrastructure allowed the programme to be easily expanded.

Four provisional health posts were established from the first day of the emergency in the abandoned schools at Gulsa and Lafa and in Gergef and Um Savary. Medicines were provided as a loan from the ongoing refugee health programme. This was subsequently replenished through ECHO funding support, including equipment for the clinics and salary support to health staff. The SRCS later concentrated on three clinics (two in Gulsa and one in Lafa).

Refugees arrived in fairly good health condition and showed minimal signs of distress migration. No major health problems occurred in spite of the shortage of accommodation and sanitation. Attendance at the clinics was high (66.2% of the population attending the Gulsa clinic in September). Several cases of measles had been reported from Gulsa and children under 15 years were vaccinated at both the clinics as well as the border crossing entry points. Over 14,000 doses of meningitis vaccine was administered via the outreach programme. The EPI programme was well run, targeting children under 12 months. The SRCS also took on the responsibility of referrals, with about 70 during the first week. Inpatient facilities at Gulsa and Laffa were deemed necessary and tents were procured for this purpose. Most of the cases that would have been referred to the hospitals in Wad Sherefei and Kassala were treated at the camps.

The dissemination of hygiene messages to the camp population using loudspeakers was an important aspect of the volunteers' contribution.

Constraints

The hygiene situation was inadequate in all camps and clean water was not available in sufficient quantities. There was also a lack of basic equipment when establishing the clinics.

Objective 3: Distribution of relief supplies including food, shelter, jerrycans and fuel.

Achievements

The ability of the SRCS Kassala branch to recruit volunteers to run the programmes from within the refugee community itself gave the Society a lead role in beneficiary selection and the distribution of complementary food and basic non-food items. No other agency was able to rely on this level of human resources, and their presence also had a beneficial effect for other agencies operational in the camp as

they were able to draw on SRCS volunteers to assist them with their own distributions, thus ensuring that relief commodities reached the refugees more quickly than they might otherwise have done.

Throughout the crisis, shelter was an ongoing concern for all the agencies involved. The number of tents available for distribution was insufficient (roughly 3,500 out of an estimated need of 21,000 were distributed) and during August the branch began to plan a construction project utilizing locally available materials for 2,500 families for implementation during September.

Except for pharmacy supplies for the clinics, all relief materials were stored at branch warehouses in Kassala. Relief commodities were dispatched to distribution sites in the camps on the day of distribution. Where relevant, refugee leaders were present at distributions.

The following non-food items were distributed by the SRCS:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Temporary shelter	3,000
Family tents	450
Tarpaulins, pcs	6,000
Mosquito nets	5,420
Jerry cans, 4 gallon	13,000
Water buckets and lids	5,000
Cooking sets	2,600
Soap, pcs	24,000
Hospital tents	6
Medical equipment and essential drugs, value in EUR	60,932
Emergency health kits	5
BP-5 biscuits, kg.	18,000

The SRCS also provided assistance to MSF-Holland (construction of clinics and feeding centres) and IRC, Goal, and International Islamic Relief (distribution of shelter materials).

Constraints

The SRCS logistics system was not adequately capable of tracking and reporting on commodity movements, making information difficult to collate and time consuming to produce. A standardized system was initiated by the SRCS to improve efficiency and ultimately reduce the time the branch spends on reporting.

Objective 4: Immediate water distribution.

Achievements

Lack of water constituted the major problem from day one and remained a main concern for months. The SRCS immediately provided two bladder tanks and one water tanker from the nearby Wad Sherefei refugee camp. A second water tanker brought by the refugees was also operated by the SRCS. Another two water tankers were provided by the ICRC together with bladders and material for water distribution. The ICRC support to water distribution continued up to the end of August.

Initially the water distribution system consisted of supplies transported by water tankers to bladders. However, once more permanent water storage tanks had been erected by Oxfam and ICRC and a permanent pipeline from the bore hole was set up, SRCS was able to discontinue the water tankering operation.

Constraints

The growing number of refugees during the first weeks made it hard to meet requirements in spite of more water tankers made available. The situation at Gergef (two litres per person and day) made it necessary to move people to another camp. Even in Gulsa and Lafa (10 and 13 litres per person per day), SPHERE standards could not be met.

Conclusions

The SRCS acted according to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement at all times during the operation. It reacted immediately and well to the developing crisis and at the grassroots level its role in the operation was well defined and executed according to the particular strengths of the branch. Actions taken by the SRCS in Kassala clearly show the value of volunteering as well as the experience of the branch in this type of emergency. As with many other SRCS branches throughout the country the basics (beneficiary identification, community participation and distribution organization) were done efficiently.

The biggest strength of the operation was the long experience of the SRCS Kassala branch based on their involvement in the Eritrean refugee operations in this area since the mid 1970s. The SRCS therefore had a good understanding of needs from the outset, and was the first agency to react to the influx. Further, the level of coordination both within the Red Cross and with other operational agencies on the ground was a positive factor. Despite initially poor formal coordination from concerned parties, SRCS activities were complementary to those of other agencies, largely because of its network of volunteers and its effective informal links with other agencies.

The project has added to the capacity of the SRCS in general and the Kassala branch in particular. Training sessions for the volunteers were carried out, an improvement of the communication system in Kassala has been put in place, and an improvement of the logistics system has been initiated.

Final figures for the year 2001, as shown in the annex, are still provisional at the time of issue of this report.

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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>.

This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

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Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Bekele Geleta
Head
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Appeal No & title: 12/2000 - Sudan, Eritrean refugees						
Period: year 2000 + 2001 provisional as at 26/04/2001						
Project(s): PSD513						
Currency: CHF						
III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures						
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Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel	Expenditures	
SUPPLIES						
Shelter & Construction	757'500	524'607	149'318		673'925	83'575
Clothing & Textiles	20'000	66'660			66'660	-46'660
Food/Seeds	154'500					154'500
Water		10'017			10'017	-10'017
Medical & First Aid	127'900	122'551			122'551	5'349
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools	170'000	10'336			10'336	159'664
Other relief supplies		34'755	385'856		420'611	-420'611
Sub-Total	1'229'900	768'926	535'174		1'304'100	-74'200
CAPITAL EXPENSES						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles		75'400			75'400	-75'400
Computers & Telecom equip.	30'000	3'187			3'187	26'813
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	24'000	56'702			56'702	-32'702
Sub-Total	54'000	135'289			135'289	-81'289
TRANSPORT & STORAGE						
	282'000	157'575			157'575	124'425
Sub-Total	282'000	157'575			157'575	124'425
PERSONNEL						
Personnel (delegates)	55'000	24'324		4'928	29'252	25'748
Personnel (local staff)	341'000	187'476			187'476	153'524
Training						
Sub-Total	396'000	211'799		4'928	216'727	179'273
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts		1'651			1'651	-1'651
Travel & related expenses	50'000	2'746			2'746	47'254
Information expenses	10'000	2'534			2'534	7'466
Administrative expenses	20'000	94'072			94'072	-74'072
External workshops & Seminars						
Sub-Total	80'000	101'003			101'003	-21'003
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	252'370	182'909			182'909	69'461
OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS						
Transfer to National Societies						
TOTAL BUDGET	2'294'270	1'557'501	535'174	4'928	2'097'603	196'667
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Consumption rate:	Expenditures versus income		95%			
	Expenditures versus budget		91%			