

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

## CHAD: SUDANESE REFUGEES

4 May 2004

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.*

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 23/2003; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 01 February to 25 April 2004; Appeal coverage: 69.9%;** ([Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 2 December 2003 for CHF 2,303,000 (USD 1,779,508 or EUR 1,480,063) for six months to assist up to 65,000 beneficiaries.
- This Operations Update extends the programme activities seven months until 31 December 2004; the Final Report is therefore due by 31 March 2005. (The Appeal budget remains unchanged).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 60,000

**Outstanding needs : CHF 694,125 (USD 545,000 or EUR 445,000)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** [2004 Annual Appeal for Chad, no. 01.42/2004](#).

**Operational Summary:** Severe armed conflict erupted in the Darfur region of western Sudan in early 2003. After several rounds of talks between the government of Sudan and various dissident factions, a cease-fire agreement was signed on 11 April 2004 calling for immediate cessation of hostilities in the Darfur region.

The armed conflict had the immediate effect of displacing thousands of people: the vast majority internally displaced, but many thousands have fled into neighbouring Chad. In December 2003, UNHCR and the Government of Chad estimated the number of refugees at 65,000 persons. It was at this time the Federation and the [Red Cross of Chad](#) launched this Emergency Appeal, seeking to provide aid and assistance to the refugees in the eastern zone of Chad. A later evaluation by UNHCR resulted in revised figures of 110,000; as a consequence, this Appeal is being extended until the end of 2004.

Upon crossing into Chad, the refugees camped along the stretch of the border having been well received by the local communities with whom they share family and ethnic affinities. However, this spread of refugees over such a vast area poses great problems for the delivery of humanitarian aid. UNHCR and Government of Chad have adopted a strategy of regrouping the refugees in camps for their protection and improved access to humanitarian aid; this involves the physical transfer of these refugees.

The Federation and the Red Cross of Chad are the main contributors in this transfer operation through a transport support package (TSP). The Federation has deployed delegates to organize and coordinate the logistics support of the M6 trucks and buses being used for this transfer.

## Chad: Sudanese Refugees; Appeal 23/2003; Operations Update no. 2

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### Operational developments

The signing of a cease-fire agreement did not bring an end to the influx of refugees into Chad; Abéché zone had not witnessed further massive refugee arrivals since the beginning of February 2004. Refugees arrived in small groups or as families, settling down in hamlets and villages along the Chad-Sudan border.

A massive operation to relocate and transfer refugee populations to safer locations commenced in early 2004. The initial plan of the UNHCR was to transfer refugees to only four camps. The arid environment proved difficult to locate appropriate camp sites with adequate water supplies for the refugees. UNHCR reviewed its camp location strategy, and instead established ten smaller camp sites hosting fewer refugees per site – approximately 6,000 to 8,000 persons per site. This alleviated the water situation. The following table reflects the Sudanese refugee population according to age and sex.

Table 1: Breakdown of Refugee Population

Age bracket (years)	Male	Female	Total	Bracket % Of Total Population
0- 4	9,900	11,000	20,900	19
5-17	20,900	19,800	40,700	37
18-59	14,300	28,600	42,900	39
60 and above	2,200	3,300	5,500	5
Total	47,300	62,700	110,000	100

Source: UNHCR-Chad

Prefabricated M6 houses, 20 in all, were prepared and supplied by the Norwegian Government and the Norwegian Red Cross; these arrived by cargo planes 2-5 February 2004. Delegates assigned with the coordination of this operation arrived the end of January. The TSP delegates arrived at the same time as the fleet deployment. Fourteen trucks, traveling in convoy for three days and 900 km, arrived in the affected zone of Abéché on 16 February.

UNHCR and the Red Cross of Chad signed a cooperation agreement on 23 April 2004 covering this operation until 31 December 2004. The trucks have proved very useful in the relocation operations, also assisting in the transportation of food and non-food items. At the moment, four trucks are deployed in Iriba, along with water tankers, and provide 80,000 litres of water daily to the Iridime camp. Through the use of sophisticated equipment from UNHCR, some of the camps will have adequate water from boreholes.

The transfer operation is targeted for completion before the rainy season in mid-June; host communities along the border then become inaccessible. As of 25 April 2004, more than 40,000 refugees had been relocated to five camps in Farchana, Goz Amer (in the Ouaddai), Touloum, Iridimi and Kounoungo (in the Biltine). The Mile (Biltine) will soon receive its first refugees. The UNHCR has identified other sites that will soon serve as refugee camps.

## **Chad: Sudanese Refugees; Appeal 23/2003; Operations Update no. 2**

With assistance from the French Red Cross, a communications network was installed in the Abéché zone to enhance coordination and security of convoys.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

- Red Cross of Chad volunteers conducted a 27-day deployment of the entire fleet to the field.
- Five trucks are dedicated to water transportation to the Iridimi camp.
- A total of 4,160 refugees were transported to the camp sites between February and April 2004.
- A bus was always included in the Red Cross convoy to transport vulnerable persons; to date, 535 vulnerable have been transported in buses.
- The buses were occasionally used to support other agencies in organizing their deployment.
- Trucks were used to also transport food and non-food items to the camps: tents, drilling equipment, tankers, etc.
- The national society recruited and trained six radio operators
- The Red Cross radio station at N'djamena was repaired.
- Two radio stations set up: the operational base in Abéché and the other in Biltine.
- The radios are programmed on Red Cross and UNHCR frequencies for security reasons. The system has been fully functional since the end of March.
- Truck drivers were trained in radio operations.
- Six mobile radios were installed in the trucks.
- One hundred forty (140) Red Cross volunteers participated in the transfer operations and gave immense support to the TSP team.
- Volunteers sensitize refugees on the transfer process, and assist them during the departure from and arrival at the camp sites.
- Volunteers identify vulnerable cases and direct them to competent services.
- The work of the Red Cross volunteers was highly appreciated and has contributed to improving the conditions after relocation.

### **Federation coordination**

The Refugee Operation Coordinator arrived in Chad at the end of January, and is tasked with the following:

- Strengthen links between the Federation and the national society
- Coordinate all activities including deployment of equipment and delegates to the Eastern zone in conjunction with the national society
- Coordinate relationships with Chad authorities, the ICRC and partners such as the UNHCR and NGO
- Coordinate the release of funds, encourage the achievement of objectives while applying the Fundamental Principles and Code of Conduct of the Federation and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

In mid-March 2004 program coordination was strengthened through the posting of a Finance and Administration Delegate, on an initial contract of three months. The post of Field Delegate at Abéché has been vacant since the end of March 2004. A delegate will be posted by early May to develop programmes jointly with the national society and to improve the management and coordination capacity of the Red Cross of Chad.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives**

Trucks and light vehicles are deployed with emblems of the Red Cross of Chad. A land cruiser from Cameroon – with Federation emblem - has been assigned to N'djamena for coordination.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

One of the components of this Emergency Appeal is capacity building/training. The Federation Finance Delegate will supervise and train the national society Finance Officer in procedures, budget monitoring and financial reporting.

In late March 2004, the Federation and ICRC stressed the importance of organizing the national society's General Assembly.

## **Chad: Sudanese Refugees; Appeal 23/2003; Operations Update no. 2**

The national society will benefit from the expertise of delegates in the TSP team. A counterpart to the Head of Delegation of the TSP (Transport Manager) was appointed to ensure that national staff of the Red Cross of Chad are well trained in the organization and deployment of trucks. The national society will benefit from the organization and preparation of convoys and training which prepares the national society for future autonomy.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

More information related to this operation can be found on the [Federation DMIS website](#). During the deployment of the fleet of trucks in February, a Federation journalist was posted to Chad to cover the story, to ensure better coordination of media efforts in informing the general public about donor countries, and to increase the visibility of the national society.

### **Impact**

- The visibility of the Red Cross and the TSP team in the deployment of fleet has been very remarkable.
- Federation delegates, working in close collaboration with their NS counterparts has led to a greater capacities and autonomy in organization and operation.
- The deployment of M6 trucks and a support team has largely facilitated the relocation operations, thereby enabling a greater number of refugees to have greater access to humanitarian aid.

### **Constraints**

- Working conditions are difficult.
  - The eastern zone is very remote and the major access road is in a bad condition.
  - Villages and towns in Ouaddai and Biltine provinces in the zone are very difficult to access; during the rainy seasons, flooding often cuts them off completely.
  - The area might become impassable for light vehicles.
  - The M6 trucks may not experience the same problem considering their power and six wheels.
- Availability of spare parts for the trucks is limited in Chad; these spares are essential to ensure autonomy and continuity of the operation.
- Light vehicles are in short supply.
  - For efficiency and security, convoys should be escorted by two vehicles, which serve as mobile workshops.
  - In case of accidents or incident, a light vehicle could be dispatched, from the convoy to a zone where medical care can be obtained.
  - The arrangement so far leaves the Federation coordination at Abéché without a vehicle.
  - The current availability of only two light vehicles makes the splitting of the fleet into two or three convoys very difficult and risky.
  - Mobile workshops are insufficient.
  - UNHCR is expected to provide a light vehicle on or about 25 April.
  - The Federation will hire another land cruiser for the coordination at Abéché; however, this will still be insufficient if the fleet is split.
- Availability of fuel in the transfer sites is very limited, causing enormous difficulties and interruptions to transfers for days at a time.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

# Chad - population movements

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No.23/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/04/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,303,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 69.9%
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		400,000	USD	506,600	27.02.04	
DANISH - RC				57,933	19.12.03	
FINNISH - RC		40,000	EUR	61,940	19.12.03	
IRISH - RC		25,000	EUR	38,988	04.04.04	
JAPANESE - RC		58,700	USD	76,222	12.12.03	
LIBYAN - RC				7,000	11.12.03	
MONACO - RC		2,500	EUR	3,900	31.12.03	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,200,000	NOK	222,000	23.01.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		31,850	NOK	5,892	23.01.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT, GOODS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		14,950	NOK	2,766	23.01.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT, STAFF
SWEDISH - RC		1,000,000	SEK	172,000	10.12.03	
SWEDISH - RC		126,000	SEK	21,672	01.01.04	IN-COUNTRY COST & PROG. SUPPORT
SWISS - GOVT/RC				85,562	02.12.03	
UNHCR		150,000	USD	187,350	22.01.04	TRANSPORT OF 80'000 REFUGEES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,449,825	CHF	63.0%

### KIND AND SERVICES ( INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		490,000	NOK	90,650	23.01.04	RELIEF GOODS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC				42,000	23.01.04	DELEGATE
SWEDISH - RC				26,400	01.01.04	RELIEF & LOGISTIC DELEGATE, 6 MONTHS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				159,050	CHF	6.9%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	