International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Chad – Sudanese Refugees Operation

FACT SHEET
13 December 2004

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THIS OPERATIONS FACT SHEET IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE AN INFORMAL UPDATE TO RESPOND TO DONOR'S INFORMATIONAL NEEDS (EDITING IS LIMITED);

Background

Appeal 23/2003 is currently 79.6% covered (CHF 2,901,293 outstanding) against a current budget of CHF 14,215,000 to meet the needs of up to 60,000, with an extended timeframe until the end of February. An assessment team will be deployed in December and will develop detailed options.

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Full details of the operational activities, press releases, news stories, photo gallery and Tréguine camp facilities are available on the Federation's special webpage "Refugee Crisis in Chad" www.ifrc.org/news/chad.

Tréguine camp Children turn up largely to fight against measles

Repeated efforts from the international community over the past twelve months to bring peace in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur has never stop the region from lapsing into chaos. Recent findings from an assessment team of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said rural communities across western Sudan's Darfur are facing a food crisis that could be worse than the famines that hit the region in the 1980s and 90s. Besides, the team evaluated food security in 20 rural villages across Darfur in September and concluded that agriculture had collapsed, and a combination of insecurity and drought had destroyed traditional coping mechanisms of communities in Darfur. In many cases, farmers' seeds and tools had been looted and their cattle stolen. The conflict has displaced more than 1.45 million people in neighboring countries, and many other thousands Sudanese are anticipated to flee across the boarder into Chad in the coming weeks.

Analyzing recent developments in the conflict, a report by the U.N. said close to 2.3 million people in Darfur were in desperate need of aid, more than a third of an estimated total population of six million. Food deliveries in rural areas reached about 60 per cent of the needy due to attacks on convoys. Some 22 percent of children under five are malnourished, while close to half of all families do not have enough food. The same reports worried about uncertainty to have the opposing parties completing a comprehensive north-south peace agreement by December 31.

As the situation threatens continually to destabilize areas of eastern Chad where more than 200,000 Sudanese have found refuge since 2003, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Chad Red Cross have continued to participate in negotiations with partners and donors to mobilize more resources to face the challenges ahead of the future. The emergency appeal launched in December 2003 by both institutions was therefore reinforced in July 2004. More recently again, the Operational Plan of Action was revised and its budget scaled up; with a focus to take the management of the heavily-congested Bredjing camp; and to assist 40,000 refugees with contingency planning for an additional 20,000 in the form of shelter,

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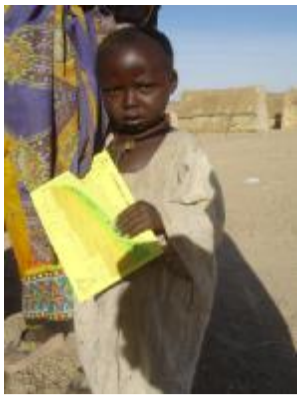
food and non-food, health care, water and sanitation up to December 2005. The Red Cross is responsible for the construction, camp management, distribution of food and non-food items, health, community services and sanitation for the refugees.



This child, like thousands others, returns proudly from vaccination

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The Federation and the Red Cross societies from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and Sweden have deployed delegates with specific technical expertise as well as equipment from tents to medical supplies and cooking utensils, while Oxfam is providing safe water at the camp. Other humanitarian partners are preparing to join the operation, like the Koweiti Red Crescent; followed this week by the Saudi Red Crescent cargo of food and non food items.

Inaugurated on September 27, the Tréguine camp is now home to 14,000 refugees. While transfers from Bredjing to Tréguine is interrupted for technical procedures, a new chapter opens in the cooperation between the Red Cross and other partners with a possible conclusion to shift very soon, the Breidjine Camp management from CARE unto the Federation and the Chad Red Cross. Under increasing pressure from its partners (UNHCR and CARE), the Red Cross is expected to start simulation very soon in Breidjine, before the conclusion of responsibility hand over from Care. The Federation Secretariat is taking the necessary time to look into the feasibility of the project in order – when Breidjine is taken over - to ensure the best quality of humanitarian service to both camps (Tréguine and Breidjine) residents.

Meanwhile, the living conditions in Tréguine camp have tremendously improved over the past two weeks. The refugee community leaders have taken responsibility in various ways to manage properly their new homes and the concept of gender and leadership (between men and women) is thoroughly observed everywhere when roles are shared or decisions taken.

As local resources in Eastern Chad are being strained with the settlement of the Sudanese refugees, the Federation and the Chad Red Cross are working to address also the longer-term needs of some 9,000 local habitants until December 2005. Initiatives to protect specific vulnerable groups are under discussion in partnership with the UN and other agencies. Also incorporated in the Red Cross newly revised plan of action are opportunities to build on the national society's capacity so as to enable it to gradually assume the full responsibility of the operation.

Highlights of Red Cross Interventions in support of Sudanese Refugees in Chad

Progress	Outlook
Camp Management • 13,928 refugees transferred, registered and installed in 2,434 tents and 670 others in tarpaulin in Tréguine. • Sustainable water supply (190m^3 per day) secured by Oxfam, providing 16.60 litres/day/person, in line with Sphere standards. Water storage and distribution system adequate in general with 84 water supplying pumps on the camp; which is expected to increase in the coming weeks, along with pumping hours for additional arrivals. • 3 Federation warehouse tents (Rubb Halls) among which one is used for distribution; and 2 WFP warehouse tents, with 2 distribution sites and team of volunteers are established. Federation procedures and systems are adequately introduced. Distribution of NFI including mosquito nets, blankets, buckets, soap, kitchen sets and sleeping mats has been carried on for more refugees among the last arrivals. • German ERU and Chad Red Cross medical team are providing	• Transfers have been interrupted with 13,928 residents in Treguine. • Consolidate the plan and required resources in collaboration with UNHCR and other partners to take over and decongest Bredjing camp to a new camp. • Provide proper shelter, food and non-food, water, health care, sanitation and community services to 40,000 refugees in Tréguine and other camps, with contingency planning for another 20,000. • Take over gradually the water systems of Tréguine from Oxfam early next year.

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Progress	Outlook
treatments at the Tréguine medical centre for refugees and locals. But the total number of consultations/day has gradually fallen from its highest (140 in the 1st week) to 36 during the last two weeks. • About 140 Red Cross volunteers involved in all camp activities. • A vaccination campaign against measles was launched on 5 December for over 5,600 children aged between 6 months and 15 years; representing 40 % of the total population of the Tréguine camp. The German ERU stated that 91.5% of the children target population were already vaccinated, meaning that the campaign is fully successful. Other vaccination campaigns are being discussed; among which the 3rd round of Polio is planned for 19 December 04. • Sufficient medical supplies including cholera kit and new emergency health kit are pre-positioned. The Red Cross medical system is fully integrated in the overall health network in coordination with MSF, UNHCR, WHO and the ministry of health. • A Regional ERDAC team is expected to deploy members in Treguine as from next week in order to take over gradually from the German ERU whose contracts ends in February 2005. • Around 750 latrines are constructed and in use, about one latrine for every 20 persons. • MSF representatives declared last Monday in the partners coordination meeting that 6 out of 7 blood samples taken to "Institut Louis Pasteur" in Paris tested Hepatitis E positive. Among the 7 samples, 2 were taken from Treguine; and one of them was also reported positive. As a matter of fact, hygiene awareness team continues promoting key sanitation messages to refugee population in order to reinforce awareness on Hepatitis E in the camp and throughout the neighboring village of Hadja Hadid. Community members are identified and equipped to maintain the latrines. A livestock area has been enclosed. Vector control and waste disposal being discussed with the refugee communities and parties concerned. • Several refugee committees are established to enhance refugees' involvement in camp activities such as wood-gathering, community services, health and sanitation, security and liaison with UNHCR, local authorities and host communities. • New semi-permanent constructions are ongoing to host medical units and sociocommunity amenities. • The number of teachers identified has increased from 7 to 29 (2 of whom are university degree holders, 3 qualified with senior secondary school certificate and the others with school certificate). With these teachers, the ratio of teacher/student has also increased to 266. Children and adults schools have started to hold in open spaces with arrangements with UNICEF to set up classroom tents in the coming weeks. • The ICRC has set up tents in the camp and initiated tracing service to link the refugees with their families at home and elsewhere. Refugees have already patronized the local market and spontaneous shops emerged in the camp. Recreational activities also started. But for security reasons, no market is allowed to hold in the premises of the camp. • Gendarmes and security guards are in place around the camp and playing fundamental role in peace and order keeping. As a result, no significant incident is reported so far in the area. • The Red Cross has also established and keep on maintaining good working relationship with other partners.	• Meet the objective of one latrine for every 20 refugees in Tréguine and new camps. Together with refugee families build modified sanitation and bathing facility. Implement vector control, solid waste, water drainage systems and livestock management in the camps. • Establish tented schools with necessary equipment and material, nutrition centre and support/train Chad RC to develop community services for specific vulnerable groups. • Deploy the ERDAC team to work in coordination with German ERU for gradual health management capacity building for the Chad Red Cross Society. • Recruit locally additional medical staff to be trained by the ERDAC in order to take over Tréguine medical centre, when the Federation and other partners depart. Reinforce health promotion on the use of mosquito nets and prevention measures against malaria, cholera and other health risks. Consolidate a contingency plan for cholera. • Provide training and gradually hand over watsan responsibilities and basic health ERU/ERDAC to Chad RC ***As life goes on in the Camp, these children are very happy to do their domestic works***

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Progress	Outlook
Capacity Building • Joint Federation/Chad Red Cross office being established in Abéché where almost every Federation delegate works with his NS counterpart (homologue). This cooperation system has started enhancing Chad Red Cross operational capacity. The Federation delegates are also planning various training activities for the RC staff and volunteers. • Chad Red Cross has enhanced its capacity in logistics, telecommunication and camp management through working hand in hand with experienced delegates.	• Establish/equip a Red Cross Training Centre in Abéché with other RC partners. • Train key Chad RC personnel and volunteers in technical fields • Reinforce organizational development, Adequate Reporting, Communication and Advocacy; volunteer management and disaster response capacity of the NS • Identify counterparts for various sectors of operation and provide training. Hand over the operation to the NS over the next 2 years.
Support to the local population • Hundreds of people among the estimated 9,000 local population have been served with non food items. Food items will also follow very soon, according to the Federation logistic unit in Treguine. Not less than 150 people in the local population also benefited examination and treatment every week from the RC medical centre. Socio-community activities, Education, Sanitation and water supply to the Refugees are largely extended to the local population.	• Assess food and non-food needs and provide corresponding assistance. • Identify initiatives with the local population to improve their livelihood, sanitation facilities, adequate utilization of medical facilities (and maternity home for the women); and hygiene awareness against diseases like Hepatitis E.
Transport Support Package • Since early 2004, the Chad Red Cross and the Federation have been the main contributors to the efforts of UNHRC in relocating Sudanese refugees, transporting food and non-food items and potable water in eastern Chad. 23 out of 29 TSP trucks and 8 light vehicles are currently deployed for this operation. From August to October, the TSP Department mainly focused on new personnel recruitment (mechanics, electricians, welders, and more drivers). The department was faced with many problems, ranging from a conflict with GTZ-IS authorities over their technical infrastructures shared by the Red Cross fleet; to a serial reported theft of parts on the trucks. But these difficulties did not handicap the normal trend of activities. The fleet maintenance was normally carried at every level. The TSP Delegate also met with his NS counterpart for briefing and responsibility sharing. During the same period, the drivers hold several meetings to request for more training and discuss other matters of interests with the leadership. • TSP statistics for the period are as follows: Refugees transport : 3,696; Food delivered with trucks : 367.5 metric tones; Non food items delivered with trucks : 6.8 metric tones; NB: Fuel consumed and total distance travel through by the trucks and light vehicles will be available in our next report.	• Continue to support UNHCR in refugee operation; • Develop a strategy to develop a regional fleet base strategically positioned; • Design a plan for rational allocation of vehicles and other logistic means; • Work in coordination with the Chad Refugees Operation HoSD at Abeche to establish a Red Cross relay site in Farchana. • Assess and update the overall movement of fleet in the operation to avoid waste of resources and logistic means; • Engage discussion with the NS for more coordination in logistic management between the Federation and the Chad Red Cross Society.
Telecom • Effective telecommunication established in all Red Cross operational areas including Iriba, Tréguine, Abéché and N'Djamena. All vehicles equipped with VHF and HF mobile stations. Radio handsets and training provided to staff. Wireless network and satellite connection installed in field offices. After having spent a whole week in Abeche to improve the local the sub-delegation network the Telecom Delegate has taken to the south early this week, to repair a communication relay which was earlier reported broken down.	• Continue assessing the telecom needs at various Federation/RC bases • Install telecom, radios and computers in the joint Abéché office and new RC camps • Train staff to use and maintain telecom systems • Update the system continually to be in accordance with the Federation Secretariat in Geneva; • Prepare to replace the cc-mail with new tools to be soon proposed by Geneva.

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Progress	Outlook
Food pipeline • Focus remains on purchase and storage of non-food items for the time being. Theses past two weeks focused on discussions on the risk of WHO food shortage. Some inconsistence in the quantity and composition of the food supplied between Breidjine and Treguine were also debated to avoid frustration in the camps. Moreover, the Saudi Red Crescent joins the operation this week with few stocks of packed food and NFI (blankets, bags and other school items for children). The statistics report released on the past two weeks activities from the Federation Logistic Unit in Treguine, concern food and non food items; normal distribution + compensation ration (where it is required) to 2,708 refugees (including 525 families). These are: 10,201kg cereals; 1,519kg CSB; 847Kg oil; 749Kg sugar; 228kg salt; 1,486 blankets; 751 soap.	• Purchase and store 3-month food supply for 20,000 refugees in case of disruption of WFP food pipeline and for possible support to the Treguine and Bredjine camps; also for the local population and eventually for the refugee operation in the south.
Programme support and coordination • Delegates with expertise in camp management, finance, resource development, and administration, relief, logistics and transport, health, water and sanitation, telecom and reporting/communication & advocacy in place. • Various levels of field and coordination mechanisms established for with Chad Red Cross, UN, other aid agencies and components of the Movement in Tréguine, Abéché and N'Djamena.	• Reinforce staff structure with delegates specialized in social welfare, construction and finance development. • Improve infrastructure of Fed and NS compounds in Hadger Hadid. • Accelerate construction of medical amenities as the German ERU contact will end in February 05. • Recruit additional delegates once management of additional camps is consolidated.
Communications – advocacy and public information • A good beginning is noticed at this level with the arrival of a new reporting delegate who is also interested in promoting the humanitarian values of the Movement through the Federation refugee operation. • The general remark until recent is that most of the activities and community amenities set up by the Federation need to be well identified with the emblem and/or logo of the Federation. Suggestions are made to use our good working relationships and cooperation with the Red Cross of Chad, UNHCR and partner organizations to advocate and promote the values of the Movement at every level. • The reporting delegate is then seeking to develop with other delegates a good strategy for taking advantage of every coordination meeting and occasional visits of various national and international authorities, media agents, decision makers and the general public to communicate and advocate in favour of the most vulnerable. ***Food distribution to the refugees:*** ***a very sensitive activity carried out by Red Cross volunteers in Tréguine Camp.***	• Encourage the identification of all Federation/NS activities and infrastructures with the emblem and logo; • Take advantage of every opportunity to promote the Red Cross values and advocate in favour of the most vulnerable; • Improve the skills and knowledge of the Red Cross volunteers in the field of communication and advocacy; • Use the trained Red Cross volunteers for promoting largely the FP and humanitarian values of the Movement; • To cultivate the Red Cross values at every level in our relationships with the partners and beneficiaries of our actions; • To agreed with the NS on a common strategy for advocating at national and local level in order to seek continuously the good will, understanding and support of the local population in every aspect of the refugee operation; • To identify a counterpart (homologue) within the NS staff/volunteers to carry out public information and advocacy activities throughout the branches of the NS.

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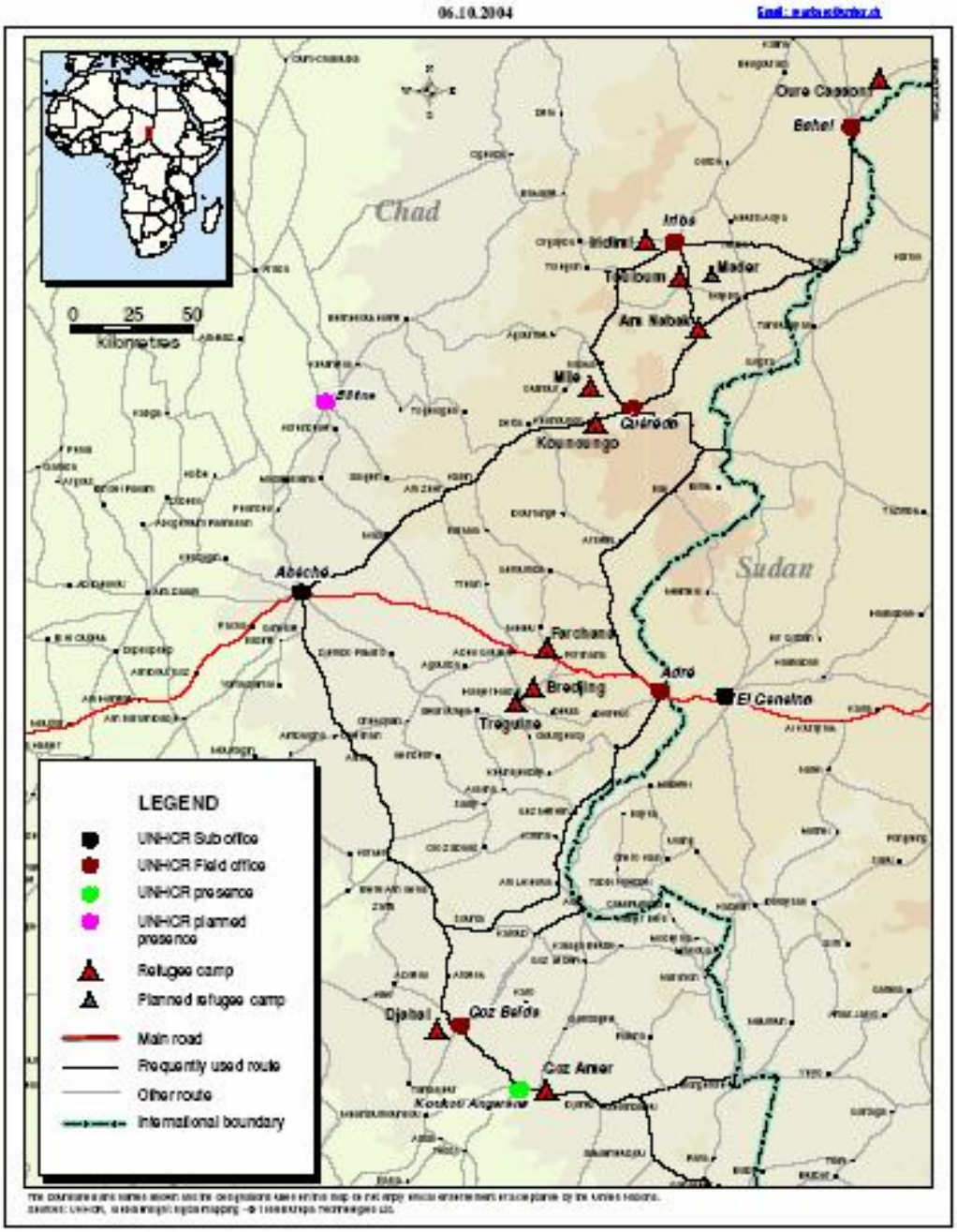

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