

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

SOUTHERN SUDAN: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO RETURNEES AND AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

FINAL OPERATIONS UPDATE REPORT

Emergency Appeal no. 05EA025

7 March 2008

Period covered by this Operations Update: 7 November 2005 to 20 August 2007

Appeal target : CHF 14,097,272 (USD 11.4 million or EUR 8.9 million)

Appeal coverage: 29%;

Beneficiaries assisted: 145,000

Appeal history:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was initially launched on 7 November 2005 for CHF 8,383,957 (USD 6.4 million or EUR 5.4 million) for 12 months to assist 650,000 people.
- On 17 January 2007, the Appeal was [revised](#) to CHF 13,007,219 (USD 9.9 million or EUR 8.3 million). The operation timeframe was extended until 31 December 2006.
- On 2 August 2007, the Appeal [budget increased](#) further to CHF 14,097,272 (USD 11.4 million or EUR 8.9 million).
- This Emergency Appeal was incorporated into the Sudan Transitional Programme 2006-2007 (MAASD001) and formally closed on 20 August through the [Programme Update No 2](#).
- This report captures achievements, constraints and lessons learned since the onset of the operation to date.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 500,000 (USD 430,000 or EUR 300,000).

The returnee emergency operation was incorporated into the Sudan Transitional Programme 2006-2007 (Appeal MAASD001) and was formally closed on 20 August through Programme Update no. 2. This narrative report is the final to be issued under Appeal 05EA025 and captures achievements, challenges and lessons learned since the onset of the operation. No final report (narrative and financial) shall be issued as subsequent reporting will be done as part of the long term Appeal.

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The situation

Millions of internally displaced people (IDP) and refugees were expected to return home after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005 between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The agreement formally ended Africa's longest civil war, which left about two million people dead, four million displaced and more than 600,000 living as refugees outside the country. The return of those displaced, however, presented a formidable challenge to the authorities and the resident communities, much as they welcomed their people home where infrastructure and basic services were either completely non-existent or extremely limited. Most structures had either been damaged or destroyed during the conflict – or simply never existed in the first place.

There are limited data for the south but the estimated social indicators are deeply disturbing. Poverty rates are estimated at 90%. Large areas are food insecure, acute malnutrition among children aged under five years is high (48%). Child mortality rate of children aged under five years is 250 per 1,000 while maternal mortality is 1,700 per 100,000. It is estimated that there is only one doctor per 100,000.

Southern Sudan is host to rare tropical diseases, while malaria is endemic and measles, yellow fever, meningitis and cholera continue to take lives. While blanket HIV/AIDS prevalence is estimated at 2.6 per cent, rates of over 20 per cent have been recorded. Only 40 per cent of the people have access to safe drinking water while most do not have access to sanitary means of excreta disposal. The prevalence of diarrhoea is 43 per cent in children aged 6-59 months and guinea worm is endemic in some 3,400 villages (source: United Nations Children's Fund-UNICEF).

Despite efforts that have increased the number of children receiving basic education, hundreds of thousands remain out of school. The exact number of children associated with armed groups is unknown, but it may be around 16,000, according to the UN. Large areas are known to be contaminated by landmines and unexploded ordnance. It is against this background that communities, strained already to the limit, started receiving returnees.

The Federation's emergency appeal was a part of a coordinated response of the international community to contribute to the peace building in Sudan. Assisting returnees to reintegrate was identified an important element of the process.

Given the size and complexity of the challenge, the Federation designed a multi-faceted approach, combining emergency response with plans for a more sustainable capacity building of the National Society, aiming at an extended and enhanced quality impact in programme areas. The approach was developed through extensive consultations with all key stakeholders. The core of the programme was to provide services and assist returnees and their host communities build a sustainable future. It targeted groups of people considered particularly vulnerable – elderly, disabled, single parent households – who required additional protection. Four areas were prioritized:

- Information management to help people living in displacement make informed decisions on when and how to return or settle in the area of their choice;
- Assistance to vulnerable returnees en route to their final destination;
- Targeted and integrated community interventions with particular emphasis on water and health and distribution of productive assets and non-food items (NFI) at final destination; and
- Organizational development aimed at strengthening the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) capacities to deliver efficient services to the vulnerable.

Resettling on land they last saw 15-20 years ago for many returnees was a daunting task. In many cases, however, the communities that had stayed behind were probably more vulnerable than the returnees who, in some cases, had increased their asset stocks. In the situation of acute widespread poverty, reintegration and recovery programmes, therefore, had to target both those who left and those who stayed to avoid tensions.

Return projections: Survey results consistently indicated 70 percent of those living in displacement intended to go home after the signing of the peace deal. The UN planning assumptions were that between 500,000 and 1.2 million people could return. There were a number of different return scenarios mapped out:

- Return/settlement in urban areas in the south: including Juba, Wau, Torit, Bor, Malakal, Yei, Yambio and Rumbek.
- Return to places of origin in the rural areas.
- Settlement on rural land not places of origin.
- Permanent settlement in northern towns: Khartoum, Kosti, Port Sudan or in neighbouring countries.

The main movements were expected along river, road or rail corridors. The bulk of the returns were predicted to come from the north followed by refugees coming back from neighbouring countries, particularly, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Ethiopia, with a smaller proportion having been displaced in the south, particularly, Equatoria, moving back to their homes. A number of strategic locations were identified:

- Khartoum – home to up 2 million IDPS from the south, with the majority expressing an intention to return.
- Juba – capital city of the south and the centre for government and agencies. Juba was also likely to receive populations coming from Equatoria, Kenya and Uganda on their journey to Bor, in particular, Jonglei and Upper Nile. Other important locations in Equatoria were Tambura (refugees from CAR and other parts of Equatoria), Yambio (refugees from DRC and other parts of Equatoria), Yei (refugees from DRC, Uganda and Equatoria) as well as Torit and Kapoeta (refugees from Kenya and Equatoria heading north to Pibor and Nasir).
- Malakal – a major thoroughfare from Kosti with people heading south to Bor and beyond, east to Nasir and west to Bentiu.
- Kosti – this town received the majority of IDPs from the north.
- Kadugli - an important thoroughfare for the Nuba Mountains and further south.
- Bentiu – receiving people from Tonj and Malakal with numbers going south to Leer and north to Rubkhan and Mayom
- Aweil – an extremely important destination from both the north and south with many villages accessible from here. It also part of the Yei-Rumbek-Tonj-Wau-Aweil corridor
- Wau – capital city of Bahr el Ghazal and part of the same corridor
- Raja – receiving people from the north, south and east.
- Damazin – operational centre for the United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) for return of refugees to the Blue Nile state.

The number of returnees, however, has not reached the figures predicted. According to UNHCR, as of 2 October 2007, 68,000 refugees had returned home since the launch of the voluntary repatriation operation in December 2005. They were repatriated from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Egypt. Some 92,000 have returned by their own means.

South to south movements remained largely invisible. Early estimations mentioned the figure of 1.3 million people. An organized assistance to repatriate was provided to Dinka Bor people, moving from Western Equatoria region to Jonglei State. Dinka Bor is a sub-group of the Sudanese Dinka community – the largest single grouping in southern Sudan. The culture of this pastoralist community originally from Bor County, Jonglei State of Southern Sudan, is so centred on cattle that it is the medium of exchange in marriage, payment of debts and for sacrifice on major occasions and rites. Most important is the cattle camp where all social activities and behaviour are established. An estimated 2,000 of Dinka were killed and thousands of civilians displaced in 1991, when a splinter SPLM/A group raided the Bor area. While returning Dinka men moved their cattle back home, women, children, the sick and the elderly were repatriated by barge. Over 4,000 of them had been accommodated temporarily in a way station in Juba. The brief separation of family members was deemed to be necessary to protect women from possible attacks on the road. The families were reunited in Bor.

Nearly three years after the signing of the CPA, the repatriation of southerners who were displaced during the 21-year civil war remains a big challenge. According to UNHCR, there are still 260,000 registered Sudanese refugees in exile with the majority (216,000) living in camps in Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

In Sudan, as elsewhere, a major determining factor in the decision whether or not to return is the availability of health and education facilities in their home districts, as well as fundamentals such as a reliable supply of clean drinking water. There are additional issues surrounding land allocation. And the lack of job opportunities also poses a major challenge – as does the security situation in some areas.

The needs are enormous in the areas of basic infrastructure development, food security, health and water service development, education and construction of schools, livelihood support and recovery, while capacities and resources available to mount an adequate response operation are limited.

Implementation of the returnee support programmes has been slow. There were delays in establishing a clear policy framework. There were also resulting delays in designing plans and putting them into operation. It has been acknowledged that the information campaign should have been much more extensive. Protection-monitoring system should have been more robust. Fewer mechanisms in place resulted in the lack of proper information.

The government of southern Sudan's humanitarian wing, the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), said the return process would be much better organized during the coming year. With the end of the rainy season in the next few weeks, repatriation operations are set to increase pace with some 22,000 refugees expected to return to south-eastern Sudan between October and December 2007. UN warns however, that the funding situation is so dire that transportation of refugees may not be able to go ahead.¹

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Goal: Through assistance to the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, contribute towards improvement of the health statues and food security of the returnees and affected communities.

Information management

Objective 1: Provide timely and accurate information which will help people make informed decisions on when and how to return or settle in the area of their choice in close collaboration with partners and to inform operational planning of SRCS and other organizations.

Achievement

Several assessment missions were undertaken to build a better understanding of IDP and refugee return scenarios and advise the SRCS and the Federation for appropriate planning through close coordination and cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies.

Pan-Sudan Health Assessment in September and October 2005 found stark realities and reconfirmed an important role SRCS had to play. SRCS volunteers had trust of communities they have been working in and their elders. The assessment also raised concerns about the limited capacity in the south to absorb large-scale return movements. It noted rapid returns could aggravate local tension in terms of access to already limited services and resources.

On 8 November 2005, at the request of the SRCS, the International Federation deployed a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to Sudan. In addition to staff and volunteers from SRCS, the British, New Zealand, Icelandic and German Red Cross seconded staff for the FACT. The Regional Delegation Nairobi deployed the Regional Disaster Management Coordinator as Team Leader and staff from Uganda and Rwanda Red Cross from the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT).

FACT² made four separate trips to White Nile (Kosti) and Blue Nile (Ed Damazin), Upper Nile (Malakal) and Bahr Al Juba (Juba), South Kordofan (Al Fula), Unity (Bentiu) and Western Bahr-Al-Ghazal (Raga and Wau). The FACT confirmed returnees, IDPs, refugees and their host communities in Sudan were among the most vulnerable in Africa. Their formidable conditions required immediate interventions and SRCS, with support of the Movement partners, had an important role to play. Findings were shared with all stakeholders.

Several media releases were organized to alert both the domestic and international community on unfolding health epidemics (AWD/cholera, meningitis and avian influenza) and their impact on the local population. A health emergency technical committee, which was set up by the SRCS in Khartoum in the aftermath of the cholera outbreak, met regularly with all key stakeholders (government agencies, international and national organizations) and supplied the most up-to-date information on the situation in the affected areas. The information was collected by SRCS volunteers on daily and weekly basis and then collated and analyzed in Juba.

SRCS branches played an important role in the collection, management and distribution of information concerning the numbers returning and the direction and movement of people. This fed into the tracking and monitoring system established under the auspices of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)/Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC). The SRCS had mobilized volunteers in 10 locations namely Western Bahr-El-Ghazal, (Wau), Bahr-Al-Jebel (Juba), Upper Nile (Malakal), White Nile (Kosti), Unity (Bentiu), Blue Nile (Ed Damazin), South Kordofan (Kaduguli and Alfula) and Khartoum.

In Juba, the SRCS had an information management cell and managed a mobile group of volunteers, who visited local communities in and around Juba and Terekeka to collect information about the security situation, the

¹ On 2 October 2007, UNHCR spokesperson said at the press briefing that UNHCR is facing a critical shortfall of USD 11.1 million for its refugee return and reintegration operations budget in Southern Sudan for 2007.

² FACT had a team leader, relief, logistics, IT/Telecommunication, information and security specialists.

services available in areas, livelihoods and land and property issues. Meetings were held with local communities and elders to encourage reintegration processes. Such meetings also provided opportunities to increase levels of awareness of HIV and AIDS and other health messages.

The National Society participated in a number of inter-agency assessment missions and registration of IDPs. For instance, in February 2006, the relief unit of the Juba branch in conjunction with SRRC, UN agencies (World Food Programme-WFP, UNOCHA, UNICEF and UNHCR) as well as other NGOs (IWR, Adventist Development and Relief Agency-ADRA, HelpAge International (HAI), Action Contre la Faim-ACF and Sudan Aid) assessed the Rokon area.

Regular updates on local conditions and situation developments were provided through the Federation's official web site as well. Four operations updates and two programme updates (on the Federation's transitional appeal, which subsequently absorbed the emergency appeal) were published since the launch of the appeal.

In October 2005, a delegation of Red Cross and Red Crescent leaders came to the South to see for themselves the conditions on the ground. On the historic trip were representatives of the National Societies of Britain, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Somalia, Sweden, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, along with International Federation staff from the Khartoum delegation, the East Africa Regional Delegation in Nairobi and the Secretariat in Geneva. The visit attracted high media interest and served as another opportunity for the SRCS/Federation to highlight formidable humanitarian challenges the returnees would have to confront upon arrival.

Assistance en route

Objective 2: Provide essential non-food items to particularly vulnerable groups passing through eight way stations.

Objective 3: To improve the health status of the returnees and host communities through provision of basic health services, primary health education, water and sanitation, and health posts at eight way stations and four mobile clinics.

Objective 4: To provide essential water and sanitation services at eight way stations

Achievement, impact:

The Federation/SRCS provided limited, short term assistance to vulnerable returnees at way stations where it was necessary. This support was coordinated within the framework provided by the UN and other agencies. The UN operational plan envisaged establishment of 26 way stations by the end of the year 2005 at strategic points. These were for the purpose of providing a core of essential services to returnees on known return routes at manageable intervals and particularly in areas of security concerns and remote areas. Site selection was based on infrastructure capacities such as water and health facilities and access to markets. Responsible agencies were International Organization for Migration (IOM)/Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)/UNHCR but partners were sought to manage or provide support and certain inputs.

The SRCS, supported by German Red Cross and ADRA worked in a way station in Kosti for returnees taking barges on the Nile to Malakal. The National Society also assisted Dinka Bor returnees on the scheduled weekly barge from Juba to Bor. Some 22,000 Dinkas and over 1.5 million heads of cattle passed through Juba on their way back to Bor in Jonglei State. The most vulnerable among the Dinkas, some 4,000, were temporarily settled at Lologo camps until their transport arrangements from Juba to Bor were finalized by IOM. The SRCS supplied emergency non-food items such as blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, water containers and soap. The World Food Programme (WFP) provided food, while the SRCS helped to distribute it. The National Society deployed more than 20 volunteers to work in the camp and seconded three nurses from its primary health care facilities in the Tongping camps to the Lologo camp clinic, managed by ADRA. The clinic conducted over 60 consultations per day. The SRCS, with the support from the Federation, also managed an ambulance service in the camp on a daily basis and evacuated dozens of critically ill patients to the Juba hospital. SRCS volunteers also helped with registration of returnees.

In Yirol, a consortium of Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross societies is managing a programme for an estimated 400,000 people. Yirol is located in the Lakes State of southern Sudan, and Rumbek is its administrative centre. The project has so far covered WatSan needs of local communities by rehabilitating/drilling 120 boreholes as well as supporting local committees to maintain water sources and appropriate sanitation. The International Federation Delegation in Sudan has rendered financial, logistics and administration services to the consortium.

Assistance at final destination

Objective 5: Improve the health education and status of returnee and host communities through provision of community-based first aid (CBFA) and health education.

Achievement

During the cholera outbreak, SRCS volunteers visited 152,000 households in Bentiu, Terekeka and Juba to educate on preventive measures. The health promotion efforts were undertaken in Malakal and Wau (in Momo Village) as well and were combined with household distribution of water treatment products and hygiene items.

Several clean-up campaigns were organized in residential zones. Volunteers cleaned close to 3,000 water points, distributed 32,000 chlorine tablets, demonstrated the use of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and disseminated information about cholera through drama performances. Water and hygiene items were supplied by the UN. Over 200 volunteers were engaged in house to house distribution. The measures were crucial to curb the spread of the disease. Hundreds of volunteers were mobilized in response to the measles outbreak in December 2005.

SRCS is striving to be a key community health care provider. A National Community Health Volunteer Programme (NCHVP) was designed to help the SRCS achieve its ambition. The programme is an integral part of the Federation's transitional appeal and will attempt to empower people to take care of their own health issues. The programme will be implemented through a well-managed and trained network of volunteers. The volunteers will be trained on HIV and AIDS prevention and reduction of stigma, and will be involved in establishing referral systems with the Ministry of Health (MoH). Building community participation and capacities will be another task. The programme has been designed to reach 600,000 to 650,000 people in each of the nine initially targeted states over a period of three years. It aims at keeping Red Crescent volunteers active, motivating them and retaining them in the Movement so that they can serve vulnerable people. In the south, the programme will be piloted in three branches: Central Equatoria (Juba), Upper Nile (Malakal) and Unity (Bentiu). A five-day training for CBFA team leaders was held in Juba with participation of 15 Red Crescent volunteers.

84 Red Crescent branch staff drawn from South Kordofan State attended Trainer of Trainers workshops on health emergency preparedness and primary health care. In May 2006, 20 Red Crescent staff trained 331 participants as community health volunteers from 10 villages. Most of the participants were women. The SRCS Wau branch conducted health and hygiene training including HIV and AIDS awareness. The branch also maintains and repairs hand pumps within the targeted communities.

Objective 6: Improve the health situation and practices in water management and hygiene for returnees and host communities through provision of clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene education.

Achievement

There is a total breakdown of infrastructure and the provision of services in the south as a result of destruction resulting from the war and minimal investment over the last forty years. In particular, access to clean water is very limited resulting in high incidence of water-borne and water-related diseases as well as pressure on the limited facilities available with a destructive impact on community relations. This state of affairs was a major disincentive for potential returnees. The core of the Federation/SRCS programme was to address some of these needs through targeted interventions in the rural areas in selected counties with initial operations out of Juba, Wau, Bentiu and Malakal. There were very few other agencies undertaking these kinds of activities and the capacity to address needs was limited by the low number of drilling facilities (only three in the three states of Bahr-Al-Jabel, Eastern and Western Equatoria).

Detailed assessments were carried out prior to operations with a particular focus on rural areas with a low number of water facilities and particularly vulnerable communities and where no other agencies were operating in this sector. Activities included drilling bore holes according to SPHERE standards, establishment of water committees from the local communities and the implementation of a range of community health interventions. To date, the SRCS, supported by the Federation's technical team, repaired 43 bore holes and hand-dug wells. One emergency water treatment kit (with 10,000 people capacity) was pre-positioned in Terekeka and a workshop on emergency water and sanitation was conducted. The workshop, which was supported by the Finnish Red Cross, focused on technical engineering topics such as water analysis, emergency drilling, water distribution, and latrine construction. Issues related to water, sanitation in emergencies and hygiene promotion were also discussed and pre-tested during the workshop. Twenty-four people, including SRCS volunteers, staff from government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), participated.

SRCS volunteers in Central Equatoria and Western Bahr el-Ghazal were trained as trainers on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST). The trained volunteers have since been engaged with their communities helping develop a plan to prevent diarrhoeal diseases by improving water supply, hygiene behaviours and sanitation.

The process of protecting one spring is ongoing while protection of the remaining springs was scheduled for June and July 2007, before the onset of heavy rains made access to the areas difficult. Hydro geological survey of palaeo-channel was completed.

For 2008, to maximize utilization of existing resources, the Federation is initiating a specially designed project for WatSan activities in southern Sudan. The project will be designed to address National Society capacity building, efficient project management, logistics, monitoring and evaluation. The Federation sub-delegation in Juba is encouraging partner and donor support for the project (please refer to transitional appeal).

Objective 7: Ensure that logistical facilities are in place and comply with Federation guidelines as well as distribute kits of non-food items to returnee families.

Achievement

The National Society, supported by the Federation and other Movement partners, assisted the returnees with basic shelter and household commodities. Non food items (NFI) were distributed by SRCS in Juba, Rumbek, Bor, Torit, Raja, Yambio, Malakal, Wau, Bentiu, Morobo, Yei and Lania. The relief activities were logistically supported by the Federation, covering costs of fuel, transportation of goods and containers to the operational area, and building storage capacity for the SRCS.

Table 1: Distribution of containers

Location	Quantity	Remarks
Torit, Eastern Equatoria	1	SRCS Branch, for storage
Rumbek, Lakes State	1	SRCS Branch, for storage
Terekeka/Yambio, W. Equatoria	2	SRCS Branch, for storage
Juba, Central Equatoria	1	IFRC Juba, storage for WatSan equipment
Juba, Central Equatoria	2	SRCS Branch, for storage
Bor, Jonglay	1	SRCS Branch, for storage
Juba, Central Equatoria	1	Handed over to authorities, storage for NFI, returnees
Yei, Central Equatoria	3	Used for storage at point of returnees
Lanya, Central Equatoria	2	Used for storage of NFIs at main returnees point

Given the scope of the disaster, organizing the logistics of the operation was a major endeavour. Procurement of shelter materials and non-food items was organized internationally via the Federation’s Regional Logistics Unit in Dubai and regionally via the Federation’s regional office in Nairobi, Kenya. The Federation and the SRSC’s reinforced in-country logistics teams coordinated customs clearance, warehousing and transportation of relief and medical items to the final distribution points. A rub hall was set up in Juba to store the commodities. Large trucks were used to transport the items to the hubs, where access permitted.

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society has been a unique partner to the UN as well as other agencies. In March 2006, SRCS volunteers distributed NFI that were mobilized by the UN agencies for 2,110 returnees. In October 2006, SRCS, in cooperation with UN agencies and other NGOs helped 242 returnee households in Ganji, Central Equatoria State. The returnees had been found in dire need of shelter and food support. SRCS contributed to this inter-agency effort with distribution of jerry cans and tarpaulin. Earlier, the SRCS had provided assistance to 126 returnee households in the same area. Receiving basic tools and household commodities have made it easier for the returnees and IDPs to start rebuilding their lives after returning to their home areas.

Objective 8: Improve food security situation of returnees and host communities in high risk locations through distribution of food items and implement food for work projects in cooperation with WFP.

Achievement

The National Society worked in partnership with WFP to distribute food to returnees at way station. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been leading early recovery. Two consecutive years of devastating floods, however, have undermined achievements and compounded the already grim humanitarian

conditions. A recent assessment by SRCS and the International Federation joint team found large territories of agricultural land inundated. Fear is mounting that many communities will be experiencing severe food shortages and local coping mechanisms will not be sufficient to prevent famine. The Food Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net) reported that Nile-Sobat and eastern flood plains are the most vulnerable. The World Food Programme (WFP) said it was airlifting food for those affected in remote areas, but the needs are believed to be much greater. People in the flooded areas lost not only their agricultural lands, but most if not all their supplies of food and crops. The ongoing annual livelihoods, crop and food supply assessments led by WFP and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will help establish the magnitude of the loss. Local authorities identify returnees and IDPs as the most vulnerable group. Those who returned in June 2007 have not managed to secure any means of survival; they did not have time to cultivate their lands and the little that was cultivated, was washed away by the flooding. The government fears that, many will opt to go back to the North. Flooding is also jeopardizing the next round of repatriation scheduled for December 2007.

It is difficult to establish a definite number of livestock killed during the flooding. It is apparent, however, the loss has been significant. Some managed to move their cattle to higher grounds, but the fodder is in short supply and many more animals may die. There are also fears of animal disease outbreak, particularly during the dry season. Adequate livelihood recovery strategies need to be developed to help people regain control over their lives.

Organizational development

Objective 9: To strengthen the capacity of SRCS branches in Juba, Wau, Malakal, Bantiu, Raja, Ed Damazin and Kadugli and to establish new branches in Bor, Pibor, Torit, Aweil and Rumbek.

Achievement

In the south, the SRCS had branches at Malakal, Juba, Wau, Raja and Bentiu. The location of these branches corresponded to the areas that were under the control of the Government of Sudan during the conflict. SRCS did not operate and had no structure in areas controlled by the SPLM. The five branches mainly carried out activities in the urban areas and the immediate environs of the towns with little capacity to operate beyond. They received financial and capacity building support from the ICRC during the conflict and cooperated with ICRC in running dissemination and tracing activities as well as other programmes such as health support.

Following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the SRCS proposed restructuring to permit greater autonomy for branches in the South. The extension to the SRCS Juba branch office was built and six additional rooms are now available at the SRCS compound. This capacity has been used to accommodate the Federation delegates. Vacant space will be rented out for income generating activities of the branch. A total of 30 motorbikes and 40 bicycles were purchased to increase the SRCS's capacity to respond to disasters in a timely manner and to improve the outreach of its volunteers as well as the general material resources of the organization.

SRCS southern secretariat currently has four branches in:

- Juba (Central Equatoria): 20 staff members and 80 to 100 active volunteers (5,000 registered volunteers).
- Wau (Western Bahr El Ghazal): 18 staff members and 60 active volunteers (4,000-5,000 registered volunteers).
- Malakal (Upper Nile state): 6 staff members and some 120 active volunteers.
- Bentiu (Unity State): 6 staff members and some 120 active volunteers (capacity to mobilize some 300 volunteers).
- SRCS also has a sub-office in Raga with five staff members and a proven capacity to mobilize some 100-200 volunteers.

In Bor and Warrap towns the SRCS has focal persons and the capacity to mobilize community volunteers. The focal person in Bor has been supplied with a motorbike. In Terekake and Tombe, SRCS has volunteers trained in CBFA and some storage capacity (a fridge and a container supplied by the Federation). The container will serve as a makeshift office for SRCS.

Logistical capacity: in total, six land-cruisers (including programme vehicles), a number of motorbikes and bicycles which are currently available. All are in good condition and are operational. The National Society does not own any boats.

In November 2006, the SRCS – with financial and technical support from the Federation – conducted four disaster preparedness workshops for 72 SRCS volunteers. The 5-day training sessions were held in Bentiu (Unity), Malakal (Upper Nile state) and Wau (Western Bahr el-Ghazal). Due to security concerns, the fourth training session was relocated from Yei and held in Terekeka (Central Equatoria) in December 2006. The training was received with a lot of enthusiasm by the volunteers, and helped strengthen volunteers' technical skills in disaster preparedness and response. The secondary objective of the training was to help the SRCS southern secretariat expand its local presence and strengthen its community ties in the areas, where it does not yet have formal structures, but have sufficient capacities to mobilize community-based volunteers and mount a relief operation.

The capacity of the SRCS branches is limited to the old garrison towns with a limited outreach to the surrounding rural areas. Since the worst poverty and access to basic services is to be found in these areas, these branches need to build capacity so that they can run activities there. The SRCS has no branches in the old SPLM areas and will need to slowly build a network so that its profile becomes a national one. The strategy for development would be to establish sub-branches in strategic locations where assistance activities could be run.

A landmark conference was held in February 2007 and a framework for the operations of the SRCS secretariat for South Sudan has been agreed within the context of the SRCS constitution, the principles of the Movement and in recognition and respect of government laws. The conference was attended by the Secretary General and senior staff from Khartoum as well as representatives from all southern states. Scaled-up branch development programme is to be implemented over the coming two years (please refer to transitional appeal).

Objective 10: To assist SRCS and the Sudan Federation Delegation in the management of the plan of action through the monitoring and reporting with partners and stakeholders.

Achievement

To support the SRCS in responding to the complex humanitarian situation, the Federation established a sub-delegation in Juba and recruited more international and national staff members. The sub-delegation came into existence in January 2006. Initially, it only had a head of office but the team has since been strengthened with the deployment of a water and sanitation (WatSan) delegate in March 2006 and a logistics delegate in April 2006. In October 2007, the Federation office in Southern Sudan employed four international and seven national staff members with expertise in finance, organizational development, health, water and sanitation. Health is by far the biggest component of the Federation-supporting programming in the south but plans are there to scale up the International Federation's supporting role and engagement. Immediate plans include expanding a water and sanitation project. Another priority will be to scale up the branch capacity building programme.

Challenges

The needs were enormous, while capacities and resources available to mount an adequate response operation were limited. There were delays in establishing a clear policy framework for returns. There were also resulting delays in designing plans and putting them into operation.

Actions in support of returnees and host communities were, to a large extent, linked to the anticipated agreement between the SRCS and the Government of South Sudan regarding the extended structure of the National Society in the south. It was not until November 2006 that approval from South Sudan's Vice-President was obtained, allowing the establishment of a management structure (with an interim director-general and a programme coordinator). The absence of this formal understanding slowed the implementation of planned activities. This delay resulted in limited opportunities for the SRCS to expand its presence in all 10 states of southern Sudan.

The slow deployment of Federation delegates affected the ability of the delegation to provide technical assistance to the National Society. Lack of functional road transport networks hindered the delivery of relief items to the final distribution points. Lack of printed health educational materials in local languages and standardized health information systems and systematic data collection was another challenge. There were also delays in the delivery of equipment and materials ordered. Regular interruptions of e-mail, fax, satellite system and phone communications put an extra burden on the sub-delegation, causing delays in reporting and daily communication with partners.

Security has improved but inter-tribal clashes (cattle raids and child abduction) are reported regularly. The 2005 peace deal that ended the 21-year north-south civil war is holding. But there are fears that Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) decision on 11 October 2007 to withdraw from the national government could jeopardize Sudan's fragile peace.

Nearly three years after the signing of the 2005 peace agreement, Southern Sudan remains extensively devastated and under developed. The public sector is in its early stages of being formed, humanitarian and development agencies are still few on the ground and private as well as commercial activity is slow. The Government of South Sudan was sworn in October 2005 and Ministries have been established and Ministers appointed. However, the structures and systems to implement policy are, in most cases, non-existent and the human resource base severely limited and it will take many years to build capacity and institutions. Service delivery through government structures is patchy and GoSS will continue to rely on the UN, NGOs, Red Cross and Red Crescent to fill the gaps for many years to come.

Coordination and partnerships

Coordination mechanisms were slow to establish. Delays occurred to the implementation of UN operational plan for returnees for a number of reasons related to capacity and resource allocation. The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) is in the very early stages of set up and its own capacity is weak.

WFP provided approximately 87,000 metric tonnes of food aid to 1.3 million beneficiaries in the south as well as southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile in 2005. Supplementary and therapeutic feeding reached 32,000 children. Up to 1.4 million people were supported during the hunger gap period in 2006 on top of providing returnees with three weeks' food ration en route and three months' food rations at the final destination. Food security and livelihood recovery were carried out, where seeds were distributed to 68,000 households with plans to increase this to 150,000 households in 2008.

De-mining was carried out on many roads in the south near the borders with DRC, Uganda and Kenya, as well as South Kordofan and the Blue Nile facilitating movement. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society was a member of GoSS/MoH-led coordination committee for South Sudan during the cholera and meningitis outbreaks. The National Society also established a health emergency technical committee in Khartoum whose immediate focus was on cholera in South Sudan. The delegation regularly participated in meetings with SRRC, United Nations Mission in Sudan, UNICEF, UNHCR, World Health Organization (WHO), WFP, OCHA and a large number of international non-governmental organizations operating in health, water and sanitation sectors. The SRCS and the Federation's delegation have strengthened their position with other stakeholders, many of whom consider the Red Cross Red/Crescent Movement as a partner of choice and alliance in planning and implementing activities – both relief and development – in South Sudan.

Coordination within the Movement was ensured through monthly meetings attended by SRCS, the International Federation, Partner National Societies and ICRC. A number of National Societies have been supporting the Sudanese Red Crescent Society activities in South Sudan. Primary health centres and services for returnees are sponsored by the German Red Cross in Raga, South Kordofan and Kosti. The German Red Cross is also supporting a food security and supplementary feeding project in Raga. The Danish Red Cross works in Wau while the Netherlands Red Cross supports health care services in Juba and the consortium of Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross societies operates in Yirol (the Swiss Red Cross has left the consortium). The Spanish Red Cross supported distribution of non-food items to returning refugees from Ethiopia. With the end of hostilities, the ICRC is scaling down some of its activities in Sudan. Some of these activities will be transferred to the SRCS.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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".

Global Agenda Goals:

- 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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