

SUDAN:FLOODS

appeal no: 26/98
06 September 1998

THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 2,945,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 95,500 BENEFICIARIES FOR 2 MONTHS

Background to the Disaster

The high water levels of the White Nile, Blue Nile, River Nile, Atbara River and other seasonal rivers coupled with unusually heavy rains caused severe floods in Sudan between 26 August - 2 September 1998. The floods have affected particularly the White Nile State, River Nile State, Northern State and Kassala State. Many deaths have been reported, while thousands of homes have been destroyed, domestic animals killed and thousands of people left homeless. The flood victims are now threatened by epidemics such as infectious diseases and malaria. In the White Nile State alone, 150 mm of rain was recorded in one day. This being only the start of the rainy season, more flooding is expected. Most of the affected population are among the poorest in Sudan. The Government has declared a state of emergency whereby 338,000 flood victims require emergency relief assistance at an estimated cost of 15m Swiss Francs. The Sudanese Red Crescent has identified 95,500 individuals requiring immediate assistance with Federation support.

The present situation is feared to continue for at least another two months as the rainy season has just started. In order to facilitate the Sudanese Red Crescent's (SRCS) immediate relief interventions, the International Federation granted CHF 70,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, while the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society have provided some shelter, medicine, food and non-food emergency items. In addition, the Spanish Red Cross, through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided the SRCS with tarpaulins.

The magnitude of the disaster, however, calls for additional and immediate external support. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society with support from the Federation is committed to meet the immediate needs of approximately 95,500 victims with shelter material such as tents and blankets, some food and non-food items, as well as curative and preventative medical items to reduce the risk of the spread of diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory/chest infections and eye problems caused by flies. SRCS local branches have already conducted three preliminary assessments while a joint assessment was undertaken by the Federation and SRCS headquarters, with the following results:

White Nile State: 1,950 families (9,750 people) are affected of which 350 families are left homeless.

River Nile State: 3,135 families (15,677 people) are affected.

Northern State: 4,000 (estimate) families (20,000 people) are affected. This is the most severely hit region and the numbers of affected are expected to rise.

Kassala State: 10,000 (estimate) families (50,000 individuals) are affected.

Over 20,000 homes have been totally or partially destroyed and the number of affected population is expected to increase to more than the presently stated figure of 95,500. Schools, mosques, health centres, roads and bridges have been destroyed. The SRCS and Federation will continue field assessments - the number of beneficiaries may alter as these assessments are completed.

Most towns and villages are covered by large pools of stagnant water. The soil cannot absorb more moisture and it is likely that the stagnant water will stay for weeks. This is mainly caused by a lack of equipment to pump water. Hundreds of latrines and shallow wells are flooded. The drainage system is inadequate and has collapsed. The drinking water supply is contaminated in certain areas. The immediate risk of water-related diseases is imminent. Diarrhoea has already been reported in River Nile State.

Other than national organisations such as the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, international NGOs are not present in the affected areas. Local contributions of food and material by the Sudanese people are being distributed by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society. In addition, the National Society has sent 25 mts of food to River Nile State, 1 medical kit each for White Nile and River Nile State. The SRCS continues to distribute emergency food stuff in Kassala State from a donation by United Arab Emirates Red Crescent. Kassala State has also received tarpaulins donated by the Spanish Red Cross/ICRC. Northern State has not received any assistance so far but 2 emergency medical kits have just been procured locally for immediate dispatch to this region. The relief items donated by the Iranian Red Crescent Society are due to arrive in Khartoum this week.

The National Society has exhausted its own financial and material resources.

Sudanese Red Crescent Society/Federation Plan of Action

Assessment of Needs •

The SRCS/Federation are seeking immediate financial and material contributions to provide emergency shelter, food/non-food and emergency medicine for a period of two months for 95,500 beneficiaries. While medicine, charcoal, water pumps, sprayers/drugs as well as renting of 4 light weight vehicles are possible within Sudan, all other emergency relief materials such as tents, tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, blankets, and cooking sets must be procured externally and can be flown directly into Khartoum.

Red Crescent Objectives •

- | Provide emergency relief to 95,500 persons in the form of shelter, cooking sets/food, charcoal, medicine and sanitary services for 3 months in the affected regions of White Nile, River Nile, Kassala and Northern State.
- | Assist in medical treatment and in prevention of disease and malaria.
- | Mobilise volunteers to provide health education to as many people as possible to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- | Ensure equity in distribution of relief assistance with the view to especially address the needs of affected children and women.
- | Enhance and build the response capacities of the local branches.
- | Advocate the Red Cross & Red Crescent Principles and Code of Conduct through active participation in the co-ordination mechanism set up by the governmental authorities.

Immediate Needs

The priority action is to deliver to victims shelter, blankets, cooking sets, charcoal, and some food items. Further, it is absolutely crucial to pump away stagnant water immediately as a preventive measure against the spread of infectious diseases. Just as importantly, sanitary measures must be undertaken to rehabilitate the drinking water system and collapsed latrines. To tackle the health related consequences of this disaster water pumps, sprayers and insecticides are required to remove stagnant water, spray water pools and houses against mosquitoes and flies.

One reporting delegate is required to assist the SRCS.

The SRCS with the Federation will continue to monitor the situation as it develops - further support beyond this initial two month emergency programme may be required, in which case a revised appeal will be launched.

Capacity of the National Society •

In all affected regions, hundreds of the National Society's volunteers have been mobilised for the evacuation of those whose homes have been destroyed. The volunteers are also prepared to carry out distribution of relief items as well as to participate in the control of spread of disease. The National Society's branches in the affected regions have a well-established disaster response history. The White Nile, River Nile and in particular Kassala State branches have a sound operational experience. Spanning across 2 decades, the SRCS has run relief/rehabilitation programmes for refugees, internally displaced and local populations. However, the Northern State Branch is only 2-years old, without previous experiences in emergency operations. The latter will require special attention and the Red Crescent views this as an opportunity to set up proper systems through careful management and training. SRCS staff include experienced relief monitors, logisticians, community based first aiders and health educators. Planned activities will be carried out by SRCS with technical support from the Federation particularly in reporting.

Capacity of the Federation •

The International Federation has a country Delegation in Sudan with two delegates, Head of Delegation and Finance/Administration Delegate and 10 national staff. The relief/logistics backup for the operations will be provided by the Federation's Nairobi-based Regional Delegation. The country Delegation will require one Reporting Delegate.

Evaluation •

The operation will be jointly evaluated by the National Society and the Federation.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The scope of the recent floods in Sudan have exhausted the existing response capacities of the National Society. In order to diminish the impact of the floods on the affected population, immediate international contributions both in kind, services and cash are required. For further information please contact the Africa Department at ++4122 730-4335, e-mail: parsey@ifrc.org or the Federation Delegations in Khartoum and/or Nairobi.

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George Weber
Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARY
SUDAN FLOODS

APPEAL No. 26/98
IN CHF

ANNEX 1

EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES

Tarpaulins (19.100 sets x CHF 17)	325,000.00
Blankets (20.000 pieces x CHF 7)	140,000.00
Cooking sets (20.000 pieces x CHF 50)	1,000,000.00

Food items

Cereals (1.145 MT)	300,000.00
Vegetable oil (86 MT)	112,000.00
Pulses (143 MT)	265,000.00

Non Food Items

Water pumps (35 units)	71,500.00
Sprayers (35 units)	13,000.00
Handtools (2.000 units)	15,000.00
Chemicals (500 litres)	1,500.00
Medical equipment (3 sets for lab. equip./malaria)	11,000.00
Medical kits (5 kits)	40,000.00

TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	2,294,000.00
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Capital equipment (4 vehicles 4WD)	140,000.00
Transport, storage (clearance fees) & vehicle costs	240,000.00
Personnel (2 delegates / 2 months)	40,000.00
Personnel (local & NS staff / volunteers)	80,000.00
Travel & communications	20,000.00
Information	13,000.00
Assesment/Monitoring/Evaluation	8,000.00
Administrative, office & general expenses	10,000.00
Secretariat operational support	100,000.00

NEEDS IN CASH	651,000.00
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND	2,945,000.00
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LESS CASH ON HANDS	0.00
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NET REQUEST CASH & KIND	2,945,000.00
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