

# Report 2006-2007



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Sudan Transitional Programme

Appeal No. MAASD001

4 April 2008

This report covers the period of 27/09/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



Local residents, volunteering for the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, gather in Gezira State to collect litter from streets. Cleaner environment can reduce health risks faced by hundreds of thousands in Sudan.

### In brief

**Programme summary:** The year 2007 saw a number of ideas borne of a desire to improve effectiveness and efficiency of Red Cross and Red Crescent work in Sudan, start materializing. National Community Health Volunteer Programme (NCHVP) was successfully introduced in seven states. It is to be implemented over three years (2007-2009) and aims at empowering the most vulnerable people at grassroots to find their own solutions to health problems. The programme builds on the most unique asset the Sudanese Red Crescent society (SRCS) has – its country-wide network of youth and volunteers. Essentially, it attempts to move away from disjointed ad hoc project-based interventions to a common framework for the SRCS and its partners to achieve greater results. Recent assessments confirm a remarkable progress has been made towards the set objectives within a short period of time. The novel approach has generated a great interest from all over the world. Operational alliance agreements were signed between the SRCS, Federation and two Partner National Societies; with others, discussion is ongoing. The programme will be expanded gradually over the coming two years to new geographic areas. Developing a coherent volunteer management system will be critical to the success.

Equally remarkable were the changes introduced by the SRCS leadership in the way the National Society is organized and works. Committed to reforms, the SRCS adopted a number of important policies and embarked on internal restructuring to better meet the needs of the vulnerable. Reforms will continue. Priorities include introducing a unified logistics, finance and reporting/communications systems.

Despite challenges, some significant activities have been realized in the south as well. Some 145,000 people – returnees and their host communities - were assisted with emergency relief/shelter, water and sanitation en-route and at final destinations. A total of 41 bore holes were repaired and paleo-channel geophysical investigations were undertaken. This indeed may be a significant input to eventually controlling disease outbreaks in Juba and environs, subject to exploratory drilling and development activities now to be undertaken by the authorities, based on the work carried out so far. However, much more remains to be done in an area with great needs. Yet, the capacity of the SRCS in the south is limited. Its base and operation is confined to the old

garrison towns with a limited outreach to the surrounding rural areas. The Federation remains committed to supporting the National Society in reaching more vulnerable people with better services. A full compliment of Federation delegates will be based in Juba to fulfil their mandate. An in-depth assessment is currently ongoing to recommend on the way forward. The key question remains how to ensure a sustained expansion of SRCS operation and presence in the south. The emerging master-plan will provide a framework for further action.

The consequences of extreme weather events were tragic for many in Sudan in the last two years and required immediate humanitarian intervention.. Some 1.5 million people were assisted by the National Society alone with emergency relief, health care, water and sanitation. Natural disasters and health epidemics diverted SRCS focus and resources from ongoing programmes. As a result, some of the planned non-emergency activities were put on hold. Nevertheless, the achievements that were made were vital and have laid a strong foundation to build on in the coming years. Indeed, the SRCS has been a unique partner to Sudanese people. Through its various programmes, it has been providing essential services to the vulnerable throughout the country. Yet information on SRCS remarkable achievements is not adequately documented underlining the importance of investing into strengthening information management and reporting capacities of the SRCS both at headquarters and branch levels.

Donor response to the transitional appeal was good. The Federation takes this opportunity to thank those who contributed and encourages others to be more generous in support of SRCS efforts that aim at addressing some of the daunting humanitarian challenges in Sudan. A continued and coordinated engagement of partners will be indispensable to achieve better results for the benefit of those who need our help.

**Goal:** To alleviate human suffering in Sudan by mobilizing power of humanity.

**Needs:** Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 14,057,928 (USD 12.6 m or EUR 8.5 m) (out of which 72 per cent covered). The Yiol Project was included to the Appeal and thus the budget increased from CHF 13,198,395

**Click the links below to view the financial reports:**

**Report 2006**

**Report 2007**

**Report 2006-2007**

For more detailed information on 2006-7 activities, please refer to:

Programme Update no. 1: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAASD00101.pdf>

Programme Update no. 2: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAASD00102.pdf>

**No. of people we help:** Two million people benefited directly from International Federation programme interventions in 2006 and in 2007. Some seven million people (nearly 20 per cent of Sudan's population) will benefit from activities planned for 2008 to 2009. Of these, some six million are targeted through NCHVP and up to 100,000 people will be assisted through the returnee support project.

**Our partners:** Several Partner National Societies contributed to the programme either bilaterally or through the Federation appeal, including Austrian, Danish, German, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss and Finnish Red Cross societies. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society, as the leading indigenous humanitarian organization is actively involved in all coordination fora at national and state levels. It maintains a regular contact with various government ministries, notably Ministry of Health, Civil Defence and Humanitarian Affairs (HAC) as well as UN agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Humanitarian Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

## Current context

For hundreds of thousands of Sudanese, life continues to be a daily struggle. Basic needs such as safe water, food, decent shelter and access to health care are out of reach for many in Sudan. Malaria is causing an unacceptably high number of deaths. HIV and AIDS has grown into a silent epidemic. Chronic conditions were aggravated by extreme weather events that affected the poorest most painfully. Torrential rains caused massive flooding across Horn of Africa in 2006-2007. In Sudan, they killed hundreds and adversely affected nearly 500,000 people. Severe outbreaks of cholera/acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and the Rift Valley Fever (RVF) killed scores of people. A total of 1,000 people were killed and over 12,000 people were affected by meningitis, another highly contagious disease.

Nearly three years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (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. Millions of internally displaced persons (IDP) and refugees were expected to return home after the signing of the CPA in January 2005 between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).<sup>1</sup> However, 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. The lack of job opportunities also poses a major challenge – as does the security situation in some areas. The needs are enormous, while capacities and resources available to mount an adequate response operation are limited.

While South Sudan is struggling to rebuild and recover from more than two decades of civil war, the media has been broadcasting worrying reports of violence from another of Sudan's troublesome regions – Darfur. About two million people (one third of the population) have been displaced by the conflict there that broke out in 2003. The situation remains volatile. On top of all woes, politics in neighbouring countries has been having direct repercussions in Sudan. The influx of refugees from Eritrea and Ethiopia continues. They arrive by hundreds each week. Sudanese authorities estimate some 5,000 Eritreans fled to Sudan between November and December 2007. Sudan has been hosting Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees for the past 40 years; one of the world's longest standing refugee situations.

## Progress towards objectives

### Disaster Management

**Goal:** Assist the Sudanese Red Crescent Society to respond to emergency needs of vulnerable people and reduce the vulnerabilities of communities to threats and impact of natural disasters.

**Objective:** To strengthen the SRCS's capacity in disaster management, including development of effective community mobilization and disaster risk reduction systems.

#### **Achievements, challenges**

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society, supported by Movement partners, mounted a major relief operation to extend a helping hand to those whose coping capacities were undermined by extreme weather conditions. Some 1.5 million people benefited from the National Society's efforts in 2007. In 2006, 32,000 flood-affected households (160,000 people) were provided with emergency shelter, food, safe water, clean sanitation facilities or access to basic health care. Organizing the logistics for the emergency operations was extremely complicated. Difficult terrain and limited capacities of some of the SRCS branches (notably lack of warehouse and transportation capacity) posed challenges.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 major constraint was the lack of access to the affected areas that hampered assessment and response efforts. Communication with remote SRCS units was difficult, particularly during the initial phase of the emergencies, with roads blocked and bridges damaged by the flooding. Mobile phones did not always work and radio equipment was not everywhere available. Information on needs was, therefore, not easily forthcoming delaying response efforts.

Disaster preparedness is a priority for the SRCS. The National Society needs to improve on a number of fronts to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness. Priority areas include development of a contingency plan for 2008 rain season, retraining of volunteers, upgrading of SRCS warehouse, fleet and communication systems, and strengthening of SRCS logistic management, as well as reporting capacities.

### **Returnee programme**

**Objective:** Respond to the needs of identified vulnerable communities, including IDPs and returnees.

### **Achievements, challenges**

The programme had a multi-faceted approach to assist returnees and their host communities to build a sustainable future. The approach combined emergency response with plans for a more sustainable capacity building of the National Society, aiming at an extended and enhanced quality impact. It was developed through extensive consultations with all key stakeholders and targeted groups of people considered particularly vulnerable – elderly, people with disabilities, single parent households – who required additional protection. Some 145,000 people – returnees and their host communities - were assisted with emergency relief/shelter, water and sanitation either en-route or at final destinations.

The 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 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)/Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Committee (SRRC). The Federation/SRCS also 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. For instance, the SRCS, supported by German Red Cross and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) worked in a way station in Kosti for returnees taking barges on the Nile to Malakal. It 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.

Implementation of the returnee support programme 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. Repatriation operations are set to increase pace in 2008. The UN warns however, that the funding situation is so dire that transportation of refugees may not be able to go ahead.<sup>2</sup>

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. 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

## Health and Care

**Goal:** Preventive, curative and emergency health care services at community level are improved through effective Sudanese Red Crescent Society interventions.

**Programme objective:** To provide health and care services appropriate to the changing needs of the most vulnerable people.

### **National Community Health Volunteer Programme (NCHVP)**

**Objective:** To address the preventive and promotive health needs of vulnerable communities and to contribute toward the reduction of morbidity and mortality.

#### **Achievements**

The National Community Health Volunteer Programme (NCHVP) is a three-year initiative, which supports establishing core groups of trained volunteers in each of Sudan's 26 states to act as a catalyst for community driven action to address chronic as well as emergency health conditions. Teaching materials for training were revised and translated into Arabic to make health messages more relevant to the local context. Recruitment of the personnel for the implementation of the programme was completed. Volunteer training and community mobilization started in seven states: Gazeera, Red Sea, Sennar, North Kordofan, Gedaref, Upper Nile and Central Equatoria (Layina). In total, 177 volunteer leaders and 3,806 community volunteers were trained. The target is to train 104,000 to 184,000 volunteers by the end of 2009.

Volunteer training was highly appreciated and the objective of the knowledge transfer was fulfilled. The ultimate objective of the NCHVP programme, however, is to encourage behavioural and attitudinal change in communities to improve people's health and prevent diseases. Developing a coherent volunteer management system will be critical to the success. It has been also acknowledged it is necessary to diversify the teaching methodology to better equip SRCS volunteers with practical skills. In the south, the language barrier has been tangible. The majority (75% of the population) speak colloquial Arabic (so called 'Juba Arabic'), while in some areas, English is better understood. Plans for 2008, therefore, include translating the ARCHI toolkit into local languages such as Bari.

### **Response to waterborne diseases in southern Sudan**

**Objective:** To contribute to efforts aimed at reducing mortality and morbidity caused by water-borne diseases.

#### **Achievements**

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 and Wau. 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, chlorinated and tested for contamination 41 bore holes. Three spring developments are completed in Yei; further works are planned. The Gumbo pilot project (wind-solar system) has been held back awaiting some technical support from the suppliers. However, a hand-pump has been fitted to allow water to be accessed in the interim.

Two emergency water treatment kits (with 10,000 people capacity each) were pre-positioned in Terekeka and Juba, and a workshop on emergency water and sanitation (WatSan) was conducted. The workshop 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 PHAST methodology that helps develop the skills and confidence, to think problems through, to identify solutions and a plan for change. The trained volunteers have since been engaged with their communities with varied degrees of success. During the cholera outbreak, SRCS volunteers visited 52,000 households in Bentiu, Terekeka and Juba to educate on preventive measures. The health promotion efforts were undertaken in Malakal and Wau (in Momoi Village) as well, and were combined with household distribution of water treatment products and hygiene items. 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. Over 200 volunteers were engaged in house-to-house distribution. The measures were crucial to curb the spread of the disease.

Paleo-channel geophysical investigations are complete and have been most welcomed by the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), World Bank, UNICEF and others. This indeed may be a significant input to eventually controlling disease outbreaks in Juba and environs, subject to exploratory drilling and development activities now to be undertaken by GoSS, based on the work carried out so far. The role of Federation and SRCS in this work is effectively concluded.

In Yirol, in the Lakes State, a consortium of Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross societies is managing a programme for an estimated 400,000 population. The project has so far addressed water and sanitation needs of local communities by rehabilitating or drilling over 200 boreholes as well as supporting local committees to maintain water sources and appropriate sanitation. A clinic and three health units have been providing primary health care to 3,500 patients a month on average; the number is increasing.

The team in South Sudan has effectively raised the profile of the SRCS and Federation. It is acknowledged, however, that much more can be done.

## Organizational Development

**Programme Goal:** To consistently achieve its mission and vision, and its capacity to deliver effective programmes addressing local vulnerabilities in the intended sectors and contributing to improving the lives of the most vulnerable.

**Programme objective:** To strengthen the SRCS management capacity to deliver effective programmes that address local vulnerabilities.

### **National headquarters capacity building**

**Objective:** To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the SRCS leadership at national level.

### **Achievements**

Recognizing that any sustainable change can be driven from within, the Federation has been supporting the SRCS in attracting qualified people. The delegation seconded its experienced organizational development (OD) manager who works now as the SRCS OD/programme director supporting the SRCS organizational reforms. A WatSan coordinator and WatSan officer were seconded too to the southern secretariat to strengthen SRCS WatSan projects in the south.

SRCS has a dynamic leadership committed to transforming the SRCS into a credible, efficient and effective organization. In a relatively short period of time, remarkable changes were introduced in the way the National Society is organized. A new structure was approved and a number of policies and internal guidelines were adopted including the finance policy; regulations on staff recruitment, branch management and elections, and audit procedures. To focus the National Society's programmes, SRCS strategic plan was developed and adopted by the central committee as well as explanatory notes to the SRCS statutes. International cooperation policy, approved by the SRCS central committee in December 2007, will guide the SRCS relations with its partners within and outside the Movement. A Human resource policy is under development. The minimum criteria for establishing an SRCS unit (a sub-branch structure) are established too. The criteria include procedures on volunteer mobilization and recruitment. A manual on volunteer management/training was drafted with the input of branches and volunteers; the manual will be finalized in 2008. Sessions on volunteer management were incorporated into training agenda of the NCHVP.

Reforms will continue. The SRCS is committed to improving its logistics management systems and systematizing information collection and documentation. It strives to strengthen accountability to beneficiaries as well as other stakeholders and is taking already concrete steps to deliver on the commitment: a concept paper was developed and recruitment of an SRCS reporting officer is underway. The reporting officer will lead the information management/reporting capacity building process in SRCS with technical support of the Federation's reporting delegate. One task of the reporting officer will be to promote and support the development of a SRCS-wide Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) framework, standard systems and procedures. Measures are being made to improve financial reporting as well. In 2008, the SRCS will introduce a new financial management system. It is installing a new software and will train its finance staff. This will help improve significantly donor reporting.

### **Branch development.**

**Objective:** To expand the presence of the SRCS throughout the territory of Sudan and increase the capacity of its volunteers.

### **Achievements, challenges**

Despite challenges, some significant activities have been realized in the south as well. The SRCS has formal structures at Malakal, Juba, Wau, Raja and Bentiu. The location of these structures corresponds to the areas that were under the control of the Government of South Sudan during the conflict. SRCS does not yet have structure in areas controlled by the SPLM. The five branches mainly carry out activities in the urban areas and the immediate environs of the towns, with little capacity to operate beyond. During the conflict they received financial and capacity building support from the ICRC and cooperated with ICRC in running dissemination and tracing activities as well as other programmes such as health support. Following the CPA, the SRCS proposed restructuring to permit greater autonomy for branches in the South. 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 southern secretariat was established and key staff recruited. The Juba office currently has five staff comprising a director general (responsible for programmes and cooperation) and coordinators for water and sanitation, health, communications and disaster management.

With support of Partner National Societies, the extension to the SRCS Juba branch office was also 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. Volunteer training on SRCS policies and procedures started.

A-five day training for community-based first aid (CBFA) team leaders took place in Juba with participation of 15 Red Crescent volunteers. Eighty four Red Crescent branch staff drawn from South Kordofan State attended Trainer of Trainers workshops on health emergency preparedness and primary health care. The SRCS Wau branch conducted health and hygiene training including HIV/AIDS awareness. A workshop on emergency water and sanitation was conducted for SRCS staff and volunteers from Juba and Terekeka (Central Equatoria state) as well. In 2006, the SRCS – with financial and technical support from the Federation – also conducted four disaster preparedness workshops for 72 SRCS volunteers. The 5-day training sessions were held in Bentiu (Unity), Malakal (Upper Nile state), Wau (Western Bahr el-Ghazal) and Terekeka (Central Equatoria). The training was received with a lot of enthusiasm by the volunteers, and helped strengthen volunteers' technical skills in disaster preparedness and response.

The table below summarizes the current location, status and capacity of the SRCS in the south as well as its key partners engaged in the area.

**Table 1. SRCS branch location, status, capacity and partners in the south**

Town	State	Status	Capacity	Partners	Project
Juba	Central Equatoria	Formal structure in place.	20 staff members and 80 to 100 active volunteers (5,000 registered volunteers).	- Federation - ICRC - Netherlands Red Cross	Health (primary health care), water and sanitation, tracing and dissemination, disaster response and preparedness.
Laniya	Central Equatoria	No formal structure in place.	Programme staff. CBFA trained volunteers	- Netherlands Red Cross	Health (primary health care), water and sanitation.
Terekeka	Central Equatoria	No formal structure	Volunteers trained in CBFA and some storage capacity (a fridge and a container supplied by the Federation).	- Federation	Floods response
Malakal	Upper Nile	Formal structure in place.	Six staff members and some 120 active volunteers. 27 NCHVP team leaders.	- Federation - ICRC	Disaster response and preparedness.
Bentiu	Unity	Formal structure in place.	Six staff members and some 120 active volunteers (capacity to mobilize some 300 volunteers).	- Federation - ICRC - Swiss Red Cross	Disaster response and preparedness. NCHVP (to start in 2008)
Wau	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Formal structure in place.	18 staff members and 60 active volunteers (4,000-5,000 registered volunteers).	- ICRC - Danish Red Cross	Health (primary health care), water and sanitation, tracing and

					dissemination, branch development.
Raga	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Formal structure in place/sub-branch	Five staff members and a proven capacity to mobilize some 100-200 volunteers.	- German Red Cross	Primary health care; branch development, WatSan; food security.
Rumbek	Lakes	In formation	Programme staff	- Consortium of Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies	Branch development, health and WatSan (discussions ongoing)
Yirol	Lakes	In formation	Programme staff	- Consortium of Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross societies	Primary health care, WatSan.
Yambio	Western Equatoria	In formation	Programme staff	- German Red Cross	Branch development, health (primary health care), and WatSan (discussion ongoing)
Torrit	Eastern Equatoria state	In formation	A focal person	- Danish Red Cross	Health, water and sanitation, branch development.
Bor	Jonglei	No formal structure in place	A focal person and the capacity to mobilize community volunteers.	- Federation	Floods response
Awil	Northern Bahr el Ghazal state	No formal structure in place	A focal person	- Federation	Floods response
<b>Warrab</b>	Warrab	No formal structure	A focal person and the capacity to mobilize community volunteers.	- Federation	Floods response

Much more, however, remains to be done as needs are great. Nearly three years after the signing of the 2005 peace agreement, Southern Sudan remains extensively devastated and under-developed. The public sector is in the early stages of being formed, humanitarian and development agencies are still thin on the ground and private, commercial activity is slow. The Government of South Sudan was sworn in 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.

Challenges are many; difficult terrain and lack of infrastructure posing enormous constraints to organizing logistics of any operation, security limiting access to some areas and shortage of human resources are few to mention. The Federation remains committed to supporting the SRCS in this ambitious yet vitally important endeavour to strengthen its capacities in the south to reach more vulnerable people with better services. A full compliment of Federation delegates (head of sub-office and delegates with expertise in WatSan, health and OD/branch development) will be based in Juba to fulfil their mandate. Federation support to branch development will be scaled up. An in-depth assessment is currently ongoing to recommend on the way forward. The key question remains how to ensure a sustained expansion of SRCS operation and presence in the south. The emerging master-plan will provide a framework for further action.

## Humanitarian Values

**Goal:** Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values are known and respected throughout Sudan, leading to a reduction in discrimination against vulnerable groups.

**Objective:** To support the Sudanese Red Crescent Society by increasing its capacity to promote Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values.

### Achievements, challenges

All SRCS programmes address the issues of discrimination, intolerance and respect for diversity. The National Society strives to set an example through its own action. Sessions on the Movement's Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles were incorporated in the training conducted under health as well as disaster management programmes. Tolerance and mutual respect was promoted through regular media briefings as well.

## Working in partnership

Several Partner National Societies contribute to the programme, including Austrian, Danish, German, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss and Finnish Red Cross societies. SRCS, as the leading indigenous humanitarian organization, is actively involved in all coordination fora at national and state levels. It maintains a regular contact with various government ministries, notably Ministry of Health and Humanitarian Affairs (HAC) as well as UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and UNFPA).

As part of the global initiative, the new framework for partnerships – operational alliances – is piloted in Sudan's NCHVP. The framework is building on the Development Cooperation policy and underlines the lead role of the SRCS in defining its own priorities. It aims to transform the fragmented engagement of partners into a stronger and broader (programme-level) alliance. Operational alliance agreements are signed with the Austrian and Netherlands Red Cross societies. With others, discussion is ongoing. To improve coordination between various partners supporting the NCHVP, the NCHVP steering committee will be reactivated in 2008.

**Table 2. SRCS partners supporting NCHVP**

<b>PNS</b>	<b>Branches</b>	<b>Mode of cooperation</b>
Swedish Red Cross	- Gazeera - Sennar - Gedarif - North Kordofan - Upper Nile - Unity	Multilateral/through Federation appeal
Norwegian Red Cross	- Red Sea - Lake - Plans to expand	Multilateral/through Federation appeal
Netherlands Red Cross	- Juba (Laniya locality)	Bilateral partnership with

		SRCS.
Swiss Red Cross	- Bentiu	Bilateral partnership with SRCS.

In 2008, it is planned to extend the operational alliances concept to the emerging organisational development programme for SRCS southern branches. It is also planned to introduce regular forums for discussion to be attended by all Movement partners engaged in south Sudan (similar to Darfur forum).

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The programme supported an instrumental role of the SRCS to respond to daunting humanitarian challenges that face hundreds of thousands of people in Sudan. These are the poorest of the poor, whose coping mechanisms had been undermined by years of conflict, displacement, poverty, climatic shocks and health epidemics. In 2006-2007, it is estimated the SRCS reached some two million people. Their health has as a result improved. Major health epidemics were averted and many lives were saved.

In the environment, where specialised hospitals, clinics and medication are not available to the majority, building the local knowledge to deal with most common health risks can be the most affective way to avert human deaths and to improve people's health. The SRCS is probably the only indigenous organisation in Sudan that has the ability to build such capacity through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. SRCS volunteers work with communities they spring from. They promote safer hygiene and better management of water and sanitation facilities. They try to encourage a change in behaviour, an enormous task yet experience shows it is not impossible. Residential areas, where SRCS volunteers work, are cleaner now; garbage is collected more often and disposed safely; and there is an increased awareness of how to prevent water and vector-borne diseases demonstrated in increased and more consistent use of ITN, hand washing and household treatment of water.

Resettling on land they last saw 15-20 years ago for many returnees was a daunting task. In many cases, however, the communities that have 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. By supporting both, SRCS is contributing to building a sustainable peace in the land, which continues to be torn by confrontations and instability.

## Looking ahead

The NCHVP is a unique yet a novel programme. Therefore, a phased approach is being applied. The programme will be expanded gradually over the coming two years. Achievements as well as challenges encountered will be reviewed periodically. A mid-term evaluation is planned at the end of 2008. Attention will be directed towards improving the quality of volunteer training. Developing a coherent approach to volunteer management will be equally important. Efforts will continue to engage more young people in the SRCS work and to broaden the human resource base of the National Society.

In the south, health is by far the biggest component of the Federation-supporting programming but plans are to scale up the 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. The International Federation is reinforcing its management structure in the South to better serve the needs of the people and, hence, the aspirations and objectives of the SRCS. It is recruiting an organisational/branch development delegate, who will be based in Juba. A plan for SRCS branch development is being developed and will form the basis for further action. Engagement of all stakeholders in the development of the plan from the outset will be crucial to the success.

No one can say that the floods of the recent years are directly related to climate change. However, Red Cross Red Crescent disasters statistics show a worrying rise in the number of flood emergencies dealt with by volunteers.<sup>3</sup> The experts at Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in The Hague believe that there is also an increased risk of drought in some areas, while others may experience both floods and droughts. Strengthening preparedness, therefore, will be another priority to mitigate the impact of climatic shocks.

<b>How we work</b>	
<p>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering quality and accountable 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 <a href="http://www.ifrc.org">http://www.ifrc.org</a></p>	
<p>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".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
<b>Contact information</b>	
<p><b>For further information on this Appeal, contact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In Sudan:</b> Osman Gafer Abdalla, Secretary General, Sudanese Red Crescent Society, Khartoum; email: <a href="mailto:srcs_sg@yahoo.com">srcs_sg@yahoo.com</a>; telephone +249.83.78.48.89.</li> <li>• <b>In Sudan:</b> George Gigiberia, Federation Country Representative; email: <a href="mailto:george.gigiberia@ifrc.org">george.gigiberia@ifrc.org</a>; telephone +249.83.77.10.33.</li> <li>• <b>In Kenya:</b> Asha Mohammed, Head of Zone, Eastern Africa, Nairobi; email: <a href="mailto:asha.mohamed@ifrc.org">asha.mohamed@ifrc.org</a>; telephone: +254.20.283.51.24.</li> <li>• <b>In Geneva:</b> Sabine Feuglet, Federation Regional Officer for East Africa, Africa Department.; email: <a href="mailto:sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org">sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org</a>; Telephone: +41 22 730 44 27; Fax: +41 22 733 03 95</li> </ul>	

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<sup>3</sup> Between 2004 and 2006, the number of floods operations in Africa jumped from just five in 2004 to 32 in 2006 and already, by mid September 2007, stood at 42.