

# SUDAN

## REFUGEES, DISPLACED AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

CHF 2,270,000

1,070,000 beneficiaries

Programme No. 01.15/98

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The 14-year old civil conflict continues to destabilise and further degrade the lives of millions of Sudanese civilians. War-affected populations throughout Sudan struggle to cope with the effects of chronic malnutrition and an alarming increase in the spread of infectious diseases. With an escalation of the civil war in the south and the east and beset by floods and droughts in many parts of the country during 1996 and 1997 the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), assisted by the Federation Delegation in Khartoum, has provided and will continue to provide services to displaced and refugees living in camps around Khartoum and along the eastern border and to other vulnerable groups.

### *The Operation*

SRCS emergency operations are focused on the internally displaced, 45,000 refugees from Ethiopia and Eritrea and a similar number of local people in and around the camps. In El Salaam and El Bashir camps outside Khartoum, SRCS provides safe drinking water to the 190,000 displaced from the west and the south. Due to reallocation from other camps the need for this activity will increase during 1998 and additional funding is urgently sought.

Health services provided by SRCS cover some 300,000 displaced people in all camps around Khartoum. The main needs are health education, reproductive health to prevent birth mortality of children and women, supplementary feeding and prevention and treatment of malaria. In addition SRCS provide health services, including malaria control measures, to some 600,000 beneficiaries in eight other States in the east and west. For several years SRCS has provided supplementary food from its feeding centres, in collaboration with WFP, to tens of thousands of displaced people in camps in five different States. In the south five SRCS branches provide humanitarian assistance to war affected populations.

## ***Objectives in 1998***

- | To provide standard health services to 90,000 refugees and local populations in Wad Sherife refugee camp in Kassala and in five refugee camps in Gedaref;
- | to supply and distribute safe drinking water on a daily basis to 190,000 displaced people in El Salaam and El Bashir camps outside Khartoum;
- | to provide medical assistance, health education, reproductive health and malaria prevention, treatment and control to 790,000 people in Khartoum and seven other States;
- | to support vulnerable children and women in displaced camps and in conflict areas by improving health awareness, education and income-generating activities;
- | to improve SRCS Disaster Preparedness and Logistics training;
- | to supply and distribute food and supplementary feeding to 50,000 displaced people in five States in collaboration with WFP (not in the appeal).

## ***Plan of Action***

### Support to Displaced

#### ***Khartoum Water Project***

The overall objective of this project is to provide clean water to households and for community services in the displaced camps of El Salaam and Wad El Bashir. A total of 32,000 families (160,000 individuals) will receive 1.5 million litres of water (nine litres pr. person/day). There is need for rehabilitation and repair of the bore holes and for expanding the daily supply of water to meet the requirements of an expected increase in the number of beneficiaries to 190,000 people. This is a joint SRCS/CARE International project.

#### ***Displaced Women***

The project is directed towards displaced and other vulnerable women in Sinkat, Port Sudan, Kassala, Kashim El Girba, North Darfur State, North Kordofan, Nile River State, White Nile State (Kosti) and Khartoum State (displaced area). Beneficiaries will be trained in administrative, academic and other professional skills, the Women's Development Programme will be supported, women in rural areas will be encouraged to develop local small scale industries and trades and women's sanitation and personal hygiene will be highlighted.

#### ***Health Education***

Volunteers and community leaders will be trained in community mobilisation and control of disease for which education material will be produced. Courses will be given to 50 SRCS volunteers and ten community leaders from each of the three camps.

#### ***Reproductive Health***

In Khartoum State 211 babies per 100,000 live births died in 1996 (figure includes the three displaced camps). To help alleviate this picture, SRCS volunteers and community leaders will be trained as trainers for the community on health education and community participation, as will village midwives. Advocacy against harmful traditional practice, provision of basic curative and prophylactic services in the three SRCS clinics in the displaced camps (including tetanus

vaccination of pregnant women) and data collection also form part of the plan. The beneficiaries will be 10,000 women attending SRCS health clinics.

### ***Malaria Control***

Malaria remains the most common tropical disease almost all over Sudan, particularly along the Nile basin where irrigated agriculture is common practice. It is the main cause of outpatient visits to health facilities, and a major cause of death among different population groups. A reduction in morbidity and mortality will be achieved through community mobilisation via the SRCS malaria awareness campaign, draining of stagnant water, spraying, prophylactic treatment of at-risk groups and treatment of cases at SRCS clinics. Some 930,000 people will benefit in Northern, White Nile and Elgazera States, and the displaced camps near Khartoum.

### ***Vulnerable Children***

In Khartoum alone there are over 20,000 homeless children. About 75% are of school age and the vast majority never learn to read or write. They are vulnerable to diseases, drug addiction and violence. The project aims at alleviating their suffering by identifying homeless children in the target areas, public awareness and family reunification. Training of Trainers courses will be initiated for professional teachers and SRCS volunteers for a youth literacy programme and efforts will be made to reduce the school drop-out rate. The project will target 22,800 children in Khartoum, 17,000 in Kosti, 12,100 in West Darfur El Genena and 11,650 in Kassala.

### ***Elderly Programme***

The displaced population above the age of 55 is estimated at 10,000 in the target area of the Khartoum displaced camps, Western Darfur, Western Kordofan and Kassala. The project aims at improving health, nutritional conditions and the standard of living of 10,000 elderly displaced through community health care and social activities. An income generating project promoting economic independence of elderly people is the main plank.

### **Support to Refugees**

#### ***Health, Wad Sherife and Gedaref***

Voluntary repatriation of the refugee populations in Eastern Sudan has come to a halt for a variety of reasons and UNHCR support to the implementing agent, SRCS (for 35,000 Eritreans in Wad Sherife and the 10,000 Ethiopian in five separate settlements south of Gedaref) is reduced to a minimum. The local population also benefits from the health services at the SRCS health centres, adding a further 45,000 beneficiaries. SRCS tries to treat 90,000 patients with staff, medicines, medical equipment and infrastructure for only half that number. The services fall below acceptable Red Cross/Red Crescent standards, to the deep concern of the staff.

SRCS aims at restoring health services in the areas to previous professional standards, provided equally to the mixed population of Eritreans and Ethiopian in the camps and to the Sudanese in adjacent villages. This will be achieved by complementing present UNHCR support to SRCS, so that health services to adjacent villages is not inferior to that given to refugees.

#### ***Disaster Preparedness (DP) and Logistics Training***

The project will enhance the National Society's capacity to respond to disaster by improving its abilities in assessment, monitoring and logistics management and further develop its capacity to collect and interpret early signs of disaster. The DP programme also includes emergency stockpiling designed to meet the emergency needs of 20,000 beneficiaries for one month.

## ***Capacity***

SRCS, founded in 1956, is represented in 19 of Sudan's 26 states. It has 220,000 members of which 10,000 are active and trained volunteers. There are 40 staff at headquarters and at state level more than 200 are employed, headed by a State Director. Logistics and communications capacities exist but are limited due to the out-dated vehicle fleet and lack of modern radio equipment. The NS has two new Warehouses in Khartoum and Port Sudan which can store up to 1,500 MT each.

The Federation Delegation in Khartoum consists of three delegates (Head, Finance/Administration and Co-ordination) with 17 support staff. Three additional delegates were involved in the drought operation in 1997. The Delegation assists in carrying out assessments, elaborating projects, issuing reports and approaching the donor community to promote funding. In case of a major disaster, such as the 1997 Red Sea Hills relief operation, a SRCS/Federation joint operational protocol is signed. The role of the Regional Delegation in Nairobi is expected to increase, especially in the fields of Institutional Development, DPP and logistics training and assessment but also in information and assessment capacity. The in-country Delegation and the Regional Delegation will also play a crucial role in assisting the NS in carrying out a Vulnerability/Risk Analysis and a Self Assessment which is scheduled for 1998.

## ***Co-operation***

The main partners are WFP, UNICEF, Sudan Aid and CARE International. SRCS food distribution is done together with WFP which supplies food, whilst SRCS is responsible for the management of the camps, distribution, and running feeding centres. Health activities for children/women are supported by UNICEF in some locations. The National Society is the main implementing agency for the Khartoum Water project, with support from CARE, Sudan Aid and ICRC.

ICRC has founded and supports the five State branches in the south. Some co-ordination takes place at bi-weekly WFP/NGO meetings and at monthly UN/NGO Agency meetings. A new co-ordination mechanism is presently being elaborated to co-ordinate NGO activities for the displaced in camps in the north and Operation Lifeline Sudan-related activities in the south.