

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CHAD: SUDANESE REFUGEES

19 November, 2003

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 60,000

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

This document is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. A DREF allocation of CHF 60,000 was released for the assessment mission and initial needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. Based on preliminary details from the assessment report, the Federation will provide international support through an Emergency Appeal

The Situation

UNHCR estimates that up to 65,000 refugees have crossed from the Darfur Region of western Sudan into neighboring Chad over the past few months. There are two distinct caseloads: in northeast Chad, Zaghawa refugees reportedly fleeing the conflict between Sudanese Government forces and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), are concentrated around the city of Tine. Further south, refugees from the Masalit tribe are also fleeing inter-ethnic strife to seek refuge in Chad. As both of these caseloads are spread along the 500 – 600 kilometre-long border between Sudan and Chad, it is virtually impossible to establish an accurate estimate of the caseload at this time.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CHF 60,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to organize a joint Federation and Red Cross of Chad (RCC) assessment mission to the areas from 30 October to 16 November. The Federation team consisted of representatives from the RCC, the French Red Cross, and the Geneva Secretariat. Preliminary reports from the assessment indicate that the caseload is in urgent need of international assistance and support in the form of food (from WFP) and basic non-food items (from UNHCR). The RCC, with Federation support, will carry out the distributions, provide logistics support, and, as required, become involved in other sectors (health, and supplementary assistance to the most vulnerable).

It is anticipated that the caseload will eventually be concentrated in two settlements that have been identified by the authorities and UNHCR, and that the RCC staff and volunteers will provide an important link between the donors and the beneficiaries. Since 2002, the RCC has been successfully responding to the humanitarian needs of some 40,000 beneficiaries in the south of the country, working as an operational partner with UNHCR and WFP.

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With this additional emergency in the east of the country, the national society's resources have been overstretched, and the RCC have requested support from the Federation. The assessment report is being finalised and will be made available shortly. On the basis of the preliminary results of the assessment and subsequent discussions with partners, the Federation plans to launch an Emergency Appeal to support the RCC in this operation. The Emergency Appeal will, in principle, be launched during the week of 24-28 November.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.