

# 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

## SUDAN: FLOODING IN KASSALA STATE

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**Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: DREF will be released shortly**

*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](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**This document is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal.**

### The Situation

Severe floods have hit Kassala town in North Eastern Sudan with a population of 502,000 people which includes about 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Approximately 60-70% of the population (301,200 to 364,000 people) have been affected. Four deaths have been confirmed so far, although reports of missing people continue to come in. Most of the affected people are now sleeping outside on higher ground to avoid the water.

The flooding follows heavy rains on 28 July, which deposited over 72mm of water in five hours prompting an initial flooding along the banks of the Gash River that divides the town into two. A second wave of flooding between 29 and 30 July worsened the situation causing the river to break flood barriers built in 1988 to protect the town, taking a new course right through the center of town. At least 600 dwellings have been swept away while the bridge linking the town has been submerged, cutting Kassala in half. The market, hospital, government buildings, and schools including the Sudanese Red Crescent (SRCS) Branch office are all under water. The water supply system has been damaged, leaving residents with no source of clean water. All communication channels including cell phones are also down; the airstrip however is still functioning.

Government agencies took immediate action dispatching a planeload of relief goods from Khartoum for those initially affected. A joint Government team led by the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs departed the morning of 31 July to carry out a joint on-the-spot assessment with SRCS. More relief items are being assembled in Khartoum to be airlifted to Kassala. Initial needs are thought to be shelter, food and medicines; the extent of the flooding will probably require other interventions such as non-food items, water/sanitation and vector control.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Kassala Branch of the SRCS contacted SRCS headquarters at the onset of the flooding. Three regional Federation staff (Disaster Preparedness Delegate, Water/Sanitation Delegate and Wat/San Officer) have been reassigned from Khartoum to provide assistance to the SRCS with responding to the disaster. The Regional Wat/San Officer, bilateral representatives of the Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, and staff from the SRCS

Headquarters left for Kassala by car and are expected to arrive by 31 July. The team will participate in a joint initial assessment alongside a team from the government.

SRCS does not have any emergency stocks at the moment. The Spanish Red Cross is negotiating with ECHO to allow for ECHO non-food stocks to be released to SRCS for use in assisting the victims. Depending on the magnitude of the disaster, there may be requests for support from other regional stocks. As well, Disaster Response Teams including the Regional Disaster Response Team and Emergency Response Units may be mobilised according to need. The Japanese Ambassador who witnessed the flooding while on a separate visit to Kassala has called for a meeting with the SRCS to offer assistance.

Meanwhile, the Government has appointed the SRCS/Federation lead agency for the disaster; the SRCS Secretary General and two government ministers are meeting with local officials in Kassala to develop a plan of action. A meeting between the government and the Humanitarian Coordination Committee in Sudan is being held today (31 July) to discuss the disaster.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://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.