

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: HEAVY RAINS AND STORMS IN WHITE NILE STATE

21 August, 2003

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This Bulletin is for information only. The Federation has launched an appeal for floods in Kassala State (no. 19/2003; please refer to the Federation's website at page http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/190303.pdf), and encourages donors to support this appeal.

The Situation

On Tuesday 19 August 2003 at 4 a.m. large parts of the state received heavy rains coupled with strong storms that caused significant injury and damage to both households and public institutions in the towns of Kosti and Rabak. While the SRCS, together with NGOs and officials from the local government, continue their assessment, the following preliminary information is available:

- 750 families are without shelter;
- 4 people are dead, and 22 injured;
- 4 schools are completely destroyed;
- there is considerable damage to health centres and in two displaced camps: Ghaz Salam and Aleya;
- 42 electrical poles have collapsed (which supplied power to Kosti, Rabak and Dewin) resulting in power cuts;
- there are water shortages due to the power cuts;
- 2000 *fedans* are completely under water.

The damage is mainly in the two localities of Ghaz Salam and Aleya camp, as well as the following residential blocks in Kosti:

- Kadogli;
- Abu Sharif;
- Al Sana'at;
- square 54;
- Alkrou;
- 7 blocks in Rabak town.

Heavy floods covered the area of Jabal Biut, east of Rabak, moving towards Kena'na where there is a sugar factory. The cross road that connects Rabak and Sinnar is reportedly currently under 75 cm of water. The commissioner of Gataniah Province confirms that 32 houses in al Jerid area are totally destroyed while 170 houses are about to collapse.



Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Four emergency volunteer teams, each consisting of 25 emergency workers and lead by an SRCS officer from the Kosti branch, are taking part in rescue, evacuation, and protection activities, and the recuperation of household goods from under rubble. A senior manager from the SRCS branch is participating in the coordination committee set up by the governor.

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

For further details please contact :

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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.