

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: FLOODS

10 August 2005

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 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin No. 1/2005 is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance at this time.

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The Situation

Heavy rains that continuously pounded Elfashir and Khartoum, Sudan, in July and August 2005 caused widespread destruction and loss of life. 956 families were left homeless after their houses were destroyed by floods in Umdurman, Khartoum North and Khartoum localities on 14 and 15 July. Flooding was also reported in Elfashir, North Darfur State on 3 August 2005, where houses were destroyed, 2,093 families were reportedly displaced and eight people killed. The rainfall was estimated at 133+ mm, a record since 1918. The situation is compounded by stagnant water that has increased mosquito breeding areas. In addition, burst drainage and sanitation systems are creating a health risk in the streets. The most affected areas in the 40 districts of Elfashir include Abusouk, Kakoom, Alsalam, Alwihda, Althora and Almawashi.

A seven-day rainfall forecast by FewNet, between 21 and 27 July 2005, indicated that after a brief period of drier weather, seasonal rains would resume over central parts of west Darfur, southern Darfur, north Darfur and southern portions of Biltine. Heavy rainfall has been predicted in south west Darfur and parts of north and south Darfur including the cities of Abeche, Al Junaynah and Nyala. Rainfall of between 50 and 120+ mm is possible in these areas. FewNet predicts that torrential rains will continue in different parts of the country. Umdurman state, Khartoum city, Blue Nile periphery and Kassala need to be closely monitored.

In early August 2005, the sudden death of the first vice president of Sudan, Dr. John Garang, in a helicopter crash sparked unrests in Khartoum and Juba, stretching the capacity of the national society. Over 100 people died and, with emergency intervention of the Red Crescent, 400 injured persons were treated in various hospitals.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In Elfashir, North Darfur state, the Sudanese Red Crescent's branch provided immediate material and psychological support to the people affected by the floods. Volunteers assisted in the evacuation and rescue of people and their property. On 7 August 2005, the national society distributed 2 pieces of plastic sheets, 2 blankets, 2 buckets, 15 pieces of soap and 2 mats, received from the United Nation Joint Logistic Centre (UNJLC), to each of the 700 affected families.

The Sudanese Red Crescent is mobilizing its emergency response units (ERUs) and available resources to tackle the disaster. In Khartoum State, it utilised its own stocks to assist 956 households affected by the flash floods in the localities of Khartoum, Umdurman and Khartoum North. The national society now needs to replenish its warehouse emergency stock.

The need

Of the 2,093 families affected in north Darfur, the UN assisted with relief items for 700 families while the government assisted 658 families. The Sudanese Red Crescent's immediate need is to assist the remaining 735 families with shelter, blankets, mats, mosquito nets, insecticides, hygiene kits and water pumps for drainage. The national society also has to replenish stocks used in assisting 956 families affected in Khartoum thus it is requesting for assistance to support a total of 1,691 families in both Darfur and Khartoum states.

Coordination

The Sudanese Red Crescent has been working closely with the government and other stakeholders. The national society's north Darfur, in collaboration with the government and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), carried out an assessment which revealed that up to 2,093 families were affected by the flash floods. These results have been the basis for intervention as well as for assistance requests.

Being a member of the State Emergency Chamber, the national society has been given an opportunity to maintain regular contact with the local authorities and NGOs in order to promote humanitarian values. The Red Crescent has thus led campaigns targeting affected communities with a view to raise awareness on the impact of the floods disaster and thereby reduce vulnerability.

As part of coordination with other stakeholders, the Sudanese Red Crescent received non-food relief items from UNJLC to assist 700 families. The government of Sudan distributed relief assistance to 658 families in Elfashir, North Darfur state.

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