

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

27 September 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. 2/2005 is being issued for information only. An Emergency Appeal is under preparation.

Following a previous spate of flooding that affected Khartoum and Darfur in August 2005 (Information Bulletin No. 1/2005¹), CHF 200,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Sudan: Mahmoud Omar Osman, Secretary General, Sudanese Red Crescent, Khartoum; Email: omer.osman@srcs-sudan.org; Phone: + 249.11.78.48.89; Fax: + 249.11.77.28.77*
- *In Kenya: Anitta Underlin, Head of Federation Regional Delegation, Nairobi; Email: ifrcke03@ifrc.org; Phone: +254.20.283.51.24; Fax: +254.20.271.84.15.*
- *In Sudan: Mathew Varghese, Head of Federation Sudan Delegation, Khartoum; Email: ifrcsd02@ifrc.org; Phone +249.912.30.40.23; Fax +249.183.77.04.84*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Heavy rainfall resulted in flash floods that caused loss of lives and destruction of houses/infrastructure in the Red Sea and River Nile states of Sudan. Up to 3,130 families have been affected and need urgent assistance. Some affected people have camped, in the open, next to their destroyed homes. The most affected areas have been facing severe shortages of portable water. Prior to the storm, water was purchased from and provided by water vendors in donkey carts. With the failure of this system, however, local water prices have doubled and have become unaffordable to many. General hygiene is extremely poor as in some areas people are practicing open defecation. Effluent from drainage systems and seawater has flooded and mixed with the local water networks. There is, thus, an urgent need to repair the cities' water networks. The situation is compounded by inadequate health facilities in most of the affected areas.

The flooding incident, reported on 31 August 2005, was also accompanied by gale-force winds that ripped off roofs and caused further destruction to property. The rainstorm destroyed most of the houses made of mats, grass or timber sheeting. Local markets were not spared as many were washed away.

¹ Sudan: Floods (Information Bulletin No. 1/2005)- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts05/SD050810.pdf

Sudan: Floods; Information Bulletin no. 2/2005

In Port Sudan (Red Sea State), five people were killed and 2,950 houses were partially or totally destroyed by the heavy floods. 70 electricity poles collapsed in the city centre, resulting in power disruptions. The Sudanese Red Crescent² health centre in Alingaz Quarter was also affected as its roofs and verandas collapsed. Eight warehouses of the World Food Programme (WFP) were totally damaged alongside the food stocks that were stored within. The two-kilometre railway line connecting Port Sudan and Atbara was also severed, resulting in communication difficulties. Several administrative units of central, eastern and southern Port Sudan, as well as Arbaat and Suakin were severely affected by gale-force winds.

On 6 September 2005, another heavy downpour was reported in Atbara, Berber, and Eldamar cities of the State of River Nile, causing destruction to houses and public utilities. Two people were reportedly killed while 180 people were displaced in the heavy flash floods. Seven schools were partially affected, thereby disrupting normal learning, and a newly constructed hospital crumpled.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Sudanese Red Crescent responded by mobilizing 150 volunteers from its Red Sea Branch. An ambulance and two land cruisers were at the volunteers' disposal to aid in the evacuation of the affected people. The volunteers also assisted in unblocking the drainage system. The national society's River Nile Branch floods working group participated in a needs assessment, jointly with the Inter-agency Rapid Assessment Team- which comprises of humanitarian organizations and the government of Sudan.

Earlier in July and August 2005, heavy rains pounded Umdurman, Khartoum North, Khartoum, Elfashir and North Darfur State in Sudan, causing widespread destruction, loss of life and the displacement of at least 2,093 families. Volunteers from the branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent in the flooded areas conducted rescue and evacuation operations, provided immediate material assistance (from the emergency stock in warehouses) and psychological support to the affected people. The relief operation is still ongoing, following a DREF allocation of CHF 200,000.

An Emergency Appeal is currently in the pipeline and is expected to be launched by mid-October.

The Need

According to WFP, a total of 308.3 metric tonnes of assorted food is required to assist 16,710 severely affected people in Port Sudan for the one month recovery period.

The non-food relief items needed to assist 3,130 families affected, in both the Red Sea and River Nile States, are tabulated below.

Non-food items	Quantity
Plastic sheeting (8*9)	3,130
Mats (2 per family)	6,080
Blankets(3 per family)	9,030
Mosquito nets (2 per family)	6,080
Hygiene kits	3,130
Soap (45 pc box) 15 piece per family	1,164
Jerry cans	3,130
Insecticide (K-Otherine)	150
Sprayers (Hudson)	60

² Sudanese Red Crescent- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=161>

Coordination

The Sudanese government's civil defence team assisted in the rescue operation and pumped out water from the flooded zones. The State government has distributed food in three areas, reaching at least 200 families in Port Sudan. The food included two metric tonnes of wheat flour, 0.8 metric tonnes of vegetable oil, 0.8 metric tonnes of sugar and one metric tonne of rice.

An Inter-agency Rapid assessment report indicated that the Humanitarian Assistance Commission (HAC) and WFP held an urgent joint meeting, together with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government partners, to discuss the modalities of conducting a joint rapid assessment in the most-affected areas. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Sudanese Red Crescent, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Oxfam GB, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Accord, the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Agriculture and SOS.

On 7 September 2005, six teams were assembled to collect information from the local administrative units and survey community leaders in Port Sudan so as to determine the extent of damages and the immediate needs of the affected population.

WFP pledged to distribute food for the affected families in the southern, central and eastern sectors of Port Sudan city, for a period of one month. WFP is also organizing to mobilize stocks that were pre-positioned in Kassala as a contingency for the potential flood of River Gash. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has pledged to donate 1,500 plastic sheeting, while MSF is currently working with MOH and local hospitals in monitoring waterborne diseases.

The Federation's Sudan delegation and the regional delegation in Nairobi are providing technical support to the Sudanese Red Crescent. The regional reporting and planning officer will undertake a support visit to Sudan where an Emergency Appeal is under preparation.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)