

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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 IN KASSALA STATE

20 August 2003

Appeal N° 19/03

Launched on: 05 August 2003 for CHF 1,917,000 (USD 1,412,563 or EUR 1,250,535 for 3 months for 140,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 200,000

Beneficiaries: 140,000

Operations Update N° 03; Period covered: 13-18 August, 2003; Next Update N° 04 expected 1 September, 2003

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 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Picture below: A view of the flood damage in Kassala State.





An Emergency Response Unit (ERU) water tank donated and erected by the German Red Cross, in coordination with the Federation flood relief and assistance response.

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 70%; for details please refer to the attached Contributions List, also available on the Federation's website.

Outstanding needs: A British Government (DFID) and British Red Cross pledge of GBP150,000 (CHF 331,812) is in the process of being confirmed, and will be reflected in the updated contributions list on the Federation's website. This, together with other contributions and support currently being confirmed with donors will bring this appeal close to fully coverage.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeal for Sudan (no. 01.10/2003) and Sudan Drought (no. 17/03)

Operational Summary: Timely support from the international community has resulted in almost full coverage of the appeal. Just as importantly, the operational capacities of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society have resulted in effective delivery of relief services to over 140,000 people affected by the floods that hit Kassala in late July and early August. In addition, agencies without a local network or personnel capacities have relied on the community-based network of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society to distribute food and non-food relief items within Kassala.

A Federation water and sanitation Emergency Response Unit (ERU) deployed by the Austrian and German Red Cross Societies is ensuring access to safe water. Two aircrafts carrying personnel, equipment and relief material landed in Kassala by 14 August. In addition, two aircrafts carrying relief material from the Federation's disaster preparedness stocks in Amman, Jordan, landed in Kassala by 13 August, together with a Logistics delegate from the Federation's Regional Delegation for the Middle East. The bilateral team of the Spanish Red Cross, active in disaster preparedness and response through a partnership with ECHO and SRCS, also responded promptly to the needs of 326 families in Rabak and Sinnar by distributing relief materials from RC stocks in Sinja.

The SRCS and Federation team in Sudan, with technical support from Federation Secretariat and its regional delegation based out of Nairobi, are prepared to respond to humanitarian needs should the situation deteriorate. However, as of this writing, the needs and operational plans articulated in appeal no. 19/03 remain valid. Mr. Omer Osman, the Secretary General of the Sudanese Red Crescent stressed that "it is because of the solidarity demonstrated by the Movement that the speedy response was possible. We have the volunteers and the staff, but the material entrusted to us was essential to our ability to provide the actual relief services. We are grateful to our international partners."

Operational Developments

By 14 August the bulk of relief items for this operation were in Kassala. Non-food relief items and the required equipment for the water and sanitation ERU were delivered directly to Kassala aboard four planes, originating from Amman, Jordan and Cologne, Germany. Seven water and sanitation technicians from German and Austrian National Societies, a Federation Logistics delegate and a Federation

Coordinator support the efforts of the Sudanese Red Crescent staff and volunteers in Khartoum and Kassala. The Federation Coordinator conducted a monitoring mission to Kassala on 17-18 August and this update is partially based on its findings.

The heavy rainfall that hampered relief distributions until 13 August finally subsided and relief services began without further delay. The scope of the work of the team in Kassala expanded with a request from the local authorities for the Red Crescent/Cross to rehabilitate close to 4,000 latrines, with UNICEF and Sudanese water authorities taking care of 1,000. Between 5 and 18 August SRCS distributed emergency food and non-food supplies to 10,302 families. The Red Cross/Crescent water and sanitation activities have been fully operational since 13 August with a production capacity of 1 million litres of clean water per day. The greatest risk at this time is in the health sector. The increase in the number of eye and skin infections as well as diarrhoea is indicative of the poor sanitation conditions. SRCS, through 7 health clinics, continues to treat people and to pursue diligently its health education campaign.

The wet season in Kassala continues through October and there is always a threat of flooding. However, as of this writing, no further flooding is expected in Kassala in the foreseeable future. On the other hand, the weather forecast calls for heavy rainfall and storms in Khartoum. Although the recorded level of the Nile River on 19 August was reported at 15.52 (as opposed to 16.5 recorded in 1988), the Sudanese authorities have confirmed their state of preparedness. Nonetheless, the National Society and the Federation remain on high alert in the event of a need for a relief intervention. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society's Khartoum State branch is prepared to activate close to 3,000 volunteers, some of whom received advanced training in 2002 in flood risk reduction with funding made available by DFID.

Sudanese Red Crescent Society

At the onset of the disaster, the SRCS mobilized over 1,000 volunteers who participated in building dikes, protecting lives and property. With the emergency phase of the operation ebbing, the SRCS has selected a core of 400 volunteers, of whom 70% are women, to continue to participate in provision of relief, health, water, and sanitation services to the affected communities. The SRCS has been asked to cover the needs of 8,000 families in the eastern bank of the Gash River which is the largest grouping of those affected.

The management group of the National Society formed a Task Force within hours of the disaster and continues to hold daily operational meetings to ensure that timely and effective support services are provided to the relief team in Kassala. With the personnel and volunteers already in place, the Task Force is currently focusing on local procurement of mosquito nets, hygiene soaps, emergency drugs and jerry cans. The Federation's representative to Sudan participates in the procurement committee following standard procurement procedures of the International Federation. All goods purchased in Khartoum follow strict bidding procedures. Once the purchasing is completed, the material will be transported to Kassala with two ICRC trucks donated to the SRCS and Federation to cover transport needs for the first month of the operations.

Health, water and sanitation

Objectives:

- **provide shelter, hygiene, medication, and sanitation to those affected, and to avoid the outbreak of disease.**
- **provide potable water and sanitation services for a period of 3 months.**

Activities carried out to meet these objectives:

[Curative health services](#)

Since the start of this operation, the SRCS has provided the population with curative medical services through its 7 clinics. According to the SRCS head of health at the Kassala branch, an eighth clinic is expected to be operational by 21 August. Initially the bulk of the drugs distributed were provided from existing stocks of the National Society and some medicine given to SRCS by the MOH. The National Society's stocks were further augmented with a New Emergency Health Kit (NEHK) procured by the Federation. Outstanding needs for emergency drugs will be met with a second NEHK and a cholera kit

provided by the Federation under the current appeal and another batch purchased locally with possible funding from the German government.

The table below is indicative of the type and number of ailments treated at the SRCS health clinics.

Activity	No. of staff	Type of Ailment & No. of patients				Treatment
		Malaria	Diarrhoea	ARI	Other	
SRCS Curative Health Services Between 11-18 August	45	1,429	649	1,840	1,722	Essential Drugs

In addition to the above, three cases of measles have been recorded. MOH has begun an immunization campaign for children under the age of 5, expected to be completed during the week of 18 August.

Preventative health and sanitation services

In order to control and diminish incidents of malaria, the SRCS—with support from the German and Austrian Red Cross ERU, and the Ministry of Health have augmented their vector control activities. 20 SRCS volunteers have been spraying city blocks since 16 August and are expected to cover the entire designated area by 25 August. In the meantime, the government authorities are carrying out a larger scale air spraying campaign which began on 14 August.

Mosquito nets are expected to reduce further risks of malaria. 2,000 mosquito nets delivered with the ERU plane are already in Kassala. The SRCS is preparing to purchase another 24,000 mosquito nets locally with funding provided to the National Society by the Government of France through its embassy in Khartoum. 120 Tents have also been distributed to 40 schools that sustained structural damage due to the heavy rainfall and flooding.

The SRCS together with the water and sanitation ERU participated in a joint assessment of the sanitation situation with WES/UNICEF, MOH and Ministry of Education. 86 schools have been prioritised and of these, the SRCS will focus on 15 elementary schools as a start and expand if needed. SRCS volunteers, trained and guided by the ERU team from German and Austrian Red Cross Societies and the SRCS national water/sanitation coordinator, are involved in emptying septic holes and rehabilitation/reconstruction of latrines.

Water

The SRCS and the German/Austrian Red Cross ERU teams finished the installation of the water purification system within 48 hours of arrival of the material in Kassala. The team was able to target its service areas based on an assessment and data collection exercise which was carried out jointly with other principle actors. Kassala town receives its clean water through 19 boreholes, of which 3 are out of order and 12 are operational. At the request of the Water Corporation, the Red Cross/Crescent is rehabilitating the 4 remaining boreholes. The ERU treats the water and feeds it back into the town's water distribution system. As of 17 August, the Red Cross/Crescent is producing 1 million litres of clean water per day for the inhabitants of Kassala. This is by far one of the most essential of relief services being provided in Kassala and the speed with which the system was set up is impressive beyond anyone's expectation. The German and Austrian Red Cross teams together with their Sudanese Red Crescent counterparts have managed to train 20 volunteers from the onset of this intervention. These volunteers continue to be instrumental to emergency water services.

In addition, 50,000 persons in localities not connected to Kassala's water distribution system are receiving water from the SRCS/ERU team. The SRCS national water/sanitation coordinator reiterated that 'we expect the cases of diarrhoea to decrease because of our water and health education efforts.' As a result of this intervention, the MOH has requested training assistance from the German/Austrian Red Cross ERU team. "We have now trained persons in water testing to look at where there is a real increase in diarrhoea and we have set up a small lab in our offices to test the water quality," states the ERU team leader from German Red Cross. The lab runs daily tests and the results are used to prioritize and to plan the team's immediate intervention.

Emergency relief items

To date, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society staff and 215 volunteers have distributed the following relief and assistance to a total of 10,302 families: 6,162 sacs of sorghum (90 kg/sac), 1,029 sacs of lentils (50 kg), 4,040 jerry cans of oil (3.6 kg), 11, 194 blankets, 2,520 jerry cans and 2,217 pieces of plastic sheeting. The table below provides details of these distributions:

**Sudanese Red Crescent Society
Kassala Flood Operations 2003
Relief Distribution Report**

Period: 5-17 August 2003

Location	Type of Assistance	Quantity	No. of Families	No. of volunteers
FOOD ITEMS				
Banat area	Sorghum	755 sacks	1812	12
Ramla	Oil	906 gallons	120	15
	Flour	40 sacs		
	Lentils	40 //		
Biryay	Oil	120 jerry cans	1526	17
	Sugar	40 sacks		
	Sorghum	1096		
West Gash	Oil	1015	1180	20
	Sorghum	981		
Mergania-Gassour	Oil	204 Cartons	843	16
	Sorghum	695		
	Lentils	159		
Almarghanian	Oil	160	126	4
	Sorghum	105		
	Lentils	21		
Alkara	Oil	21	252	4
	Sorghum	211		
	Lentils	42		
Alshahid Kila	Oil	42	468	5
	Sorghum	392		
	Lentils	78		
Halanga	Oil	78	1,933	30
	Sorghum	1,424		
	Lentils	284		
NON-FOOD ITEMS				
Wau Nur	Blankets	5,600	1,671	25
	Jerrycans	1,047		
	Plastic Sheets	760		
New Khatmia Extension	Blankets	1,920	1,302	17
	Jerrycans	347		
Al Nurab	Plastic Sheets	290	409	17
	Blankets	2,240		
	Jerrycans	409		
Mughran	Plastic sheets	350	603	25
	Sorghum	503		
	Lentils	100		
Altadamun	Oil	603	717	7
	Blankets	1,434		
	Jerrycans	717		
	Plastic Sheets	717		

Federation coordination

The Federation Secretariat in Geneva, its Sudan Country Delegation and Nairobi Regional Delegation continue to support the operation with technical and coordination services. Both in Kassala and Khartoum

ongoing contact is maintained with external agencies and in-country donors involved in this operation. In Kassala, the SRCS is represented and participates actively in all coordination meetings and assists other agencies as much as possible. Updated information is also made available to those who seek it.

For further details please contact:

- *Omer Osman, Secretary General, Sudanese Red Crescent Society, Khartoum, mobile: + 249 12307 41, email:*
- *Atoussa K. Parsey, Federation Coordinator, Khartoum, mobile: + 249 122 799 31, email: ifrcsd04@ifrc.org*
- *Erja Reinikainen, Federation Regional Program Coordinator, Nairobi, phone: + 254 20 271 425, email: ifrcke69@ifrc.org*
- *Martin Zak, Head of Operations for Africa, Geneva, phone: +41 22 730 4551, email: martin.zak@ifrc.org*

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

Sudan - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 19/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

20.08.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	1'917'200	TOTAL COVERAGE 69.7%
DANISH - RC	277'500 DKK	57'859 08.08.03
FINNISH - RC	30'000 EUR	46'470 06.08.03
JAPANESE - RC	46'600 USD	63'609 08.08.03
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	1'000'000 NOK	189'750 08.08.03
SWEDISH - GOVT	700'000 SEK	118'300 12.08.03
SWISS - RC		90'525 14.08.03
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH	566'513	CHF 29.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRIAN - GOVT/RC				200'681	12.08.03	ERU
GERMAN - GOVT/RC				336'835	12.08.03	ERU
GERMAN - GOVT		149'922	EUR	232'229	12.08.03	RELIEF ITEMS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				769'745	CHF	40.1%