

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

MDRSD004
(GLIDE no. FL-2007-000093-SDN)
27 July 2007

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. MDRSD004; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 18 July to 26 July, 2007; Appeal coverage: 18%; [<Click here to go directly to donor response>](#).

Appeal history:

- [Preliminary Emergency Appeal](#) launched on 18 July, 2007 for CHF 2,077,530 (USD 1,646,690 or EUR 1,194,969) for 5 months to assist 40,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 248,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,766,920 (USD 1,413,536 or EUR 1,060,152)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Sudan Transitional Programmes Appeal 2006-2007](#)

Operational Summary: When the appeal was launched, 35,594 families were affected. Following an agreement with the Sudanese Government, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) was tasked with providing assistance to 25 percent of the affected population or close to 8,000 families. Currently, the affected families are 46,049 and 25 percent would be some 12,000. These changes will be considered in the revised appeal, but the number of families might increase further. Floods assessments and immediate distribution of shelter, non-food items and health interventions have been carried out from the beginning of July. The assessments were conducted from 9 July in White Nile, Kassala, Khartoum-Omdurman, Khartoum-Jabel Awlia, Sennar, North Kordofan, El Gezira, Blue Nile, Red Sea, Northern State, Gedaref, Unity and West Darfur. They are still ongoing as the floods continue. Distribution of shelter and NFIs was conducted by the SRCS volunteers as well as setting up of health mobile clinics in strategic locations to assist the vulnerable. The need for more mobile units has been expressed.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Sudan:** Osman Gafer Abdalla, Secretary General, Sudanese Red Crescent Society, Khartoum; Email: srcs_sg@yahoo.com; phone +249.83.78.48.89
- **In Sudan:** Gunnar Strom, Country Representative Sudan; Email: gunnar.strom@ifrc.org; phone +249.83.77.10.33
- **In Kenya:** Dr. Asha Mohammed, Federation Head of Eastern Africa Zone, Nairobi; Email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org; phone +254.20.283.51.24 or Youcef Ait Chellouche, Acting Disaster Management Coordinator, Nairobi; Email: youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org; phone +254.20.283.51.17
- **In Geneva:** Niels Scott, Federation Operations Coordinator (Africa); Email: niels.scott@ifrc.org; phone +41.22.730.45.27

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>

Background

Since the beginning of July 2007, floods resulting from heavy rains around the Ethiopian highlands caused the Nile River and other seasonal rivers to overflow, resulting in extensive flooding in more than ten States of the country. According to the latest assessment results, estimations by Sudanese Government authorities and media reports, the floods have claimed almost 100 lives, caused injury to over 300 and more than 44,000 houses destroyed. The floods have submerged some villages, destroyed most of the houses made of mud bricks, mats/grass or timber and caused immense damage to infrastructure, including roads and bridges. Highways such as the one leading East from Khartoum to Halfa and another in North Kordofan risk being cut off as water levels begin to crest the roads.



**Photo, above: A main road near Khartoum severed by rising water.
Source: Austrian Red Cross- Sudan**

According to the latest reports from the Humanitarian Aid Commission, due to heavy rains expected to continue over the highlands of Ethiopia and Eritrea, Gash river is still threatening Kassala town and surrounding areas, whereas the situation in Khor Baraka in the Red Sea State and Butana plains as well as Khartoum State is critical. The White Nile has been observed to be rapidly filling up and the combined mass of water as it joins the Blue Nile poses a real threat. Additionally, media reports from southern states indicate that the heavy rains have resulted in floods especially in Unity and Upper Nile states leading to an appeal for assistance launched by the government on 25 July in aid of those displaced. By the end of this week, the figures of affected households could easily reach 100,000 and with the rainy season expected to run until mid-October, meteorological organisations in the region are predicting that as many as 2.4 million people across 16 states could be at risk.

Affected people in these areas are living in the open next to their destroyed homes exposing them to harsh climatic conditions, insecurity and other vulnerabilities associated with lack of shelter. Drainage systems are unreliable as water is still stagnant in different locations. General hygiene is poor. Health gaps estimated at 30 percent have been identified following recent inter-agency meetings. According to the United Nations (UN), a cholera outbreak has been reported in Gedaref and 3 yellow fever cases confirmed in South Kordofan, which could be attributed to stagnant water resulting from the floods.

Operational developments

Floods assessments and immediate distributions are in progress since the beginning of July. The assessments were conducted from 9 July in White Nile, Kassala, Khartoum-Omdurman, Khartoum-Jabel Awlia, Sennar, North Kordofan, Gezira, Blue Nile, Red Sea, Northern State, Gedaref, Unity and West Darfur. The teams composed of technical staff from the SRCS, the Federation and Partner National Societies conducted sector assessments in water/sanitation, health and nutrition, logistics and disaster management. The results show that there has been loss of human life, property and livelihoods (including farmlands and livestock), displacement of populations, isolation of some areas and communities, separation of some children from their families and homes, exposure to diseases and danger of epidemics, and limited access to health services, safe water and hygiene due to increased demand and damage to facilities.

When the appeal was launched, 35,594 families were affected. Following an agreement with the Sudanese Government, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society was tasked with providing assistance to 25 percent of the affected population or close to 8,000 families. Currently, the affected families are 46,049 and 25 percent would be some 12,000. These changes will be considered in the revised appeal, but the number of families might increase further and the SRCS has to realize its capacity and overcome funding limitations. The SRCS is also the lead relief coordinator in Sinnar and Gezira. With the continued spread of the floods, as shown in the table below, the SRCS is considering new strategies to achieve its commitments.

Sudan: Floods; Appeal no. MDRSD004; Operations Update no. 1

Table 1: Affected States Following the Floods

| States | Floods Affected Areas | Families Affected | Damages | | Deaths | Injuries |
|----------------|---|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| | | | Completely | Partially | | |
| Khartoum | N. and E. Khartoum, Jebel Awlia, Umderman, Tuti, Elhilla, Eljadid, Um daawban, Elailafoun, Essailat (new) | 16,750 | 9,311 | 3,633 | 15 | 5 |
| North Kordofan | Elnahood, Shikan, GebraUm Rwaba, Soderi, Bara | 12,223 | 11,807 | 5,140 | 14 | 42 |
| Kassala | Kassala, N.Kassala, W.Kassala, E. Kassala, Aroma | 6,524 | 6,123 | 2,036 | 2 | 0 |
| White Nile | Rebak, Eightdelty, Kosti | 3,181 | 2,715 | 2,045 | 5 | 0 |
| Blue Nile | Gasana, Wad Abok, Ahmed Seedk | 2,058 | 748 | 1,293 | 2 | 0 |
| Upper Nile | Runk, Malakal (new) | unknown | 6,530 | - | - | 187 |
| Sennar | Sennar Eltagatoa, Jabel Moya | 1,670 | 2,636 | 1,926 | 1 | 1 |
| Red Sea | Port Sudan, Sinkat, Toker | 619 | 2,358 | 149 | 4 | 57 |
| Gezira | Madani, West Gezira, Managil | 1,880 | 1,849 | 31 | 1 | 0 |
| River Nile | Barber (Abu Zerka) | 377 | 659 | 247 | 0 | 0 |
| Northern State | Dongla tow, Umelgora village, Kaptoot, W. Dongla | 464 | 522 | 237 | 1 | 5 |
| Gedaref | Glabat East, Doka, | 31 | 31 | 0 | 45 | 32 |
| S. Darfur | Nyala | 272 | 132 | 140 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 46,049 | 45,421 | 16,877 | 90 | 329 |

Based on findings, the needs identified by the affected communities are shelter (tents, tarpaulins or plastic sheets), mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen sets, sprayers and insecticides, water containers, digging tools for draining stagnant water from roads and house yards and emergency drugs and treatment.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Objective 1: To provide shelter material (tarpaulin) and non-food items to meet immediate needs for 8,000 affected households in eight states.

Expected result: Beneficiaries benefit immediately from improved shelter and the provision of non-food relief items. Once the composition of the tool kits are determined (and resourced), affected households are enabled to repair or construct adequate shelter to provide protection from the climate and to promote the recovery process

Progress: Volunteers have been mobilized in the affected states and briefed on basic disaster response operations aimed at equipping them with relevant skills to facilitate the distribution process. The floods-affected households have so far benefited from provision of tents, plastic sheeting, jerry-cans, water jugs and blankets provided by SRCS through its field branches and the volunteers during this emergency phase. Some 1,197 households from eight affected states received tents for shelter. 228 households in Kassala and 50 in Upper Nile have also received treated mosquito nets. The distributions are ongoing and more results will be included in coming updates. The following table shows how the distributions have been conducted.

Table 2: Distribution of Shelter and NFI Components

| Receiving States | Tents | Plastic sheeting | Blankets | Water containers |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Kassala and Red Sea | 350 | 876 | 300 | 500 |
| Khartoum | 150 | - | 1,500 | - |
| Blue Nile | 30 | 100 | 140 | - |
| Sennar | 110 | 300 | 340 | - |
| Gezira | - | 160 | 320 | 160 |
| White Nile- Kosti/Rabak | 300 | - | - | - |
| Northern State | 157 | - | - | - |
| North Kordofan | 100 | 500 | 550 | - |
| Total | 1,197 | 1,936 | 3,200 | 660 |

Sudan: Floods; Appeal no. MDRSD004; Operations Update no. 1

Objective 2: Replenish SRCS stocks as a contingency measure.

Expected result: SRCS has contingency stock piles enough to respond for another 2,000 families in case the flooding gets worse (Preparedness)

Progress: There was no progress during the reporting period as the focus has been on distribution of blankets, soap, jerry cans, bed nets, plastic sheeting and aqua tablets to assist vulnerable communities still affected by floods. Stock-piling activities and disaster preparedness will be reported on in successive updates.

Objective 3: To prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases in flood-affected areas by mobilizing volunteers for hygiene awareness and distribution of hygiene kits to 8,000 affected households in eight states.

Expected results:

1. The affected households have increased access to safe drinking water and are safeguarded from the threat of water borne diseases
2. Increased awareness of safe hygiene and sanitation practices and enhanced skills of target communities to manage WatSan facilities.

Progress: Volunteer mobilization and briefings were conducted. A number of affected states have benefited from assistance provided by the SRCS as shown in the table below. Volunteers are on standby for intervention in emergency cases. Health awareness has been conducted using door-to-door visits in affected states.

Table 3: Health Interventions by the SRCS

| Affected States | SRCS interventions |
|-----------------|---|
| White Nile | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 150 volunteers mobilized, 600 pieces of soap distributed to 60 affected households in Kosti and Tendalti. |
| Sennar | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100 bars of soap distributed to 10 affected households, 200 digging tools distributed to make drainage facilities and release stagnant water. |
| Northern State | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of clean drinking water. |
| Kassala | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 900 bars of soap and 1,000,000 aqua tabs distributed in addition to 4 spraying pumps and 100 shovels. 58 households received water chlorination services, health education and vector control for 138 latrines. Damage assessments. |
| Khartoum | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distributed 5,000 aqua tablets. |
| Gedaref | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water chlorination. |
| North Kordofan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 cartons of soap distributed. |

Objective 4: To contribute to an improved health situation of 8, 000 affected families by providing basic health care including mobile health activities in eight states.

Expected results:

1. Targeted families received basic health care services from the mobile health units.
2. Threat of potential epidemic diseases among affected families is reduced.

Progress: 4 health mobile units providing out-patient care and basic first aid have been set up in Akala 1 and 2, Aroma and Tajessir regions of Kassala State and in Khartoum to address emergency health issues within the affected communities. The need for more mobile units has been expressed. Some information, education and communication materials from the meningitis awareness campaigns are being used to disseminate messages on prevention and hygiene to the floods affected communities.

Constraints: The geographical area affected by the floods is vast covering more than 10 out of 24 states of Sudan and this has put considerable strain on the SRCS synergies such as data compilation from the 8 targeted states during this response phase. In addition, the assessments take technical human resources from the central management in Khartoum slowing other supportive processes coming from the headquarters. The SRCS is operating with limited funds and has a weak reporting mechanism. To address the latter, the SRCS is considering Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT) deployment to support in assessment information analysis,

Sudan: Floods; Appeal no. MDRSD004; Operations Update no. 1

elaboration of a revised emergency appeal, monitor activities carried out by state branches and overall coordination.

Federation Coordination

Coordination meetings and information sessions are held regularly with participation from the SRCS, the International Federation, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and partner national societies. Sector meetings focusing on food security, water/sanitation, health and non-food items (NFIs) are held at the United Nations offices in Khartoum with attendance from Sudanese Government agencies, the SRCS, the Federation and other agencies. Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has advocated for a common approach with suggestion to set up a coordination committee.

The relief effort is being coordinated through a partnership, known as the Common Pipeline, a collaborative effort by CARE International, UN Children's Fund and the United Nations Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC). CARE International is rushing relief supplies to an estimated 180,000 people in northern Sudan. Pre-positioning sites were set up by the UN on the way from Kassala to Aroma and distribution of food, medicine and NFIs was carried out. The UN has also indicated that it has enough vaccines pre-positioned to address the outbreaks of yellow fever during vaccination campaigns.

Table 4: Summary of Humanitarian Action for Floods Affected Families

| Active Humanitarian Agencies | Response Highlights |
|--|--|
| Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sacks, tents, plastic sheeting, mobile clinics and hygiene awareness in Kassala, Sinnar, Blue Nile, Red Sea, Khartoum, White Nile and Gedaref. Lead relief agency in Sinnar and Gezira. |
| Syrian Red Crescent | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Contributed 982 sacks of rice, 378 cartons of oil, 20 sacks of sugar, 99 cartons of tea, 1,020 blankets, 100 tents and 10 rolls of plastic sheeting to be sent to North Kordofan for distribution. |
| United Arab Emirates RC | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Contributed 3,000 tarpaulins, 4,000 blankets, 2,000 Jerry-cans and 2,000 plastic mats for North Kordofan. |
| Swiss Red Cross | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Providing 2,500 kitchen sets to Khartoum via Port Sudan. |
| International Rescue Committee (IRC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Distributed full kits to some 121 households in Hai Elsafa and Wad Sharefai villages. |
| GOAL Ireland | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Distributing NFI kits, plastic sheetings and jerricans in Kassala. |
| Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Working with Common Pipeline to conduct NFI distributions in White Nile. |
| World Food Programme (WFP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Food distributions in Kassala. Has asked for SRCS support. |
| Common Pipeline (UNJLC, UNICEF and CARE International) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepared a draft funding appeal that includes NFI assistance to approximately 100,000 households. Supplies transported by CARE, so far, include blankets, sleeping mats, cooking sets and plastic sheeting. CARE is lead relief coordinator in North Kordofan. |
| Civil Defence Force | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Distributing sacks, tents, plastic sheetings, digging tools and pumps in Kassala, White Nile and River Nile states. |
| Sudanese Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided plastic sheeting, tents, blankets and sack of sorghum to six localities in Northern Kordofan. |
| Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Providing transport for non food items from Rabak to Tendelty, giving weather updates. |
| State Emergency Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided tents, plastic sheets, nets and food baskets in Kosti/Rabak |

National Society Capacity Building

The International Federation is setting up a floods operations room within the SRCS premises in Khartoum to provide access to information and access to tools relevant in response activities. In addition, 500 Red Crescent field jackets are expected to be provided for SRCS field teams to boost visibility. A Federation/SRCS logistics team, linked to the Dubai Regional Logistics Unit is operational in procurement. The SRCS is considering Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT) deployment to support its capacity in the operation.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Federation is supporting the SRCS in making a news story on the floods in Jebel Awlia located in Khartoum State where 44 houses including latrines were swept away by the floods. The local press has also published reports

Sudan: Floods; Appeal no. MDRSD004; Operations Update no. 1

showing SRCS involvement in the operation which added to information dissemination and recognition of the National Society.

[<click here to go to the Donor Response statement; or here to return to the title page.](#)