



Canadian Red Cross
Croix-Rouge canadienne

Red Cross...Anywhere. Anytime.

Crisis in Sudan: helping the most vulnerable

August 5, 2004



The need

Internal conflict in Sudan has forced more than one million people to flee three ransacked provinces in Darfur in search of safety, food and shelter.

Most of the displaced have found refuge in camps around the region's main towns; however, arrival of thousands more displaced each day has stretched the camps beyond capacity. Transportation to the affected area is extremely difficult because of heavy rains and bad road conditions.

It is estimated that another 200,000 people have fled into neighbouring Chad, putting a massive strain on that country's infrastructure.

The displaced people are in desperate need of shelter, adequate food, clean water, sanitation services, household items and medical care. Many have also been separated from their family members and anxiously await news of their loved ones.

How the Red Cross is helping

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has 80 international and 315 local staff in several locations across Darfur, providing essential services such as water, food, shelter, medical care and family reunification:

- A key focus for the Red Cross is ensuring that people have access to **clean water and adequate sanitation** services. In Abshok camp, for example, ICRC has installed water systems that supply 140,000 litres of clean water every day.
- By repairing and refurbishing four key regional hospitals, the ICRC is helping to ensure that the sick and wounded have **access to adequate health care**.

- In late July, the ICRC **dispersed 120 tons of food**, including sorghum, beans, vegetable, oil and salt to 20,000 vulnerable residents in and around nine villages in Northern Darfur. Red Cross is also providing household items such as cooking utensils and blankets to people living in the camps.
- ICRC has registered 83 children separated from their families in Darfur because of the conflict.

In Chad, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation) is delivering humanitarian supplies in partnership with United Nations agencies and is taking responsibility for the establishment and management of a camp for 20,000 refugees at Tréguine. Three Emergency Response Units (ERUs) with specialized knowledge in logistics, mass sanitation and basic health care will be deployed with staff and equipment supplied by the Austrian, Belgian, Danish, French, German and Swedish Red Cross Societies. Other sister societies are contributing funds, relief supplies or workers.

On July 28, two Canadian humanitarian program specialists travelled from Canada to the Darfur region to assess the support the Canadian Red Cross can provide to the ICRC. They will review options for supporting primary health care and relief programs. They will also meet with officials from both the ICRC and the Sudanese Red Crescent to set a plan in motion for direct Canadian Red Cross involvement in the relief efforts.

How Canadians Can Help

Help is urgently needed in Sudan. Canadians are encouraged to donate generously to help survivors of this devastating crisis. Financial aid flows directly through the International Red Cross and Red Crescent response system to provide immediate assistance to those affected by this disaster.

In-kind donations of food, clothing and other items, while well-intentioned, are not the best way to help those in need and are therefore not accepted. There are tremendous processing and transportation costs involved in shipping these items to beneficiaries. Local purchases of food and clothing are more culturally appropriate and cost-effective.

Make your donation

- online at www.redcross.ca
- toll-free at 1-800-418-1111
- in person at any Red Cross office
- by mailing a cheque or money order (no cash in the mail, please) to your local Canadian Red Cross office

Want to help in other ways? Contact your local Red Cross office to learn about:

- Organizing an event to raise funds in your community.
- Setting up an employee giving campaign at your workplace.

Please give generously to the Crisis in Sudan. Your help can't wait.