

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE  
IASC WEEKLY MEETING

**Summary Note**

8 August 2007  
Geneva

**I Sudan - An Update on the Humanitarian Situation in the Context of the Recent Flooding**

*Mr. Niels Scott, Operational Coordinator, Africa, and Mr. Christopher Lamb, Special Advisor, International Relations (IFRC)*

Mr. Scott and Mr. Lamb briefed participants on the situation in Sudan, where the humanitarian situation is worsening by the day owing to the worst flooding that has hit Sudan in the last two decades. At this point more than 300,000 people have been affected and nearly 100 killed nationwide, 60,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged, and 16 of Sudan's 26 states inundated. As in neighbouring countries, the flooding and the heavy rains are unseasonal and have arrived earlier than anticipated. Heavy rains and swelling rivers are expected to continue until the end of the rainy season in September, threatening some of the poorest areas. Moreover, ongoing heavy rainfalls in Ethiopia and Eritrea will further increase the volume of water in the River Nile.

The response of the IFRC was initiated shortly after the initial flooding, and CHF 250,000 was released from the organisation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 16 July 2007 in order to meet the initial emergency relief needs. A preliminary emergency appeal for CHF 2.1 million was later issued on 18 July 2007. At the request of the Sudan Red Crescent Society (SRCS), the IFRC deployed a three member field assessment coordination team, which arrived on 29 July 2007 to identify response gaps and recommend action for the SRCS. Finally it was noted that a revised emergency appeal for CHF 5.5 million (USD 4.6 million) to assist 140,000 people for 6 months would be launched just after the Weekly meeting. As the figures come across as very low in view of the needs, Mr. Scott explained that this has to do with the fact that shelter assistance to a wide extent has been dealt with at the local level, instead of relying on international assistance in terms of shipping internationally-procured plastic sheets.<sup>1</sup>

With regard to the broader humanitarian response, Mr. Scott and Mr. Lamb noted that this was well coordinated and that humanitarian agencies have been sharing distribution plans at weekly inter-agency sectoral coordination meetings in order to ensure that gaps are covered. Mr. Scott and Mr. Lamb also emphasised that international NGOs, including ADRA, CARE, Oxfam, IRC and Goal, have been very active on the ground, in particular with respect to distributing non-food items that were procured bilaterally or made available by the UN Joint Logistics Centre

<sup>1</sup> So far, the SRCS has distributed more than 1,610 tents, 10,605 plastic sheets and 21,848 blankets, as well as almost 2 million chlorine tablets, plastic jugs, water pumps and soap. Relief/shelter have been provided to 75,000 people, 14 mobile health units to 140,000 people, health education and hygiene to 75,000 people, and access to safe water in Upper Nile and North Kordofan to 20,000 people.

(UNJLC) from the Common Pipeline.<sup>2</sup> Food needs are addressed by the UN World Food Programme (WFP), which so far has distributed food to 40,000 people, and WHO and the Ministry of Health have undertaken cholera treatment kits where cases of acute watery diarrhoea were reported.

Following the presentation, a participant noted that at the recently held Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction the protection of livelihoods had been a central issue and hence asked to what extent this is being addressed in Sudan. While the early recovery network is expected to be rolled out soon, Mr. Scott acknowledged that early recovery and protection of livelihoods remain a problem due to the state of the current Sudanese economy and the limited national capacity. Mr Lamb added that the IFRC had convened a Partnership meeting in mid June in Khartoum so donor National Societies could meet together with SRCS and international organisations to address the humanitarian needs of the country as a whole. Donors had been well represented, but few agencies, with the notable exception of WFP, participated actively.

## II Chad - Debriefing on the Humanitarian Situation

*Ms. Ute Kollies, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Geographical Coordination and Monitoring Section (OCHA)*

Based on her participation in the recent donor mission to Chad (Njamena, Abeche, Goz Beida, and Koukou) on 22-28 July 2007, participants were debriefed on the humanitarian situation with particular focus on key humanitarian concerns, the deployment of the EU multidisciplinary mission, the implementation of the 90 day plan, and the roll-out of the cluster approach.

The donor mission, in which the EC, ECHO, BPRM, USAID/OFDA, French Representatives from Njamena, the Dutch Ambassador to Chad, and OCHA staff from Geneva and Njamena participated, met with the UN Country Team, donors, NGOs, IASC and the cluster leads with the purpose of (i) reviewing the progress in the implementation of the 90-day IDP response plan, (ii) determining and co-ordinating required support, and (iii) reviewing progress made in the roll-out of the clusters.

In all of these consultations, the issue of security was identified as the key concern. Security is, in particular, of concern to the IDPs, as well as humanitarian workers. As the rainy season has started, most of the Wadis are full and access to some of the IDP camps is problematic, if not impossible without air transport. Another central concern in Chad is the question of reconciliation, justice and compensation: How do you provide justice and promote reconciliation in a country where a functioning justice system does not exist and traditional justice approaches have been eroded and undermined?

The potential deployment of a multidisciplinary force in Eastern Chad has, moreover, raised concerns, particularly with regard to the employment and training of forces, geographical coverage and general concept. This is in particular due to the inclusion of 1200 Chadian Police and Gendarmes out of the 2000 strong force, which could pose several challenges.

The 90-day plan has put the public attention on the 170.000 IDPs and has acted as a mobilizer and strategic document rather than a fundraising approach. As the initial CAP only focused on the needs of the refugees, this change was needed at the time of the launching of the revision in May 2007.

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<sup>2</sup> The Common Pipeline system is a joint supply operation managed by the UNJLC with support from UNICEF and CARE to boost local capability to respond to the disaster.

The roll-out of the cluster approach has only commenced about 6 weeks ago, when a cluster workshop was held in both Ndjamena and Abeche. In the practical application of the approach, a number of questions remain and additional support is needed in order to successfully implement the roll-out. Areas that need to be strengthened with regard to the cluster approach, particularly include inter cluster coordination, planning for returns, and early recovery, as well as information sharing.

Moreover, the existence of the security phase IV has hampered operations and MOSS<sup>3</sup> compliance in the field (Goz Beida, Farchana, Koukou etc.) remains an area of concern.

GCMS and OCHA's Civil Military Coordination Section will go to Brussels next week in order to brief the Information Gathering Mission (IGM) and ECHO on the humanitarian situation (capacity, security, and coordination) and possible humanitarian concerns on the upcoming multidisciplinary mission in Chad and CAR. As the IGM will be leaving for Chad on 25 August, this briefing will give them appropriate background before their departure. An additional meeting was proposed for Friday afternoon with Desk Officers from agencies in Geneva to bring together common concerns for the EU briefing next week.

When the floor was opened questions and comments arose on the following issues: (i) Phase IV in Abeche vis à vis a Phase III in some parts of Darfur; (ii) The allocation of CERF which just awarded USD 1 million to Chad and its use on the ground, (iii) The shared concerns on the outline of the upcoming multidisciplinary mission in Chad and CAR, and (iv) The readiness of NGOs in Chad to become full partners and possible areas of improvement.

Responding to the latter point, Ms. Kollies explained that competences and readiness vary among all agencies, including the UN, for two reasons: (i) a lack of clarity on the way forward in the full application of the cluster approach and (ii) a critical lack of staff across all agencies.

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<sup>3</sup> Minimum Operating Security Standards

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