



DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

SUDAN - Floods

Data

Date: Late July, 1978 (FY 78)

Location: Gezira (especially El Managil area), White Nile, Northern, Nile, and Kassala Provinces

No. Dead: 34 reported

No. Affected: 75,000-100,000

Damage: Some 200 villages badly damaged; up to 80 villages destroyed; houses (estimated 20%) and community facilities such as schools (300-350) and clinics collapsed or damaged; damage to irrigation system in Gezira Scheme; undetermined number of livestock lost; heavy damage to crops in Gezira; dollar value of all damage estimated at \$25 million

The Disaster

An early start to Sudan's rainy season, which normally lasts from July thru September, dumped up to three times the usual rainfall for July in parts of the Gezira agricultural scheme. Never before in the 28 years of measuring rain at the Gezira scheme did so much rain fall in such a short time. Heavy rains also washed out sections of the railroad in Kassala Province between Port Sudan and Khartoum, hampering the delivery of aviation and automobile fuel from the refinery at Port Sudan.

Because Sudan is the largest country in Africa, moving relief supplies long distances without a well-developed transport system presented many logistical problems. Concurrent with the flood relief effort, the Sudanese were faced with alleviating food shortages in pockets in the South, especially in Wau, Juba, and Malakal.

Downstream on the Nile River (north of Khartoum), flash floods occurred in the Northern and Nile provinces, cutting off many villages for several weeks. Malaria and snakes became health hazards as a result of the flooding. But of paramount concern to the Sudanese was the agricultural destruction in the Gezira Scheme - called the economic backbone of Sudan because it produces half of Sudan's major foreign exchange earner: cotton. Land had just been prepared with herbicides and fertilizer for sowing the cotton crop when the floods came. Heavy equipment was needed to repair irrigation canals, and pumps were sought to eliminate standing water which was draining very slowly through the drainage system.

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Action Taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Sudan (GDRS)

On July 26, 1978, a state of emergency was declared by President Nimeiri. All available resources were committed and a request for outside assistance was made. On the same day, a National Relief Committee was set up. It was chaired by Vice President Abul Alier and included the Ministers of Agriculture, Commerce and Supply, Construction, Education, Finance, Health, Irrigation, Religious Affairs, Social Affairs, and Transport; the GDRS Auditor General; seven businessmen; the Presidents of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce, the Food Industries Association, and the Employers Union; and finally three assistants to the Secretary General of the Sudanese Socialist Union (who were charged with sectoral organization), mass organizations, and the regular armed forces.

To help put the Gezira Scheme back into operation quickly, resources were diverted from other agricultural schemes. In the meantime, local government officials purchased food and other relief items at the local markets to assist flood victims until supplies arrived from Khartoum. Other assistance provided was as follows: the Sudanese people contributed \$1.3 million in cash and in kind; The Sudanese Red Crescent donated at least \$6,000 worth of blankets, drugs, and babyfood; Sudan Aid contributed \$20,000 for relief supplies, and The Sudan Council of Churches made available \$20,000 to purchase fuel.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

On July 26, 1978, the U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Sudan, Roger Merrick, determined that a disaster occurred of a magnitude sufficient to warrant USG assistance and presented the GDRS with a contribution of \$20,235.....\$20,235

The USG airlifted to the Sudan 1,044 tents and tent flies, 180 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 600 plastic grommets. When data on the number of victims became more precise, an additional 562 tents (without flies) were airlifted in. To aid in the distribution of supplies, two disaster relief specialists were sent to Sudan, while four Forward Area Refueling Elements systems with personnel to teach their use were sent from Germany to help alleviate the fuel constraint.....\$1,003,406

Food relief for Sudan's flood victims consisted of 430 metric tons (MT) of non-fat dried milk and 190 MT of vegetable oil, all from P.L. 480 stocks which were diverted from Catholic Relief Services (CRS) supplies. In addition, the USG donated 15,225 pounds of vegetable seeds, 500 shovels, 575 hoes, 150 knapsack sprayers, and 7,500 MT of urea fertilizer, all of which went to aid in the rehabilitation of the Gezira Scheme.....\$2,059,370

TOTAL \$3,083,011

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Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies *

Church World Service issued an appeal for \$50,000. The American Baptist Churches responded with \$2,000

Mission Aviation Fellowship and the Sudan Interior Mission were involved in transporting and airdropping grain from GDRS stocks to areas in southern Sudan that were suffering from food shortage

TOTAL \$2,000

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

International Organizations

Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa - \$50,000

Arab League - \$100,000 for the purchase of medicines

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development - \$25,000

European Economic Community - 2,000 MT aviation fuel and 300 drums of fuel for airlifting supplies; food aid (500 MT milk powder, 2 MT butteroil, 16 MT sugar, 1 MT tea) via UNICEF, and 990,000 units of account (=US \$1,366,200) for reconstruction .

Food and Agricultural Organization for purchase of tractors and agricultural implements worth \$250,000

United Nations Development Program/Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator for immediate relief needs, disposable syringes through UNICEF, services of a disaster relief specialist, valued at \$20,000

UNICEF donated medicines and butteroil to Sudan by airfreight worth \$25,000

World Food Program - 1,000 MT sorghum, 120 MT dried skim milk, 90 MT dried fish, 90 MT edible oil, and 14 MT pulses all valued at \$1,500,000

Governments

Abu Dhabi - \$1.5 million in cash

Algeria, in conjunction with the Red Crescent - 100 large tents, 2,000 blankets, one ton concentrated milk, 3.5 tons medicaments all valued at \$76,726

Australia - \$2,288 in cash

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Belgium - services of a C-130 and \$151,286 worth of relief supplies

Canada - \$43,290 in cash through the Red Cross

Canada (British Columbia Agricultural Fund) - \$2,597 in cash

Denmark, in conjunction with the Red Cross - 16,580 blankets worth \$63,063

Egypt - 500 blankets, medicines, and food (500 MT flour, 50 MT sugar, 150 MT dry milk, 50 MT edible oil)

France - 1,500 MT wheat flour and 500 MT wheat

Germany, Federal Republic of - 12 Transall aircraft to ferry relief supplies to disaster sites within Sudan, 100 tents, 3,200 blankets, food (five MT children's food, two MT powdered milk, 10 MT tinned beef, one MT sugar, one MT tea), 1.2 MT medicines, 600 liters malaria extermination liquid, and snake serum

Iraq - \$2 million

Ireland - \$38,994 in cash through the Red Cross

Kuwait - 2 planeloads of relief supplies, medicines, and \$1.5 million in cash

Morocco, in conjunction with the Red Crescent - 95,168 kg. of foodstuffs (tins of sardines, rice, sugar, jam), medicaments, blankets, and tents

Netherlands - 34 diesel pumps, \$442,674 in cash for reconstruction, and 5,000 MT of fertilizer

Norway - \$192,049 in cash through the Red Cross

Quatar - \$1 million

Romania, in conjunction with the Red Cross - 32 tents, 370 blankets, clothing, 7,110 kg. canned fish and beef, and medicines all valued at \$42,467

Saudi Arabia - \$10 million

Spain - 200 tents, 1,000 blankets, and 1.5 MT medicines

Sweden, in conjunction with the Red Cross - 25,000 blankets, three landrovers with trailers, medicaments, three surgical kits, and freight all valued at \$199,483

Switzerland, in conjunction with the Red Cross - medicines, water purification tablets, 50 medium tents, and 50 large tents all valued at \$63,976

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Uganda - 120 sacks of rice and 78 sacks of flour

United Kingdom - two landrovers, use of one helicopter, 12 inflatable boats, 5,000 blankets, 300 tents, herbicides and aircraft to spray cotton crop (cost of operation - \$546,647)

Yemen - \$220,507 pledged

Voluntary Agencies

Algemeen Diakonal Bureau (Netherlands) - \$11,575 in cash

Arab Red Crescent Secretariat (Saudi Arabia) - \$5,000 in cash

Bahrain Red Crescent - \$2,000 in cash

Canadian Red Cross - \$2,597 in cash

Caritas Germany (FRG) - two MT medicines, one MT tea, 10 MT children's food, 10 MT canned beef, and nine MT sugar

Caritas Italy - \$11,600 in cash to the Archbishop of Khartoum and \$5,800 worth of antibiotics

Chinese Red Cross - 137 cartons blankets, 113 cartons clothing, 33 cartons biscuits, 414 cartons beans, 177 cartons of tinned beef, 74 cartons of tinned lamb, and 269 cartons of medicaments

Christian Aid (UK) - \$4,750 in cash

Czechoslovakian Red Cross - 150 cartons milk and 50 bags blankets valued at \$18,797

Danchurchaid (Denmark) - 10,400 blankets airfreighted to Sudan valued at \$56,770

Danish Red Cross - \$2,703 in service of one delegate

Das Diakonische Werk (FRG) - medicines valued at \$40,000; 2,010 blankets valued at \$19,750; and 920 sacks of protein children's food valued at \$25,000

Egyptian Red Crescent - medicaments, clothes, and tinned food all valued at \$14,286

Finnish Red Cross - 68 family-sized tents valued at \$24,534

French Red Cross - medicines and 200 blankets all valued at \$4,999

German Red Cross (Democratic Republic) - medicaments, tents, and blankets all valued at \$150,579

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German Red Cross (FRG) - one 13-ton truck, 3.5 tons dressing and first-aid materials, 500 tents, 3,000 blankets, four water purification units with 2.7 tons chemicals and filters, and medicaments all valued at \$207,993

HEKS (Switzerland) - \$25,000 in cash

Hungarian Red Cross - 800 kg milk powder, 500 blankets, and 17 tents all valued at \$28,640

Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society - \$10,000 in cash

Iraqi Red Crescent - \$20,000 in cash

Irish Red Cross - \$3,899 in cash

Japanese Red Cross - 2,040 tents; 150,000 meters of cloth; 50,000 tins of fish; 2.5 tons of biscuits; one truck; medicines; and freight all valued at \$1,056,239

Kuwaiti Red Crescent - \$5,000 in cash

Monaco Red Cross - \$1,147 in cash

Netherlands Red Cross - 3,000 blankets valued at \$13,771

New Zealand Red Cross - \$1,037 in cash

Norwegian Church Aid - 10,000 containers of fly spray, halazone tablets, and medicines all valued at \$100,000

Norwegian Red Cross - \$30,750 in cash

Spanish Red Cross - \$4,046 in cash

Swedish Red Cross - medicaments and the services of two delegates all valued at \$80,000

Thai Red Cross - \$500 in cash

Tunisian Red Cross - 540 kg. antibiotics and medicines valued at \$7,296

Turkish Red Crescent - 1 MT powdered milk, 990 kg. baby food, 30 boxes medicaments, and transport all valued at \$46,554

United Church (Canada) - \$1,750 in cash

United Kingdom Red Cross - medicines and transport all valued at \$4,406

USSR Red Cross - 1,000 blankets, 2 MT sugar, 1,000 tins condensed milk, 1,000 tins baby food, 100 tents, and 2,487 kg. medicaments all valued at \$81,724

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World Council of Churches - \$25,200 to the Sudan Council of Churches

World Relief and Development (Canada) - \$2,000 in cash

Yugoslavian Red Cross - 14 boxes medicaments, 30 bags milk powder, 78 cartons tinned food, 3 bags rice, 6 bags sugar, 11 bales clothing, and 41 cartons baby toys

TOTAL \$23,359,432

* Please note: the figures for total U.S. voluntary agency and international assistance are an approximation. In many cases, the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.