



**JOINT STATEMENT BY**  
**The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS)**  
**and**  
**The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**  
**and**  
**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent National**  
**Societies (IFRC)**  
**on the**

**INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**  
**RESPONSE TO THE ARMED CONFLICT IN SUDAN**

**BACKGROUND & NEEDS**

On April 15, 2023, fighting broke out between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for control of Sudan's capital Khartoum. While the latter has been the focus of attention, armed conflict is also taking place in other parts of the country, such as in Darfur, where the situation is extremely tense. It is not clear who is in control and how the situation will evolve. The latest flare-up of violence threatens to worsen a humanitarian crisis in a region that has suffered from years of conflict, violence, instability, and economic hardship.

Civilians are without electricity or water in Khartoum. Hospitals in Khartoum and other parts of the country affected by conflict and violence are running out of medical supplies, trained staff, electricity, and food. Medical services can therefore no longer provide the most essential services and many dead bodies are yet to be collected and identified. Hundred thousand civilians continue to flee conflict affected areas, attempting to find safety in other parts of the country, or across borders into neighboring countries. Internally displaced people face several risks and are exposed to a deteriorating humanitarian situation.

The Sudanese authority has appealed the international community and all countries worldwide, to provide humanitarian assistance to help alleviate the suffering of their population.

It is an urgent priority for the Movement to be able to fulfil its humanitarian mandate, and reach people in need across Sudan with the provision of humanitarian services, in a safe and secure environment.

**MOVEMENT RESPONSE**

The SRCS is currently providing First Aid assistance in health facilities and supporting medical staff in their efforts. In addition, SRCS has been conducting Dead Body Management, Psychosocial support, and attending basic needs of displaced populations, in accommodation centers, collective shelters and at border crossing points.

As a first measure, the SRCS called for a first Mini-Summit on 18 April in order to ensure a common understanding of the situation, of the respective roles and capacities, and to ensure a coherent communication from the start. The meeting was conducted virtually for security reasons.

The death of hundreds of people, among them also humanitarian aid workers, and the ongoing looting and banditry call for extreme caution at this stage. The situation in Khartoum remains unpredictable and volatile, insecurity is very high, and the conflict dynamics are fluid and may change rapidly from hour to hour. Therefore, the security and duty of care of all Movement staff and volunteers will have highest priority when engaging in any response activities.

Once safe access is granted, the Movement partners will engage according to their respective mandates in a complementary and coordinated way. The Movement partners will abide by the established coordination mechanisms and ensure a complementary and coordinated response and thorough communication.

While the dynamics are changing from hour to hour, the Movement partners are ready for a response based on past experiences, which will form the basis of the convener (Sudan Red Crescent Society) plan.

The following actions can be foreseen:

- Intensified negotiations for humanitarian access and corridors to evacuate civilians and wounded persons.
- Ensuring access to food, safe water and hygiene, shelter and NFIs, by providing direct relief assistance or rehabilitating or substitution of water and sanitation systems, and by setting up a supply pipeline.
- Setting up Humanitarian Service Points for population on the move, offering a range of protection, emergency health, and RFL services
- Provide medical equipment to health facilities, to ensure business continuity.
- Set-up a coordinated Cash and Voucher Assistance programme, when feasible and safe
- Uphold assistance to pre-existing vulnerabilities among host communities and refugees in Sudan, with food, water, shelter and other Non-Food Items as necessary
- Set-up community engagement and accountability feedback systems
- Provision of protection and assistance to civilians, detainees and wounded, including psycho-social support.
- Provision of first aid and other health services to the wounded and sick in accordance to Sudanese legislation.
- Provision of support to authorities in Dead Body Management.
- Dissemination of IHL and/or humanitarian principles as well as promotion of the emblem.
- Reestablishing Family Links between separated family members with a specific focus on unaccompanied minors and extremely vulnerable persons for people deprived of freedom.
- Ensuring coordination with neighboring National Societies and the respective Movement partners present in these countries to support refugees and displaced population.

Every activity by Movement components must abide by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the principle of "do no harm".

## MOVEMENT COORDINATION

The Movement partners commit to continue working in the spirit of, and in full alignment with, the Sevilla Agreement 2.0 and the SMCC initiative to ensure a well-coordinated and impactful collective response, with the SRCS acting as a convener when coordinating the Movement response. The support of ICRC as co-convener in a context of conflict, together with the support of the IFRC, will allow a more efficient use of the collective resources at hand. The Movement coordination mechanisms will take place in a hybrid mode (virtual and presential) at three levels - strategic, operational, technical - once the situation permits it. The Mini-Summit was the first of the strategic level meetings which took place in this crisis. During the acute response, all partners will keep in mind to plan also for mid- and longer-term support for the National Society to ensure that its capacities are expanded to continue working strongly also after the end of the recent escalation of violence.

It will be important that all partners strive to highlight and support the role of the National Society as a crisis like this is also an opportunity to strengthen the perception of the National Society in- and outside its country.

The Movement partners have agreed to this approach during the Mini-Summit.

## COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

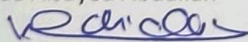
Even with the challenges and unpredictability of the ongoing crisis, all components of the Movement have already engaged in several Movement technical working groups and agreed to coordinate on communication now and throughout the current escalation of violence.

Therefore, all Movement partners are asked to ensure an aligned and coherent internal and external communication approach. Key messages were already shared with all Movement partners operating in Africa with an agreeance to prioritize joint Movement messaging in the coming days, as well as Movement communication guidelines. Additionally, technical communication coordination working groups were set-up at country, regional and Geneva levels. In addition, the ICRC classified the crisis as a non-international armed conflict.

While it is commendable that all partners are keen to support the humanitarian response, it is vital that no uncoordinated shipments or surge support take place. The in-country Movement partners will inform the rest of the Movement about the needs and gaps on a regular basis.

From a humanitarian perspective, the ongoing fighting in Sudan is concerning and will require joint efforts in mitigating human suffering and long-term effects on people already affected by recurrent disasters and crisis. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is committed to use all possible resources to react to the needs of the affected population and thank all partners already now for their current and future engagement in this endeavor.

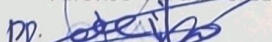
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Khartoum, Sudan, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023