

# ICRC provides food and farming aid to Darfur

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is providing food, seed and farming tools to roughly 450,000 people in Darfur. Most of the beneficiaries are families in and around Jebel Marra and Jebel Si, and in areas near Zalingay. The next few days will see the completion of the distributions, many of which are carried out in partnership with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.



## ICRC

"In Darfur, sporadic violence between communities, and between armed opposition groups and government forces, continues to make it hard for people to lead normal lives," said Mulan Giovannini, deputy head of the ICRC's delegation in Sudan. "Most people receiving this aid depend on farming for their livelihoods. The seed and tools will enable them to take advantage of the planting season that begins with the onset of the rainy season."

### Vital assistance

Over 54,000 families are being given groundnut, sorghum, tomato, okra and onion seed, out of which 46,000 families will also receive tools such as ploughs and hoes. A further 21,000 families will only receive farming tools.

In addition, food items such as sorghum, beans, sugar, and cooking oil are being distributed to some 50,000 families. "Farmers often have no choice but to use any seed they have to feed their families," said Guive Rafatian, head of the ICRC sub-delegation in Zalingay. "That is why food aid is crucial, since it enables them to save the seed for planting."

"A good harvest depends mostly on good rains," said Hawa Abdallah, a farmer from Sullil in Central Darfur. "But the support we received from the ICRC will also have an impact. We're hoping for a good harvest that will give us not only the food that we need but also some cash income."

The ICRC has been working in Sudan since 1978. In 2004 it extended its operations to Darfur, where it helps people suffering the effects of armed conflict and other violence.

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