Terms of Reference
Consultancy: Water at Heart and Disaster Management Advisor
Sudan

Background

Sudan continues to face one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, driven by conflict, displacement, climate-related shocks, recurrent flooding, droughts, disease outbreaks, and the deterioration of basic services. These challenges have highlighted the need to strengthen disaster preparedness, climate resilience, and institutional disaster management capacities at both national and community levels.

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), with support from the IFRC, is implementing the Water at Heart initiative, a flagship climate-resilient WASH program under the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Platform. The initiative seeks to restore and strengthen climate-resilient WASH services, promote locally led adaptation, support community resilience, and integrate WASH within disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation frameworks. In parallel, there is a growing need to strengthen engagement with government authorities and disaster management institutions, reinforce the auxiliary role of SRCS, strengthen Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), and support the operationalization of the Red Pillar as a key component of national disaster management systems.

Purpose of Consultancy

- The purpose of this consultancy is to support the implementation and coordination of the Water at Heart programme in Sudan while strengthening disaster preparedness and disaster management systems through strategic engagement with government authorities, SRCS leadership, and relevant partners.
- The consultant will support IFRC and SRCS in strengthening institutional preparedness, enhancing coordination mechanisms, reinforcing the role of Emergency Operations Centres, and advancing the Red Pillar agenda as a key mechanism to position SRCS as a leading humanitarian actor in disaster preparedness, response coordination, and resilience building.
- The consultant will report to the IFRC Operations & Program Coordinator and work in close collaboration with SRCS leadership, the Disaster Management Department, and relevant technical departments.

Timeframe and Modality

- Consultancy duration: 6 months (with possibility of extension)
- Full-time consultancy
- Duty station: Khartoum with travel to operational areas
- Reporting to: Operations & Program Coordinator
- Technical oversight: IFRC Regional Operation Manager and SRCS Director of Disaster Management

Responsibilities

1. Water at Heart Programme Coordination

- Lead day-to-day coordination of the Water at Heart programme in Sudan.
- Support planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of programme activities.
- Coordinate with SRCS, local authorities, communities, and technical partners involved in programme implementation.
- Support climate-resilient WASH interventions, including rehabilitation of water systems, climate-proof infrastructure, hygiene promotion, and community resilience activities.

- Facilitate engagement with state-level authorities and technical institutions involved in water management, climate adaptation, and DRR.
- Support documentation of lessons learned and best practices from programme implementation.
- Ensure programme activities contribute to broader climate adaptation and disaster preparedness objectives.
- Advocate to leverage preparedness and coordination mechanisms with UN Agencies, Authorities and others stakeholders engaged in Early Warning

2. Government Engagement and Disaster Management Strengthening

- Support IFRC and SRCS engagement with national and state-level disaster management authorities.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration between SRCS and government institutions responsible for disaster risk management.
- Provide strategic advice on disaster preparedness and disaster management policies, plans, and frameworks.
- Support the development of preparedness and contingency planning processes at national and state levels.
- Facilitate coordination between SRCS, IFRC, government authorities, and Movement partners on preparedness initiatives.
- Represent IFRC and SRCS in relevant technical forums and coordination meetings when requested.

3. Red Pillar Development and Institutional Positioning

- Support the development and operationalisation of the Red Pillar concept within Sudan.
- Promote recognition of SRCS as a key auxiliary actor supporting national disaster management systems.
- Facilitate dialogue with government counterparts on the role of SRCS within preparedness, response coordination, and community resilience.
- Identify opportunities to institutionalise SRCS participation within national disaster management structures and coordination mechanisms.
- Support development of guidance, concept notes, and advocacy products related to the Red Pillar approach.
- Strengthen understanding among stakeholders of the value added by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in preparedness and emergency response.

4. Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Strengthening

- Conduct an assessment of existing SRCS Emergency Operations Centres / Rooms.
- Develop recommendations and a roadmap for strengthening EOC functionality.
- Support the establishment of standard operating procedures, information management systems, coordination protocols, and activation mechanisms.
- Strengthen linkages between EOCs, branches, and national headquarters.
- Support training and simulation exercises to enhance preparedness and response readiness.
- Promote integration of early warning, anticipatory action, and operational decision-making processes within EOCs.

5. Knowledge Management and Reporting

- Produce regular progress reports and updates for IFRC and SRCS.
- Document lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations.
- Support donor reporting requirements related to Water at Heart and disaster preparedness initiatives.

- Contribute to the development of concept notes and resource mobilisation opportunities linked to climate resilience and disaster management.

6. Disaster Management and Operational Coordination Support

- Support SRCS and IFRC in monitoring emerging disasters, assessing humanitarian needs, and identifying appropriate response options and funding mechanisms.
- Support the development of emergency response proposals, operational plans, budgets, and coordination arrangements in collaboration with relevant technical departments and partners.
- Provide technical support and quality assurance for ongoing disaster management projects, reviewing progress against approved plans, budgets, timelines, and agreed results.
- Review narrative reports and supporting documentation for accuracy, completeness, consistency, and compliance with donor requirements and IFRC accountability standards, in coordination with programme, PMER, and finance teams.
- Identify implementation gaps, operational risks, and reporting discrepancies, and support follow-up on corrective actions.
- Strengthen coordination across SRCS departments, branches, IFRC, and Movement partners to support timely implementation, monitoring, and reporting of disaster response activities.

Deliverables

- Water at Heart annual implementation and coordination plan.
- Quarterly programme progress reports.
- Government engagement and stakeholder mapping report.
- Red Pillar operationalisation roadmap and engagement plan.
- Assessment and strengthening plan for SRCS Emergency Operations Centres.
- Disaster preparedness and coordination recommendations for SRCS and IFRC.
- Training materials and facilitation of EOC strengthening workshops and simulation exercises.
- Final consultancy report documenting achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations.

Candidate Profile

- Advanced degree in Disaster Management, Water and Sanitation, Climate Adaptation, International Development, Humanitarian Affairs, or related field.
- Minimum 15 years of experience in humanitarian operations, disaster management, preparedness, resilience, or WASH programming.
- Demonstrated experience engaging with government institutions and disaster management authorities.
- Strong understanding of climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, and emergency management systems.
- Experience establishing or strengthening Emergency Operations Centres and coordination mechanisms.
- Excellent stakeholder engagement, facilitation, and negotiation skills.
- Experience working with Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies is highly desirable.
- Excellent analytical, drafting, and reporting skills.
- Valid residency & permit to work and live in Sudan.
- Fluency in English & Arabic required.