

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CHINA: FLASH FLOODS

31 July 2002

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 16/02; Launched on 25 June 2002 for CHF 5,044,000 (USD 3.34m/EUR 3.43m for 3 months for 100,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 200,000

Operations Update No. 3; Period covered: 05 July - 25 July; Last Update (no. 2) issued 5 July 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 59.0%

Related Appeals: 01.37/2002/East Asia regional annual appeal programmes

Outstanding Needs: CHF 2,065,575

Update/Summary: The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) continues to provide assistance and relief items to victims of flash floods and recent hailstorm in China. The RCSC is working in close cooperation with the International Federation to provide relief assistance to affected communities.

Operational Developments w

Continuing, unusual and repeated heavy rainfalls during a pre-wet season in June, have claimed 793 lives and caused economic losses of more than 3,61 million US dollars across twenty-five provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in China. According to the report issued by the China's Ministry of Civil affairs, the government designated Ministry leading in national disaster response and coordination, 2002 statistics on people affected and crops destroyed during the flash floods in June are higher than losses that have occurred during the same period of the nineties.

Of 25 affected regions, seven provinces (**Shaanxi, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guanxi, Hunan, Fujian, Jianxi**) and one municipality-mega city (**Chongqing**) in Central and Southeast China have been categorized as the ones that suffered the most serious losses and damages. There are raising fears that another wave of deluges may engulf wide parts of the country as the rainy season bites. People across China has been warned by the State Flood and Drought Relief control headquarters that more rainfalls have been forecast for the end of July and in August. The water levels of the Yellow and Yangtze rivers are under constant observation. Flood prevention activities including checking of early-warning systems and stocking of flood prevention materials along both Yellow and Yangtze Rivers were last week inspected by China's Prime Minister. According to the official

sources, fighting floods and preventing further soil erosion has been set as a priority task for the Government of the Republic of China.

Although floods occur regularly during the monsoon and typhoon season, flash floods accompanied by landslides and hailstorms such as what have repeatedly occurred in June and July, are unusual. Particularly, since the floods occurred in traditionally drought prone, arid mountainous regions. Consequently, the floods took their victims by surprise and caused enormous destruction in many remote villages often inhabited by subsistence farmers. Rice paddies farmed for generations, as well as other crops, were completely or partially destroyed. Many destitute farmers are expected to seek temporary jobs in cities in order to support their families. This could increase the numbers of urban poor which stands officially at 19.3 million people ie. people living in big cities below the poverty line. (monthly income per capita of an equivalent of 18 US dollars).

Shaanxi, one of the most affected provinces in flash floods is also one of the provinces with the highest urban poverty rate (8% whilst the national average is of 4-6%).

Since July 20, heavy rainfalls have further affected Shaanxi, Liaoning and Henan provinces in Northern China as well a south-east province of Guangdong and to a lesser extent the eastern provinces of Hunan, Jiangxi and Fujian. The flash floods were coupled with a hailstorm in Henan's provincial capital increasing the death toll of June/July disasters by 26. 787 persons were injured in Henan only and dozens are still unaccounted for.

The Media reported that China's Health authorities have put on alert its provincial branches following a WHO report on the outbreak of cholera in neighboring Afghanistan. According to the same source, special protection and epidemic prevention measures are being implemented in flooded areas which are at high risk of epidemics such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery.

Media interest in the flash flooding and Red Cross Red Crescent relief efforts has remained high during the reporting period, with Delegates and the Head of Regional Delegation being interviewed several times by BBC, CNN, AP, AFP, Radio Free Asia (USA), VOA, and APTN. The Federation's regional information delegate is currently in Guangxi province following RCSC relief activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action w

RCSC branches along with the Ministry of Civil Affairs were the first to respond to the disaster by releasing existing Disaster Preparedness (DP) stocks from the headquarters and Disaster Preparedness centres as well as disaster emergency funds to Shaanxi, Sichuan and Chongqing, deploying dozens of Medical teams and mobilising volunteers.

Following initial assessments carried out in the affected provinces by 10 teams from the RCSC and information gathered by RC branches, the National Society launched a national appeal for solidarity and support to the victims. Thirty-three branches of which Hong-Kong RC and Macao RC have been traditionally very important contributors, responded to the appeal by sending relief items and cash donations to the National Headquarters.

At the request of the National Society, the International Federation launched Emergency Appeal no. 16/02 on June 25, 2002. As the result of the Appeal and subsequent donor response, RCSC and the International have developed a Plan of Action targeting eight seriously affected provinces for international Red Cross assistance, which consists of 4,500 MT of food (rice or wheat) 2,000 tents, 20,000 quilts, 10 MT of water purification tablets/powder.

The Appeal also includes a request for vehicles and IT equipment and a coverage of operational costs. This type of support aims also at strengthen the capacity of the RCSC which in recent years has becoming fully independent from the Ministry of Health and is in the process of establishing itself in the emerging civil society in China.

On June 28, RC Secretaries from the eight most affected regions (7 provinces and one municipality) were invited in Beijing to attend a briefing provided by RCSC leadership and the Relief and Finance managers on the NS's Operational Rules and Procedures. Federation representatives have been given the opportunity to brief participants on Federation narrative and financial operational reporting requirements.

Following repeated flash floods in July, coupled with tropical storms and the hailstorm in Hunan, two teams from the RCSC headquarters were dispatched last week (July 24-27) to Shaanxi and Hunan to assist provincial branches in their relief efforts.

The Regional Delegation in Beijing was reinforced with two field delegates, a Reporting delegate and a Regional Information Delegate. A newly recruited Finance Delegate is expected to join the Delegation in mid-August. An introductory briefing with the RCSC leadership and operational counterparts was organized upon the arrival of delegates.

Objectives, activities and results w

Targeting

The RCSC and the Federation's delegation have agreed on the following criteria for beneficiary selection:

- Families who have lost their crops during the flash floods;
- Families who have lost their homes or have had their homes seriously damaged;
- The elderly without family support who have been affected by the floods;
- The physically or mentally handicapped who have been affected by the floods; and
- Families with very low levels of income who have been affected by the floods.

However, RCSC and the Federation's Delegation remain supportive of maintaining a flexible approach to beneficiary selection at the provincial level, giving branches as much flexibility as possible in identifying the most vulnerable in their communities, based on locally appropriate vulnerability criteria.

Logistics/Purchase

- General terms of cooperation between the RCSC and the International Federation, set already in 1991-1992 operations are based on cash transfers from the Federation Secretariat to the account of the Red Cross Society of China headquarters.
- Logistics department (Service department) of the RCSC headquarters and provincial branches are responsible for purchasing relief items according to NS's Rules and Regulations for Purchasing commodities which are in compliance with international standards. RCSC keeps the register of suppliers and is responsible for the quality control of purchased items. RCSC Accounts have been regularly audited by a national auditing company.
- Red Cross branches at Prefecture level are responsible for providing general support and co-operation, whilst the branches at the County level are in charge of the micro-distributions, together with township level. The township level is also charge of compiling final lists of beneficiaries and reporting back to upper organisational levels.

Current Appeal

As soon as the first cash transfer was done on July,17,2002, the RCSC started the procedure for purchasing agreed quantities of water-purification powder and the tents.

Relief distribution of food and basic non-food items w

Objective 1: To provide one food commodity (rice or wheat) to 100,000 women, men and children for three months to complement existing foods which are available and accessible.

Although food security is not a problem in China, as there is a sufficient supply of rice in the rice bank, families who due to the floods must borrow rice from government could end up increasing already significant debts accumulated over previous years.

The supplementary monthly food ration consists of 15 kilograms of rice or wheat per person. The total quantity per person for three months is 45 kilograms. The choice to procure rice or wheat will depend on nutritional habits in the affected regions.

The total quantity of 45 kilograms of supplementary food supply per person will be distributed as a one off donation to ease the distribution process for beneficiaries.

The RCSC is currently purchasing a total of 1,721 MT of rice to cover supplementary food needs for 38,244 beneficiaries in three most severely affected provinces. The selection of these three provinces was based on vulnerability and currently available funding.

It is to be noted that the Government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole supplier of cereals in China and the procurement procedures will be applied accordingly.

Provinces	Guangxi	Jiangxi	Shaanxi	Hunan	Sichuan	Chongqing	Fujian	Guizhou	Total
quantity (MT)	463	629	629						1,721
value (CHF)									757.39
beneficiaries	10,290	13,980	13,980						38,244

The initially planned allocations per province might vary depending on a forthcoming decision by the Embassy of Japan in Beijing. The Embassy has shown interest in providing 5,900 beneficiaries in Jiangxi with a total of 266 MT of rice. Furthermore, we are awaiting ECHO approval for a proposal which has been submitted and which involves the provision of food commodities to four provinces.

Water and sanitation w

Objective 1: to provide water purification powder and disinfectant for the benefit of 1 million men, women and children in areas where water sources have been contaminated.

Ten (10) MT of water purification powder were purchased by the RCSC and will be delivered to the seven provincial capitals and the municipality of Chongqing latest by August,10, according to the pre-agreed macro-distribution plan (please see the table below).

Water purification powder is packed in 70 gr sachets. Each sachet is to purify 1,500- 2,500 liters of natural water.

Further micro-distribution to beneficiaries in counties, townships and villages will take utmost seven days and will involve an average of 500 RC volunteers per province.

Provinces	Guangxi	Jiangxi	Shaanxi	Hunan	Sichuan	Chongqing	Fujian	Guizhou	Total
quantity	1,5 MT	1,5 MT	1,5 MT	1,5 MT	1 MT	1 MT	1 MT	1 MT	10 MT
value (CHF)									268,906
beneficiaries									

NB. Details on beneficiaries will be available upon finalization of the micro-distribution plan

Water purification tablets and powder are very much needed at the early stages of the disaster. The provision of clean water is essential for the prevention of water-related disease transmission so common in most emergencies. Many of the affected communities are experienced in the use of water purification materials since they are in a disasters prone areas. However, the RCSC with assistance from the Federation will need to provide more detailed messages in those provinces e.g. Shaanxi, which are normally not affected by floods.

Shelter

Objective 1: to provide 2,000 tents to vulnerable segments of the population who have lost their homes because of floods

The RCSC has purchased 1,755 tents which will be delivered to the seven provincial capitals and to the municipality of Chongqing by August,3 according to the agreed distribution plan (please see the table below).

Provinces	Guangxi	Jiangxi	Shaanxi	Hunan	Sichuan	Chongqing	Fujian	Guizhou	Total
Quantity /pcs	260	260	260	260	180	175	180	180	1,755 pcs.
value (CHF)									578,121
beneficiaries									

NB. Details on beneficiaries will be available upon finalisation of the micro-distribution plan

National Society Capacity Building w

RCSC Finance Officers, two from each of the eight target provinces, are currently in Beijing (July 30-August 1st) participating in a three day Workshop on finance management and reporting requirements. The workshop is organized by the RCSC and hosted by its new Head of Finance department. A representative from the Federation's finance unit in Kuala Lumpur has been facilitating the session on Federation Standard financial procedures.

Furthermore, five of the target provinces for this operation have been already involved in the RCSC/Federation Finance Development Programme. This Finance Programme was created as a follow up to the 1998 and 1999 flood operation and was implemented in 21 provinces between 2000 and 2001.

It is envisaged that those provinces involved in the Finance Development Programme will be better placed to report on the 2002 Floods operation.

As part of the RCSC/Federation computerization project, all 31 provincial branches and 6 Regional Disaster Preparedness centers were equipped with computers. RCSC staff members have received computer literacy training. A Disaster Preparedness and Response software system application consisting of 13 reporting forms and staff members both at the headquarters and in provincial and municipal branches and regional DP centers are testing the application. Five of the target provinces/municipalities for the current relief operation have benefited from the RCSC/Federation Computerization Project. The Federation IT Project manager is currently in Hunan testing and fine-tuning the system.

The computerization of the National Society's information system will facilitate information flow between the branches and the headquarters and improve the accuracy, the quality and the consistency of reports.

Coordination w

The extended UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) chaired by WFP Head of Mission in Beijing met twice during the reporting period (on June 28 and later on July 11, 2002) in order to support international co-ordination efforts in response to the flood emergency. This forum gathers more than 30 high-level representatives from; embassies, UN agencies, the World Bank, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Cross Societies, Government of China (Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA) and Ministry of Agriculture and some international NGOs (MSF, Save the Children, Caritas, Hong-Kong, the Ford Foundation). It is a valuable panel for information sharing on assessments carried out in the disaster stricken areas and actions taken or planned in the first place by the Government of China, relevant Ministries and national organisations such as the Red Cross Society of China.

In addition to the RCSC and International Federation Emergency Appeal, UNDP and OCHA have committed grants worth US dollars 100,000 of which US Dollars 50,000 (OCHA) to support disaster victims with temporary shelters, bedding, clothing and medicines and the remaining US dollars 50,000 (UNDP) to support

the MoCA at the HQ and branch level with disaster management training and communication equipment for the affected provinces and counties. The French Government through the French Embassy in Beijing is also supporting the MoCA with relief and training programmes in connection to the flood disaster preparedness and response.

Further UNDMT meetings will be conveyed if the situation would require.

It is important to note that at the end of 2001, the Government of China had strengthened legislation on sustainable development by adopting 13 Laws of which three were related to disaster mitigation and prevention.

Outstanding needs

The attached contributions list shows a coverage of 59%. From June 25 to July 20, seventeen donors (National Societies and/or Governments) pledged their support in cash and services for the emergency relief operation. (for details please refer to the list of contributions).

An ECHO proposal for 1 million EUR was submitted on 17 July. Some National Societies are still waiting to receive responses from their governments and to send pledges for funds raised through national public appeals.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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China - Floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 16/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				30.07.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5'044'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 59.0%
AMERICAN EMBASSY		300'000	USD	466'710	12.07.2002	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		500'000	AUD	420'750	04.07.2002	
AUSTRIAN - RC		40'000	EUR	58'900	09.07.2002	WATER/SANITATION NEEDS
BRITISH - RC		30'000	GBP	68'862	27.06.2002	FOR RELIEF ITEMS AND SUPPORT COSTS
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		313'726	GBP	713'727	09.07.2002	WATER/SANITATION ACTIVITIES, BLANKETS, QUILTS, SUPPORT COSTS
CANADIAN - RC		26'000	CAD	26'151	28.06.2002	
CANADIAN - VOT/CIDA/IHA		247'500	CAD	237'922	23.07.2002	FOR WATER PURIFICATION POWDER & DISINFECTANT, 2000 TENTS, 20000 QUILTS
DANISH - RC		231'250	DKK	45'903	08.07.2002	
FINNISH - RC		50'000	EUR	73'815	27.06.2002	
FINNISH - RC		16'819	EUR	24'766	10.07.2002	
JAPANESE - RC		167'000	USD	259'802	04.07.2002	
KOREAN, REP. - RC				300'000	08.07.2002	
MONACO - RC		15'000	EUR	22'088	25.06.2002	
NEW - ZEALAND - RC		30'000	NZD	22'782	26.06.2002	
SINGAPORE - RC		50'000	SGD	43'547	19.07.2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT		700'000	SEK	112'700	31.05.2002	
TURKISH - RC				20'000	25.06.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'918'425	CHF	57.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			20'000	30.07.2002	
JAPAN	DELEGATE(S)			20'000	30.07.2002	
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			20'000	30.07.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				60'000	CHF	1.2%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	