

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: FLOODS

23 September 2003

Appeal No. 18/2003; Operations Update no. 4; Period covered: 3-23 September, 2003

Appeal launched on 22 July 2003 for CHF 7,932,000 (USD 5,770,000 or EUR 5,120,000) in cash, kind or services to assist 440,000 beneficiaries for 9 months.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 300,000

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 over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 19.7%%; See the attached Contributions List for details, also available on the Federation's website.

Outstanding needs: CHF 6,367,630

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeal for China (no. 01.66/2003)

Operational Summary: Over the second week of September there was renewed flooding in Guangxi and Shaanxi's Huaxian County. During the weekend dated 16-17 September further severe flooding in Guangxi's Guilin Prefecture, 46 villages in Lipu County and Jinxiu left four people dead. The flooding which originated in the mountains damaged crops, houses and affected 169,000 people. The provincial branch immediately distributed rice and will distribute quilts and clothes. In Ta Shi, one of the villages engaged in the ongoing ECHO funded water and sanitation project local trained Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) volunteers from the project are assisting flood victims.

Following the joint (RCSC)/Federation assessment of Shaanxi Province made during the first week of September flood relief activities outlined in the Federation's Appeal 18/2003 have been extended to Shaanxi Province, bringing the total number of provinces covered by the Appeal up to nine. The operational budget is being revised to incorporate activities in Shaanxi and reflect contributions made to the Appeal by the Canadian, Danish, Lichtenstein, and Norwegian Red Cross, and the American Embassy in Beijing over the reporting period. The RCSC, in addition to activities conducted in partnership with the Federation, has also been conducting extensive flood relief activities in partnership with the Hong Kong Red Cross Branch.

To date the Emergency Appeal is 19.7% covered. A final decision from ECHO is expected shortly, for funding for the purchase of rice. Meanwhile, additional funds are still urgently needed to enable the RCSC to be able to provide all the planned relief assistance for the people affected by the floods, as outlined in the Emergency Appeal and subsequent operational updates.

Operational developments

Over the second week of September there was renewed flooding in Guangxi and Shaanxi's Huaxian County. During the weekend dated 16-17 September further severe flooding in Guangxi's Guilin Prefecture, 46 villages in Lipu County and Jinxiu left four people dead. The flooding which originated in the mountains damaged crops, houses and affected 169,000 people. The provincial branch immediately distributed rice and will distribute quilts

and clothes. In Ta Shi, one of the villages engaged in the ongoing ECHO funded water and sanitation project local trained RCSC volunteers from the project are assisting flood victims.

Following the joint Red Cross Society of China (RCSC)/Federation assessment of Shaanxi Province made during the first week of September flood relief activities outlined in Federation Appeal 18/2003 have been extended to Shaanxi province bringing the total number of Provinces covered by the Appeal up to nine. According to the latest statistics from China's Ministry of Civil Affairs as of 1 September, following the floods which occurred at the end of August, 67 of the province's counties were affected by floods which forced 430,500 people to be evacuated from their homes, destroyed 48,000 rooms and left 38 dead and 34 missing. The RCSC in addition to activities conducted in partnership with the Federation has also been conducting extensive flood relief activities in partnership with the Hong Kong Red Cross.

The situation remains bleak for affected families in all of the provinces hit by the floods with continued concerns over a possible epidemic of schistosomiasis "snail fever" being triggered by the floods.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief

Objective: To provide recovery assistance in the form of rice, quilts and mosquito nets to 110,000 families in seven provinces and one municipality most affected by this year's floods.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The operational budget is being revised to incorporate activities in Shaanxi and reflect contributions made to the Appeal by the Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Lichtenstein Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and the American Embassy in Beijing over the reporting period. A draft version of the revised operational budget is awaiting review by the RCSC's Head of the Relief Division, and finalisation of the revised operational budget is subject to RCSC's and the Federation's review. Under the proposed revised budget, eighty percent of the funds received will be used to purchase of relief items. Some funding will be allocated for the RCSC's running costs as is important to note that emergency relief operations require extra resources from the Society's headquarters and the RCSC's provincial branches that extend beyond the scope of their normal activities. Running costs include things such as the transport and delivery of the relief items to the beneficiaries by the provincial branches. A small percentage of the funding is being allocated to the Federation which is working with the RCSC to monitor relief activities, support coordination of relief activities and work with national headquarters to improve the Society's overall capacity to respond to future emergencies.

Relief activities have been divided into five (5) Plans of Action (PoA).

Plan of Action 1: PoA 1, which was developed during the emergency phase, used funds advanced by the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Of the DREF funding RMB 700,000 was used for the purchase of four hundred tents. The remaining funds were used to cover operational costs and to purchase six hundred MT of water purification tablets for distribution.

When the flooding occurred in July, 400 tents which had been pre-positioned in the RCSC's regional Disaster Preparedness Centres were immediately distributed to flood affected families identified by RCSC branches in Anhui and Jiangsu.

The provinces of Anhui and Jiangsu were identified for tent distribution as these were the most severely flood affected provinces. DREF funds, RMB 70,000 were then used to purchase 400 tents to replenish the DP centre stock so that the RCSC remains prepared for future emergencies. The contract for the purchase of tents was executed on 4 August and, the purchase of tents to replenish emergency stock was completed as of 12 August. The 400 families who received the tents continue to rely on them for shelter.

Six hundred MT of water purification tablets were purchased for the eight provinces originally identified in Appeal 18/2003. Each of the provincial branches received 224 cases of water purification tablets to distribute in flood-affected areas. RCSC Relief division in Beijing has received completed copies of the Society's

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Implementation Report (form 9 of the Society's 13 form reporting system on the movement and distribution of relief items) from Provincial branches in Hunan, Sichuan and Chongqing. As for the other five Provinces distributions are completed or are about to finish.

Plan of Action 2: PoA 2 is for the purchase and distribution of 140,000 mosquito nets. Procurement occurred during the third week of August, and the first delivery of nets, to three of the Provinces is scheduled for the beginning of the third week of September.

PoA 2 originally envisioned purchasing 140,000 mosquito nets, however, due to fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Yuan Renminbi (RMB) and the Swiss franc (CHF) there was only enough money to purchase 136,300 nets with a unit price of 27 RMB per net. Budgets and Plans of Action which use Federation funds are currently drawn up in Swiss francs in accordance with the requirements of the Federation. Although creating the budgets for the PoAs in Swiss francs is not perfect for planning purposes, there is a much larger risk of creating a deficit or misunderstandings with donors if budgets are drawn up in the local currency due to these fluctuations in the exchange rate.

Some 70,000 of the nets have been produced and the production of the nets is expected to be finished as of 28 September. The shipment of nets is ready for Henan, Anhui and Shaanxi. Each province will receive all of their nets in one instalment. Representatives of the Federation's Flood relief team will work with the RCSC to monitor the movement and distribution of nets from the provincial to the village level.

The speed with which RCSC Headquarters implemented Plans of Action 1 and 2 improved since 2002 with PoA 1 taking ten days and PoA 2 taking 20 days.

Plan of Action 3: PoA 3 is for the purchase of 30,000 quilts with funding donated by the German Government through the German Red Cross (GRC).

A tendering for GRC funded quilts took place on Thursday 18 September at RCSC headquarters. The tendering was attended by seven people including representatives from the RCSC's logistics, relief and finance department, and was observed by the Federation's field delegate in the presence of a translator.

In accordance with the Federation's tendering procedures the RCSC published an open invitation to the public on the government's tendering website, the China Financial Daily and in industry newspapers. Based on these advertisements five suppliers demonstrated an interest in submitting a bid. The suppliers were furnished with the requirements for the quilts and as of the published deadline for submitting an offer, three suppliers submitted anonymous bids, containing samples of the quilts. Prices ranged from RMB 53.3 to RMB 58 per unit and an analysis was made of the respective quilts' fibre to ensure good quality. In the end a supplier from Shanghai was identified who can supply the highest quality quilts offered at RMB 53.3 per quilt. The price per quilt includes transport and the supplier will be responsible for ensuring delivery of the quilts to the Provincial branches.

Plan of Action 4: PoA 4, which is funded by the American Embassy, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross and an in kind donation from the Danish Red Cross is also for the purchase of quilts. PoA 3 and PoA 4, quilt distributions will happen at the same time. As the bid analysis conducted for GRC funded quilts adheres both to the logistics standards of the Federation, RCSC and the named donors the supplier selected to supply quilts under PoA 3 will be approached to supply 30,000 additional quilts under PoA 4.

Plan of Action 5: PoA 5, the purchase of food items (rice and wheat flour) for family packages has been drawn up and submitted to ECHO.

Federation coordination

One of the most successful coordination activities has been the bi-weekly floods task force meetings which bring together the four member Federation flood relief team with representatives of RCSC headquarters. The meetings are a significant first step in promoting knowledge sharing activities and have played an important role in managing the operation.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

On 5 September, the RCSC's Director of Programme Development and Support Department/Fund Raising & Information Division presented and distributed colourful brochures providing concise and detailed information regarding flood relief operations over the past few years for distribution to donors.

Red Cross Society of China capacity building

The RCSC, following the evaluation recognises the importance of improving the Society's capacity to provide timely narrative reports. The Swedish Red Cross is supporting this initiative by funding a reporting delegate to work with the RCSC during the Floods operation with the intent that the reporting delegate provides training to the RCSC about reporting and assists the RCSC with establishing a system by which the Society can achieve its reporting goals.

At the invitation of RCSC's External Relations Department, the Federation's reporting delegate will present an introductory training for the Society about reporting on relief activities. The training will take place at RCSC headquarters in Beijing during the afternoons of 22 and 23 September. The first day of training will be a power point presentation using educational materials created by the Federation's Asia Pacific Regional Reporting Unit. The second day will be devoted to two interactive exercises intended to introduce and familiarise course participants with a monitoring/reporting questionnaire that has been developed to facilitate RCSC narrative reporting. Then through participatory role playing exercises and group work demonstrate how information gathered from the field with the questionnaires can be used to meet the information requirements of the Federation and other external donors. Four representatives of the Society's relief division and five representatives from external relations are scheduled to attend. At the end of the session training participants will be provided with evaluation forms so that the Federation with input from the RCSC can develop methods of reporting training that best meet the National Society's needs. The delegate will also be working with the Provincial branches engaged in the operation to facilitate the flow of information.

Additionally the reporting delegate will work individually with those members of RCSC headquarters who will be assuming responsibility for coordinating reports.

For further information please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

China - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 18/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23.09.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				7'932'000	TOTAL COVERAGE 19.7%	
AMERICAN - GOVT		100'000	USD	141'400	05.09.03	SH'ANXI PROVINCE
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT/RC		516'447	AUD	467'385	04.09.03	
AUSTRIAN - RC		40'000	EUR	61'960	05.08.03	
CANADIAN - RC		205'978	CAD	208'141	11.09.03	
DANISH - RC		277'500	DKK	57'581	23.07.03	
DANISH - GOVT		30'000	USD	40'530	25.07.03	DIRECTLY TO DELEGATION
ESTEC NDF/ESA		10'000	EUR	15'490	24.07.03	
FINNISH - RC		50'000	EUR	77'150	24.07.03	
JAPANESE - RC		249'543	USD	337'133	25.07.03	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				10'000	29.08.03	
SWEDISH - GOVT		700'000	SEK	117'600	25.07.03	
TURKISH - RC				30'000	22.07.03	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'564'370	CHF	19.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	