

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

10 October 2003

Appeal No. 18/2003; Operations Update no. 05

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

Period covered: 24 September – 10 October, 2003

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: 21,7 %; See the Contributions List on the Federation's website for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 6,195,721

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Operational Summary: On 3 October, Shaanxi Province experienced its fifth wave of flooding of the Weihe River, the largest tributary of the Yellow River since flooding commenced at the end of August. A further 130,000 people were evacuated in Huaxian County.

Distribution of mosquito nets, the first of the three items making up the planned family packages commenced in all of the provinces during the third week of September. Distribution of quilts will commence in Shaanxi during the second week of October. It should be noted that the nine provinces where joint Red Cross Society of China (RCSC)/Federation relief activities are taking place have widely varying climates. While provinces such as Guangxi and Henan are still experiencing very warm weather other provinces such as Shaanxi are seeing the onset of winter like conditions and dropping temperatures. The third component of the family package will be 100 kg of rice or wheat depending on the custom of the Province. An application for funding for this item is currently in the final stages of review by ECHO.

Operational developments

Focus on Red Cross Society of China's Henan Provincial Branch

The Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) Henan Provincial Branch oversees the activities of over 4,000 branches throughout the provinces. Branches conduct first aid training for 4,000 people working in the fields of traffic control, coal and power, sanitation education, and has recruited close to one million volunteer blood donors.

Henan Province is susceptible to disasters caused by drought, hail, frost, earthquakes and floods. Drought and floods can affect up to 72% of the province, with flooding posing the greatest threat to the Province's welfare. Flooding occurs on a regular basis during the autumn and the summer. Among the areas which are most highly prone to floods are: the Nanyang basin; the prefectures traversed by the Huaihe River: Xinyang, Zhumadian, Zhoukou; and, the prefectures which are down river from the Yellow River: Xinxiang, Kaifeng and Puyang.

Rivers along the Huaihe valley are particularly susceptible to flooding, as they are short and thus water accumulates rapidly within them creating flooding.

Flooding in Henan has resulted in immediate loss of income for individuals as well as creating an obstacle in regard to the Province's capacity for social development. In 2003, flooding which occurred over the period 29 June – 21 July, and extraordinary flooding which occurred on 28 August – 9 September, resulted in the contamination of drinking water sources, large scale damage to crops and residences, and a reported 61 deaths.

RCSC's Henan Provincial branch immediately began fundraising activities when the flooding first occurred at the end of June. Within two weeks the branch had gathered relief items worth close to RMB 1.12 million. The items were then distributed in Zhumadian, Xinyang and Zhoukou prefectures to some 100,000 beneficiaries. Local RCSC branch staff were also sent to the disaster stricken areas to conduct assessments and interview flood victims in order to determine the most urgent needs and where the items were most needed. In addition to activities initiated by the branch and in cooperation with RCSC headquarters and the Federation, the branch is also conducting flood relief activities with the Hong Kong Red Cross.

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)

Distribution of Relief Items

Project agreements between the Federation and the RCSC for Plans of Action one, two and four have been signed. Most of the Provincial branches have identified the prefectures where they will distribute three relief items comprising a family package. The planned areas of operation so far are indicated in the table below.

RCSC Provincial Branch	Prefectures
ANHUI	To be advised (TBA)
JIANGSU	Si Yang, Si Hong, Xu Yi
HENAN	Xin Yang, Zhoukou, Nan Yang, Zhumadian
GUANGXI	TBA
HUNAN	Xiangxi, Zhang Jia Jie, Changde, Chenzhou
HUBEI	Jinzhou, Huanggang, Yichang, Xianning, Shi Yan
SICHUAN	Guangyuan, Luzhou, Liangshan, Nanchong, Leshan
SHAANXI	TBA
CHONGQING	Wu Long, Wuxi, Shizhu, Zhongxian, Feng jie, Yun Yang, Chengkou, Pengshui, You Yang,, Xiu Shan

Plan of Action 1: Distribution activities outlined in Plan of Action 1, tents and water purification tablets, are close to completion. Distribution of relief items has been completed in Jiangsu, Henan, Hubei, Guangxi, Hunan, Sichuan and Chongqing while activities in Anhui are still ongoing.

Plan of Action 2: The distribution of Mosquito nets, Plan of Action 2, began during the third week of September. Provincial branches in Anhui, Jiangsu, Henan, Guangxi, Hunan, Hebei, Sichuan, Shaanxi and Chongqing have received all of the nets in one instalment and are then charged with distributing the nets to the relevant prefecture branches. There was a slight delay in dispatching nets to the Jiangsu, Chongqing and Sichuan Provincial branches as compared to the others but all nets were received by the provincial branches prior to the National Day Holiday period.

The Federation's relief coordinator and field delegate, accompanied by a member of RCSC's external relations department visited the RCSC Provincial branch in Henan to learn about how the branch was executing the distribution of double sized mosquito nets (Plan of Action 2, funded by initial contributions to Appeal 18/2003).

China: Floods; Appeal no. 18/2003; Operations Update no. 05

During the visit the branch confirmed that it is employing the selection criteria outlined in the Appeal. In particular, criteria that beneficiaries are selected from families who have either lost their homes, or have had their homes seriously damaged; and families with very low income who have been affected by the floods. The beneficiaries were selected in cooperation with the affected communities. Communities targeted for distributions were responsible for selecting a village foreperson from among themselves to facilitate the process. Villagers then discussed and agreed upon who amongst them had the greatest needs. Based on these discussions the list of beneficiaries was then compiled.

Additionally, funds have been allocated to the branches for the transportation of and storage of relief items. Although the allocated funds for transport and storage does not cover the branches' total distribution costs the funds do relieve the branches of some of the financial burdens incurred when conducting emergency activities. The Federation delegates noted that the distributions were conducted in a very orderly manner. It was noted that traditionally, one of RCSC's strong points has been the orderly manner in which relief distributions are carried out.

Detailed distribution information was provided by RCSC provincial branches in Hunan, Sichuan, Jiangsu and Hubei.

In Hunan a total of 19,000 mosquito nets were distributed. 5,000 nets were distributed in Zhangjiajie city, Xiangxi, and Changde City while 4,000 nets were distributed in Chenzhou city.

In Sichuan, a total of 18,000 mosquito nets were distributed. 4,000 nets were distributed in Guangyuan, Luzhou, and Liangshan. In Leshan and Nanchong distributions were made of 3,000 nets.

In Jiangsu a total of 13,000 mosquito nets have been distributed. 4,000 nets in Si Yang and Si Hong; and, 5,000 in Xu Yi.

In Hubei a total of 13,000 mosquito nets have been distributed. 3,000 in Jinzhou; 2,800 in Huanggang; 2,800 in Xichang; and, 2,000 in Shi Yan.

Plan of Action 3: Tendering of quilts which are being funded by the German Red Cross is finished. One issue affecting the procurement of relief items has been fluctuations in exchange rates. As can be expected, fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Federation's official benchmark currency, the Swiss franc, and the RMB can mean either greater or weaker purchasing power. RCSC relief and logistics department will determine the final and precise number of quilts when they sign the purchase agreement with the supplier. The final amount of quilts, however, will be slightly greater than the stated target number of 30,000 pieces.

Plan of Action 4: During the period 1-8 October, China observed the National Day Holiday during which many businesses are closed and manufacturing slows down. Therefore the RCSC's relief division worked hard to make sure that contracts with the quilt supplier were completed as of 30 September and the manufacturer was able to produce the first two batches of quilts during the seven day-National Day Holiday period. The first batch of 5,570 quilts, which are funded by the American Embassy in Beijing, were delivered to Shaanxi province on 8 October. These quilts will be distributed in Weinan. The second batch of quilts is scheduled to be delivered during the second week of October to Ankang, also located in Shaanxi province. The second batch is being purchased with funding from the Norwegian Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross.

On 3 October, Shaanxi Province, where quilt distributions are commencing first, experienced its fifth wave of flooding of the Weihe River, the largest tributary of the Yellow River, since flooding commenced at the end of August. A further 130,000 people were evacuated in Huaxian County.

Plan of Action 5: Plan of Action 5, the purchase of food items (rice and wheat flour) for family packages (100 kg per family) is currently in the final stages of review by ECHO.

Logistics

Preliminary planning for procurement of rice and wheat flour has begun. In order to comply with ECHO's procedures for procurement, RCSC has initiated a new and independent tender process in accordance with

ECHO's guidelines set forth in the organisation's Framework Partnership Agreement. In preparation the RCSC has posted an advertisement on the internet and in the newspapers seeking bids from grain suppliers. Affected provinces will be grouped into sectors according to location and, if appropriate, suppliers will be identified to service the different sectors

One of the factors affecting planning for the operation is the price of rice. China's rice market is primarily dominated by the government, with individual provinces given discretion over the setting of the price based on various market factors such as the cost of labour, the amount of rice produced, demand etc. Although China's grain market is in the early phases of liberalisation, with farmers able to make their own decisions about agricultural production, and an experiment in grain marketing reform in Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Guangdong provinces, the government remains the most stable, accountable and reliable source of grains. Therefore the RCSC continues to use government owned and managed grain suppliers.

Land conservation initiatives combined with 2003's flooding has caused the price of rice to rise by two cents per half kilo particularly amongst suppliers of higher quality rice which is distributed by RCSC. Although the price fluctuation seems relatively small it can have a great effect on bulk orders.

Federation coordination

On 7 October, the Federation's relief coordinator and head of regional delegation attended the UNDMT coordination meeting in Beijing. Findings were presented of a UN research project studying measures taken by China in regard to Flood Disaster Reduction. The Federation's relief coordinator presented a summary of the Red Cross response to the flooding and relief activities at the meeting.

Red Cross Society of China capacity building

An introduction to reporting on relief operations was led by the Federations floods operations' reporting delegate at RCSC on 22 and 23 September. The first day of the workshop was a power point presentation outlining what are the responsibilities of the Federation and the RCSC in regard to reporting and general information as to what type of information donors require to learn about and verify how their funding is being used. The workshop was attended by members of the external relations and relief departments of the Society's headquarters. The second day of the workshop focused on interactive exercises. The seven participants were broken down into two groups. The first step of the exercise was to work through a monitoring form that is being developed to help make narrative reporting easier. The second step of the exercise was to see how the information gathered while monitoring activities is then used to write an operations update. The monitoring form which is being developed was given by the relief coordinator to the Henan Provincial branch during their visit. The Provincial branch's experienced Head of Relief has made some suggestions as to how the form can be improved, and these suggestions will be incorporated to improve the effectiveness of the form.

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

08/10/03

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	7,932,000					TOTAL COVERAGE 21.7%
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		
NORWEGIAN - RC	350,000	NOK	64,925	16.09.03		RELIEF OPERATION IN SHAANXI PROVINCE
SWEDISH - GOVT	700,000	SEK	117,600	25.07.03		
TURKISH - RC			30,000	22.07.03		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,629,295	CHF	20.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			30,226		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			25,133		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			40,082		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				95,441	CHF	1.2%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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China - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 18/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

08/10/03

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