

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

21 October 2003

Appeal No. 18/2003; Operations Update no. 06

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: 10 -21 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: 21,9 %; See the Contributions List on the Federation's website for details.

Outstanding needs: 6,195,721 CHF

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Operational Summary: On 15 October, the RCSC's Shaanxi Provincial branch distributed a total of 10,570 quilts to Weinan, Ankang and Hua Xian Prefectures. The distribution was attended by the RCSC's Secretary General and a representative of the American Embassy in Beijing. Pledges made by the Swiss and Monaco Red Cross Society during the second week of October will be used to purchase quilts. The quilt distribution is particularly significant as China has already experienced unusually low temperatures for this time of year.

Operational developments

October, normally thought of as one of the most pleasant months of the year in China, has been unusually cold bringing on early snowfalls.

On 15 October, the RCSC's Shaanxi Provincial branch distributed a total of 10,570 quilts to Weinan, Ankang and Hua Xian Prefectures. The distribution was attended by the RCSC's Secretary General and a representative of the American Embassy in Beijing. Of the provinces which were affected by 2003's flooding the RCSC has identified Shaanxi and Henen as the ones' with the greatest needs. 85 counties were affected in Shaanxi and some 952,340 people have had to be evacuated. Sixty four people died and 59 people remain missing.

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

The purchase of relief items is done based on the time and amount of funding received. Since the launch of the appeal in July, funding from the respective donors has been received in different stages. "Plans of Action" for the purchase of relief items are then devised based on the amount of funding available and the priority needs of the beneficiaries at the time the funding is received. In the case of this appeal, since the onset of flooding in July, there have been six PoAs. The Plans of Action are as follows:

Plan of Action	Relief Item
1	Tents (Anhui, Jiangsu) Water purification tablets (8 Provinces)
2	136,300 Mosquito nets
3	31,900 Quilts
4	32,600 Quilts
5	30,000 (est.) Quilts
6	7,400 MT Food Items (Rice or Wheat flour)

Emergency relief

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Distribution of Relief Items

The planned areas of operation as of 21 October are indicated in the table below.

RCSC Provincial Branch	Distribution Points
ANHUI	Bangbu, Huainan, Hefei
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	Weinan, Ankang, Hua Xian
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 have been completed with items in Anhui having been dispatched by the Provincial branch to Bangbu, Huainan and Hefei.

Some of the families who lost their homes have found shelter with family members or have been able to rent inexpensive rooms from those people whose homes remained intact. Many families, however, who lost their entire homes to the floods are still living in the tents. Where the water level has receded people are returning to the site of their villages, and some of the beneficiaries are using the tents to cover the gaping holes in the walls or rooftops of their homes.

Plan of Action 4: 10,570 quilts were distributed in Weinan, Ankang, and Hua Xian counties in Shaanxi Province on 14 and 15 October. The distribution was announced publicly and beneficiaries were selected based on whether or not they earned low incomes; they had lost their home or their home had sustained severe damage; and, if they were elderly or disabled. As residents of many of the communities which were completely destroyed were subsistence farmers who depend entirely on the crops which were lost to the flooding, in some cases entire villages such as Tuo Xi village in Fu Shui township satisfied the criteria for assistance. In other cases committees were formed to identify the most vulnerable amongst themselves.

Plan of Action 5: Pledges from the Swiss Red Cross (CHF 400,000) and the Monaco Red Cross (CHF 11,543) made during the third week of October will be used for the newly formed Plan of Action 5 for the purchase of the targeted number of 33,000 quilts for the eight provinces originally identified in the Appeal 18/2003 (exact quantity

China: Floods; Appeal no. 18/2003; Operations Update no. 06

subject to vary due to fluctuating valuation of RMB against CHF). The purchase of food items will now be referred to as Plan of Action 6.

Logistics

Differences between the Federation’s financial procedures in Geneva and the RCSC’s internal logistics procedures have resulted in delays in signing supply contracts. According to RCSC procedures the Society can only enter into a contract with external suppliers upon the actual receipt of funds in the local currency (RMB). Although funding is available in CHF, the Society is unable to rely on guarantees or promises of funding because fluctuations between the RMB and the Swiss franc are such that the Society cannot place a final order until it sees the precise figure in RMB it will actually have to work with.

Relief items are being distributed to the branches in proportion to the extent of damage sustained by the Province during 2003’s floods. Branches in Henan, Guangxi, Chongqing, Sichuan and Shaanxi will receive a larger percentage of relief items than branches in Anhui, Jiangsu Hunan and Hubei. All Provincial branches are also being allocated funds to support the costs for transporting items to the distributions sites and capital expenses.

Plan of Action 3: Quilts purchased with funding from the German Red Cross (GRC) are currently in production. Once completed the quilts will be packed and marked accordingly. The Federation’s field delegate is in regular contact with the GRC’s desk officer in Germany and the German Embassy in Beijing to ensure that the Society’s reporting requirements are satisfied. As Shaanxi, received earmarked donations from two other donors and has satisfied its requirement for quilts, quilts being purchased with funds from the GRC will be distributed to the remaining eight provinces.

	Anhui	Jiangsu	Henan	Hunan	Guangxi	Chongqing	Sichuan	Hubei
Quilts (GRC)	3,190	3,190	4,785	3,190	4,785	4,785	4,785	3,190
						Total		31,900

Plan of Action 4: The Shanghai based supplier of quilts has produced the first 10,570 of the total 32,600 quilts ordered for distribution by the nine provincial branches under Plan of Action 4. The remaining quilts have been promised as of 24 November.

Of the total 32,600 quilts ordered: 11,110 quilts are being purchased with funds donated by the American Embassy in Beijing, and 5,100 quilts are being purchased with funds provided by the Norwegian Red Cross (NRC). These 16,210 quilts will be distributed in Shaanxi as per the specifications of the donors. The remaining 16,390 quilts are being purchased with funds provided by the Canadian Red Cross (CRC). These quilts will be distributed proportionately to the remaining eight provinces. Part of the funding received for quilts is being used by the branches to cover transportation costs and capital expenses.

	Anhui	Jiangsu	Henan	Hunan	Guangxi	Chongqing	Sichuan	Hubei	Shaanxi
Quilts (American Embassy)									11,110
Quilts (CRC)	1,640	1,640	2,457	2,457	1,640	2458	2458	1640	
Quilts (NRC)									5,100
							TOTAL		32,600

Plan of Action 5: The purchase of quilts with funds received from the Swiss and Monaco Red Cross Societies will be purchased from the same supplier providing quilts under plans of action 3 and 4. These quilts will be distributed in Anhui, Jiangsu, Henan, Hunan, Guangxi, Chongqing, Sichuan and Hubei.

Plan of Action 6 (formerly referred to as Plan of Action 5): the purchase of 7,400 MT food items (rice and wheat flour) for family packages (100 kg per family) is under review by ECHO. The RCSC has received ten bids from suppliers in response to its public call for tenders for food items (rice and wheat flour). The ten suppliers who have submitted bids so far are based in Sichuan, Hubei, Anhui, Hunan, Jiangxi and Guangxi Provinces. More bids are expected prior to the advertised closing date 23 October.

Red Cross Society of China capacity building

On 16 October the Federation's reporting delegate and DP assistant with support from the Federation's field delegate, arranged a training session for eight members of the Shaanxi Provincial branch (relief/finance) about narrative reporting on relief operations. The first part of the presentation gave an overview of the operation's Appeal document, and the importance of keeping donors regularly informed about "the story behind the numbers."

During the second part of the training the participants were divided into three teams. One team represented the Provincial branch, one team represented RCSC Headquarters/Federation and one team represented the "donors." The purpose of the exercise was to demonstrate the importance of the information provided by branches to foreign donors, and the key role branches play in the reporting process. A monitoring form that is being developed to facilitate the conversion of numbers into "stories," and a simplified version of the Federation's Operations Update were handed out to the respective teams to complete and demonstrate how the process works. Branch members posed important questions during the training such as the difference between tracking "logistics" figures (movement of items from Suppliers/warehouses to branches) versus "relief" figures (distribution of items to beneficiaries). The branch, after successfully completing the exercise, has been requested to fill out one of the forms regarding the 15 October quilts distribution and put forward any suggestions as to how the form can be modified to be more effective. The branch was also provided with all of the forms on a floppy disk.

At the moment RCSC field reporting on relief activities is done using 13 forms. The forms are comparable to standard relief and logistics tables used by the Federation. Each of the Provincial branches is required to submit the respective tables at the onset of a disaster to report on the extent of the damage; upon receipt of the items; and, after distributing the items. Internal narrative reporting is performed at headquarters level by the organisation's Relief division in conjunction with field visits to the provinces.

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

15/10/03

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	7,932,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 21.9%		
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	
MONACO RC	7,500	EUR	11,543	07.10.03	
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			1,640,838	CHF	20.7%

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

15/10/03

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