

DREF Bulletin



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

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

The Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) has released CHF 213,000 (USD 172,291 or EUR 135,684) to support flood relief activities in China. This DREF Bulletin is being issued to describe the scope of support being provided to the Red Cross Society of China, reflecting the information available at this time.

Deadly and powerful tropical storm Bilis hit China shortly over one week ago on 14 July accompanied by heavy rainfall and serious floods in southern and eastern areas of China. Hunan province's Chenzhou and Hangyang prefectures are amongst the hardest hit areas where floods have left 400,000 people homeless, with an urgent need to provide food and blankets to some 100,000 people currently housed in temporary mass shelters. DREF will be used to support the Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) Hunan provincial branch to provide rice, blankets and water purification materials to affected families in Hunan. These activities are being coordinated through the RCSC headquarters, who are seeking national support and support from RCSC branches to meet immediate needs in additional provinces affected by recent floods and storms through a national appeal.



Although China's flooding season is far from over, tropical storm Bilis has already destroyed homes and displaced scores of the country's rural inhabitants.

The distribution of relief items is expected to be implemented over the next four weeks and will be completed by 31 August 2006. The Federation is currently seeking unearmarked funds to repay DREF. Based on increasing needs of the displaced, the Federation is also considering the possibility of launching an international appeal in the coming weeks.

On 22 July, an earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale hit Yanjin county of Yunnan province and further added to the destruction caused by tropical storm Bilis.

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Background and current situation

In China, June - August is regarded as the "high" flood season, where heavy rains particularly in mountainous areas can trigger flash floods and landslides that leave thousands of poor rural families homeless on an annual basis. Since April 2006, the country has been host to a repeated series of destructive hailstorms, floods, landslides, tropical storms and typhoons that have resulted in the evacuation of millions of people, leaving thousands of families homeless and destroying livelihoods through the loss of precious land and crops.

Deadly and powerful tropical storm Bilis hit China shortly over one week ago on 14 July accompanied by heavy rainfall and serious floods in southern and eastern areas of China, including Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Zhejiang and Jiangxi. According to information provided by the ministry of civil affairs on Saturday 22 July nationwide, heavy rains and floods related to tropical storm Bilis have destroyed 212,000 houses and damaged 287,000 more, forcing the evacuation of 2.95 million people. Local wells and water sources have been tainted or disrupted due to the floods creating high needs for potable water. In Zixing City alone, administrated by Chenzhou in Hunan, 197 people were confirmed dead and 69 missing.

China's state flood control and Drought relief headquarters has responded to the recent emergency, deploying task forces to check flood prevention and control efforts along major rivers, while government disaster response teams have been deployed to flood-affected areas to aid with the evacuation of and temporary settlement of vulnerable affected communities.



A bleak landscape of homes and farmland swept away or ruined by floods mar the scenic backdrop of Hunan's countryside.

For the millions of people, mostly the rural poor who have been evacuated country wide, and the thousands who lost their homes and crops over recent weeks, the period of temporary displacement can often last up to as long as three months to one year. Displaced by the floods, families will seek temporary shelter in public buildings, with family members or live outside in makeshift shelters until the flood waters dissipate. This displacement increases the demand for emergency relief items: water purification tablets; disinfectant to prevent the spread of disease from overflowing pit latrines common to rural areas and animal pens; quilts and warm clothing to shield those who are homeless from the damp weather; and plastic sheeting that can be used to protect personal items and rice or for temporary shelter.

In addition to the damage and devastation caused by tropical storm Bilis, on Saturday 22 July, an earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale struck Yanjin county that is situated in a mountainous part of Yunnan province. Over 1,400 houses were completely destroyed and 38,000 sustained damaged in 13 townships of Yanjin. This follows two days of flash floods in the province which killed at least eight people and left 27 others missing. China is highly disaster prone, according to the latest government statistics 437 major natural disasters occurred in 2005, which is slightly more than one large scale natural disaster per day throughout the heavily populated country.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Based on the 21 July findings of an assessment team led by the RCSC's executive vice president, CHF 213,000 allocated through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund will be used to support the RCSC's Hunan provincial branch with providing rice, blankets and water purification materials to affected families in Hunan. These activities are being coordinated through the RCSC headquarters, which are seeking national support and support from RCSC branches to meet immediate needs generated by the floods in an additional number of provinces through a national appeal.

Hunan

Hunan province's Chenzhou and Hangyang prefectures are among the areas which have been most seriously affected by over seven days of continued floods and rainstorms related to tropical storm Bilis, which have left 400,000 people homeless.

China: Floods; Appeal no.MDRCN001; DREF Bulletin

On Friday 21 July, the provincial authorities announced that the provincial death toll had risen to 346 with 89 people remaining missing. In Zixing City alone, administrated by Chenzhou prefecture, 197 people were confirmed dead and 69 missing on Saturday 22 July. According to the deputy secretary of the Zixing city committee of the Communist Party of China, the breakdown of communication and traffic systems made it very hard for the local civil affairs department to collect information on the number of deaths and the extent of the damage.

Considered as a poor province, the Hunan provincial branch has distributed over RMB 2 million (CHF 317,460) in relief supplies since April to flood-affected counties and deployed 30 medical teams who have treated over 3,000 injured people to date. Over the same time period, RCSC headquarters has provided RMB 1,171,900 (CHF 186,000) in relief items to the Hunan branch in response to eight emergencies including disinfectant, water purification tablets, household kits, quilts and tents.

Guangxi Zhuang Nationality Autonomous Region

On Friday 21 July, officers from the Hong Kong and Macau Red Cross branch joined the head of the RCSC's relief division on a needs assessment in Guangxi Zhuang Nationality Autonomous Region. Further support to the region will be determined based on the findings of Friday's assessment. Guangxi's regional flood control and drought relief headquarters reported that as of Saturday 22 June, floods, rainstorms and mudslides triggered by tropical storm Bilis displaced 499,000 people and killed 35 people, with four people remaining missing. 22,790 houses in Guangxi were lost in Bilis' wake which has rendered RMB 2.2 billion (CHF 35 million) in damages in the region alone.

There are 12 ethnic nationalities living within Guangxi, which like Hunan, is economically poor compared to China's other provinces. Natural disasters have been a regular occurrence in the region since April. Over the period April through June, RCSC headquarters allocated RMB 329,632 (CHF 52,322) to support the branch in providing blankets, mosquito nets, tents, blankets, quilts, and disinfectant to flood-affected populations.

RCSC Response to Tropical Storm Bilis 14 -16 July

In addition to the interventions carried out by the RCSC over the period April – June, the national society headquarters and its branches have collectively provided a grand total of RMB 3,668,881 (CHF 582,362) of relief assistance to communities affected by tropical storm Bilis in Hunan, Guangxi, Guangdong, Fujian, Shandong and Jiangxi. For more information, refer to the table below that describes RCSC relief specific to Hunan and Guangxi:

RCSC provincial and headquarters relief efforts in response to floods caused by tropical storm Bilis			
Provincial Red Cross disaster relief efforts			
Province	Distributed Relief Items	Quantity	Value(RMB)
Hunan	Tents	90	124,980
	Disinfectant	150 boxes	18,000
	Water purification tablets	30 boxes	9,800
	Quilts	600	31,800
	Clothes	4800	90,000
Sub-total			274,580
RCSC headquarters emergency disaster relief items			
Province	Distributed Relief Items	Quantity	Value(RMB)
Hunan	Quilts	2000	106,000
	Tents	100	128,000
	Water purification tablets	200 boxes	72,000
	Disinfectant	550 boxes	66,000
	Medicine	n/a	154,602
	Household kits	500	110,000
	Emergency disaster response fund (for rice procurement)	n/a	50,000
Sub-total			686,602
Guangxi	Blankets	2000	56,000
	Shoes	500	50,000

China: Floods; Appeal no.MDRCN001; DREF Bulletin

	Procurement of medicines	in cash	50,000
	Mosquito nets	4000	109,200
	Household kits	400	60,000
	Disinfectant	500 boxes	60,000
	Water purification tablets	100 boxes	36,000
Sub-total			421,200
Total			1,382,382
Value in CHF			219,426

In addition to distributing relief items in Guangxi and Hunan, RCSC headquarters has also supported the distribution of relief items in Fujian and Guangdong in responding to needs generated by Tropical Storm Bilis as well as earlier typhoons and storms, which have pummelled these provinces, killing 198 and affecting millions since May.

DREF: Plan of action 21 July – 21 August

Funds received from DREF will be used by the Federation to support the RCSC's Hunan provincial branch to:

- Provide 15 kg rice to 20,000 people over the period 21 July – 21 August.
- Provide 10,000 blankets for 5000 families.
- Provide 350 boxes water purification materials

Developed jointly by the RCSC and the Federation delegation, the plan of action was based on the findings of a joint RCSC/Federation delegation assessment led by the RCSC's executive vice president conducted in Hunan on 20 July 2006.

These findings are as follows:

- Over 400,000 people are homeless in Hunan province's Chenzhou and Hengyang prefectures, with the government reporting some 7 million people affected by tropical storm Bilis
- 70 of the total 92 people killed in Hunan by Bilis were killed by treacherous conditions created by the storm in Chenzhou prefecture. 101 people remain missing in the prefecture.
- More than 30,000 rooms have collapsed in Chenzhou prefecture. Over 100,000 people have been evacuated to temporary mass shelters (school buildings).
- There is an urgent need to provide food for people currently housed in these temporary shelters.
- The RCSC will issue a national appeal on Friday 21 July.
- Based on the evolving needs, the International Federation is strongly considering issuing an international appeal during the final week of July.

DREF Budget

Items	Quantity	Price (CHF)
Rice	300MT	125,000
Blankets	10,000	48,000
Water purification materials	350 boxes	15,000
Monitoring		11,155
Total		199,155
PSR		13,845
Grand Total		213,000

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)

China: Floods; Appeal no.MDRCN001; DREF Bulletin

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>



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The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, Federation, Unisys weather, Xinhua