

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

Appeal No. MDRCN001

Date 10 October 2006

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 02; Period covered: 14 August to 28 September 2006,

Appeal target: CHF 5,950,200 (USD 4,825,791 OR EUR 3,782,708) ;

Appeal coverage: 20.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 4,741,577 (USD 3,732,026 or EUR 2,975,272);
(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website).

Appeal history:

- **Launched 2 August 2006 for CHF 5,950,200 (USD 4,825,791 OR EUR 3,782,708)**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 213, 000**

Operational Summary:

Although support for this appeal has so far been far less than hoped for, the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and the Federation have adjusted their plans to deliver relief assistance and provide permanent shelter to the most needy of the vulnerable rural communities affected by a season of unusually forceful typhoons. The latest figures from the authorities have confirmed the excessive destructive force of the flooding in 2006, which are the worst to strike the country since 1998 and have left millions homeless and without a viable source of income.

The RCSC and the Federation are giving priority for assistance to poor communities comprised of ethnic minority groups. The reason for this is that although the road to recovery from this year's disaster for all of China's rural poor will generally result in years of debt and hardship, the obstacles faced by ethnic minority groups for recovery are especially high. These groups are amongst the poorest communities and, as they generally retain their traditional way of life, are less willing and able to travel from their villages to other parts of the country in search of alternative sources of income. Further support for this appeal is urgently requested in order to allow this operation to reach a greater number of beneficiaries.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *Red Cross Society of China: Wang Xiaohua (director of external relations department); email: rcsc@chineseredcross.org; phone: +86.10.6404.8366, fax +86.10.6402.9928.*
- *Federation East Asia regional delegation in China: Alistair Henley (head of regional delegation); alistair.henley@ifrc.org; phone: +86.10.6532.7162, fax: +86.10.6532.7166.*
- *Federation Secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific department): Ewa Eriksson (regional officer); email: ewa.eriksson@ifrc.org; phone: +41.22.730.4252; fax: +41.22.733.0395; or Sandra Rosner (senior assistant); email: sandra.rosner@ifrc.org; phone: +41.22.730.4456; fax: +41.22.733.0395*

Background

According to the latest statistic provided by the ministry of civil affairs, China was host to the most severe natural disasters since 1998 largely due to an unusually severe typhoon season that triggered flooding and landslides in eastern, central and southern areas. To date, natural disasters this year have killed 2,295 people and left 564 missing. Over 13.2 million people have been evacuated and relocated with almost six million houses severely damaged or destroyed. In addition to the destruction of millions of hectares of farmland, the livelihood of rural farmers has been adversely affected with floods having killed 1.27 million head of livestock and 21 million

poultry, destroying 5.7 million square meters of stockbreeding yard and damaging over 1.2 million tons of aquatic products.

Operational developments

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

To date, support for the appeal was received from the American Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Irish government, the Japanese Red Cross, Kraft Foods, the Swedish Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and the United States embassy in Beijing (see attached contributions list for details).

Funding received thus far in response to the Federation's appeal has been used to support four action plans which have been developed according to priorities identified jointly by the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and the Federation's East Asia regional delegation during several assessment missions carried out in July and August. In some cases where donations were earmarked, items have been procured according to the donor's specifications. The procurement process for these action plans are currently being finalized, and the precise quantities of each item will be determined based on the final price obtained.

Plan of Action	Items to be distributed
POA No: 1	31,180 quilts for distribution to Hunan, Guangxi, Jiangxi and Guangdong.
POA No: 2	214 MT of rice for distribution to Jiangxi Province.
POA No: 3	124 MT of rice for distribution to Fujian province
POA No: 4	Building materials (brick, cement, lumber, steel bars) to families who completely lost their homes in Lingxiu township, Hunan province.
Danish Red Cross in-kind donation	16,000 quilts to be distributed to Fujian and Guangxi provinces

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 60,000 of the most affected families (240,000 people) in Hunan, Jiangxi, Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian provinces have received 3,600 MT rice (15kg per person/one time distribution), 1,300 family tents and 30,000 quilts.

Quilts and Tents

The first shipment of 16,000 quilts, procured by the Danish Red Cross, are scheduled for distribution in Fujian and Guangxi provinces during the final week of September, in time for the country's October holiday.

A second order of quilts is in the process of being procured through the RCSC's logistics office in Beijing. As of September, the need for quilts has been fully covered.

Rice

To date distributions of rice are planned to take place in Fujian and Jiangxi provinces. Although it is relatively better able to recover from the impact of the typhoon, Fujian was given priority for the receipt of rice as it was the province where each of the typhoons first hit and, has received less Red Cross assistance than the other four provinces.



Currently living in makeshift shelters, China's impoverished Yao ethnic minority face some of the greatest challenges in recovering from a devastating season of disaster.

Assistance will be targeted towards rural poor living in in-land communities who lost their homes and/or crops. Jiangxi was given priority for assistance due to the low economic status of the disaster affected areas.

Reconstruction of Shelter

Objective: 1,200 most vulnerable displaced and poor families living in highly-flood affected villages are assisted in the rebuilding of their homes in Hunan, one county in Jiangxi and one county in Guangxi through supplements to local government response.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Hunan (Lingxiu Yao ethnic minority group township)

The RCSC and the Federation will support the reconstruction of 240 homes in Rucheng county's Lingxiu Yao ethnic minority township. Rucheng county which has been classified by the state as "poverty stricken," is a remote mountainous area which is difficult to access by road. As the area is difficult to access, prior to a joint RCSC/Federation field visit made in the middle of August, no other NGOs or charitable organizations had been to the area.



"The RCSC with the support of the Federation is supporting the reconstruction of houses for 240 families such as the ones depicted here.

Rucheng county was struck by both tropical storm Bilis and typhoon Kaemi. The area reported rainfall of up to 417 mm, the highest recorded level of rain over the past 500 years affecting all of the county's 23 townships. 259,000 people out of a total population of 360,000 were affected by the storms. Lingxiu township which is a Yao ethnic minority township; Wenming township, Yingdong Yao ethnic minority township, Yaoshou Yao ethnic minority township and Waisha township also primarily populated by the Yao people were among the worst affected areas. The Yao ethnic group, with a population of 2.13 million, is mainly scattered in the mountain areas in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Hunan, Yunnan, Guangdong, Guizhou and Jiangxi provinces and mostly earn their living through agriculture. Others are hunters while the women are especially skilled in embroidery, weaving and dyeing.

Lingxiu Yao ethnic minority group township comprises 12 villages which are home to 10,255 people. On 15 July, severe floods, mud, rock and landslides triggered by the typhoons destroyed 342 of the township's total of 2,615 houses, leaving 1,407 people (13.7% of the population) homeless. All 12 of the township's villages and the entire population of 10,200 people suffered from the harsh impact of a season of successive severe natural disasters. Nearly half of the available farmland was affected by the floods, which destroyed a substantial amount of this season's crops as well as the land itself and leaving many farmers without recourse to alternative sources of income.

The cost to rebuild an average rural home in this area measuring 75 square meters (no water or electricity), housing three or more family members, is approximately RMB 30,000 (CHF 4,692). For communities where the average income is RMB 1,019 (CHF 159) per year in a good year (falling well below the dollar a day international poverty line), the amount of money required for reconstruction is formidable, especially when coupled with the loss of crops and the continued need to pay for necessities such as medical and school fees, clothing and food. The homes which the families lived in and wish to reconstruct serve several functions, housing multiple generations as well as all of the family's farm equipment, and in some cases farm animals. Although work is being done in response to such threats as avian influenza to discourage people from sharing their homes with animals, fear of theft or dips in temperature particularly in mountainous areas leave many families without a choice but to keep their poultry in their homes.

China: Floods; Appeal no. MDRCN001; Operations Update no. 02

At the same time lack of local resources, long distances and harsh road conditions limit the availability of construction material in the villages. This and the increase material costs of transporting materials to such remote areas contribute to the increased obstacles to recovery faced by the mountain poor.

The Rucheng county government has promised to provide RMB5,000 (CHF 782) to assist families who lost their entire homes to cover part of the costs of reconstruction. But access to this money is a complex process and families will have to rely on their own limited resources to commence reconstruction, as government compensation will be provided to families only upon evidence that the family is well into the process of constructing a home. Families will then receive compensation in three instalments when a government team (the local government has organized 12 teams to supervise the construction process) confirms that a family has completed the various stages of construction.

Given the poverty of Lingxiu township and the financial obstacles for the families to rebuild their homes, the RCSC and the Federation will support reconstruction efforts by providing families with building materials valued at CHF 2,000 (RMB 12,500) covering at least 41% of the estimated rebuilding costs .

At the beginning of September, RCSC headquarters, Hunan Red Cross and the Federation collaborated to develop a form for project beneficiaries to identify their building needs. Once the total needs are calculated the procurement of building materials will take place within the province.

Jiangxi

Discussions are currently underway with the Jiangxi provincial Red Cross branch to identify villages for similar reconstruction assistance from the Federation with funds received in September.

Flood mitigation activities

Objective: the vulnerability of communities affected by this year's floods to future flood disaster is reduced through the introduction of community based flood mitigation activities in four villages.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

It has been noted on several occasions that the largest number of deaths following each of the typhoons have occurred in inland areas which were less prepared to respond to floods, then areas along the coast where preparedness plans have been established. Further funding is required to implement this important component of the appeal.

Information/Advocacy

Over the reporting period, the Federation in Geneva and in Beijing have made best efforts to increase public awareness of the existing needs in China. Examples of activities undertaken include addressing the UN coordination group in Geneva, the publishing of web stories and reports, and conducting interviews by the regional delegation with the international media. In addition, the delegation and RCSC arranged a visit to China by the head of ECHO's regional office in Bangkok, during which the representative was able to visit one of the areas most affected by the floods to meet with a senior official from the ministry of civil affairs in Beijing. Although ECHO has decided not to support this appeal, the visit allowed the ECHO representative to gain a better first hand understanding of disasters in China.



A mother and child in their typhoon damaged home.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

Objective: Immediately distribute rice (300 MT); blankets (10,000) and water purification materials to victims of tropical Storm Bilis (14 July) in Hunan Province.

Following tropical storm Bilis which struck China on 14 July, the Federation's disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) released CHF 213,000 (USD 172,291). DREF released on Friday 21 July has been used by the RCSC for the immediate distribution of rice (300 MT), blankets (10,000) and water purification materials in the most affected areas of Hunan province.

Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) –national level activities

The RCSC launched a national appeal on 21 July and thus far received donations totalling RMB 17 million (CHF 2,656,250). In addition, it has received RMB 2.4 million (CHF 375,000) from Hong Kong Red Cross and RMB 1.1 million (CHF 171,875) from Macao Red Cross. These funds have been used to provide relief supplies to flood victims in Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangxi, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangdong and Fujian provinces and also assistance for victims of the earthquake that struck Yunnan in late August.

Funds raised through this national appeal will also be used to build new houses for 800 poor homeless families in nine villages in Hunan, Jiangxi, Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its 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>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the [Tsunami plan of action 2005-2010](#).

CHINA - FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRCN001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

06/09/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5,950,200	TOTAL COVERAGE 20.3%	
AMERICAN - RC		50,000	USD	61,650	09.08.06	RICE DISTRIBUTION
AMERICAN - GOVT/EMBASSY		250,000	USD	308,250	25.08.06	NON-FOOD RELIEF SUPPLIES
IRISH - GOVT		100,000	EUR	157,555	28.08.06	
JAPANESE - RC		241,300	USD	297,523	21.08.06	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,500,000	SEK	255,750	03.08.06	
SWISS - RC				5,348	29.08.06	LOCAL TRANSPORT COSTS
NY/KRAFT FOODS		26,500	USD	32,547	05.09.06	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,118,623	CHF	18.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWISS - RC				90,000	29.08.06	LOCALLY PROCUREMENT OF RELIEF GOODS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				90,000	CHF	1.5%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

CHINA - FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRCN001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

06/09/2006

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