

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 14 November 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. 03; Period covered: 28 September to 9 November 2006,
Appeal target: CHF 5,950,200 (USD 4,825,791 OR EUR 3,782,708)
Appeal coverage: 20.6%; Outstanding needs: CHF 4,725,777

(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: This operations update outlines the progress made in implementing the flood relief operation over the past six weeks. Although response to this appeal has been far less than hoped for, Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and the Federation have given priority to ensuring a balance between providing basic relief supplies and rebuilding of homes in some of the most affected areas. This year's operation marks the first time that the RCSC is supporting reconstruction activities of homes in Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan and Jiangxi. The response to this new initiative so far has been positive both from project beneficiaries and RCSC relief staff. Each year, thousands of families lose their homes to floods and landslides due to the use of inadequate building materials (unfired, compressed mud "bricks") and because their houses are often built in high risk areas prone to landslides such as mountains. The RCSC is working with community members and the local government to support reconstruction efforts by ensuring that reconstructed homes are appropriately designed and that construction materials are sufficient.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Background

According to Belgium's Centre for Research and the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), flooding in China in 1998 has affected a greater number of people (almost 239 million) and caused more economic damage than any other natural disaster on record. In the past few months, flood-related damage in China induced by a series of typhoons and tropical storms that began in May exceeded that record, with the country's ministry of land and resources identifying 2006 as having the worst floods since 1998. From January to September, 13.2 million people were evacuated and relocated in response to 95,454 natural disasters such as floods, typhoons, mudslides and rock falls which killed 2,309 people and caused a direct economic loss of USD 24 billion (CHF 30 billion).

Focus on Guangdong Province

Over the period May through October, Guangdong province was struck by nine typhoons including 14 July's typhoon Bilis, resulting in the evacuation of millions of people. Thousands of the mainly rural poor lost their homes and crops. Severe natural disasters such as typhoons, floods and drought are annual occurrences in the province. Although provincial cities surrounding the Pearl river delta are prospering, communities in the mountainous northern, eastern and western parts of the province remain impoverished with some ethnic minority communities still living in rustic structures made of stones and branches. With a population of 79 million registered permanent residents and 31 million migrants, Guangdong is China's most populous province and home, according to the province's party secretary, to the country's richest and poorest. The province is thus a microcosm of the huge socio-economic contrasts and the accompanying challenges that face China's population today.

Arriving in Guangzhou's enormous newly constructed Baiyun airport is an exciting experience that continues from the first glimpse of the city's massive gleaming skyline into the city itself. Three hours away, the approach into Liangtian village in Guangdong's Huizhou city is more humble. Piles of bricks are strewn across the dusty paths that link the village's flood damaged houses. The scene is an increasingly familiar one in China's rural villages of a community comprised of the aging and the very young, as beneficiaries gather to receive a quilt from the RCSC and the Federation with their grandchildren looking on.

There was little time to get out with warnings of the oncoming floods coming from a phone call placed to the village leaders from nearby Huizhou city. Ten-year old Zhong Weina relied on the strength of her uncle to carry her out of the village in time to a nearby school which functioned as a shelter. In the distance, a scarred mountainside is a cruel reminder of the houses that were destroyed by deadly rockslides. Closer down the road, past the women washing their clothes in a stream, elderly residents in Xiaqing village go about their daily chores while the children are in the village school.

At 65 years old, Lizuo lives with his mentally disabled wife with his two sons having left the village for nearby Huizhou city where they work washing clothes. The force of the winds from this season's typhoons have torn the roof off of Lizuo's kitchen, but with his crops gone and having to cover his living expenses and the medical fees for his wife with the CNY 300 (CHF 47) per month he receives from his sons, fixing the roof is not an option. The house is dark and it has been a few months since Lizuo was able to pay for the trickle of electricity that powers the few bare light bulbs randomly suspended by wires. Still these families are not the poorest in the province according to the RCSC staff. "The really poor people are in the north", where the relief officers from the Guangdong provincial branch have just returned from visiting the branch's reconstruction projects.



Mr. Zhong Zuxiao, 50 years old, stands in front of one of the houses destroyed by flooding in July. One of the main reasons the houses are destroyed is because they are built from unbaked mud bricks.

Although much of the Pearl river city wealth is derived from manufacturing clothing, for those in Liangtian village a few permanently soiled outfits will have to do. Fifty-year old Mr. Zhong Zuxiao, walks us through the village pointing out the caved-in walls and the missing roofs. The homes are modest even by village standards, many of them not much higher than a few metres, with unfinished floors. Like his neighbours, Mr. Zhong Zuxiao lost his rice crops because of the floods with water levels reaching above his head, and has been relying on friends and family to get by. At the same time, risks posed by avian influenza resulted in his losing three hundred chickens. Mr. Zhong and the relief officer from the Guangdong provincial Red Cross branch point to the damaged buildings explaining how the unfinished pressed mud bricks that are used in all of the villages homes were not strong enough to withstand the floods.



Mr. Zhong Zuxiao points to where the water reached following heavy rains triggered by typhoon Bilis.

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For most of the world, Guangdong is thought of as a rich province with the province's large numbers of poor being forgotten. Nonetheless, the gap is breeding tensions between the country's rich and poor with a large increase in social unrest. Asked about the potential and existing tensions in his province, the RCSC's Guangdong provincial branch's vice-head of disaster relief sees an important role for the RCSC to play in modern China as "the bridge between the province's rich and poor."

Operational developments

Operational activities are being carried out according to five plans of action jointly agreed upon by the RCSC's relief division and the Federation. To date, 16,000 quilts donated by the Danish Red Cross were distributed in Fujian and Guangxi provinces at the end of September, while 31,180 quilts purchased with funds from the US embassy arrived in Hunan, Guangxi, Jiangxi and Guangdong provinces during the first week of November and are currently being distributed. Rice for Jiangxi and Fujian provinces has been procured with funding from the American and Swiss Red Cross with the respective branches expected to complete distributions of the item by the end of November. The procurement process for building materials for 240 homes in Rucheng county commenced at the end of October.

Plan of Action	Items to be distributed
POA No: 1	31,180 quilts for distribution to Hunan, Guangxi, Jiangxi and Guangdong.
POA No: 2 Swiss Red Cross in-kind donation	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 240 families who completely lost their homes in Lingxiu township, Hunan province.
POA No: 5	Building materials (brick, cement, lumber, steel bars) to 60 families who completely lost their homes in Qinjiang township, Jiangxi province.

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

[\(Click here for distribution table\)](#)

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.

Progress/Achievements**Quilts**

The first shipment of 16,000 quilts, procured by the Danish Red Cross, were distributed in Fujian and Guangxi provinces during the final week of September in time for the country's October holiday. Some 31,180 quilts purchased with funds received through the US embassy in Beijing for distribution to Hunan, Guangxi, Jiangxi and Guangdong were delivered to the branches during the first week of November, with distributions expected to be finalized by the end of the month.

With the colder weather first setting in the southernmost provinces such as Guangdong, the distribution comes at a perfect time as many people in the warmer provinces are not in the habit of using quilts during the warmer months. Some of the branches such as the Guangdong Red Cross are supplementing distributions with other



A beneficiary receives a quilt from the RCSC.

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relief items such as family kits (clothes, toothpaste etc.) donated by local businesses. The quilts were procured in compliance with national law and in accordance with the RCSC's and the Federation's standards, with the joint RCSC/Federation committee on contracts having convened on 26 September at the RCSC headquarters.

Monitoring by the Federation and relief officers from the RCSC's Guangdong provincial branch of the distribution of quilts took place during the period 7 to 9 November in Guangdong province. While it was originally anticipated that the Federation would also provide tents to affected families as part of this appeal, as a result of a shortfall of funds and based on discussions with the RCSC about priority needs of the beneficiaries, tents will not be provided.

Rice

Distribution of rice in Fujian and Jiangxi provinces to 12,826 people (3,000 families) is planned to be completed by the end of November. Beneficiaries will receive a 15 kg ration of rice that is sufficient to meet their needs for a month. Following floods and the loss of crops, many families find themselves struggling to meet their needs for food. The one-month ration of rice is intended to help families in the interim period before the next harvest. Rice is one of the items that has been consistently identified by branches and beneficiaries as a priority need following flood disasters.

Selection of the supplier of rice took place on 17 October where the Federation's disaster management programme officer represented the Federation at the convening of the local committee on contract at the RCSC headquarters. Bids were received from six companies. Following a comprehensive review of the companies' offers, the contract was awarded to the Hubei Zhong Hui rice supply company. This supplier was chosen because the quality of the rice was the highest of all the samples submitted and the price was the lowest.



The Guangdong provincial Red Cross is supporting the reconstruction of houses. Cooperation with local government and communities in Shaoguan, Chaozhou and Meizhou counties located in the northern part of the province. Newly reconstructed houses are being built to withstand floods using "baked bricks" and concrete reinforcements. At the same time, beneficiaries are encouraged not to build homes close to mountains where the risk of landslides and rockslides are high.

response to floods. Specifically, the national society is supporting heavily affected villages with the reconstruction of individual homes and public buildings. The national society held a meeting in Hunan at the end of October to review progress to date with representatives from five provincial branches. With the RCSC headquarters setting guidelines and standards for the branches at the start of the relief operation, branches have adjusted activities to reflect the needs of their communities. In some cases, branches provide beneficiary families with financial support while in other cases, beneficiaries receive assistance with materials. In every aspect of the operations, RCSC branches are working closely with the local government and beneficiaries to ensure the quality of homes being

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

Procurement of construction materials for the reconstruction of 240 homes in Rucheng county in Hunan province, supported through the Federation's appeal commenced at the end of October. An agreement was finalized on 10 November between the RCSC and the Federation to support the reconstruction of homes for 60 families in Qinjiang township, Jiangxi province. Although it was originally planned that the Federation would support the reconstruction of housing in Guangxi, a lack of funding has prevented this activity from moving forward.

The RCSC branches in Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan and Jiangxi have moved ahead with reconstruction activities under the coordination of the RCSC's headquarters. For the first time, the RCSC headquarters is supporting reconstruction activities in

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built. They aim to reconstruct buildings able to withstand common disasters such as floods, and to rebuild in safer areas less prone to mud and rockslides that destroy thousands of households on an annual basis.

The RCSC has identified some key steps to be taken while working with rural communities in building safer houses. Firstly, in China it is very common for homeowners to build their houses using “bricks” made out of compressed mud because they are less expensive. These “bricks”, however, are simply air dried as opposed to baked and crumble easily when saturated with water. The RCSC is ensuring that proper bricks are used. Secondly, many homes are built without proper foundations and reinforcements. RCSC is ensuring these are included in the reconstruction of houses.

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)

On several occasions, the largest number of deaths following each typhoon has occurred in inland rural areas, which were unprepared to respond to floods, compared to areas along the coast, which have a much more developed infrastructure, and where preparedness plans and mitigation projects have been well established. Further funding is required to implement this important component of the appeal.

[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 achieve 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>.

CHINA - FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRCN001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

11/10/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					TOTAL COVERAGE	
					5,950,200	20.6%
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	
MONACO - RC		10,000	EUR	15,800	10.10.06	
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				1,134,423	CHF	19.1%

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

CHINA - FLOODS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRCN001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

11/10/2006

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

Annex 2 : China: Floods 2006 (MDRCN001)

PROVINCE	COUNTY	UNIT	QUANTITY
RICE (DREF) – distributed end of July. Total: 300 MT (DREF released 21 July)			
Hunan	Zixing County of Chenzhou City	MT	79.995
	Yongxing County of Chenzhou City	MT	40.005
	Yizhang County of Chenzhou City	MT	40.005
	Guiyang County of Chenzhou City	MT	40.005
	Leiyang County of Hengyang City	MT	60
	Hengnan County of Hengyang City	MT	39.99
QUILTS – distributed end of September: 16,000 to Guangxi and Fujian (In-kind donation Danish Red Cross)			
Guangxi	Bobai County of Yulin City	Pieces	2,000
	Pubei County of Qinzhou City	Pieces	2,000
	Guanyang County of Guilin City	Pieces	2,000
	Guilin Longsheng county	Pieces	2,000
Fujian	Fuding City	Pieces	3,000
	Fuan City	Pieces	1,500
	Xiapu County	Pieces	1,500
	Tuorong County	Pieces	1,000
	Shouning County	Pieces	1,000
QUILTS (POA 1) –distributed Nov. 2006: 31,180 quilts for Hunan, Guangxi, Jiangxi and Guangdong			
Hunan	You County of Zhuzhou City	Pieces	1,200
	Rucheng County of Chenzhou City	Pieces	1,200
	Beihu District of Chenzhou City	Pieces	1,200
	Linwu County of Chenzhou City	Pieces	1,015
	Suxian District of Chenzhou City	Pieces	1,000
	Xupu County of Huaihua City	Pieces	2,000
	Mayang County of Huaihua City	Pieces	1,200
	Dao County of Yongzhou City	Pieces	2,000
	Lanshan County of Yongzhou City	Pieces	1,000
	Hengnan County of Hengyang City	Pieces	1,000
	Guangdong	Shaoguan City	Pieces
Chaozhou City		Pieces	2,500
Meizhou City		Pieces	2,000
Jiangmen City		Pieces	500
Huizhou City		Pieces	500

Annex 2 : China: Floods 2006 (MDRCN001)

Jiangxi	Lean County of Fuzhou City	Pieces	1,600
	Guixi City of Yingtan City	Pieces	1,600
	Wannian County of Shangrao City	Pieces	1,300
	Shangli County of Pingxiang City	Pieces	1,300
	Yushui District of Xinyu City	Pieces	1,100
	Gaoan City of Yichun City	Pieces	1,100
	Longnan County of Ganzhou City	Pieces	1,000
	Suichuan County of Jian City	Pieces	1,000
Guangxi	Jingxi County	Pieces	500
	Fengshan County	Pieces	500
	Nandan County	Pieces	500
	Dahua County	Pieces	500
RICE (POA 2)- Distributions planned for the end of November: 214 MT of rice for distribution to Jiangxi Province. (In-kind donation Swiss RC)			
Jiangxi	Lean County of Fuzhou City	MT	30
	Wannian County of Shangrao City	MT	27
	Yushui District of Xinyu City	MT	27
	Longnan County of Ganzhou City	MT	24
	Guixi City of Yingtan City	MT	30
	Shangli County of Pingxiang City	MT	27
	Gaoan City of Yichun City	MT	27
	Suichuan County of Jian City	MT	22
RICE (POA 3) –distributions completed week 2 November: 124 MT of rice for Fujian province			
Fujian	Fuding City	MT	40
	Fuan City	MT	25
	Xiapu County	MT	25
	Tuorong County	MT	20
	Shouning County	MT	15.595