

INFORMATION 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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This Bulletin is for information only. While the Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors at this time, this may change depending on the evolving nature of the situation.

The Situation

In southern Hunan Province more than 300 mm of rain fell last weekend. One village was totally inundated, killing 25 people and leaving another 13 missing, and destroying belongings. The water level of the Xiangjiang River basin rose to a level of 38.1 meters early on May 19, leaving a number of buildings under two to three meters of water. In the area of Pengjiaxiang, just outside the provincial capital of Changsha, the riverbank broke at about 5 am on Monday (19 May).

The authorities have set up a warning system through local media to inform the population of any change above the critical 35 meter water level. At 8 pm on May 20, the water level in the provincial capital city of Changsha had receded to 36.43. As heavy rain is forecast upstream, the level of the water is expected to raise considerably in the coming days.

Preliminary statistics for Hunan Province during the period of 13 May to 19 May (according to the local authorities) indicate the following:

- 9 prefectures, 42 counties, 464 townships and 3,550 villages affected.
- Approximately 4.36 million people affected.
- 5,260 people injured.
- 5,726 people made homeless.
- 161,00 rooms collapsed and 35,000 rooms destroyed (*based on 5 units per house*).
- 49 Red Cross/MoH medical teams dispatched.
- 3,560 people treated.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

A Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and International Federation joint assessment team including the Federation water and sanitation delegate based in Hunan, has visited the most affected areas in Hunan province on 18 and 19 May. The RCSC and local authorities have provided first aid, quilts, tents, food and water to the flood victims. An evacuation centre for people made homeless has been set up as it is unlikely that the people will be unable to return to their homes for at least two months. A RCSC team is currently carrying out disease control measures. The Red Cross at all levels is working closely with the local authorities in providing transport, water and food, logistics, and accommodation support, and assisting with medical teams for disease prevention. Local fund-raising activities are also being organised to raise money and needed items for the victims.

Further information on the situation will be provided in the coming days as the extent of this disaster becomes clearer.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are 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 operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.