

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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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.

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In Brief

This document is being issued This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Chinese authorities have blown up seven dikes along the rain-swollen Huai River over the last two days to divert floodwaters and protect large cities such as Anhui's industrial town of Bengbu. During emergencies, authorities destroy dikes upstream from major cities in order to lower the water level by letting them drain into farmland and rural townships. When the decision to blow up the dikes was taken, the Huai River was 1.2 meters above its critical level, which is 35 centimetres above its past record high level. In Anhui province an estimated 400,000 people have been evacuated to safe areas, according to the local authorities. The majority are living with relatives and friends while tens of thousands are being accommodated in public buildings such as schools, factories and government offices or in tent camps erected in safe areas.

The water levels at all major hydraulic observation stations along the Huai River continue to exceed danger levels. In Eastern China's Jiangsu Province the situation is also serious. The state media has confirmed that by 7:00 a.m. the water level of Hongze Lake had risen 0.58 meters above the 13.5 meter warning mark. The Hongze Lake serves as a reservoir in the middle and lower reaches of the Huai River. At this level, the lake is already higher than it was in 1991 when it suffered one of the biggest floods in history. Some 68,000 people living by the Hongze Lake are being evacuated in preparation for diverting water from the Lake.

Meteorological departments forecast that torrential rainfalls would go on hitting the northern part of Jiangsu province and the Yangtze River valley from July 8 to 10. The affected areas include the northern part of Hunan Province, the southern and eastern parts of Hubei Province, the southeast of Henan Province in central China, and most areas of Anhui and Jiangsu provinces in the east.

According to information collected by the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), the heavy rains affecting large parts of Southern, Eastern and Central China, have affected close to 100 million people in 16 different provinces, causing 298 deaths so far this year. In the worst affected provinces Anhui, Jiangsu and Henan, all located along the Huai River, the economic losses are estimated to exceed USD 800 Million according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Some areas cut off by the flood waters are still inaccessible, and despite media reports and information being collected by the local RCSC branches country wide, a clear picture of the situation has yet to emerge.

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According to Xinhua news agency, the provincial government of Anhui has allocated RMB 46,7 M (USD 5.69 million) for relief efforts together with 100 MT of rice, 80,000 boxes of food and 50,000 boxes of bottled water to assist the population affected by the flood.

Hundred of thousands soldiers have been deployed along the rivers and the dikes and are on alert around the clock.

Statistics provided by the RCSC branches for the period of 01 May - 09 July 2003 give an overview of the situation;

Area	Affected population	Direct loss	People injured	People made homeless	Rooms damaged (5 units / house)	Rooms destroyed (5 units / house)	Acres of crop lands damaged	Medical staff	Patients treated	Death
Beijing	518,170	10M	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	44,985	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heilongjiang	75,757	15.4M	n/a	4000	4706	69	610,504	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jiangsu	37.09M	689.2M	130	148,069	86,354	29,469	21.3M	n/a	n/a	5
Zhejiang	908,000	35M	n/a	n/a	1000	1300	69,750	n/a	n/a	n/a
Anhui	21.3M	481.8M	5371	n/a	120,400	32,100	6.7M	4	630	5
Fujian	312,200	11.5M	249	149	4088	1011	n/a	n/a	n/a	3
Jiangxi	11.4M	113.3M	11,666	n/a	185,600	51,600	4.8M	22	2158	23
Shandong	507,000	55.8M	5	n/a	895	590	772,000	12	210	n/a
Hubei	208	9.5M	9	4202	12,030	3,869	4.9M	n/a	n/a	1
Hunan	8.2M	190.4M	5966	11,261	148,427	25,515	2.6M	70	4384	53
Guangxi	13.6M	241.3M	6946	3665	41,960	23,490	15.9M	106	2834	32
Chongqing	3.1M	57.3M	1363	26,600	32,100	126,400	1.9M	13	650	7
Sichuan	1.4M	39M	340	7448	35,849	5,234	630,327	36	1277	39
Guizhou	2.6M	37.4M	132	1992	49,793	3667	1.8M	n/a	n/a	66
Yunnan	11.9M	151.4M	n/a	2105	140,636	3721	7020	n/a	n/a	40
Xinjiang	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1396	1600	n/a	n/a	n/a	26

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The RCSC is responded to the floods by releasing materials from the its Disaster Preparedness Centres. The Society is in the process of procuring RMB 20M (USD 2.5 Million) worth of relief supplies. The funds are being provided through the central government, and will be used for tents, quilts, rice and water purification material.

Local RCSC branches in Anchi, Sichuan and Hunan are distributing relief items to flood affected communities. The branches have distributed the following items:

- Anhui: 239 tents and 2500 quilts
- Sichuan: 2,500 quilts
- Hunan: 150 tents

RCSC headquarters is closely monitoring the situation, and is prepared to respond to the emergency should the need arise.

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.

