

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.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

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

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has already allocated RMB 800,000 (USD 96,768), and provided tents, food, medicine, water purification tablets, detergent and other goods to the six worst affected provinces, including Anhui and Jiangsu. The RCSC together with the International Federation are closely monitoring the situation.

The Situation

As the Huai River valley suffers from the worst floods since 1991, Chinese authorities are intensifying their efforts to protect and assist the people in living in flood stricken areas. The Huai River originates in Central China's Henan Province and runs through the provinces of Anhui, Jiangsu and southern Shandong before emptying into the Yellow Sea. The river valley is home to 150 million residents, and is one of the country's major grain-producing areas. Heavy rainstorms have hit the valley since June 21, affecting tens of millions of residents and inundating several million hectares of farmland. According to the authorities, since the beginning of the flood season, a total of 1.97 million people have been evacuated and 1.5 million rooms (based on five units per house) have collapsed.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs has allocated money and distributed relief goods in the worst hit regions. To prevent the swollen Huai River from overflowing, water is being diverted into floodwater diversion areas to protect major cities. Hundreds of thousands of people threatened by these actions were evacuated to safer areas.

In Southwest China's Sichuan Province, the China Daily newspaper reported that waves of mud and rock swept through villages over the weekend, killing five and leaving scores missing.

In Central Eastern's Jiangsu province, the local authorities confirmed it would take from one to two months for the water to recede. In Xuyi county, which is located on the shore of Hongze Lake, some 5,000 people were displaced due to the collapse of a dike. They waited along an elevated road to receive tents and other emergency relief items. Hongze Lake serves as a reservoir in the middle and lower reaches of the Huai River. In Sihong County, on the western bank of Lake Hongze, 96,200 people were flooded on 3 July. Some 60,000 were resettled in tents made of plastic sheeting.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has already allocated RMB 800,000 (USD 96,768), and provided tents, food, medicine, water purification tablets, detergent and other goods to the six worst affected provinces, including Anhui and Jiangsu.

The RCSC together with the International Federation continue to monitor the situation closely.

On Sunday, 13 July, an assessment team headed by the RCSC, and which included representatives from the International Federation, left for the disaster areas. The team included the RCSC's Vice-President and the Head of Relief division, as well as the Federation Regional Disaster Preparedness and Relief (DP/DR) delegate accompanied by an Information delegate on special assignment. During the four-day mission, the joint team will travel to the central provinces of Anhui and Jiangsu along the Huai River.

The RCSC headquarters has established a telephone hot line to provide information and collect funds, and has opened a bank account to accept donations from individuals and businesses. RCSC is also encouraging its provincial branches to organise local fundraising for the flood affected people.

In Jiangsu, the RCSC provincial branch has distributed 60 large tents to recently displaced people from Suyi County, who had to leave their homes following the collapse of a dike along Hongtze Lake. In Sihong County, the RCSC provincial branch has set up a medical post and is treating victims with minor injuries. There are ongoing distributions of food and other relief goods in several flood affected areas.

A map of the flood affected areas is available at:

https://wwwsecure.ifrc.org/dmis/toolbox/maps/rw_china_floods_ib3.jpg

Both the Federation's Information delegate and the Regional DP/DR delegate are available for interviews. To set up interviews, please contact the Regional Information delegate in Beijing. (France Hurtubise +86 1350-120-5972)

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

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