

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 AND LANDSLIDES

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 05/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the DREF update.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Red Cross Society of China: Mr. Yang Xusheng, Head of the Relief Division, email; rcsc@chineseredcross.org.cn; phone +86-10-6512-4169; fax+86-10-6512-4169
- East Asia Regional Delegation: Mr. Alistair Henley (HoRD), email; ifrcn01@ifrc.org; phone+86 1350 1205 972, fax+86-10-6532-7166
- Federation Geneva: Mr. Satoshi Sugai, Desk Officer, email; satoshi.sugai@ifrc.org; phone +41 22 730 4237; fax+41 22 733 0395

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Flooding and landslides in China have killed 439 people and left some 21,600 injured. The latest statistics released by the Ministry of Civil Affairs Disaster and Social Relief Department indicate that landslides caused by floods have destroyed 340,000 houses and damaged more than one million houses, forcing 1.46 million people to abandon their homes.

The Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) relief division has received notice from 24 provinces regarding the occurrence of flood related disasters. Flooding this year in China is distinctive due to the increased number of landslides resulting in a relatively high death toll compared to last year. To date Hunan, Henan, Hubei and Yunnan provinces and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region have suffered the greatest amount of flood related damage. Although flooding poses a constant threat to southern and north-eastern China, particularly the provinces bordering the Korean peninsula, communities there have already suffered extensive damage and it is anticipated that flooding in the northeast will continue to worsen as severe weather systems continue to approach the area.

The economic loss in China estimated to be about USD 2.65 billion so far this year is best understood in the context of the lives of individuals. The people who are most vulnerable to the destruction of all their belongings by floods are those who have very little to begin with. Although some economic loss is attributable to damage of

roads and infrastructure, one must divide the imposing figure of USD 2.65 billion by the loss sustained by thousands of individual subsistence farmers whose total life savings (small house, crops and personal items) amount to no more than USD six thousand in the best of circumstances.

For the 340,000 families who have lost their homes, a new home will cost approximately RMB 40,000 (USD 5,000), and with many farmers only pulling in an income of USD 75 to 200 per year, USD five thousand is a hard target to reach even with the RMB 4,000 (USD 500) assistance provided to them by the government. The first question following the loss of one's home and all belongings is how to earn money or feed themselves when all crops have been destroyed, or how to replace the very animals that once sustained them. An ox for example, of which many were killed during floods, in Hunan province can cost roughly RMB 1,700 (USD 200) to replace. The government is able to address the need to repair infrastructure i.e. damaged bridges and roads after floods thus allowing the provinces to continue to function, however at this point and given the size and scope of the flooding there are a lack of available resources to meet the needs of all individuals.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As of the final week of July the relief division of the RCSC in Beijing has released RMB 8.03 million (CHF 1.3 million) in cash and in kind to support relief activities in 14 provinces: Inner Mongolia, Yunnan, Hunan, Shandong, Jiangsu, Guangxi, Henan, Hubei, Guizhou, Sichuan, Jilin, Gansu, Chongqing and Anhui. At the same time provincial branches have initiated local flood response activities as well, including fund raising activities and clothing drives. Although much has been done by the RCSC already to respond to the disaster, the national society still requires additional resources to meet the needs of the affected population. The RCSC headquarters is therefore launching a national appeal to support flood affected communities and is the only non-governmental organisation appealing for flood relief in the country. RCSC headquarters and the provincial branches are mobilising funds and relief items within their provinces and in areas that have not sustained any damage to provide assistance to affected individuals and support relief activities in heavily affected provinces. Money raised will be used to purchase relief items such as food, quilts and clothing. The RCSC anticipates that local resources raised through the national appeal will be sufficient in meeting the needs of the beneficiaries and that these types of activities will support the society in developing its profile as a key disaster response agency in China.

RCSC provincial branches are distributing disinfectant, water purification materials, clothing, quilts and rice to the affected areas.

Province	Type of disaster	Relief items
Inner Mongolia	Floods (earthquakes earlier this year)	disinfectant
Yunnan	Wind/hail; mud-rock slides; flood	clothes, quilts, disinfectant, rice, water purification materials
Hunan	rainstorms, mountain torrents	quilts, disinfectant, water purification materials, flashlights
Shandong	Flood	rice, disinfectant, clothes
Jiangsu	Flood	rice, disinfectant, water purification tablets
Guangxi	Flood	tents, disinfectant, water purification tablets, clothes, rice
Henan	Flood	disinfectant, water purification tablets, rice
Hubei	Flood	water purification tablets, rice
Guizhou	Flood	rice
Sichuan	Flood	rice
Jilin	Flood	rice
Gansu	Flood	rice
Chongqing	Flood	quilts
Anhui	Flood	quilts, disinfectant

The Hong Kong and Macau Red Cross have also initiated fundraising efforts, while the International Federation's East Asia regional delegation is working with the national society to raise public awareness about some key issues of flooding in China.

In support of the RCSC national appeal the Federation has released CHF 200,000 from its Disaster Emergency Relief Fund (DREF). DREF is a fund established by the Federation to guarantee immediate funding in response to disasters. Effective as it is, DREF requires constant replenishment to prepare for the next emergency. As such the Federation is requesting Red Cross national societies and other potential donors to support the replenishment of the CHF 200,000 released.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the [Federation's Annual Appeal](#).

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