

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

25 June 2004

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 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 02/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Red Cross Society of China: Mr. Wang Xiaohua, Director of RCSC External Relations Department, email;rcsc@chineseredcross.org.cn; phone +86-10-6512-4169; fax+86-10-6512-4169
- East Asia Regional Delegation: Mr. Alistair Henley (HoRD), email;ifrcen01@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

Some 121,000 people have been evacuated after six days of severe rainstorms in Hunan province triggered floods that have destroyed as many as 7,000 houses, damaged 10,000 homes, and inundated farmland in 30 of the province's counties in 12 prefectures. To date some 23 people have been killed, 500 injured and 24 are missing as a result of flooding, landslides and mountain torrents which has already resulted in an estimated economic loss of USD 293 million, affecting some 4.6 million people with destruction of property or due to the cutting off of access to transportation and telecommunications.

The provincial government in Hunan has taken the lead role in supporting the evacuation of the affected population from the flood affected area and those left homeless are being housed in temporary shelters that are being set up in public facilities.

Additionally the Red Cross Society of China's Provincial branch in Guizhou is reporting that four of the Province's townships along the Yin Jiang River are experiencing some of the worst flooding in 100 years. Rains on the 22nd and 23rd of June have affected some 556,000 people in 67 townships. According to the latest figures from the Guizhou branch, 73 people are homeless and 320 homes were destroyed due to heavy rains in the province.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 25 June, representatives of the Red Cross Society of China's Hunan provincial branch were in Yi Yang, Huai Hua and Xiangxi to assess the situation and to commence with the distribution of relief items. The branch has already provided relief and medical assistance to a total of 5,000 people by distributing 30 cases of medicine, 80 large tents, 480 quilts and 1,100 sets of clothing. Seventeen medical teams have already provided assistance to

1,500 people. The affected population is mainly comprised of farmers who have an average annual income of RMB 1,000 per year (approx. USD 125). For those who have lost their crops the summer will mean a long wait until the next opportunity for a harvest in September.

Following their assessment the Hunan Provincial branch team, which returned to the provincial capital today, has submitted a request to the relief division based in the RCSC's headquarters in Beijing for tents, rice, quilts and clothing for those people who have been left homeless or have lost their crops and/or belongings to the floods and landslides which have occurred in Yi Yang, Huai Ha and Xiangxi. The branch is also reporting that some 118,000 people are in need of food as they are either without access to food or have lost their supplies due to flood damage.

Further assessments are required as the situation continues to evolve, and a team comprised of representatives from the Hunan Provincial branch, RCSC headquarters and the International Federation will visit the affected area during the early part of the coming week and more detailed information will be passed on as it becomes available.

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.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)

