

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: TROPICAL STORM BILIS

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

Since April, localized rains and floods punctuated by a series of forceful typhoons and storms have swept through China, displacing hundreds of thousands in eastern, southern, south-western and central China. As of mid-day Monday July 17, 170 people have died and 100 are missing due to the latest large scale tropical storm "Bilis". On Friday 14 July, over half a million people were evacuated as the storm battered China's southern coast. It is estimated that damage caused over the past few days by tropical storm Bilis and the related storms have resulted in an economic loss of USD 37.5 million.

While Fujian, Hunan, Guangxi and Guangdong provinces received the brunt of the storm's wrath, central China's Hunan province is reporting the greatest level of storm-related deaths and damage. Over half of the Bilis-related deaths – 92 killed – were reported in Hunan, where the storm also destroyed 68,000 houses and thousands of hectares of farmland. The value of a small plot of land to China's farmers cannot be underestimated, particularly in provinces such as Guangdong, where land has become an increasingly desirable commodity as available farm grounds are increasingly sold off to large companies to build factories.



Thousands of farmers have seen their homes swept away in minutes by the latest cycle of floods to strike Hunan province

Once again, thousands of families are coping with the effects of the sudden loss of their home to floods. The impact of this loss is both immediate and long term, as families must move quickly to protect themselves from continuing rains and the consuming summer heat. Over the course of the next twelve hours, these families will have to quickly negotiate a way to cook for their families and find a dry place to make it through the night. At the same time, the tears of those who have lost their homes represent memories crushed in minutes and a life time of remember when.



Mudslides triggered by floods have destroyed homes and property in Fujian, Hunan, Guangdong and Zhangzhou provinces

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Red Cross Society of China (RCSC)



RCSC headquarters has supported 15 provincial level relief operation in response to floods, hail and mudslides since April
social relief organization that has close contacts with communities throughout China, and is well-positioned to respond to disasters in different parts of the country.

Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) provincial, prefecture and county branches in the affected areas have already initiated activities and relief distributions in the flood affected area. Guangdong, Fujian and Hunan provinces are all particularly flood prone, and as such the RCSC branches have accumulated substantial experience in flood response activities focusing on providing basic relief items such as food, clothing and disinfectant. Over the past eight weeks, the Hunan provincial branch, for example, distributed over RMB 2 million (approximately CHF 309,000) in relief supplies to the affected population and deployed 30 medical teams who treated over 3,000 injured.

In addition, to the ongoing local response activities, on Tuesday 18 July, a team led by the RCSC’s executive vice president will leave for Hunan to assess the disaster situation, while a second RCSC team led by the society’s head of relief will go to Guangdong. The Federation regional delegation’s disaster management delegate will join the Hunan team.

Since the start of 2006, the RCSC has been responding to multiple disasters that range from hail, snow and rainstorms, typhoons and floods. The national society works to ensure those struck hardest receive basic relief supplies to reduce vulnerabilities that can arise from harsh weather, loss of permanent shelter and contaminated water. With its 23.4 million members, the RCSC is a humanitarian

Table: RCSC emergency response distribution January-June 2006
As of 30 June 2006

Province	Month	Type of Disasters	Types of Relief Supplies	Value (RMB)
Xinjiang production & construction	Jan.	Snowstorm	Quilts	51200
Xinjiang	Jan.-Apr.	Snowstorm	Quilts, warm clothes, flours	546014
	April	Hailstorm	Cash	50000
Shanxi	March	Fire	Warm clothes	54800
Shandong	April	Hailstorm	Quilts, warm clothes	160200
Guangxi	Apr.-June	Rainstorm	Blankets, mosquito nets, tents, blankets, quilts, disinfectant	329632
Guizhou	April-May	Hailstorm/floods	Quilts, warm clothes	136400
	June	Floods	Quilts, tents	300732
Hubei	April	Hailstorm	Water purification tablets, disinfectant, quilts	99200
	June	Rainstorm	Quilts, disinfectant	63200
Hunan	April-May	Floods/hailstorm	Quilts, tents, disinfectant, water purification tablets	407732
	June	Floods/rainstorm	Tents, water purification tablets, quilts, disinfectant, household kits	764239
Jiangsu	April	Thunderstorm	Quilts	76800
Jiangxi	Apr.-May	Hailstorm/rainstorm	Quilts, disinfectant, clothes	157400
	June	Floods	Quilts, disinfectant, tents	209132
Anhui	May	Floods	Quilts	79500
Chongqing	May	Rainstorm/Floods	Quilts, warm clothes, tents	146194
Fujian	May	Typhoon	Quilts, disinfectant, water purification tablets, tents	252431
	June	Rainstorm	Disinfectant, water purification tablets, mosquito nets, clothes	300580
Guangdong	May	Rainstorm/typhoon	Blankets, mosquito nets	68950
	June	Rainstorm	Mosquito nets, tents, disinfectant	88443
Sichuan	June	Rainstorm/debris flow	Quilts	53000
Total				4395779

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The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

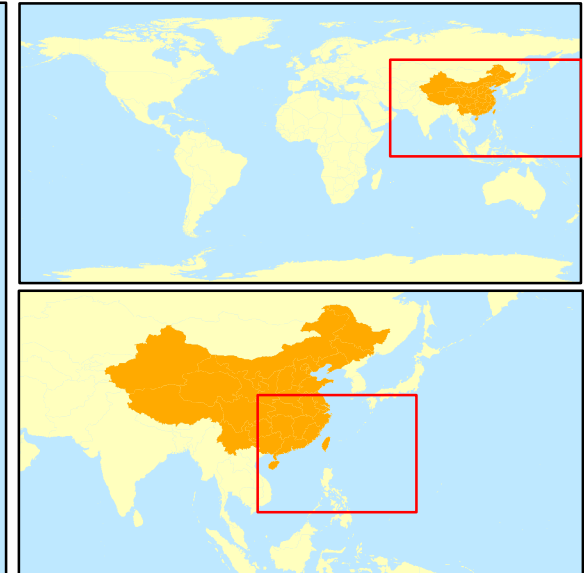
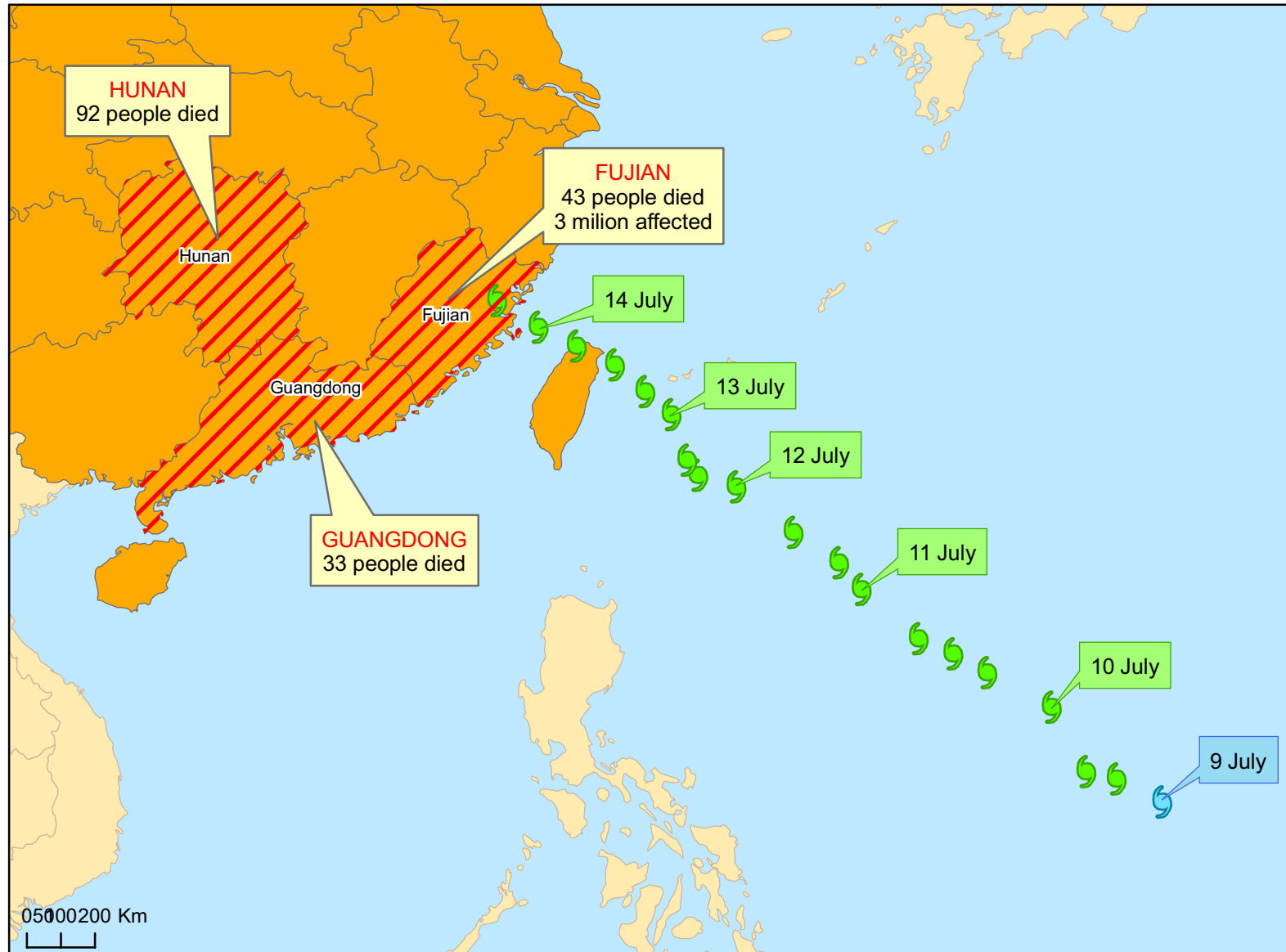
- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.






For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>



China: Tropical storm Bilis



Bilis

-  Tropical depression
-  Tropical storm
-  Affected provinces
-  Provinces
-  Other countries

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, Federation, Unisys weather, Xinhua