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Information bulletin

People's Republic of China: Sichuan Flood

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

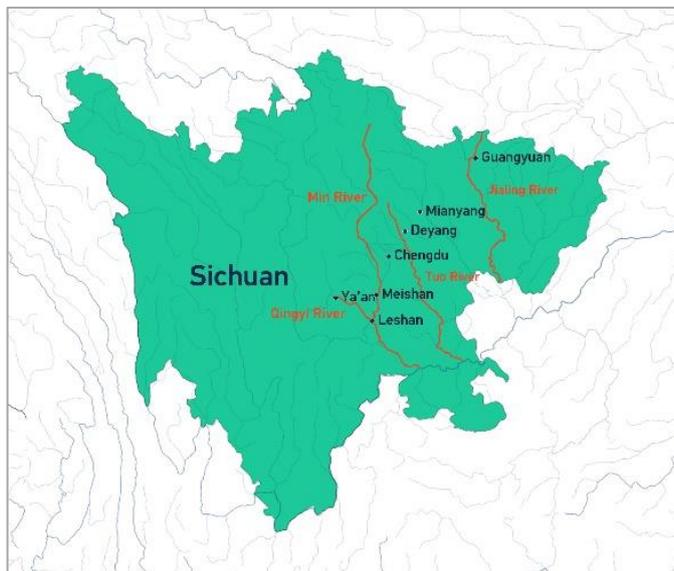
Glide n°	Date of issue: 20/08/2020
Date of disaster: 11 August onwards	Point of contact: Gwendolyn Pang, Head of East Asia
Operation start date: 11 August 2020	Expected timeframe: TBD
Category of disaster: Yellow	
Host National Society: Red Cross Society of China	
Number of people affected: 3,419,000	Number of people to be assisted: TBD
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time. However, this might change as the situation evolves and a DREF activation is currently under consideration if required.

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The situation

Torrential rain hit Sichuan province in southwest China since 11 August 2020. According to the initial assessment conducted by the government, 3,419,000 people have been affected by the floods in the province. The Chinese governments at different levels responded immediately to the floods affected area, dispatched rescue teams to evacuate people in the affected areas. As of 16 August, more than 60,000 residents were evacuated because of the heavy rain. RCSC and IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) Beijing office have been closely monitoring the situation in Sichuan and coordinating with the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM), the Chengdu provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters, Changjiang Water Resources Commission (CWRC) and Sichuan Climate Center to have continuous flow of information and the detail about the needs in the field. RCSC NHQ allocated emergency relief materials worth of 1.7 million yuan to RCSC Sichuan Branch and the China Red Cross Foundation allocated relief materials worth of 150,000 yuan. RCSC branches in Sichuan province are actively engaged in the response and relief work in support of the government.



Areas in Sichuan Province being heavily impacted by the new round of torrential rains and floods. (Source: CGTN)

Starting from 10 August 2020, Sichuan Province in southwest China has experienced several rounds of strong torrential rain. On 11 August, Sichuan province raised its blue alert to orange alert for the torrential rain, and the Sichuan Provincial Headquarter for Flood Prevention and Drought Control initiated a Level III response to the

flood (the highest being Level I). By 12 August, 107,000 people in Chengdu, Deyang, Mianyang, Guangyuan, Ya'an and Meishan cities were affected and more than 40,000 were relocated, and eleven people died or went missing in Ya'an.

From 14 to 16 August, the Sichuan Meteorological Observatory issued a rainstorm warning for three consecutive days, from blue to yellow and then to orange. The Ministry of Water Resources and the China Meteorological Administration issued an orange alert on 15 August for floods in parts of Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu over the same 24-hour period. On August 15, the Sichuan provincial meteorological observatory issued a yellow alert for rainstorms. The National Disaster Reduction Committee of China (NDRCC) and the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) urgently launched the national Level-IV emergency



Aerial photo taken on Aug.18, 2020 shows a view of the flood-hit Caoba Township, Ya'an City, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Photo: [msn.com](https://www.msn.com))

response to the recent severe floods in Sichuan and Shaanxi provinces, and sent two working groups to the hardest hit areas to inspect the disaster situation on the spot, and guide and assist the local authorities in disaster verification and assessment, transfer and resettlement of the affected people and basic living assistance. A joint Working Group comprising MEM and NDRCC members were dispatched to Sichuan, who inspected the flood situation and the development of emergency rescue teams in Jialing River, and assisted in guiding local emergency rescue and transfer and resettlement of the public.

The downpours hit the western Sichuan Basin and the eastern part of the plateau area in western Sichuan from 15 to 16 August, and continuous rainfall caused 31 rivers in the province to exceed warning levels. Farmland, transportation, water conservancy and other infrastructure in various parts of the province have been damaged to varying degrees. Rainstorms have been recorded in 12 per cent of the area in the province. 41 rivers had above-alert and over-preserved water levels. And 22 of these rivers reached the normal safe level, with twice the floodwater level recorded during the flood season last year. Both urban areas and villages have been heavily impacted by the new round of torrential rainfall since 10 August. As of 16 August, more than 60,000 residents were evacuated because of the heavy rain.

The Sichuan Provincial Headquarter for Flood Prevention and Drought Control raised the response level to Level-II on 17 August. On 18 August, the National Headquarter for Flood Prevention and Drought Control decided to upgrade the flood control Level-III emergency response to Level-II and sent two ministerial-level working groups to Chongqing and Sichuan to guide and assist local governments in carrying out flood control and disaster relief work. Subsequently, the Sichuan Provincial Headquarter for Flood Prevention and Drought Control raised the response level to Level-II, the first time the province has ever triggered a Level I response for floods.

As of 18 August, 20:00 hours local time, the "8.11" flood in Sichuan has affected 3,419,000 people in 142 counties (cities, districts) in Chengdu, Zigong, Panzhihua, Zhangzhou, Deyang, Mianyang, Guangyuan, Suining, Neijiang, Leshan, Nanchong, Meishan, Yibin, Ya 'an, Bazhong, Ziyang, Aba, Ganzi and Liangshan. The affected area of crops is 165,000 hectares, of which 21,000 hectares are devastated. 2,155 houses of 895 households with collapsed, and 6,158 houses of 2,484 households were seriously damaged. The direct economic loss is estimated amounting to 16.42 billion yuan. At present, the disaster impact assessment is still being conducted.

According to Sichuan Provincial Headquarter for Flood Prevention and Drought Control, this round of torrential rain in Sichuan Province has come to an end, and the floods in the main rivers are retreating, among which the floods in Qingyi River Basin have retreated below the warning level, and the floods in the main stream and tributaries of Tuojiang River, Minjiang River and Fujiang River are retreating. On 19 August, the flood response level was degraded from Level-I to Level III in Sichuan.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

RCSC and IFRC CCST Beijing have been closely monitoring the situation in Sichuan and coordinating with the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM), the Chengdu provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters,

Changjiang Water Resources Commission (CWRC) and Sichuan Climate Center to have continuous flow of information and the detail about the needs in the field.

RCSC NHQ

RCSC NHQ launched emergency response to floods in Shangluo City, Shaanxi Province, Heihe City, Heilongjiang Province, and some cities in Sichuan Province. According to the disaster situation in Sichuan, RCSC NHQ are mobilizing materials, including 4,000 units of family bags, 4,000 sheets of quilts, 4,900 pairs of jackets, 2,000 pieces of towels and other materials worth more than 1.7 million yuan to support the disaster-affected areas in Sichuan. All the materials have been allocated by 16 August 2020.

RCSC Sichuan Branch

The RCSC Sichuan Branch responded immediately after the flood and allocated 1,000 units of summer family packages (with a value of 370,200 yuan) stored in the RCSC disaster preparedness warehouse in Lushan County, Ya 'an City to support the rainstorm-affected areas in Ya 'an. On 12 August, relief materials have been delivered to the affected counties. The RCSC Sichuan Branch and the branches of the affected cities assisted the local Party Committee and government in the transfer and relocation of the affected people, urban waterlogged road sections and other work, organized Red Cross rescue teams and volunteers, visited the homes of the affected people to understand and evaluate the impact of the disaster, and supported the affected people in the recovery after the disaster. On 18 August, RCSC Sichuan Branch triggered a Level-I emergency response plan to the flood. The local RCSC branches in Sichuan have been actively participating in the flood prevention, response and relief work.



On 12 August 2020, the Red Cross Society of China branch staff distributed urgently needed materials after the floods in Lunshan County, Sichuan province. (Photo: IFRC)

Chinese Red Cross Foundation

To support the disaster relief work in Sichuan, the Chinese Red Cross Foundation mobilized a team to Sichuan to participate in disaster relief on 14 August and allocated 2,000 units of relief family boxes worth 600,000 yuan, which were already allocated to the affected areas. On 18 August, the Red Cross Foundation of China allocated another 3,000 units of relief family kits worth 900,000 yuan to RCSC Sichuan Branch to support the work in flood control and relief.

IFRC CCST Beijing

IFRC CCST Beijing is proactively offering their support in the form of a DREF and any technical assistance that deemed appropriate at the RCSC. The CCST team in Beijing is closely monitoring the situation and having close coordination with RCSC, MEM, NDRCC and other relevant stakeholders on the country to identify the support needs and any assessment requirement that may arise.



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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
