

FINAL REPORT



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

Appeal No. 18/2003

23 June 2006

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 183 countries.

In Brief

Period covered: 22 July 2003 to 31 May 2004; **Final appeal coverage:** 71%.

[<click here to go directly to the attached Final Financial Report>](#)

Related Appeals: [China Appeal 2006-2007 \(Appeal no. MAACN001\)](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 22 July 2003 for CHF 7,932,000 (USD 5,770,000 or EUR 5,120,000) for 9 months to assist 440,000 beneficiaries.
- Operation extended 2 months to 31 May 2004.
- Interim final report narrative posted on 19 July 2004. This was replaced by interim final report with interim final financial report on 31 December 2005.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 300,000

The activities related to this operation were completed two years ago, at the end of May 2004, with the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and the International Federation having since responded to various natural disasters during the summers of 2004 and 2005, and most recently, to floods and typhoons which occurred in May 2006. However, delays in the final settling of accounts with one of the 2003 flood relief operation's major donors has meant that the Federation is only now able to issue this operation's final narrative and financial reports to replace the interim narrative report issued in July 2004 and the interim financial report issued in December 2005.

The increasing frequency of large-scale natural disasters both in China and around the world have been attributed to among other causes the combined factors of climate change, increased poverty and environmental degradation amongst disaster prone populations. Given this trend, the RCSC, with support from the Federation and other donors, has begun working over the past few years with communities to increase the level of disaster preparedness at the community level. Each year, the southern provinces of China have proven to be the most vulnerable and susceptible to annual floods and storms. The balance of CHF 94,545 from this 2003 Flood relief operation will be used to support the RCSC's on-going community based disaster preparedness project (CBDP). As reported in the operation's interim report, a portion of the remaining funds was used to support the RCSC with flood response activities in 2004.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Background and Summary

Background



A local resident stands in front of what's left of his home.

Changes in the climate, deforestation and industrialisation are among the reasons cited for the increasing frequency of severe flooding in China. Heavy rains beginning in May of 2003 resulted in destructive floods and landslides which initially swept across 16 of the provinces traversed by the Huai, Yellow and Yangtze rivers. By September, some 150 million people throughout 26 provinces and autonomous regions were affected, sustaining flood-related economic losses amounting to USD 7.89 billion. 3.85 million people throughout the 26 provinces were forced to flee their homes and seek shelter in public buildings and makeshift tented settlements on dikes, with settlements sometimes extending for up to several kilometres.

Like China itself, the dimension of the flooding is enormous, where the economic and personal damage sustained by one individual province affects millions of people's lives, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless and causing millions of dollars in economic losses due to extensive crop and property damage. The damage in one province alone would constitute headline news in most countries around the world, with these challenges increasing exponentially with each additional affected province.

In recent years China's Ministry of Civil Affairs has developed an effective response mechanism to evacuate villages to higher ground or when available to temporary shelters prior to the arrival of floods thus leading to a dramatic decline in the number of flood related deaths. The Ministry of Civil Affairs is also able to provide some basic emergency assistance to a large number of those people who are displaced due to the floods, distributing items such as rice and tents. Nonetheless, the scale of the floods is massive and the needs exceed the means of any one single agency. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) therefore has an important role working in co-ordination with the government at the provincial and local level to provide support to the affected population.

On 22 July, at the request of the RCSC, the International Federation launched Appeal 18/2003 for CHF 7.8 million to provide a family package comprising 100 kg of rice, one mosquito net and one quilt, valued at RMB 335 (USD 40) to 110,000 families (some 440,000 individuals) who had sustained substantial personal losses due to the floods.

The joint Red Cross Society of China (RCSC)/ Federation operation initially provided assistance in eight provinces. As the unusual wave of flooding continued through September and October into provinces which are normally not subject to flooding such as Shaanxi, the RCSC and the Federation identified nine provinces where the affected population were in the greatest need of support. These provinces were Anhui, Chongqing, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Guangxi, Jiangsu, Shaanxi and Sichuan. Additionally, the RCSC carried out relief activities in response to the 2003 country wide flood emergency using funds provided by the National Lottery Fund and the Hong Kong Red Cross. Responding to the floods in 2003 posed special challenges to the RCSC and the Federation as the floods struck just as China was beginning to emerge from the epidemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) that had gripped the country.



The RCSC's support has brought much relief to local communities.

Summary

Improvements to the RCSC's operating systems in the areas of monitoring, finance and coordination both at the national and provincial levels resulted in the provision of relief items to flood affected beneficiaries providing comfort and support to the beneficiaries during the emergency phase and in the months that followed, reinforcing the society's evolution into a more effective relief organisation.

The RCSC's Federation supported flood response activities which commenced in July 2003, supported over 110,000 families by providing them with a quilt and/or a mosquito net, while a total of 6211.775 MT of rice and wheat flour was distributed to some 82,523 families. Monitoring visits conducted both jointly and independently by the RCSC and the Federation confirmed the satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the items, the quality of the items, and confirmed the appropriateness of the items identified for distribution.

The RCSC and the Federation's flood relief activities were made possible by support from the Austrian Red Cross, Australian Government, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Danish Government, ESTEC, European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, German Government, Liechtenstein Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, Japanese Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss government, and the United States Embassy in Beijing.

Analysis of the operation: Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Operational Objective: To provide recovery assistance in the form of rice, quilts and mosquito nets to 110,000 families in nine provinces most affected by this year's (2003) floods.

The impact of the activities supported by this appeal and the reasoning behind the choice to distribute the "family package" comprised of 75 kg of rice, one quilt and one mosquito net is best understood by having some background information about the beneficiaries for whom this appeal was designed to support and to whom the assistance from the RCSC and the Federation was being directed.

RCSC/Federation assistance was intended to support low income families living in flood affected rural areas who had:

- Lost their homes, or had their homes severely damaged.
- Lost their crops during the floods.
- Elderly persons without family support, physically or mentally handicapped, and families with very low incomes who had been affected by the floods.

The beneficiaries who received assistance from the Red Cross Society of China and the Federation were families who obtain their living from subsistence farming, and whose average income ranges from as low as RMB 700 to RMB 1500 (approx. USD 85-200) which is approximately one quarter of the earnings of low income families in urban areas who earn somewhere between RMB 400 – 500 (approx. USD 50-60) per month depending on the province and area. Families who received assistance tended to be around five people, usually two elderly parents, one to two adult children, and a child's spouse and child. In most cases men and children capable of working were engaged in migrant labour work elsewhere, thus of working-aged individuals it is generally the women who look after and work the plot of land with the elderly parents while the working-aged male seeks employment in the urban areas on construction projects. The families identified to receive RCSC/Federation flood relief items were selected by members of the local village committees in coordination with the county RCSC branch.

- **Emergency response phase**

Water purification tablets/Tents ([click here to see attached distribution table](#))

CHF 300,000 received by the RCSC, at the very start of the operation from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), was used for the purchase of 400 tents and 600 MT of water purification tablets and related operational costs.

Millions of people were forced to abandon their homes on account of the dangers posed by the strong force of the flood. Therefore one of the first and most immediate needs for the flood affected population was for shelter and the purchase of tents. As Anhui and Jiangsu were identified to be the worst affected provinces, with some 1.04 million people evacuated from their homes in Anhui alone, the decision was taken to concentrate tent distribution within these two provinces. Four hundred tents were immediately distributed from the RCSC's disaster preparedness stock and the DREF funds were used to replenish 400 tents in the disaster preparedness centre stock so that the RCSC remains prepared for future emergencies.

The other remaining urgent need, and one that is more difficult to meet, is the need for clean water. Rural water and sanitation systems are basic. The primary source of drinking water is individual wells, while open pit latrines are used for collecting human waste. The pit latrines and individual wells were completely flooded by the rush of flood water, leading to the intermingling of human and animal waste products into the drinking water supply, thereby contaminating the supplies of entire villages and leaving the population much more susceptible to waterborne and communicable diseases. Additionally, a vicious cycle is created as many of the homes sustained considerable water damage, or as a result of the flood waters entering needed to be cleared of mud, silt etc. The only available water, however, is the contaminated water leaving people with no safe water to sanitise their houses with. Because of this, the other part of the funding received from DREF was used for the immediate purchase of 600 MT of water purification tablets which were distributed in the eight provinces originally identified in the Appeal.

- **Relief and Recovery Phase**

Given the substantial personal losses sustained by the beneficiaries due to the floods, a family package consisting of 75 kg of rice, one quilt and one mosquito net was designed to compensate the families for their loss by providing them with basic household and staple food items whose value was roughly equivalent to half of their estimated average annual income.

Cash flow due to the drawn out arrival of funding over an eight month period, however, posed an obstacle to planning and coordinating the simultaneous delivery of the items. Thus the three items were not as originally envisaged delivered at one time to the beneficiaries as a “package,” but arrived in batches during the operational period with the first distributions of nets occurring in August 2003 while the last distribution of rice took place in April 2004. RCSC branches, however, were diligent in ensuring that to the extent possible families identified for the “package” received all three items.



Beneficiaries receive family packages that offset some of the losses suffered in the floods.

In essence the implementation of the China Floods 2003 operation should be viewed as a series of operations within the framework of the appeal. Funding arrived over the period July 2003 through March 2004 and with the arrival of each donation a plan of action was developed by the RCSC and the Federation. There were in total seven plans of action in regard to the purchase and distribution of the relief items thus demanding seven rounds of procurement, distribution and administrative duties from the RCSC’s national office, branches and the Federation. ([click here to see attached planning tables](#))

Distributions were well publicised among the local branches and beneficiaries in the nine provinces were selected by a village committee coordinated by RCSC branch staff. Representatives from the committees, when interviewed by the Federation’s relief coordinator and field delegate confirmed that they were employing the criteria for assistance set forth by the Federation and the RCSC in the original Appeal document. After identifying beneficiaries, the names of beneficiaries were prominently and publicly displayed on a bright red board at the entrance to the distribution area and committees were available to hear suggestions from the community regarding the choice of beneficiaries and upon necessity amend the list.

1. Mosquito nets ([click here to see attached distribution table](#))

A total of 136,300 mosquito nets were distributed throughout the nine provinces. The choice to purchase mosquito nets with the initial funding that arrived in response to the appeal was based on the fact that the distribution of the item was most relevant during the warmer months and that items such as the quilts could be distributed when the colder weather arrived. Procurement occurred during the third week of August, and the first delivery of nets, to three of the provinces commenced during the third week of September.

In the case of mosquito nets, a favourable exchange rate between the Chinese Yuan (RMB) and the Swiss Franc (CHF) combined with sufficient funding raised from contributions received in the weeks immediately following the

launch of the appeal allowed for the purchase of some 136,000 mosquito nets, exceeding the original number of nets specified in the Appeal (110,000).

The mosquito nets are suited to be used on double beds and have been packed in a manner which prominently displays the Red Cross emblem. The packaging of the nets, which featured a large Red Cross on a clear plastic bag, contributed somewhat to increasing awareness of the Red Cross Society of China at the village level. Many of the villagers in the farming communities are unable to read and therefore rely heavily on visual communications methods.

Although the final distribution of the nets occurred after the warmer months in the northern provinces covered by the appeal, most of the households visited were in the habit of using nets during the summer months, and it was evident that many of the families were using damaged nets in need of replacement. Beneficiaries in Guangxi and Hunan, which are located in southern China were able to put the nets to immediate use as the temperatures were still quite high at the time of distribution. For the northern provinces, the mosquito nets which arrived in September were viewed as a good idea because they could be used over a number of years, however, the arrival of the nets following the summer season lessened the usefulness of the item.

Relief items, such as the mosquito nets, were allocated to the nine provinces in proportion to the extent of flood damage in the province. Provinces were divided into two categories: 1) severely affected and, 2) very severely affected.

The category of “very severely affected” provinces included: Ahhui, Jiangsu, Henan, Hunan and Shaanxi which allocated a larger percentage of all of the relief materials. “Severely affected provinces”, Sichuan, Chongqing, Hubei and Guangxi each received a slightly lower percentage of mosquito nets and other relief items.

2. Quilts (*[click here to see attached distribution table](#)*)

The RCSC distributed a total of 114,604 quilts throughout the nine provinces. Many of the beneficiary families visited were only in possession of tattered worn out quilts and welcomed the high quality quilts distributed through the RCSC and the Federation.

In the case of the quilts, funding for the purchase of quilts was received in instalments with quilts being purchased in batches, of roughly 30,000 quilts during different months. Additionally, earmarked donations imposing special requirements for marking and procurement had to be handled independently of the larger orders from the supplier. Although the total number of quilts, 114,604, exceeded the 110,000 envisaged by the appeal there were less quilts than mosquito nets meaning that not every family who received a mosquito net received a quilt.

In general, the families live in simple one to two-room households, with little to no electricity and no running water. The houses are constructed from bricks and mud with relatively flimsy straw roofs and no foundation separating the premises from the ground. The mud which is often used as the sealant for the bricks in the place of what is for these people unaffordable cement, makes these houses unable to withstand heavy flooding. It is this use of mud that causes the collapse of either the entire, or a part of the structure and leads to tremendous loss to the families. Even those houses that remain standing often are left with portions or the roof on the verge of collapse. The rooms are relatively small and serve multiple functions as a sleeping and cooking area, and storage space for small row boats, the food supply, personal items and farm equipment. As the houses are unable to stand up against what often become high speed powerful torrents of water from the overflowing rivers and tributaries entire villages are easily submerged and washed away in minutes. Despite steps being taken by the government to mitigate the vulnerability of families living in areas susceptible to flooding, many of these families can spend up to two months living outside in damp temporary settlements set up on dykes or in shelters waiting for the waters to subside and the chance to return to what remains of the villages and start rebuilding their lives. In cases where flood damage has been extreme as to obliterate a village, the beneficiaries will be relocated to an entirely new area.

Most of the beneficiary households are unheated and the people living in these rural areas stay warm throughout the colder months by wearing several layers of clothing at one time. Indoor and outdoor temperatures are often indistinguishable because the houses do not possess glass windows or wood shutters, and windows are simply covered with a piece of tarpaulin or part of a cardboard box, thus quilts are essential for keeping warm in the winter.

A supplier from Shanghai was identified following a tendering, and the unit price per quilt was RMB 55.3. The price included the cost of transporting the quilts from the factory to the nine operating provincial branches.

Relations between the RCSC and the supplier in Shanghai were quite good and due to a good flow of information the quilts were distributed according to the distribution plan. Discrete labels on each of the quilts with the RCSC's emblem contributed towards improving the organisation's visibility.

3. Rice/wheat flour ([click here to see attached distribution table](#))

A total of 6211.775 MT of rice and wheat flour funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) was distributed to some 82,523 families. The purpose of this activity was to provide recovery assistance in the form of cereals (rice or wheat flour) to low income families throughout the nine most severely affected provinces with 75 kg of rice or in the case of Shaanxi wheat flour.

RCSC/Federation beneficiaries earn their living by cultivating a plot of land granted to them by the government measuring approximately one-half to one entire "Mu" of land. (A "Mu" is a Chinese measurement equal to 0.667 hectares). In essence China's subsistence farmers are assigned a plot of land by the government. A certain part of their earnings from the land is used to compensate the government for use of the land, while the remaining sum is for personal use. These farmers who live a hand to mouth existence are unable to meet their financial obligations if floods, as they often do, destroy a season's worth of crops. When interviewed by the RCSC and the Federation at the close of the operation, beneficiaries often spoke about additional obligations to pay school fees and medical bills which the destruction of their crops combined with the need to repair their houses prevented them from being able to meet. Due to the destruction of crops which are the families' primary source of income and food, and faced with a long wait until the next possible harvest, most of the beneficiaries interviewed stated that food was their priority need following floods and the commodity was highly appreciated.

Monitoring

Comprehensive monitoring visits were conducted by Federation delegates and RCSC staff from the relief and logistics divisions. Beneficiaries and branches were asked a variety of key questions about their opinion of the relief items, understanding of Red Cross, and their future needs. When presented with the question as to what would be useful in the future nearly all the beneficiaries and branches responded with food.

The RCSC relief division conducted 18 evaluation (monitoring) visits to nine of the provinces covered by the appeal. The RCSC had easy access to the beneficiaries and beneficiaries were able to speak freely during the RCSC field visits about the items and their needs following the floods. The monitoring visits were different from the society's previous visits as households visited and beneficiaries interviewed were left to the discretion of the monitoring teams from headquarters.



Beneficiaries are carefully interviewed by RCSC staff.

It was agreed that in general the provincial branches have done a good job following the criteria set forth in the Federation's appeal. There were some problems faced with following the criteria for distributing the Federation's family package in some of the provinces. This was mainly because the relief items did not arrive at the same time. RCSC monitoring visits helped the society to better understand how beneficiary communities play an important role in self-monitoring to ensure that items are distributed to those who need them most.

Coordination

Agencies conducting emergency response activities at a significant scale in China are basically limited to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, local government bodies and the Red Cross Society of China. Unlike natural disasters such as an earthquake, or flooding in smaller countries which occurs in one concentrated area, China's floods response activities were spread out over thousands of kilometres, involving not only nine provincial branches but prefecture, county level and village branches within these nine provinces some of which are equal in size to large European countries. Therefore a great deal of effort must be made by the RCSC headquarters in Beijing, the provincial branch management and the Federation to ensure that information regarding beneficiary selection criteria, the arrival dates of relief goods and donor requirements are conveyed to the branches who are responsible for the final delivery of the items to the beneficiaries. Additionally, the Federation's delegates along with the desk

officer in Geneva maintain regular contact with donors with special requirements to ensure that activities are carried out and goods are marked according to the donor's specifications, that the donors are provided with all of the necessary documentation and that field visits are arranged.

At the start of the operation, the RCSC national office called a meeting for all the Red Cross branch officials in the provinces covered by this operation in order to ensure that all branches were aware of the aims of this operation, and the changes that RCSC is introducing to its relief procedures meeting was used to consolidate operational planning while taking the concerns of the local branches into consideration. Key topics covered included beneficiary selection, logistics and procurement procedures, money transfers and reporting requirements.

The RCSC national office is responsible for coordinating distributions. Officers in the RCSC's national office in Beijing communicate with the provincial branches by sending faxes to the provincial branch which identify the item to be distributed, the amount, and any special conditions such as the funding source regarding the distribution. Confirmation to the national office that the RCSC's provincial branch has received the goods is done by returning the goods delivered note to the national office.

The provincial and prefecture branches record the receipt and distribution of goods using the RCSC's internal reporting system comprised of 13 forms. The forms are essentially tables which the branches fill out to reflect the item, when the item is received, when it is distributed, the branch's distribution plan and the actual amount of items distributed. The forms are sent via fax by the provincial branches to the national office, where they are collected and tracked by the RCSC's relief division.

At the provincial level, the provincial branch is responsible for coordinating local distributions. Prior to the commencement of distribution activities many of the provincial branches invite representatives from the prefecture branches to attend training meetings to review the Federation requirements.

At the village level each of the villages has a village committee responsible for selecting beneficiaries according to the criteria specified in the appeal. Beneficiary lists are then posted in a central location. Prior to the distributions, the local RCSC branch and village committee announce the distribution and arrange and coordinate the final distribution of relief items.

The branches also assume responsibility for garnering "visibility." Many of the county level and provincial level branches maintain good relationships with the local press and television stations and are often able to get good media coverage of distribution activities. During the initial stages of the operation the Federation East Asia delegation in co-operation with the organisation's communications division in Geneva assumed responsibility for working with the international press.

One of the most successful internal coordination initiatives were the bi-weekly floods task force meetings held in Beijing. The meetings brought together representatives from the Federation's flood relief team and East Asia Regional Delegation with representatives from the relevant divisions based in RCSC headquarters. The meetings were a significant first step in promoting knowledge sharing activities and played an important role in the management of the operation.

National Society Capacity Building

In March 2003, a rigorous review of the 2002 flood relief operation was conducted ("2002 Flood Review"). Recommendations made following the 2002 Flood Review to improve the quality of emergency relief activities, were addressed by the management of both RCSC and the Federation. It was originally envisaged that a plan of action would be developed based on the recommendations, but this process was overtaken by the need to respond to the serious floods which affected large parts of China and resulted in the issuing of this emergency appeal (18/2003). Once the operation was set into motion, the focus of the RCSC and the Federation switched from developing a plan of action towards jointly addressing the recommendations while implementing the 2003 Floods Operation. Recommendations from the review intended to build the capacity the RCSC were acted upon by the Federation and the RCSC during the implementation of appeal activities.

Key indicators of progress made following the 2002 review include:

Quicker response time to the emergency. Tents and water purification tablets released from the RCSC disaster preparedness centres were distributed within one week after the floods struck.

Changes to the RCSC's procurement procedures. The procurement procedures have changed in that the logistics department no longer pays for the relief items it procures. Rather logistics handles procurement and finance handles the payment for the items.

The Federation made efforts to better understand the RCSC existing procurement procedures and look for ways of working that would strike a balance between the demands of Federation's standards and the RCSC operational realities. To this end a Federation logistics delegate worked with the national society for three months in regard to the procurement of the food items. The logistics delegate worked closely with the RCSC logistics division in Beijing as a means of developing the division's capacity to comply with international standards for procurement. While working in Beijing the logistics delegate co-ordinated the translation of key documents such as the Federation's standard format for purchase orders and comparative bid analysis into Mandarin and conducted training courses in Guangxi and Hunan.

Introduction of new methods of monitoring by the RCSC relief division. At the conclusion of the operation, representatives from the RCSC's relief and logistics divisions visited villages in several counties or prefectures in each of the operational provinces. The in-depth monitoring of activities conducted by the RCSC involved visits to provincial, and prefecture level/county level branches and visits to villages where relief items were handed out. Upon visiting villages which received relief items, the RCSC aimed to visit 50 percent of the beneficiaries. The society prepared two comprehensive lists of questions. One list, intended for the branches, focussed on the management and implementation of activities, while the second was intended for the beneficiaries focusing on the quality of the relief items and the beneficiaries' understanding of the Red Cross.

The RCSC, in cooperation with the Federation, regularly held joint task force meetings throughout the duration of the operation between representatives of the national office and the Federation's China floods relief team.

These meetings were supplemented in November with a mid-term review where the task force team members were joined by representatives from three of the RCSC branches engaged in the operation. The mid-term review was a significant step forward as it was the first time the RCSC was ever engaged in this type of exercise.

In May, at the close of the operation an offsite progress meeting was held engaging representatives from all nine branches, the national office and the Federation. The purpose of the meeting was to review activities which went well and areas in need of further attention as well as to develop an approach for future emergency response based on the lessons learned during this operation. Based on input from all of the participants a draft appeal has been prepared which can be used in the event of future emergencies.

Finally, the RCSC has initiated comprehensive post distribution monitoring visits to all of the provinces where activities were conducted. Additionally, the RCSC, through discussions and training sessions about reporting with the Federation and a meeting held with the regional representative from ECHO has a better understanding about the importance of narrative reporting.

Improved cooperation between the Federation's East Asia Regional Delegation and the RCSC. This is in part due to the establishment of bi-weekly "Floods Operation Task Force Meetings" which were held between representatives of the RCSC's relief, finance, logistics, external relations and information divisions and delegates from the Federation's 2003 flood relief team. These meetings were an excellent opportunity to resolve issues that arose while implementing the operation's activities.

The Federation's flood relief team was given office space in the society's headquarters as well as being provided with an office in the Society's new building in February. Sharing the same office space greatly contributed to the improved understanding between the RCSC and the Federation as communications were extended beyond the limitations of formal meetings into working as one team.

The Federation also followed up on recommendations made in the 2002 review to help improve the quality of relief activities. The Federation's regional disaster management delegate, finance delegate and head of the regional

finance unit are working together to develop a system that will allow for the more effective flow of funding and, hopefully, avoid the need to create multiple plans of action in the future and allow for the quicker delivery of goods to the beneficiaries.

Lessons learned

Feedback from representatives of the RCSC provincial branches and the national office resulted in the recommendation that if the family package concept is to be used in China in the future then the family package must arrive as a “package” with all items being delivered to the beneficiaries at once. For the future it might be better to concentrate on two relief items for distribution following the emergency phase namely rice and quilts. By focusing on two as opposed to three items more beneficiaries can be reached while at the same time providing beneficiaries with items that have the greatest impact. In regard to impact, more thought needs to be given as to how to maximise the effectiveness of support received from the Federation. Increasing dialogue and the sharing of information and coordination of activities between the RCSC national office, the Hong Kong Red Cross and the Federation will also facilitate better serving the needs of flood victims.

Conclusion

Lessons learnt from the 2003 flood response operation paid off, as demonstrated by RCSC flood relief activities in 2004. Although more work is required, the planning, finance, implementation, reporting and logistics capacity of the RCSC has improved as a result of the combined factors of the two-year review process and practical experience. Compared to the previous year, time spent on the procurement and distribution of relief items in response to the 2003 floods was cut in half. The maintenance of good communication channels between the Federation and the RCSC relief division in disseminating information - through the international media, regular publications of information bulletins and information posting on the Federation’s Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) – also increased the visibility of RCSC response worldwide. A portion of the remaining funds from the 2003 operation was used to support RCSC’s flood relief activities in 2004. The rest of the remaining funds will be used to support the RCSC’s Federation-supported community-based disaster preparedness project.

[Final financial report, planning and distribution tables below](#)

[Click here to return to the title page](#)

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>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

CHINA: FLOODS

| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Year/Period | 2003/1-2006/5 |
| Appeal | M03EA018 |
| Budget | APPEAL |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

| | Health & Care | Disaster Management | Humanitarian Values | Organisational Development | Coordination & Implementation | TOTAL |
|---|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| A. Budget | | 7'932'000 | | | | 7'932'000 |
| B. Opening Balance | | 0 | | | | 0 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Cash contributions | | | | | | |
| American Government | | 141'400 | | | | 141'400 |
| Australian Red Cross | | 466'249 | | | | 466'249 |
| Austrian Red Cross | | 61'960 | | | | 61'960 |
| Canadian Red Cross Society | | 365'880 | | | | 365'880 |
| Danish Government | | 40'950 | | | | 40'950 |
| Danish Red Cross | | 68'800 | | | | 68'800 |
| ECHO | | 3'024'562 | | | | 3'024'562 |
| Finnish Red Cross | | 77'450 | | | | 77'450 |
| German Red Cross | | 336'278 | | | | 336'278 |
| Japanese Red Cross Society | | 340'626 | | | | 340'626 |
| Liechtenstein Red Cross | | 10'000 | | | | 10'000 |
| Malaysia - Private Donors | | 334 | | | | 334 |
| Monaco Red Cross | | 11'543 | | | | 11'543 |
| Netherlands - Private Donors | | 15'490 | | | | 15'490 |
| New Zealand Red Cross | | 1'276 | | | | 1'276 |
| Norwegian Red Cross | | 65'975 | | | | 65'975 |
| On Line donations | | 6'801 | | | | 6'801 |
| Other | | 0 | | | | 0 |
| Swedish Red Cross | | 120'211 | | | | 120'211 |
| Swiss Government | | 400'000 | | | | 400'000 |
| Turkish Red Crescent Society | | 30'000 | | | | 30'000 |
| C1. Cash contributions | | 5'585'785 | | | | 5'585'785 |
| | | | | | | |
| Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal) | | | | | | |
| Balance unspent to be utilized for China | | | | | | |
| Disaster Management project | | -94'545 | | | | -94'545 |
| C3. Reallocations (within appeal) | | -94'545 | | | | -94'545 |
| | | | | | | |
| Inkind Personnel | | | | | | |
| Canadian Red Cross Society | | 6'200 | | | | 6'200 |
| Danish Red Cross | | 30'399 | | | | 30'399 |
| New Zealand Red Cross | | 19'633 | | | | 19'633 |
| C5. Inkind Personnel | | 56'232 | | | | 56'232 |
| | | | | | | |
| Other Income | | | | | | |
| Transfer fr China Floods 02 EA | | 107'601 | | | | 107'601 |
| C6. Other Income | | 107'601 | | | | 107'601 |
| C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6) | | 5'655'072 | | | | 5'655'072 |
| D. Total Funding = B +C | | 5'655'072 | | | | 5'655'072 |

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

CHINA: FLOODS

| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Year/Period | 2003/1-2006/5 |
| Appeal | M03EA018 |
| Budget | APPEAL |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

II. Balance of Funds

| | Health & Care | Disaster Management | Humanitarian Values | Organisational Development | Coordination & Implementation | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| B. Opening Balance | | 0 | | | | 0 |
| C. Income | | 5'655'072 | | | | 5'655'072 |
| E. Expenditure | | -5'655'072 | | | | -5'655'072 |
| F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E) | | 0 | | | | 0 |

| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Year/Period | 2003/1-2006/5 |
| Appeal | M03EA018 |
| Budget | APPEAL |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

| Account Groups | Budget | Expenditure | | | | | TOTAL | Variance |
|---|------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | | Health & Care | Disaster Management | Humanitarian Values | Organisational Development | Coordination & Implementation | | |
| | A | | | | | B | A - B | |
| BUDGET (C) | | | 7'932'000 | | | 7'932'000 | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Shelter | 200'380 | | | | | | 200'380 | |
| Clothing & textiles | 2'310'000 | | | | | | 2'310'000 | |
| Food | 3'630'000 | | | | | | 3'630'000 | |
| Water & Sanitation | 99'900 | | | | | | 99'900 | |
| Total Supplies | 6'240'280 | | | | | | 6'240'280 | |
| Land, vehicles & equipment | | | | | | | | |
| Vehicles | 228'000 | | 76'200 | | | 76'200 | 151'800 | |
| Computers & Telecom | 23'000 | | 18'913 | | | 18'913 | 4'087 | |
| Total Land, vehicles & equipment | 251'000 | | 95'113 | | | 95'113 | 155'887 | |
| Transport & Storage | | | | | | | | |
| Storage | 252'000 | | 1'278 | | | 1'278 | 250'722 | |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 24'000 | | 10'140 | | | 10'140 | 13'860 | |
| Total Transport & Storage | 276'000 | | 11'418 | | | 11'418 | 264'582 | |
| Personnel Expenditures | | | | | | | | |
| Delegates Payroll | 330'000 | | 90'713 | | | 90'713 | 239'287 | |
| Delegate Benefits | | | 218'376 | | | 218'376 | -218'376 | |
| Regionally Deployed Staff | | | 468 | | | 468 | -468 | |
| National Staff | 37'800 | | 16'260 | | | 16'260 | 21'540 | |
| National Society Staff | | | 1'529 | | | 1'529 | -1'529 | |
| Consultants | | | 8'249 | | | 8'249 | -8'249 | |
| Total Personnel Expenditures | 367'800 | | 335'596 | | | 335'596 | 32'204 | |
| Workshops & Training | | | | | | | | |
| Workshops & Training | 25'000 | | 7'032 | | | 7'032 | 17'968 | |
| Total Workshops & Training | 25'000 | | 7'032 | | | 7'032 | 17'968 | |
| General Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | 58'000 | | 32'153 | | | 32'153 | 25'847 | |
| Information & Public Relation | 25'000 | | 5'446 | | | 5'446 | 19'554 | |
| Office Costs | 59'840 | | 18'598 | | | 18'598 | 41'242 | |
| Communications | 58'500 | | 12'576 | | | 12'576 | 45'924 | |
| Professional Fees | 55'000 | | 60'322 | | | 60'322 | -5'322 | |
| Financial Charges | | | 1'843 | | | 1'843 | -1'843 | |
| Other General Expenses | | | 92 | | | 92 | -92 | |
| Total General Expenditure | 256'340 | | 131'030 | | | 131'030 | 125'310 | |
| Depreciation | | | | | | | | |
| Depreciation | | | 400 | | | 400 | -400 | |
| Total Depreciation | | | 400 | | | 400 | -400 | |
| Federation Contributions & Transfers | | | | | | | | |
| Cash Transfers National Societies | | | 4'697'169 | | | 4'697'169 | -4'697'169 | |
| Total Federation Contributions & Transfers | | | 4'697'169 | | | 4'697'169 | -4'697'169 | |
| Program Support | | | | | | | | |
| Program Support | 515'580 | | 377'315 | | | 377'315 | 138'265 | |
| Total Program Support | 515'580 | | 377'315 | | | 377'315 | 138'265 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D) | 7'932'000 | | 5'655'072 | | | 5'655'072 | 2'276'928 | |
| VARIANCE (C - D) | | | 2'276'928 | | | 2'276'928 | | |

ANNEX 1: Planning and Distribution Tables

Planning

The actual purchase of relief items was subject to the availability of funding which came in phases. Therefore the purchase and distribution of the mosquito nets, quilts and the rice was divided into seven plans of action. The plans of action were developed taking into consideration the immediate needs of the beneficiaries, the amount of funding available and the donor's requirements. The seven plans of action are described in the table below.

| Plan of Action | Relief Item |
|----------------|--|
| 1 | 400 Tents (Anhui, Jiangsu) 600 MT Water purification tablets (8 Provinces) (DREF) |
| 2 | 136,300 Mosquito nets |
| 3 | 31,900 quilts |
| 4 | 16,210 quilts for Shaanxi 16,390 quilts for eight provinces |
| 5 | 36,600 quilts |
| 6 | 7,400 MT Food Items (Rice or Wheat flour) |
| 7 | 11,500 Quilts |

Flood relief activities and the purchase of relief items were also heavily affected by fluctuations in the exchange rate between China's Yuan Renminbi (RMB) and the Swiss franc (CHF). Budgets and Plans of Action which use Federation funds were drawn up in Swiss francs in accordance with the requirements of the Federation, however, it was often difficult to precisely determine the exact number of items until the funding arrived in China and was converted into RMB.

Donor response

| Month | Donor Response to China Floods; Emergency Appeal 18/2003 launched 22 July 2003 for CHF 7,800,000 in cash and in kind. | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| JULY | CHF 575,527 | |
| AUGUST | CHF 424,095 | (CHF 346,645 earmarked exclusively for quilts) |
| SEPTEMBER | CHF 903,389 | (CHF 206,320 earmarked exclusively for Shaanxi Province) |
| OCTOBER | CHF 400,000 | |
| NOVEMBER | CHF 3,148,637 (CHF 3,000,000 earmarked for food items) | |
| DEC. 2003 – MAY 2004 | CHF 150,000 | |

Distribution Tables

Emergency Phase: Tents and water purification tablets

| PLAN OF ACTION 1 -Tents and water purification tablets (DREF) | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Province | No. of boxes of Water Purification Tablets | Tents | Total no. of beneficiaries | Distribution Date |
| Henan | 224 | | 13,000 | August 2003 |
| Chongqing | 224 | | 10,214 (100 villages) | August 2003 |
| Jiangsu | 224 | | N/A | August 2003 |
| Sichuan | 224 | | 11,200 | August 2003 |
| Hunan | 224 | | 13,800 (4,600 families) | August 2003 |
| Anhui | | 400 tents for DP Centre replenishment | | August 2003 |
| Jiangsu | | | | August 2003 |

Relief and Recovery Phase

1. Mosquito Nets

| PLAN OF ACTION 2 - MOSQUITO NETS : 136, 300 Distributed | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Province | Total number | Date Arrived in Province | Number of nets distributed | Date distribution completed | Number of nets distributed per prefecture/county | |
| Anhui | 13,000 | 9/25 | 13,000 | 10/10 | Bengbu Huainan Hefei | 4800 4200 4000 |
| Jiangsu | 13,000 | 9/30 | 13,000 | 11/30 | Siyang Sihong Xuyu | 4000 4000 5000 |
| Henan | 19,000 | 9/23 | 19,000 | 9/28 | Xinyang Zhoukou Nanyang Zhumadian | 4500 4500 4000 6000 |
| Hunan | 19,000 | 9/28 | 19,000 | 9/29 | Xiangxi Zhangjiajie Changde Chengzhou | 5000 5000 5000 4000 |
| Guangxi | 13,000 | 9/29 | 13,000 | Not available | Hegang Beihai Qingzhou Fangchenggang Hechi Guilin | 1400 2000 3500 2000 3500 600 |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--|--|
| Chongqing | 19,000 | 9/14 | 19,000 | 10/17 | Wulong Wuxi Shizhu Zhongxian Fengjie Yunyang Chengkou Qianjiang Pengshui Youyang Xiushan | 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1000 1800 1800 1800 1800 |
| Sichuan | 19,000 | 10/14 | 19,000 | 11/13 | Guangyuan Luzhou Liangshan Nanchong Leshan | 4000 4000 4000 3000 4000 |
| Hubei | 13,000 | 9/28 | 13,000 | | Jingzhou Huanggan Yichang Xianning Shiyan | 3000 2800 2800 2400 2000 |

2. QUILT

| Plans of Action 3,4,57 – Quilts: total 114,604 distributed | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|--|--------|
| Province | Total number | Date arrived Province | Number distributed | Date completed | Number Subdivided to prefecture/county | | Remark |
| Anhui | 10,404 | 1/9/04 | 10,404 | Not available | Bengbu Huainan Hefei | 3960 3406 3038 | |
| Jiangsu | 10,404 | 12/25/03 | 10,404 | 1/16/04 | Siyang Sihong Xuyu | 3442 3442 3520 | |
| Henan | 15,604 | 1/13/04 | 15,604 | 1/20/04 | Xinyang Zhoukou Nanyang Zhumadian | 3200 3250 3154 6000 | |
| Hunan | 15,604 | 12/25/03 | 15,604 | 1/8/04 | Xiangxi Zhangjiajie Changde Chengzhou | 4166 4200 4313 2925 | |
| Guangxi | 10,404 | 2/5/04 | 10,404 | Not available | Guigang Beihai Qingzhou Fangchenggang Hechi Guilin | 804 1530 2896 1628 2946 600 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|----------|--------|---------------|--|--|--|
| Chongqing | 15,604 | 1/3/04 | 15,604 | 1/3/04 | Wulong Wuxi Shizhu Zhongxian Fengjie Yunyang Chengkou Qianjiang Pengshui Youyang Xiushan | 1860 1157 1116 1116 1181 1116 1116 1116 1116 1869 1116 | 1,725 quilts, funded through the Danish Red Cross and distributed as part of Poa7 were not distributed in previously identified counties . |
| Sichuan | 15,604 | 12/29/03 | 15,604 | 1/6/04 | Guangyuan Luzhou Liangshan Nanchong Leshan | 3614 2809 3563 2809 2809 | |
| Hubei | 10,406 | 1/6/04 | 10,406 | Not available | Jingzhou Huanggan Yichang xianning Shiyan | 1296 3214 2256 1640 2000 | |
| Shaanxi | 10,570 | 10/10/03 | 10,570 | 10/12/03 | Weinan Ankang | 5570 5000 | Quilts distributed in Shaanxi were solely funded by earmarked distributions in re: PoA 4. |

Note: Variations in regard to the distribution dates relate to when funding was received and transferred, and when Plans of Action and contracts were approved.

3. RICE/WHEAT FLOUR

Distribution of 75 kg rations of Rice/Wheat flour funded by ECHO (PoA 6)

Total number of families (82,523)

Total MT: 6211.775 MT

| Province | MT per prefecture/ county | | Item | Qty. | No. of families | No. of Villages | Comments | Distribution date |
|------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Hubei | Jingzhou Huanggang Yichang Shi Yan Xianning | 126.23 MT 124.3 MT 120.25 MT 86.95 MT 106.52 MT | Rice (packed in 25 kg bags) | 564.325 MT | 7,501 families | 32 townships | Average family size 4-6 people. 75kg per family. | 15 May 2004 |
| Jiangsu** | Si Yang Si Hong Xu Yi | 138.125 MT 138.125 MT 162.240 MT | Rice (packed in 25 kg bags) | 438.49 MT | 10,309 People (2,577 families) | 163 villages | Beneficiary lists were publicly posted prior to the dramatic rise in the price of rice. The branch therefore, as not to disappoint the beneficiaries elected to distribute the rice: 1-2 people 25kg rice 2-4 people 50 kg rice 4-6 people 75 kg rice | April 2004 |
| Anhui | Bengbu Huainan Hefei | 181.22 MT 165.47 MT 154.30 MT | Rice (packed in 25 kg bags) | 501.00 MT | 6,680 families | N/A | Average family size 4-6 people. 75kg per family. | Mar.16 - Apr 15 2004 |
| Sichuan | Guangyuan Luzhou Liangshan Nanchong Leshan | 174.00 MT 174.00 MT 174.00 MT 171.55 MT 174.00 MT | Rice (packed in 25 kg bags) | 867.55 MT | 11,567 families | 19 counties | Average family size 4-6 people. 75kg per family. | 14 Feb- 14 March 2004 |
| Guangxi | Lingshan Pubei Qinnan Lipu Pingguo Gangkou Shangsi Tiane Pingnan | 152.10 MT 99.10 MT 31.30 MT 48.30 MT 48.50 MT 40.90 MT 37.40 MT 52.10 MT 66.00 MT | Rice (packed in 25 kg bags) | 575.70 MT | 7,676 families (36,887 people) | 37 villages | Average family size 4-6 people. 75kg per family. | 17 Feb- 15 March 2004 |

3. RICE/WHEAT FLOUR

Distribution of 75 kg rations of Rice/Wheat flour funded by ECHO (PoA 6)

Total number of families (82,523)

Total MT: 6211.775 MT

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Chongqing | Wu Long Pengshui, Qianjiang district Shizhu, Qiuyang Xiu Shan Chengkou Zhongxian Yun Yang Fengjie Wuxi | 78.875 MT 78.875 MT 78.875 MT 78.875 MT 78.875 MT 78.875 MT 78.875 MT 78.875 MT | Rice (packed in 25 kg bags) | 867.625 MT 34,702 bags | 11,568 families <i>(57,840 individuals)</i> | 112 villages | Average family size 4-6 people. 75kg per family. | 23 April 2004 |
| Henan ** | Zhumadian Xinyang Zhoukou Nanyang | 283.05 MT 212.00 MT 212.575 MT 187.20 MT | Rice (packed in 25 kg bags) | 894.900 MT | 59,700 people <i>(14,925 families)</i> | ----- | Beneficiary lists were publicly posted prior to the dramatic rise in the price of rice. The branch, therefore, as not to disappoint the beneficiaries elected to distribute the rice: 1-2 people 25kg rice 2-4 people 50 kg rice 4-6 people 75 kg rice | March - May 2004 |
| Shaanxi | Ankang Weinan | 286.225 MT 273.175 MT | Flour (packed in 25 kg bags) | 559.41 MT | 7,459 families <i>(37,394 people)</i> | 257 villages | Average family size 4-6 people. 75kg per family. | 13 March 2004 |
| Hunan | Zhangjiajie Xiangxi Changde Chenzhou | 238.60 MT 238.00 MT 238.50 MT 227.70 MT | Rice (packed in 25 kg bags) | 942.85 MT | 12,570 families | 57 villages | Average family size 4-6 people. 75kg per family. | 7 March 2004 |

Note: Families and beneficiaries receiving ECHO supported food assistance from the RCSC and the Federation ranged from single party households, in cases where a disabled member of the community received assistance, to families of up to six people. The reported figure of 82,523 families is therefore an educated approximate.