



CHINA: FLOODS

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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

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 213,000 (USD 172,291 or EUR 135,684) allocated from the Federations DREF on 21 July 2006 to support response activities in China's Hunan province with 300 MT rice, 10,000 blankets and water purification materials.

On Friday 21 July, the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) released CHF 213,000 to support RCSC response activities, following heavy floods caused by tropical storm Bilis which struck China on 14 July. Only ten days after tropical storm Bilis hit Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Zhejiang and Jiangxi, typhoon Kaemi packing winds of up to 120 kilometres per hour struck Jinjiang city of southeast China's Fujian province on Tuesday 25 July. Damage and disruptions related to Kaemi has extended into Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan and Guangdong provinces, resulting in the evacuation of a total of 668,000 people. Relief funded by DREF, which has been channelled to Hunan, is therefore covering communities that are potentially affected by both disasters.



RCSC branches are actively distributing relief items such as quilts to those people displaced by recent floods

Since May, the number of natural disaster-related deaths in China has soared from 208 in May to the current figure of 1,467, while the number of damaged rooms (typical rural housing being a one to two story unit) of 1,079,000 is nearly double the number of rooms destroyed in 2002. At the same time, nearly 27 million hectares of land have been ruined.

The RCSC is effectively responding to the needs and has launched national and provincial level appeals to support flood relief activities. Following the outcome of a meeting held earlier this week between RCSC senior leadership and representatives from the Federation's East Asia regional delegation, the Federation will issue an international appeal in the coming days to support RCSC relief and recovery activities, with a particular focus on those areas that have been particularly affected by typhoons Bilis and Kaemi.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Background and current situation

Over the past 48 hours, some 649,000 people in eastern Fujian province have been relocated to emergency shelters in response to Typhoon Kaemi, which struck Jinjiang city of southeast China's Fujian province on Tuesday 25 July at 3:50 p.m. According to the China Meteorological Administration, typhoon Kaemi, the fifth typhoon to hit China this year, packed winds of up to 120 kilometres per hour as it landed at Weitou town of Jinjiang city.

Latest reports from the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China of the ministry of civil affairs show that as at 1300 hours on 27 July, typhoon Kaemi has killed 18 people and left 64 others missing since landfall in Fujian on Tuesday afternoon. Typhoon Kaemi's wrath extended to Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan and Guangdong provinces. Seven of the nine deaths reported thus far occurred in east China's Jiangxi province and two in Guangdong province. In Jiangxi, 11,000 people have been moved to temporary shelters while some 8,700 in Guangdong were evacuated because of the typhoon.

Over the past 48 hours, typhoon Kaemi, has destroyed 22,000 rooms (with the average rural farm house possessing somewhere between one-three rooms that are used to house family members, farm equipment and animals) and destroyed 47,000 hectares of farmland. While the loss of land in any context is a tremendous financial setback, in the context of China, where the average acreage per family is about one *mu* of land (roughly equivalent to one-tenth of an acre or slightly smaller than an Olympic-size swimming pool), the loss of land can be devastating. This is particularly overwhelming as available arable farm land continues to lessen because of factors such as annual natural disasters and increasing urban construction.

For Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hunan provinces, this is the second typhoon to sweep in over the past ten days. The fourth typhoon to hit the country of China this year was Bilis, which hit Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Zhejiang and Jiangxi on 14 July, caused heavy flooding and rainstorms, leaving at least 612 people dead and 208 missing. Following Bilis, the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund was used to support the RCSC's Hunan provincial branch with the immediate release of rice, blankets and water purification materials to affected families in Hunan.

Overall, the 2006 flood season is rapidly emerging as one of the most serious in recent years (see table 1 below for the cumulative flood data since the start of the year). RCSC flood response activities in other heavily flooded and typhoon-affected areas such as Guangxi, Fujian, Guangdong and an additional number of provinces are being supported through its own resources and the society's national appeal.

Kaemi has led to the evacuation of 100,000 people in Hunan province alone, which is still reeling from the aftermath of tropical storm Bilis which killed 346 people in the province and forced 800,000 people to evacuate only ten days ago. Seven people were confirmed missing in the province due to floods and landslides triggered by Kaemi. Five of the missing were from Chenzhou City, which suffered some of the harshest effects of tropical storm Bilis.

Those displaced by the floods are currently facing additional challenges as a heat wave set into the region, with temperatures rising as high as 38°C in Fujian.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Given the severity of the situation, the Federation's head of East Asia regional delegation and regional disaster management delegate met with Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) senior leadership on Tuesday 25 July. Following the outcome of the meeting, it was decided that the Federation will support the RCSC with the society's flood response activities by issuing an international appeal once the full impact of Typhoon Kaemi has been assessed. The Federation's international appeal will complement the society's ongoing national- and provincial-level initiatives. Funds raised through the international appeal will be used to:

- support the immediate distribution of relief items such as rice, tents, quilts and disinfectant in the weeks to come;
- support the national society with assisting heavily-damaged communities to recover from this year's floods; and,
- introduce community-based flood mitigation activities in areas repeatedly hit by floods, thereby decreasing vulnerability to future flooding.

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To date the RCSC has provided funds and relief materials worth USD 2.54 million (CHF 3.18 million) to affected provinces and regions including Hunan, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi and Zhejiang. The RCSC headquarters in Beijing allocated tents, quilts and disinfectants to five provinces and regions. Provincial branches of the RCSC have sent two million dollars worth of materials and funds to the affected areas, with the Red Cross branch in Hong Kong and Macao also having contributed USD 125,000 (CHF 156,355) to the typhoon-hit regions.

On Friday 21 July, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies released DREF to support flood relief activities in China's Hunan province with rice (300 MT), blankets (10,000 pieces) and water purification materials. Through the posting of a web story on the Federation's website and the issuing of regular information bulletins since the start of the flood season, the Federations regional delegation has supported the RCSC in raising public awareness about the developing flood situation its socio-economic implications and the RCSC's response. The RCSC through its own resources is providing information about the society's national appeal issued on Friday 21 July on its website (www.chineseredcross.org.cn).

Table 1: 2006 Flood-related disaster statistics 1 January to 26 July 06 (Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs)

	Affected (Million)	Dead (Person)	Missing (Person)	Injured / (Person)	Evacuated (Person)	Damaged Farmland (Hectare)	Collapsed Rooms	Damaged Rooms	Direct Eco. Loss (Million)
China Total	253.864	1467	373	43,170	8,025,000	26,676,700	1,079,000	2,986,000	100,710
8 most affected provinces to date									
Hunan	30.726	451	143	24,015	1,376,000	1,356,800	222,000	544,000	11,370
Jiangxi	23.137	57	1	6,326	475,000	927,000	88,000	562,000	6,080
Guangdong	18.465	152	80	788	1,674,000	630,300	148,000	135,000	19,920
Guangxi	16.855	81	6	4,176	976,000	554,200	69,000	112,000	5,390
Hubei	21.267	38	0	1,508	90,000	1,866,000	35,000	114,000	2,590
Fujian	10.732	165	27	0	1,735,000	455,200	172,000	170,000	13,790
Guizhou	10.118	110	34	242	272,000	406,300	16,000	147,000	2,140
Yunnan	4.761	108	52	174	54,000	532,900	16,000	349,000	960
sub-total	136.061	1162	343	37,229	6,652,000	6,728,700	766,000	2,133,000	62,240

Note: In China damage to houses is reported according to rooms. The average farmhouse is one-two levels comprising one-three rooms. These rooms are used to store grain, house animals and farm machinery and for the family.

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The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet 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>