

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## China: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCN004  
GLIDE n° **FL-2010-000122-CHN**  
12 August 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 493,628 (USD 467,849 or EUR 360,410) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 families (20,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

### Summary:

Since early May, torrential rain triggered floods in China which have caused a total of 1,072 deaths and 619 missing all over China this year. Strong storms have collapsed water reservoirs, overflowed rivers, caused landslides and power outages and damaged highways.

In the northwest part of China, on 8 August 2010, a massive mudslide battered Zhouqu county of Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu province. As of 11 August 2010, the death toll has risen to 1,117, with reportedly 627 people still missing. Some 45,000 people were evacuated as the mudslide destroyed up to 300 homes and damaged about 700. More than 200 hectares of farmland was devastated and over 10,000 heads of livestock swept away.

The mudslides have placed further burden on the resources available to the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), which are already stretched due to the extensive impact the flood conditions that have persisted for the past three months.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 11 November 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 11 February 2011.



One of the buildings destroyed in the mudslide triggered by floods on 8 August in Zhouqu, Gansu province.  
Photo: RCSC

[<click here for the DREF budget; or here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

Since early May, torrential rain triggered floods in China which have caused a total of 1,072 deaths and 619 missing all over China this year. Strong storms have collapsed water reservoirs, overflowed rivers, caused landslides and power outages and damaged highways. As of 5 August 2010, figures published by China's flood control authority indicate that major rivers from central, northern and southern China were all swollen beyond the dangerous levels. Up to eight small reserves collapsed as a result of the continuous rainy weather, and another 1,000 reservoirs remain at risk.

These floods are considered the worst in a decade, but for some areas along the Yangtze River this is the worst flooding in 30 years. Days of torrential rains have raised water levels in many tributaries of Yangtze to record levels and the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River had recently buffered the worst of the floods, blocking more than 40 percent of the water. The floods, the worst on record in the usually dry region in western China, caused landslides across the region.

While many provinces are struggling either in relief or recovery stage, the most recent seriously affected provinces lie on the northeast and northwest of China. In the northeast province of Jilin, latest figures indicate that 85 people died and 67 others are still missing, with the floods affecting approximately six million people, with 1.93 million evacuated. About 116,000 homes were destroyed and 298,000 houses damaged so far.

This flooding season follows one of the worst droughts in a century that has affected the southern regions of Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi. The compounding impacts on vulnerable communities of the drought and floods has whittled down their coping mechanisms and ability to recovery from such events.

Adding to the already tense and stretch situation across China, a massive mudslide battered Zhouqu county of Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu province on 8 August 2010. As of 11 August 2010, the death toll has risen to 1,117, with reportedly 627 people still missing. A total of 567 survivors had received clinical treatment and further 64 seriously injured had been hospitalized. According to a statement from the provincial civil affairs department, some 45,000 people were evacuated as the mudslide destroyed up to 300 homes and damaged about 700. More than 200 hectares of farmland was devastated and over 10,000 heads of livestock swept away.

The government has mounted massive relief efforts to help the affected communities and mitigate the worst effects of floods in the flooded areas. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) dispatched 5,300 soldiers, 150 vehicles, four helicopters and 20 speed boats to Zhouqu. Another 1,780 policemen and fire fighters from the ministry of public security are still struggling in their search for survivors under the debris. Hundreds of medical staff have also reached the affected areas and have started emergency medical operations. Rescue operations, however, could be further complicated as rains are forecasted for the next a few days.

The ministry of commerce launched an emergency response where relief materials including 16,700 tents, 110,000 blankets, 222,000 cotton coats, 333,000 electric torches and four million candles were sent to the county. The ministry also mobilized 435,000 boxes of mineral water, 10 tonnes of ham sausages, 295,000 boxes of instant noodles and other food supplies, which are en route to Zhouqu county at time of reporting.

The government dispatched 7,038 tents, 20,000 quilts, 2,000 cotton coats, 5,000 sleeping bags, 8,000 folding beds, 49,000 packages of instant food, 56,000 packages of mineral water, 230 electricity generators and 5,000 kilos of flour which arrived in Zhouqu by 11 August, with additional relief items on the way.

The Gansu province's department of civil affairs estimates there are still pressing needs for at least 10,000 tonnes of drinking water and 500 tonnes of instant food for the survival of affected population for the next 25 days.

The economy in the affected areas is mainly mixed industrial and agricultural. In addition to the economic damages to the local economy, the knock-on effect at individual household levels in these areas is devastating, especially for the farmers who rely on small-scale farming and depend entirely on their own crops. Yields will not be sufficient this year to satisfy their nutritional needs. The southwestern provinces have two rice harvests a year and their next harvesting season is in late August – early September, while the central provinces have only one rice harvest in August. The floods have destroyed, for some families, their entire annual rice crop and with that, their main source of income for their families for the next one year.

To date, the full extent of the long term effects of the current flooding across the country is difficult to quantify, but even at this point of time, it is clear that they will be extensive. These include devastation to the local economies, long term effects on the livelihood of subsistence farming communities and displacement or relocation of populations living in high-risk flood areas.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) is an auxiliary partner to the government in times of disaster and it is a first respondent to communities affected by disasters, providing much needed relief supplies and support. It is recognized by the government of the People's Republic of China as an important institution for addressing a variety of humanitarian needs facing China's people, especially in times of disaster. RCSC, through its headquarters based in Beijing and branches corresponding to state administrative units in affected areas (provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities), is closely coordinating its actions with central and local governments at each corresponding level, ensuring that Red Cross activities are focused in areas where they have greater impact and cooperation from the local governments. RCSC also works with various domestic partners in fundraising through its national appeal in providing relief support to affected communities.

RCSC has an active programme of international cooperation with other members of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, including its special branches in Hong Kong and Macao, the American, Australian, British, Canadian, Finnish, Netherlands, Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). With IFRC's support, RCSC keeps these partners updated on the evolving flood situation in the country and welcomes their support on a bilateral basis.

IFRC has been closely coordinating its activities with other key organizations in China since the start of the floods in the country.

## Red Cross Red Crescent action

Since May 7, the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has been carrying out extensive relief work in the affected provinces. The National Society launched a national appeal to help those affected by the floods in the affected provinces. RCSC is appealing for cash, temporary shelter and relief goods for survivors. The most pressing needs in the disaster area currently are for tents, quilts, instant meals, drinking water, medicines, environmental disinfectant and water purifying disinfectant.

As of 8 August, RCSC headquarters has provided assistance amounting to CNY 22.37 million (CHF 3.46 million) in cash and kind to the affected areas. Relief items distributed so far include tents, food (rice) and non-food items such family packets, quilts, blankets, towels and clothing. To meet urgent drinking water needs, the National Society distributed bottled drinking water and water purification tablets as well as disinfectants for environmental hygiene.

While local and national authorities are essentially meeting the most basic and immediate needs of the affected communities through the provision of basic relief items, nonetheless, a gap remains for the most affected and vulnerable families, especially those who do not have buffer resources or savings to meet the additional financial demands associated with living in relocated places or to get through the extended nonearning times when they cannot resume their normal economic activities.

In response to the Gansu landslide, the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) Gansu Red Cross branch immediately deployed an assessment team to Zhouqu county. A total of 500 quilts, 2,000 blankets, 1,000 boxes of drinking water and 2,000 boxes of noodles were immediately mobilized and reached the affected communities the same night. RCSC headquarters also mobilized 2,000 quilts and 400 family packs in



Community members affected by the floods and landslides received food and non-food items as a part of RCSC's response to the disaster. Many families are currently residing in tents and expect the coming days to be very challenging. With support from IFRC's disaster relief emergency funds (DREF), RCSC aims to support up to 5,000 affected families with additional food and non-food items as a supplement to their current meager food rations. Photo: RCSC.

support for the branch's response. As of 10 August, RCSC headquarter has mobilized relief materials amounting to CNY 3.5 million (CHF 544,371) in response to the landslides.

Other Red Cross branches are also pouring support to the affected area: The Gannan prefecture Red Cross and the Longnan Prefecture Red Cross has altogether mobilized 1,300 quilts, 500 boxes of noodles, 493 boxes of drinking water and other relief materials such as clothes which reached Gansu on 8 August 2010. The Shanghai branch of RCSC allocated CNY 1 million to support the Gansu branch to procuring materials locally. The Shanghai branch also deployed 100 tents, 1,000 quilts, and 500 disaster kits (including sleeping bag, mat, bowl, chopsticks, flashlight, and other daily necessities) valued at CNY 350,000, to the affected areas. The Hong Kong branch of RCSC also support the emergency operation by sending an assessment team as well procuring 5,000 boxes noodles, 7,000 boxes of drinking water amounting an approximate CNY 384,000 which is expected to reach the Gansu by 10 August 2010.

An assessment team led by the vice president of the RCSC has arrived in Zhouqu county to assist with RCSC's plan and response to the disaster.

## The needs

While local and national authorities are essentially meeting the most basic and immediate needs of the affected communities through the provision of basic food items, bottled water, water purification tablets as well as non-food items such as clothing, bedding and mattresses, nonetheless, a gap remains for the most affected and vulnerable families, especially those who do not have buffer resources or savings to meet the additional financial demands associated with living in relocated places or get through the extended non-earning times when they cannot resume their normal economic activities.

While the local Red Cross branches and government relief agencies have distributed a good number of quilts and other bedding materials to make living conditions more comfortable, the distributions are insufficient to meet the sudden influxes of a large number of households that need to be sheltered when water levels start rising in areas. This need was confirmed during field visits to the affected areas by the RCSC and IFRC regional disaster management staff. Providing these families with a short term supply of basic staple items as a supplement to their current meager food rations will enable them to reallocate their family income or savings that they would have to spent on this food necessities.

## The proposed operation

The proposed operation targets 5,000 families affected by the recent landslides who are expected to stay in temporary shelters in the coming three months in Zhouqu county, Gansu province. The RCSC through this DREF operation will provide food and non-food items including:

- 25kg wheat flour
- 5kg cooking oil
- 1kg salt
- 1kg sugar
- 5000 kitchen sets
- 5000 hygiene kits

In addition, the Gansu branch of the RCSC will provide hygiene education to the target families..

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

<b>Objective 1:</b> To provide 5,000 most affected and displaced families (approximately 20,000 individuals) in Zhouqu county, with essential food and non-food items to meet their immediate needs.	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
5,000 most affected and displaced families (20,000 people) affected by the landslides receive food and non-food assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a selection criteria of target locations;</li> <li>• Develop a selection criteria of beneficiaries;</li> <li>• Identify and register most affected and displaced families;</li> <li>• Procure food and non-food items in accordance with IFRC procurement standards;</li> <li>• Distribute food and non-food items to identified beneficiaries;</li> <li>• Continuously monitor relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions;</li> <li>• Conduct an ongoing assessment of the impact of the flood and review support strategies;</li> <li>• Conduct an impact evaluation.</li> </ul>

**Objective 2:** Provide the 5000 targeted families living in transitional shelters with improved hygiene conditions

Expected results	Activities planned
5,000 most affected and displaced families (20,000 people) affected by the landslides will receive hygiene kits and improved awareness of hygiene practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure and distribute hygiene kits to the affected households living in transitional shelters</li> <li>• Refresher short training for 25 Red Cross volunteers on hygiene promotion</li> <li>• Reproduce and disseminate hygiene promotion materials of the Gansu Red Cross, by adapting the messages to the current living conditions, as appropriate</li> <li>• Mobilization of Red Cross volunteer to the communities for hygiene promotion</li> <li>• Set up Red Cross boards with hygiene promotion messages in transitional shelters</li> </ul>

## How we work

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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**DREF BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Food	140,000	140,000
Medical & First Aid	15,000	15,000
Utensils & Tools	170,000	170,000
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	115,000	115,000
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>440,000</b>	<b>440,000</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	15,000	15,000
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
Travel	8,500	8,500
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,500</b>
Programme Support	30,128	30,128
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>30,128</b>	<b>30,128</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>493,628</b>	<b>493,628</b>