

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CHINA: FLOODS

20 June 2002

Information Bulletin N° 4

This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. A Preliminary Appeal will be launched on Monday 24 June.

The Situation

Latest reports indicate that continued flooding in central and western China has caused the situation to deteriorate. With China's rainy season having only just started, the situation is likely to get worse even if the amount of rainfall returns to normal levels.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) estimates that the current situation is already as serious as in 1999 when severe flooding resulted in the evacuation of millions of people.

It is, however, evident that a very large numbers of people have been severely affected by the floods to date. The following are the latest working figures for nine provinces provided by the RCSC. Due to the evolving nature of the situation these figures are unconfirmed and should be interpreted with some caution. Confirmed figures will be provided as soon as they become available.



Hundreds of thousands of families are estimated to be homeless due to severe flooding in central and western China.

Shaanxi: 5.1 million people in 34 counties (cities) affected, accounting for 15% of the total population; 152 people dead and 266 people missing; 83,000 houses damaged; 110,000 people homeless; direct economic loss CNY 830 million (CHF 54 million).

Sichuan: 25,640,000 people in 52 counties and 9 cities affected, accounting for 30.78% of the total population; 44 people dead and 13 people missing; 97,000 houses damaged; 275,000 people homeless; direct economic loss CNY 2.155 billion (CHF 400.5 million).

Chongqing: 5.23 million people in 14 districts (counties) affected, accounting for 16.9% of the total population; 23 people dead and 12 people missing; 5799 people injured; 144,000 houses damaged; 19,600 people homeless; direct economic loss is CNY 1.295 billion (CHF 240.6 million).

Guizhou: 1,157,000 people in 9 counties affected; 22 people dead; 10,199 people injured; 28,400 houses damaged; 12,300 people homeless; direct economic loss is CNY 310 million (CHF 57.6 million).

Hunan: 11,790,000 people in 74 counties affected; 71 people dead; 14,800 people injured; 49,000 people homeless; 107,000 houses damaged; 36,000 houses destroyed; direct economic loss is CNY 1.983 billion (CHF 368.5 million).

Fujian: 1,279,700 people in 20 counties affected; 39 people dead; 2,878 people injured; 72,034 people homeless; 52,500 houses damaged; direct economic loss is CNY 2.11 billion (CHF 392.1 million).

Guangxi: 2,750,000 people in 21 counties affected; 3 people dead; 1,581 people injured; 72,600 people stranded; 39,000 people homeless; 9,150 houses destroyed and 17,220 houses damaged; direct economic loss is CNY 1.56 billion (CHF 289.9 million).

Xinjiang: 596,000 people in 11 counties affected; 6 people dead; 307,000 houses damaged; 180,000 people homeless; 172,000 hectares farmland damaged; direct economic loss is CNY 600 million (CHF 111.5 million).

Hubei: 1.67 million people in 7 cities affected; 4 dead; 59 injured; 28,400 houses damaged; direct economic loss (no figures available at this time).

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The RCSC has exhausted their funds, and all emergency stocks stored in the Society's DP centres have been distributed. The Society's fundraising campaign is gaining momentum, but with more and more provinces being seriously affected most funds are being used locally.

The RCSC has accordingly made the decision to appeal for international assistance. A preliminary appeal will be launched by the International Federation on Monday 24 June requesting approximately CHF 4.5 million for essential relief items. The final decision on the appeal content awaits a co-ordination meeting with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, who are the coordinating body for the flood relief operations.

The Federation's delegate stationed in Guanxi joined a rapid assessment team and will be able to provide more detailed reports in due course.

The RCSC/Federation are in close contact with Embassies and the media in Beijing.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact:

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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