

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

27 August, 2002

Information Bulletin N° 8/2002 (covering the 24-26 August period)

This Bulletin is being issued based on the information and needs described below. The Federation is already supporting the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) in the affected area through Emergency Appeal no. 16/02, and donors are encouraged to contribute to support the objectives of this appeal. An operations update on the overall RCSC Federation floods operation will be available in the next 48 hours.

The Situation

Since 23 August the water levels of the Dongting lake have stabilized at 34.8 meters (2.8 meters above the flood warning level of 32 meters), or 1.2 meters below the critical danger level of 36 meters. For the first time (26 August), flood control points around the lake reported that water levels were slowly receding. But with rainfall continuing an emergency alert remains in force with hundreds of thousands of volunteers, supported by troops, continuing to inspect every inch of dike in order to prevent any critical rupture or failure. The pressure on the dikes will increase with the forecast for further rainfall over the next several days.

Despite the positive signs indicating that the level of Dongting Lake is receding, the rising levels of the Yangtze river led local authorities to declare a state of emergency in parts of the Hubei and Anhui Provinces.

According to RCSC sources, two thousand (2,000) people have been reported evacuated. There is however a possibility that 10,000 others could have sought temporary refuge in safer places without being recorded by the authorities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The RCSC's Hunan branch has been responding to repeated flood emergencies in the province since April this year. In addition to assistance provided under Appeal no. 16/2002 consisting of tents, quilts, and water purification tablets/powder, the branch has distributed 61 MT of wheat with funds locally collected, 300 MT of rice donated by the Shanghai and Guandong provincial branches, as well as 70 tents from the Hong Kong Red Cross (while 80 tents from the same donation are kept in stock). One thousand five hundred quilts forwarded to the Hunan branch (by the national headquarters) have been distributed as well. The branch is currently distributing 6,000 boxes of biscuits from a local donation -- three thousand are being distributed to beneficiaries, and the remaining 3,000 to volunteers working on dikes. Yesterday, the local Red Cross in Yueyang branch purchased 4,800 bottles of water to help rehydrate volunteers and troops working on the dikes. The water was a contribution from the Federation's Regional Delegation in Beijing.

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

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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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