

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:ZHEJIANG TYPHOON RANANIM

13 August 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin 01/2004 is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

According to the latest reports received on 13 August from the vice president of the Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) Zhejiang Provincial branch, Typhoon Ranamin which swept through the province at 8:00 pm on Thursday 12 August, has left 69 people dead and caused 3,321 injuries.

Over 400,000 people were evacuated due to the destructive and forceful typhoon that affected 638 townships spread out throughout fifty counties. A total of 302 of these villages have been stranded because of the large amounts of water, as some areas reported up to 200 mm of rain and forceful winds measuring as high as 45 metres per second, with Taizhou city and the three surrounding counties among the most severely affected. Although earlier reports stated that 2,200 houses were destroyed by the typhoon, more recent figures indicate that this figure could be even higher.

Like many of the recent natural disasters that have struck the country, the area's farmers sustained the greatest losses as a result of the typhoon, which killed a reported 31,000 heads of livestock (mostly cattle) and inundated 271,000 hectares of crops.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of China's Zhejiang provincial branch as well as RCSC branches in the affected area responded immediately to the emergency and are pooling resources with the local government to support the

evacuation and care of the people living in the affected area. Given the typhoon's devastation to infrastructure, crops and homes, the priority needs are for clean water, food and medicine. The national office of the RCSC is in contact with the branch to evaluate the needs of the affected population.

The recent wave of severe floods, the earthquake in Yunnan and the aftermath of this typhoon are harsh reminders of the vulnerability of the country's rural poor.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the [Federation's Annual Appeal](#).

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