

JAPAN: FLOODS

31 August 1998

Information Bulletin N° 1

The Disaster

Torrential rains from 26 August onwards along Japan's Pacific Ocean coast line have caused flooding in 15 Prefectures already and is still spreading. The Land Agency reports 13 people dead, 3 missing and 33 injured. More than 8,000 houses have been affected including 27 houses destroyed and 44 houses damaged. The Disaster Relief Act has been applied to the worst affected prefectures such as Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Saitama, and Shizuoka. As Typhoon No. 4 is approaching Japan, emergency relief precautions are being taken, especially in the flood-affected areas.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Red Cross chapters in the affected prefectures responded rapidly to this disaster by distributing 17,000 blankets, 12,000 family parcels, and 1,000 towels to the flood victims. Red Cross hospitals have dispatched 13 medical relief teams comprising 1 doctor, 3 nurses and 3-4 administrators. Some of them are mobile teams and some have established themselves in the gymnasiums of elementary schools or in other public buildings. The national headquarters of the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) has released supplies from its emergency stocks of blankets, family parcels etc., to replenish the relief goods in the affected chapters.

Needs

Relief goods have already been delivered to the affected areas for immediate distribution. No international assistance is required.

Further information on the flood situation will be provided once it is received from JRCS.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Hiroshi Higashiura
Director
Asia & Pacific Department