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DREF Operation Update China: Sichuan Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRCN005 GLIDE n° EQ-2013-000046-CHN Operation Update n°2 23 July 2013

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.

Period covered by this update: 4 May- 23 July 2013.

Summary: CHF 400,000 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 25 April 2013 to support Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) in delivering assistance to 5,000 families (20,000 beneficiaries).

As per the latest information dated 23 May, 196 people were killed, 14,785 injured and two were missing after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit China's Sichuan province at 8.02 a.m. Beijing time on 20 April¹. The epicenter of the quake was near Lushan County, Ya'an City at a depth of 13 km. A total of 237,655 persons have been displaced and 2.184 million people have been affected across 19 prefectures and 115 counties of Sichuan province.

This DREF operation will be implemented over six months and will be completed by 31 October 2013.

The DREF operation is currently in progress. A second batch of 3,000 kitchen sets have been procured and delivered to Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) Sichuan warehouse in Chengdu. These kitchen sets will be distributed tentatively in mid-August along with 4,000 hygiene



RCSC water and mass sanitation ERTs distributing safe and clean water and setting up hygiene latrines in most-affected areas. Photo by Hubei and Yunnan Branch of RCSC

¹Source by the State Council as of May 23 http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content_2445989.htm

kits that are currently being procured.

The DREF operation supported the deployment of RCSC Yunnan mass sanitation emergency response team (ERT). Two teams were in rotation and the second team, comprising of 11 members arrived in Lushan County on 3 May. This ERT built a total of 167 latrines and conducted hygiene promotion across 15 villages of five townships benefiting around 10,000 people. This intervention ensured that the immediate needs of affected community members were met and contributed towards preventing the spread of water-borne diseases.

The mass sanitation ERT was assisted by two water ERTs of Hubei and Hunan branches of RCSC which were deployed for one month. The water ERTs, which provided 1,652,000 litres of clean and safe water to around 20,000 people, were established during 2010-2013 with the support of IFRC.

This DREF has been fully replenished with generous contributions from Canadian Red Cross, CIDA, Danish Red Cross, DG ECHO, Japanese Red Cross and Mondelez International. Details of all donors can be found at www.ifrc.org/dref.

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The situation

The total number of injured and missing people have been revised since the last update on 3 May. An earthquake measuring 7.0 killed 196 people in China on 20 April with two missing and 14,785 injured. The epicenter of the earthquake struck at 08:02 a.m. Beijing time near Lushan County, Ya'an Prefecture, Sichuan province of China at a depth of 13 km. Lushan County, a mountainous rural area, is about 140 kilometres from Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan province.

A total of 237,655 persons have been displaced and 2.184 million people have been affected across 19 prefectures and 115 counties of Sichuan province. It is reported that 193,000 houses have collapsed, and 510,000 houses were severely damaged².

On 15 July, the State Council of China³ released the 'Master Plan of Lushan Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction'. The central government has estimated RMB 86 billion (CHF 13.13 billion) as the total funds required for the reconstruction. The central government's contribution towards this plan is to be supplemented by funds from Sichuan provincial government as well as funds from other sources including public loans for reconstruction. The Sichuan provincial government is responsible for the overall reconstruction and recovery which is planned to be completed within three years. The key factor of this master plan related to Red Cross work is that the government will provide the following: guidance for publicly donated funds to participate in reconstruction programmes; support for use of international loans for recovery and reconstruction projects; and guidance on grant donation. Support from other international organizations is also a key factor.

Coordination and partnerships

RCSC continued to maintain close coordination with all stakeholders including government at all levels, non-governmental organizations and members of the Red Cross Red Crescent movement.

A team of RCSC representatives from its national headquarters was deployed to strategically set up the coordination base in Lushan on the onset of the disaster to provide ongoing support to the county and provincial Red Cross branches. This team actively coordinated with the government officials at various levels for discussing the findings from field assessments of Red Cross as well as RCSC's plan of supporting recovery and reconstruction activities.

RCSC furthered its unique initiative in China context by continuing to lead the coordination with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions involved in the earthquake response. This was done through a network named 'China Non-profit Network for Disaster Risk Reduction'. The coordination network (also referred as 'the network' or 'the platform') initiated jointly by RCSC, two key NGOs in China and an academic institute is operating with the objectives of sharing information about

²Source by the State Council as of May 23 http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content_2445989.htm

³ State Council of China is synonymous with the Central People's Government of China http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Council_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China

response and recovery, providing resources (including skills, information, tools, funds) to NGOs that demonstrate sufficient capacity and exploring a longer-term non-profit cooperation mechanism on disaster response and recovery.

On 19 June, volunteers from the network brought 700 children's books to Luojiacun primary school in Tianquan County and helped to establish the first Red Cross library in the affected area. This initiative will benefit 118 students directly. Several internal work meetings of the network have been held to review its progress and existing gaps, as well as formulate plans for moving forward. During one of such meetings on 21 June, it was confirmed the network would support grassroots NGOs (including financial support) for implementing recovery programmes in the affected areas. RCSC national headquarters announced an initial support of RMB 20 million (CHF 3.1 million) for the recovery efforts led by grassroots NGOs. These funds would be channeled through the network. To support RCSC, on 21 June, four IFRC staff from East Asia regional delegation staff went to Ya'an to provide a training on 'Post-disaster Needs Assessment' for Red Cross and other volunteers, which is also part of the activities in this RCSC-supported network of non-profit organizations.

The IFRC East Asia regional delegation representatives participated in the United Nations Disaster Management team meetings in Beijing after the Lushan earthquake showcasing the response and recovery efforts led by RCSC and supported by IFRC.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Emergency response teams

During May, most RCSC relief and rescue teams working in the affected areas including 999 emergency rescue team (Beijing), relief ERT (Guangxi), mass sanitation ERT (Yunnan), and water ERTs (Hunan and Hubei) have completed their missions.

RCSC national headquarters coordinated the deployment of a number of sectoral ERTs. It is important to note these ERTs were developed from the lessons learned from 2008 Sichuan earthquake response. Several of these ERTs including the mass sanitation and water teams have been established and developed with IFRC's support during 2008-2013. IFRC had also supported the establishment and development of psychosocial support ERTs in Sichuan and Yunnan, which were not deployed in the current operation.

Following table provides an overview of ERTs deployed in the affected areas for the current response:

Sr. No.	RCSC ERT type	Approximate No. of Beneficiaries	Key activities	Duration of field operations
1.	Yunnan mass sanitation	10,000	Construct hygienic latrines, promotion hygiene and sanitation knowledge	23 April – 14 May
2.	Hunan water ERT	20,000	Provide safe and clean water	
3.	Hubei water ERT			
4.	Guangxi relief ERT	See details below	Support relief-distribution, post-distribution monitoring and evaluation	23 April 23 – 10 May
5.	Jiangxi psychosocial support ERT	1,100	Provide individual and group counseling	2 – 15 May
6.	Zhejiang Psychosocial support ERT	1,255		3 – 16 May
7.	Beijing 999 emergency rescue team	12,200	Distribute medicine, transfer injured to hospitals and provide hot meals	21 April – 2 May

Source: RCSC national headquarters (individual ERT reports and RCSC Weibo⁴ account)

The DREF operation supported the deployment of the mass sanitation ERT which rotated a second team comprising of 11 members during the reporting period⁵. In addition to the mass sanitation ERT, RCSC

⁴ Weibo is a micro-blogging service/website popular in China, often known as China's Twitter

⁵ More details on this is under the Progress towards Outcome section

deployed two water ERTs from their Hubei and Hunan branches. The water ERTs stayed in the earthquake area for approximately one month, producing 1,652,000 litres of clean and safe water to around 20,000 people.

RCSC 999 emergency rescue team left Lushan on 2 May. During their stay, over 3,000 times of medical treatment were provided to 27 natural villages⁶, transferring 30 badly injured people to hospitals, distributed medicines worth RMB 6 million (CHF 920,076) and provided hot meals for 12,200 people with their mobile kitchen facility.

The relief ERT from Guangxi comprising of 17 members completed their mission on 10 May after 17 days of field work. They supported local Red Cross branches to coordinate and distribute relief supplies worth RMB 60 million (CHF 9.2 million). They also conducted post-distribution monitoring in three worst-affected counties viz. Lushan, Baoxing and Tianquan.

A total of 13 professional volunteers of Jiangxi psychosocial support ERT provided support to three local schools in Qingren and Shuangshi townships, Lushan County during 2 - 15 May. It benefited over 1,000 local students through hundreds of group counseling and over 30 individual counseling sessions. The ERT members also trained more than 100 teachers on basic psychological support techniques. Another psychosocial support ERT from Zhejiang deployed nine members to two primary schools and one middle school in another township, Taiping, during 3 – 16 May. A total of 1,255 students and teachers were reached there.

Additional relief supply

Apart from the relief items delivered to the earthquake area that was captured in the last DREF update, RCSC allocated RMB 20.3 million (CHF 3.1million) to procure and distribute rice and cooking oil to Lushan and Baoxing County. Three volunteers from *The People's Daily* continued to monitor the distribution process and provide suggestions for improvement. The food distribution benefited around 160,000 persons i.e. all households in these two counties. A bag of rice (15 kilos) was provided to each individual while a cooking oil packet was provided to each household.

Long-term recovery planning

RCSC launched a national appeal to help those affected by the earthquake. It has received the highest donations among non-profits in China. As of 19 July, RCSC has received cash and in-kind donations amounting to RMB 1.1 billion (CHF 171.3 million) including support from Hong Kong and Macau branches, Taiwan Red Cross Organization and Japanese Red Cross. Approximately 76 per cent of the donations received by RCSC are in cash (CHF 129.8 million). Further, Japanese Red Cross and British Red Cross have decided to support further relief operations through [IFRC's China Long Term Planning Framework \(LTPF\)](#).

RCSC national headquarters sent a team of its staff to be based in Ya'an and Lushan County from 20 April until the end of June. The team supported the local and provincial branch in conducting needs assessment as well as in finalizing a longer-term recovery plan. Throughout their stay, they held several meetings with local and provincial government authorities to discuss ongoing needs and plans. The disaster recovery plans have been submitted to the National Development and Reform Commission for feedback and approval.

The Initial plan for the recovery programme will mainly be conducted through Bo Ai Jia Yuan programme, a flagship integrated programme of RCSC⁷. These will include construction of kindergartens, schools, hospitals, evacuation roads and squares, activity rooms, flood control dams, and water and sanitation structures. The recovery plan will also focus on knowledge and awareness building mainly through support for vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), disaster risk reduction and health training, community contingency planning, and simulation drills. It would also incorporate livelihoods technical skills training and provision of small loans with an aim to increase family income and encourage migrant workers to return to their home.

⁶ A typical administrative/political village in Sichuan province comprises of 7-10 natural villages. The natural villages are also known as 'farmers groups'.

⁷ Bo Ai Jia Yuan programme was initiated by RCSC in 2010 as longer-term recovery programme after 2008 Sichuan earthquake

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions

Outcome: To provide 5,000 most affected and displaced families (approximately 20,000 individuals) in Ya'an prefecture, with essential relief items to meet their immediate needs.

Output:

5,000 most affected and displaced families within the target area have received essential items in an effective and accountable manner

Activities:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procurement of 5,000 family kits.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Conduct an internal lessons learnt workshop on relief activities.

Progress:

The second batch of 3,000 kitchen sets were procured and sent to RCSC Sichuan Warehouse in Chengdu for temporary stocking. The procurement was done locally within China with IFRC procurement guidelines. Local suppliers were requested to provide quotations during this process.

IFRC and RCSC Sichuan branch are coordinating with local Red Cross branches and government representatives to finalize a detailed distribution plan.

The items in each of family/kitchen kits distributed included the following:

One cooking pot
One frying pan
One wok
Five plates
Five bowls
Five cups
Five sets of chopsticks and five spoons
One stirring spoon
One kitchen knife
One scouring pad



IFRC kitchen sets. Photo cred: IFRC

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: To support at least 5,000 families (approximately 20,000 individuals) living in transitional settlement areas with improved sanitation and hygiene conditions

Output 1:

Targeted population is supported with essential hygiene materials and improved awareness of hygiene practices

Activities:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and site selection.
- Procure and distribute hygiene materials for 5,000 affected families living in re-settled areas.
- Reproduce and disseminate hygiene promotion materials
- Refresher short training for 25 Red Cross volunteer leaders on hygiene promotion.
- Mobilization of Red Cross volunteers to the communities for hygiene promotion.
- Hygiene promotion messages disseminated in re-settled areas with IEC materials.

<p>Output 2:</p> <p>Transitional latrine facilities are accessible to 1,000 displaced people</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize RCSC Mass Sanitation Emergency Response Team (ERT) to provide sanitation services. • Establish at least 50 temporary latrines in the transitional settlement areas. • Prepare for the capacity to establish 100 more latrines upon further assessment.
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Progress:

Procurement of the second batch of 4,000 hygiene kits is currently in progress. Though local procurement of hygiene kits is preferred, it did not materialize due to the high prices quoted by the local suppliers within the limited timeframe. The alternative was to procure these items through the zone logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur in order to ensure procurement within the allocated budget.

It is estimated that the hygiene kits will be delivered in mid-August and distributed to 18 villages. IFRC and RCSC Sichuan branch are coordinating with local Red Cross branches and government representatives to finalize a detailed distribution plan.

Each hygiene kit distributed included the following items:

12 body soaps
Five laundry soaps
40 sanitary pads
Three hand towels
Two bath towels
Six toilet paper rolls
Two toothpaste
Five toothbrush
Four razors



Hygiene promotion conducted for children in temporary settlement sites. Photo by RCSC Yunnan Branch.

The mass sanitation ERT supported by the DREF completed its mission, with the second rostered team arriving in Lushan on 4 May, and staying on for 12 days. They set up an additional 69 new latrines on top of the 98 latrines built by their preceding team. A total of 167 latrines were built by Yunnan mass sanitation ERT. Before their exit on 14 May, ERT members handed over 158 latrines to Lushan County Red Cross branch and remaining nine latrines to the local authorities for operation and maintenance.

In summary, the ERT benefited approximately 10,000 people in the area by building 167 latrines and conducting hygiene promotion 25 times in 15 villages of five townships. These activities ensured the immediate needs of affected community members were met and contributed towards preventing the spread of water-borne diseases. During the hygiene promotion, they organized games for children, distributed IEC (information, education and communication) materials, organized local people to clean their neighbourhoods, helped children to cut nails, and taught children the correct way of washing hands. They encouraged people to adopt healthy behaviour changes such as not drinking tap-water directly, not eating unclean/uncovered food, and washing hands before a meal and after excretion.

IFRC support

Apart from the initial support to RCSC in assessment, planning and communication, where three staff from IFRC zone and regional delegation were deployed to the earthquake area, IFRC continued to support RCSC through media and partner communications including IFRC’s website and Weibo account. Three web stories⁸ were published as well as two videos about the response operations were developed by IFRC East Asia regional delegation communications team. The IFRC representatives continued to interact with domestic and international media to share updated information about the operations.

⁸ <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/volunteers-undertake-search-and-rescue-in-sichuan-after-earthquake-61276/>
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/optimism-and-anxiety-mix-after-sichuan-disaster-61293/>
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/specialist-teams-helping-survivors-in-sichuan-following-earthquake-61373/>

Challenges:

As mentioned above, due to the unsuccessful local procurement, the hygiene kits were procured in Kuala Lumpur, managed by the zone logistics unit, and thereby delaying the overall process. It is estimated the delivery of hygiene kits will be completed by mid-August.

Earthquake-affected areas have also suffered from the torrential rains and resulting floods. The latest round of torrential rains since 7 July have caused big flash floods and landslides in these areas. The floods killed 68 people and 179 persons are currently missing⁹ in Sichuan province. Roads to Baoxing County were temporarily blocked which brought on additional challenges to the overall earthquake relief operations.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history

- This DREF was initially allocated on 25 April 2013 for CHF 400,000 for six months to assist 20,000 beneficiaries.
 - This is the second DREF operation update.
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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) 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.

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Government of China <http://jzs.mca.gov.cn/article/zqkb/zqhz/201307/20130700487229.shtml>

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.
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