

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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/INNER MONGOLIA: BLIZZARDS (FOCUS ON TONGLIAO PREFECTURE)

30 July 2001

Appeal No. 03/2001

Launched on 25 January for CHF 3,056,180 for four months.

Revised budget Decreased to CHF 1,975,280 (Excluding coal assistance CHF 812,000)

DREF Allocated: CHF 100,000

Beneficiaries: 60,000

Operations Update No. 5

Period covered: 1 May-19 June (last Ops Update issued: China/Inner Mongolia: Blizzards, Situation Report no 4);

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 90.4%

Related Appeals: Mongolia Appeal 2001 (01.49/01)

Outstanding needs: CHF 190,025

In summary: Vulnerable populations in Inner Mongolia face another difficult winter as low summer rain compounds lingering difficulties after the recent snow disaster. The Federation’s emergency operation has brought relief to thousands. It was decided to concentrate on providing food as the most pressing need - traditional fuel was available - and this led to a revision of the original budget to exclude coal assistance. Efforts to boost preparedness for future crises are proceeding only slowly.

Operational Developments:

The overall objective of the Appeal is to provide 60,000 of the most vulnerable disaster victims with food for four months. The present situation is a continuation of last winter’s snow disaster. Now that summer has come animals are not starving but pastures are in bad shape. Rain started to fall in most parts of the three Inner

Mongolian prefectures targeted by Federation aid (Xilingol, Chifeng and Tongliao) by the middle of June. Large parts of Xilingol have, however, not had rain this year, and the grassland is withered. Even in the driest areas, animals have enough grass this summer, but their ability to fatten in preparation for winter is limited. Poor grass growth this summer may result in further disasters.

Most of Tongliao has had rain this summer, which gives farmers reason to be optimistic about the harvest in the autumn. But in the whole of Xilingol prefecture the wheat has failed as a result of drought, and farmers have to a great extent sown grass into their fields, hoping that they may at least be able to gather some hay.

Due to delays in procurement and because of recent contributions from donors to the Inner Mongolia Snow Disaster Appeal, operations will continue until late summer. The final distributions of wheat flour to disaster victims are expected to take place before the end of July.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

The Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC) branch is co-operating with the Tongliao Red Cross branch in providing several other types of assistance. The HKRC is funding medical teams that have treated 2,900 people. The HKRC is also providing financial support to the construction of a large disaster preparedness/response centre in Tongliao City.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) works closely with the Federation and local government in responding to the disaster in Inner Mongolia. Both local and international donations have contributed to the provision of aid to disaster victims. The disaster response has focused on food support, although there was an urgent need for health care during the coldest periods during the winter.

Health

Health care is not a specific objective of the operation. The appeal, however, aims to improve the general health of beneficiaries through better nutrition by distributing four months of wheat flour rations to the most vulnerable disaster victims.

There has been an improvement in the health of beneficiaries. This is due to improved weather and extensive food aid. As mentioned above, the HKRC branch is funding medical teams that have treated 2,900 people.

Water-sanitation

Water-sanitation is not a specific objective of the operation. There are, however severe water problems in some areas of Inner Mongolia. The digging of wells is costly and in some villages the inhabitants have limited access.

During the winter herders mostly rely on melting snow for drinking water. Often this can be polluted and cause disease. As winter is over, this will not be a problem until snow falls again in the autumn.

Relief distributions

The objective of the latest distribution was to give out 197.4 metric tonnes (MT) of wheat flour in Tongliao prefecture to 7,896 recipients as a part of the overall objective of the Appeal. Distribution of wheat flour through the Federation Appeal started in Tongliao prefecture on 14 June.

Tongliao covers 60,000 square kilometres, with a population of 3.09 million. Mongolians are the largest minority group, 1.2 million people. Compared to many other parts of Inner Mongolia such as Xilingol prefecture, Tongliao has developed communications. The mainstay of inhabitants is agriculture, corn, wheat and beans. Other snow disaster victims of Xilingol, in comparison, rely on herding,. Many of the inhabitants of Tongliao

cannot support themselves by farming and depend on their small herds for survival. A Federation field mission between 14 and 15 June visited many who had lost most or all of their sheep, cattle, pigs and geese. Losses of work animals, such as donkeys and horses were also severe. Many houses, sheds and crops in fields were also damaged or destroyed.

Many families were unusually ill-prepared to cope with the animal losses as the harvest of 2000 failed due to drought. Families who had little or no harvest - and who had also lost their animals - are particularly vulnerable and now depend on aid.

The following is the distribution plan for the two banners of Tongliao - Zhu Lu Te in the northern part of the prefecture, and Nai Man banner in the southern part - that are targeted with Federation aid. These are the parts worst affected by the snow disaster and other natural disasters.

DONG DA Food and Oil Company in Shenyang has supplied 197.4 MT of wheat flour within the first plan of action of the operation. The wheat was transported by train from Shenyang and reached the first recipients in the Inner Mongolian Prefecture of Tongliao on 14 June. Distribution took approximately three days.

Banner	Sumu	Number of recipients (25 kg bags)	Kg distributed
Zhu Lu Te Banner	Tai Ping Shan	400	10'000
	Ju Ri He	400	10'000
	Ba ya Er Hu Shuo	320	8'000
	A Ri Kun Du Leng	320	8'000
	Wu Lan Ha Da	480	12'000
	Ba Yin Ta La	800	20'000
	Qian De Men	800	20'000
	Wu Li Ji Mu Ren	520	13'000
	Lian He Tun	320	8'000
	Xiang Shan	360	9'000
	Wu Nu Ge Qi	520	13'000
	Lu Bei	200	5'000
	Subtotal:	5'440	136'000
Nai Man Banner	Ping An Zhen	417	10'425
	Huang Hua Ta La	400	10'000
	Nai Lin	331	8'275
	Zhang Gu Tai	400	10'000
	Gu Ri Ban Hua	600	15'000
	Xiu Zhen	308	7'700
	Subtotal:	2'456	61'400
Total:	7'896	197'400	

Selection Criteria

Although there have been serious losses of livestock in all the three Inner Mongolian prefectures targeted with Federation aid, a large proportion of the snow disaster victims of Tongliao prefecture have been affected in a different way from the more traditional herder population of Xilingol. In parts of Tongliao there is little or no agriculture, and the inhabitants depend mostly on their livestock. In these areas selection of aid recipients depends mostly on their animal losses. In most of Tongliao, however, corn, wheat, beans and other crops are the most important source of food. Many families depend both on their crops and their animals. When selecting aid recipients from disaster victims, both these factors have been taken into consideration. Families who suffered a bad harvest in the autumn of 2000 were in serious need of food supplies even if their animals were spared by the snow storms. Consequently, they have been included in recipients of Federation aid in the targeted areas. Another

factor in selecting recipients is the capacity of the victim to cope with the situation. Families with many children, and elderly or disabled farmers have great difficulties dealing with their losses.

Field Mission

During the initial days of the distribution, between 14 and 17 June, the Federation field delegate travelled around both of the targeted banners in Tongliao, Zhu Lu Te banner, and Nai Man banner. The delegate observed distribution of wheat flour at distribution points in both banners, and carried out random monitoring of a number of the recipients. Most of the families were chosen from local lists of recipients provided by the Red Cross Banner branches.

Many families have only limited supplies of food and will have to depend on external assistance until they have harvested their crops later in the summer. Many of these families had animals before the disaster but lost them in the snowstorms. Through the Federation appeal almost 8,000 people in the targeted areas of Tongliao were provided with two months rations of wheat flour.

The medium term situation of the herders will mostly depend on the climate. Abundant rain in the summer will help grass grow. This in turn will boost the condition of the animals and their ability to cope with the coming winter. The harvesting of all crops as well as the gathering of hay and fodder for the winter also depends on the amount of summer rainfall. Early summer has been dry in most parts of Inner Mongolia, but during the Federation field mission in Tongliao between 14 and 17 June, it started to rain in most parts of the prefecture. As such, this year's harvest may be sufficient to prevent similar shortages next year.

According to the Tongliao RC branch, 1.2% of Tongliao prefecture turns into desert every year, as a result of extensive grazing and the unsuitability of the soil for agriculture and tilling. The prefecture government of Tongliao has introduced extensive counter measures. About 1% of the desert area is planted with trees every year. Local officials say a larger number of trees is planted every year. Twenty per cent of Tongliao prefecture has already been planted with trees.

Logistics

The logistical objective of the latest food distribution in Tongliao was to transport 197.4 MT from DONG DA Food and Oil Company in Shenyang City, Liaising province, to the railway stations closest to the recipients in Tongliao.

The wheat was transported by train from Shenyang and reached the railway stations on 12 June. Railway transport is included in the price of the wheat flour and no cost was incurred by storage.

From the railway station the wheat was distributed on 14 June. The distribution took approximately three days. It was carried out by the Local RCSC branch and the local government. The cost of distribution from the train station to the beneficiaries is covered by the Federation with a flat CHF 10 allocation per MT.

Shelter

Providing or managing shelters or houses for the disaster victims is not a part of this operation and is not included in the appeal.

Many houses and animal shelters were destroyed during the snowstorms, but most of these have been rebuilt and repaired by villagers themselves. Most houses in the affected areas of Tongliao are mud brick that are easily rebuilt.

Many animals died because of lack of shelters. However, construction of animal shelters falls outside of this appeal.

National Society Capacity Building

The present Appeal includes support to capacity building of the National Society by providing office equipment and vehicles. Dissemination of Red Cross ideals and reporting procedures is a part of the cooperation between the RCSC and the Federation through this appeal.

Coordination

To assist a high proportion of beneficiaries quickly, rations were cut by 50% and the number of recipients doubled during the initial phases. The beneficiaries who have only received half of their ration will receive the second half during later phases.

Following a pledge from ECHO, special attention will be given to avoiding duplication of ECHO-funded distributions in the area. ECHO already supports a large operation in Tongliao prefecture, and consequently the ECHO-funded assistance through the present Federation appeal will be earmarked for the prefectures of Xilingol and Chifeng exclusively. Exceptions will be allowed where recipients in Tongliao have received only half of their ration during previous distributions.

Outstanding needs

Although the snowstorms were the most visible part of the disaster, its devastating effects are the result of many interconnected factors, including consecutive floods, droughts and locust plagues, over-grazing, soil erosion and poor agricultural practices.

Revisions to legislation and government action plans reflect a will to use natural resources in a sustainable way. However, implementation and enforcement is a slow process. Any positive impact on the wellbeing of herder households will only become apparent in the long term.

Substantial assistance has been distributed through the Federation Appeal, covering most immediate short term needs. The Federation will not be seeking additional support as the most critical period has passed.

For further details please contact: Aurelia Balpe, Phone : 41 22 730 4352; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: balpe@ifrc.org

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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

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

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashuira
Head
Asia and Pacific Department

<u>REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 03/2001	
China - Inner Mongolia			
CODE	TYPE		IN CHF
	RELIEF NEEDS	ORIGINAL	REVISED
51	Clothing & textiles: 1,700 quilts	18'500	18'500
52	Food: 3,600 mts	1'316'000	1'316'000
57	Other relief supplies: coal	812'000	
	TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	2'146'500	1'334'500
	<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
581	Vehicles	80'000	80'000
582	Computers	3'500	3'500
584	Office furniture & equipment	10'500	10'500
	<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
CASH	Programme management	206'078	133'193
CASH	Technical support	61'689	39'871
CASH	Professional services	68'413	44'216
59	<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	204'000	54'000
60	<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
60	Expatriate staff: 2 delegates for 5 months	100'000	100'000
60	National staff	38'000	38'000
60	Personnel (training)	10'000	10'000
	<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
CASH	Travel & related expenses	15'500	15'500
CASH	Information expenses	36'000	36'000
CASH	Administrative & general expenses	76'000	76'000
	TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	909'680	640'780
	TOTAL APPEAL CASH, SERVICES	3'056'180	1'975'280
CFCASH	LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		1'126'265
	NET REQUEST		849'015

China - Inner Mongolia						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 03/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				30.07.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'975'280		TOTAL COVERAGE 90.4%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT		100'000	USD	162'800	02.02.01	EARMRK. 516 MT WHEAT FLOUR
AUSTRALIAN GOVT		100'000	AUD	86'510	26.02.2001	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		147'059	GBP	354'412	11.04.01	PURCHASE OF FOOD & OPERATION SUPPORT
CANADIAN - RC		50'000	CAD	54'125	05.02.01	
CANADIAN - RC		50'000	CAD	54'910	24.05.2001	
DANISH - RC		95'000	DKK	19'570	07.02.01	
DANISH - GOVT		30'000	USD	48'840	16.02.01	WHEAT FLOUR & OPERATIONAL COSTS
ECHO (01001)		425'000	EUR	642'388	20.07.2001	
JAPANESE - RC				153'000	06.03.01	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	173'700	30.01.01	RELIEF AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'750'255	CHF	88.6%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Iceland	Delegate(s)			35'000		7 months - Aurelia B.
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				35'000	CHF	1.8%