

# 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, (WITH FOCUS ON TONGLIAO PREFECTURE)**

28 November 2001

*This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.*

*Appeal No. 03/2001*

*Launched on 25 January for CHF 3,056,180 for 4 months. Revised budget Decreased to CHF 1,975,280*

*DREF Allocated: CHF 100,000*

*Beneficiaries: 60,000*

*Operations Update No. 6 (Final)*

*Period covered: 19 June - 14 November (last Ops Update issued: 30 July China/Inner Mongolia: Blizzards, Operations Update no 5); Next Ops Update Final Report expected November 2001*

### "At a Glance"

*Appeal coverage: 89.6%*

*Related Appeals: East Asia regional programmes (01.47/01)*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 224,775*

*The Disaster/Situation: The disaster has been aggravated by drought in all of the three targeted prefectures. The climate changes in the region are likely to continue to produce similar weather conditions, thereby further increasing the need for outside assistance in Inner Mongolia.*

### **Operational Developments:**

During the winter of 2000/2001 Inner Mongolia was struck by the most serious snowstorms in living memory, followed in the winter by drought that has caused total harvest failure in many parts of Inner Mongolia and left pastures in very bad shape.

Most parts of Tongliao and Chifeng prefectures enjoyed some rain this summer, but much less than in a normal year. The decrease in rainfall has severely affected the harvest in the area. The wheat harvest in

Xilingol prefecture has failed almost completely and farmers have been forced to grass into their fields, which enabled them to at least gather some hay for the animals.

There have been delays in finalising the operations, due mostly to difficulties in procurement and transportation and also because of generous contributions received from donors during latter stages of the planned operations. The final distributions of wheat flour to disaster victims took place at the beginning of November.

### **Red Cross Red Crescent action w**

RCSC branches in Inner Mongolia distributed 1239.95 MT of wheat flour from the Federation in plan of action 2 in the prefectures of Xilingol, Tongliao and Chfeng. The distribution took place between the 28th of June and 20th of July. From the 15th of August until the beginning of November, 2088 MT of wheat flour were distributed in the same area. In addition to the 719,3 MT distributed in plan of action 1 the total amount of wheat flour distributed during this operation amounts to 4,047.34 MT. In total 80,971 beneficiaries received 50 kg of wheat flour.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w**

The RCSC has worked closely with the Federation and local governments 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 primarily on food support.

### **Health w**

The aim of the appeal is to improve the general health condition of the beneficiaries by distributing four months rations of wheat flour to the most vulnerable disaster victims.

The health situation of disaster victims in Inner Mongolia has not changed much during the period of the operations, but in general there has been an improvement in the area over the past months due to better weather conditions and extensive food aid in the area.

The health of the most vulnerable in Inner Mongolia is likely to deteriorate during the winter as a result of exposure to extreme temperatures and limited access to medical assistance. Communication is generally very difficult during the winter months in Inner Mongolia, especially during years of serious snowfall, making access to outside food sources very difficult. The trend in climate changes over the past few years indicate that large scale snow disasters are likely to become an annual occurrence, which will severely affect the health of the most vulnerable.

The RCSC and the HK RC are involved in various health initiatives for the poorest population in the area. Health care was, however not one of the objectives of this operation.

### **Water-sanitation w**

This operation does not have water-sanitation as an objective. There are, however severe water problems in many areas of Inner Mongolia. Agriculture is partly dependent on irrigation and in many places it can be difficult even to access enough drinking water for animals and people. The digging of wells is costly and in some villages the inhabitants have very limited access to any water at all. The water situation is deteriorating in most of Inner Mongolia as ground water levels are falling mostly due to drought.

During the winter many herders rely on melting snow for drinking water. Often this water can be polluted and cause diseases. This problem will soon become actual as snow starts falling again.

**Relief distributions w**

The objective of the distribution in Plan of Action 2 (June and July) was to distribute 1239.95 MT of wheat flour in the prefectures of Xilingol, Chifeng and Tongliao prefecture to 24,799 recipients as a part of the overall objective of the appeal, which is to provide 60,000 of the most vulnerable disaster victims with food for 4 months.

The following chart shows all distributions in the prefectures of Xilingol, Tongliao and Chifeng on PoA2.

Item	Wheat flour	China/Inner Mongolia - Blizzards Appeal no: 03/2001 Distribution on PoA 2		
Unit	25 kg sacks			
No. 25 kg sacks	49'598			
Quantity MT	1'239.95			
Value CHF	423'142			
Value RMB	1'959'121			
<b>Prefecture</b>	<b>Banner</b>	<b>Amount in MT</b>	<b>No. 25 kg sacks</b>	<b>No. Beneficiaries</b>
Xilingol 1 July-5 July	Taipusi Qi	121.4	4'856	2'428
	Xiang Huang Qi	63.3	2'532	1'266
	Bai Qi	63.3	2'532	1'266
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>9'920</b>	<b>4'960</b>
Tongliao 28 June-17 July (Flour received in two batches)	Kezuo Zhong Qi	158.97	6'359	3'179.5
	Kailu County	75	3'000	1'500
	Zalute Qi	190	7'600	3'800
	Naiman Qi	170	6'800	3'400
	Kulun Qi	75	3'000	1'500
	Kezuohou Qi	75	3'000	1'500
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>743.98</b>	<b>29'759</b>	<b>14'879.5</b>
Chifeng 16 July-20 July	Weng Niute Qi	158.25	6'330	3'165
	Linxi County	89.72	3'589	1'794.5
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>247.97</b>	<b>9'919</b>	<b>4'959.5</b>
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>1'239.95</b>	<b>49'598</b>	<b>24'799</b>

A total of 2,088 metric tons of wheat flour was distributed in PoA 3 from 15 August 2001.

Item	Wheat flour	<b>Distribution Plan PoA 3</b>		
Unit	25 kg sacks	<b>28 June - 14 November 2001</b>		
No. 25 kg sacks	83'524			
Quantity MT	2'088.09			
<b>PoA 3 total Value CHF</b>	675'646.57			
Exchange rate	4.883			
Value RMB	3'299'182.2			
Prefecture	RMB amount	Amount in MT	No. 25 kg sacks	No. Beneficiaries
Xilingol				
25kg per person	811'819.8	513.81	20'552	20'552
50kg per person	674'486.2	426.89	17'076	8'538
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>1'486'306</b>	<b>940.7</b>	<b>37'628</b>	<b>29'090</b>
Tongliao	326'570.2	206.69	8'268	8'268
25kg per person to beneficiaries who already received 25kg on PoA 1				
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>326'570.2</b>	<b>206.69</b>	<b>8'268</b>	<b>8'268</b>
Chifeng	1'486'306	940.7	37'628	18'814
50kg per person				
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>1'486'306</b>	<b>940.7</b>	<b>37'628</b>	<b>18'814</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3'299'182.2</b>	<b>2'088.09</b>	<b>83'524</b>	<b>56'172</b>

### Field Mission to Tongliao and Chifeng w

Chifeng covers an area of 90,025 km<sup>2</sup> with a total population of 4.52 million. 17% of the population are Mongolians, 775,000 people. Tongliao covers an area of 60,000 square kilometres, with a total population of 3.09 million. Mongolians are the largest minority group, 1.2 million people, or 39% of the population.

Compared to Xilingol prefecture, Tongliao and Chifeng have better developed communications, and where as disaster victims in Xilingol rely almost only on herding, the mainstay of the inhabitants of Tongliao is agriculture. Many of the inhabitants of Tongliao and Chifeng do not depend on farming alone but also have small herds of animals. Many of the snow disaster victims visited during the latest Federation field missions in Chifeng (15-18 July) and Tongliao (19-21 July) had lost all or most of their few animals. The loss of work animals such as donkeys has made the lives of the already impoverished farmers even more difficult. What presently makes the situation most serious in these areas of Tongliao and Chifeng, where the source of food is a mixture of crops and animals, is the loss of harvest due to drought. Those who have their harvest and have also lost their animals, are particularly vulnerable and will have to depend on aid for their survival for a long period of time.

### Field Mission to Xilingol w

Xilingol is by far the most sparsely populated of the three prefectures targeted by the Federation assistance. 993,400 people live in an area of 200,000 km<sup>2</sup>. 28.9 % of the inhabitants are ethnic Mongolians (287,000 people). Animal husbandry is the mainstay of a larger proportion of the inhabitants than in Chifeng and Tongliao.

A field mission was conducted to Bai Chi banner in Xilingol prefecture by the Federation Field delegate between the 4th and 7th of November 2001. The objective of the mission was to conduct post-monitoring visits in areas where distribution of Federation wheat flour had taken place and to

observe distribution of the last remaining undistributed batches of wheat flour. Most of the wheat flour distributed in Plan of Action 3 was received by beneficiaries in August and September, but due to difficulties in transportation there had been delays in distribution in Bai Chi banner.

## **Logistics w**

The logistical objective in relation to the food distribution in PoA 2 and 3 in Inner Mongolia was to transport 1239.95 MT (PoA2) of wheat flour to 24,799 recipients in the prefectures of Xilingol, Chifeng and Tongliao prefectures, and later 2088 MT (PoA3) of wheat flour to the same prefectures.

In Xilingol prefecture distribution in PoA 2 was finished 5 days after the arrival of the wheat flour (see chart above). Distribution in Xilingol was more time consuming than in other prefectures due to the remote locations of the Mongolian herders. The prefecture of Tongliao received more than half of all wheat flour on PoA2, and received the assistance in two batches, which explains the duration of the distribution in the prefecture. Each batch was distributed within 3 days of arrival. The wheat flour received by Chifeng was distributed in 2 days. The distribution of wheat flour in PoA2, including all three prefectures, started on 28 June and was completed on the 20th of July.

The distribution in Plan of Action 3 lasted from the 15th of August until the middle of November. As in Plan of Action 2 the distribution in Tongliao and Chifeng proceeded without delays as soon as the wheat flour had arrived. Because of the inadequate transport system in the sparsely populated Xilingol, there were much greater delays in distribution in this area. Whereas most of the wheat flour was distributed in August and September, smaller amounts of aid did not reach the affected areas in Xilingol until November and the final deliveries took place before the 14th of November.

The wheat flour was, as all other wheat flour on this appeal, supplied by DONG DA Food and Oil Company in Shenyang, and transported by train to the stations closest to the disaster victims. From the train station the flour was transported in trucks by local transport companies. The cost of train transport was included in the price of the wheat flour, but the local transport by trucks was covered by a flat 10 CHF charge for each distributed MT.

## **National Society Capacity Building w**

The present Appeal includes support to capacity building of the national society by providing much needed office equipment and vehicles. Dissemination of Red Cross ideals and reporting procedures is a part of the co-operation between the RCSC and the Federation through this appeal.

## **Coordination**

Following a pledge from ECHO, special attention was given to avoiding duplication of other ECHO funded distributions carried out in the area.

ECHO funded a relief operation by the Italian NGO ASIA. This operation took place in Tongliao prefecture, focusing on three objectives:

- Reconstitution of livestock (purchase of sheep)
- Education support for primary school children
- Food assistance (distribution of corn to 30,000 recipients, 80 kg per recipient, which in value is an approximate equivalent to the 50 kg wheat flour ration from the Federation)

ASIA concentrated on the banners of Zalute (12,000 recipients), Horqin (14,000 recipients) and Naiman (4,000 recipients). Distributions were scheduled to commence at the end of August.

To avoid duplication of relief efforts the ECHO funded assistance through the present Federation appeal will be earmarked for the prefectures of Xilingol and Chifeng exclusively. Exceptions were allowed where recipients in Tongliao received only half of their ration during previous distributions.

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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.*

*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>.*

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China - Inner Mongolia						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 03/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			28.11.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1'975'280</b>		<b>89.6%</b>
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	
MALAYSIAN - PRIVATES		584	MYR	250	09.10.2001	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	173'700	30.01.01	RELIEF AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>1'750'505</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>88.6%</b>