

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: FLASH FLOODS

5 July 2002

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 16/02; Launched on 25 June 2002 for CHF 5,044,000(USD 3.34m/EUR 3.43m for 3 months for 100,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 200,000

Operations Update No. 2; Period covered: 28 June - 3 July; Last Update: 27 June 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 31.5% (The contributions list shows a coverage of 5.9% Additional hard pledges have been received but are not yet showing on the system. These "unseen" pledges represent a coverage of approximately 31.5% percent.)

Related Appeals: 01.37/2002/East Asia regional programmes

Summary: The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) continues to provide critically needed health assistance and relief items to victims of flash floods in China. The RCSC is working in close cooperation with the International Federation to provide relief assistance to affected communities.

Operational Developments •

Continuing rain at the end of June, contributed to the hardship for those coping with their losses and trying to restart their lives. The water level of the Yangtze river is under constant observation. The BBC, as well as some of the local media, issued warnings that the level of the Yangtze is over the "danger mark" line. Although floods occur regularly in China flash floods accompanied by landslides, such as what has occurred over the past few weeks, are unusual. Particularly, since the floods occurred in drought affected arid mountainous regions which are normally not prone to flooding. Consequently the floods took their victims by surprise and caused enormous destruction in many remote villages and often in marginal areas inhabited by poor farmers.

According to the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), the most recent figures of flood related deaths and damage are:

Affected areas	No. of affected (10.000s)	Dead	Injured	Homeless	Affected land 10,000 hectares	Destroyed houses: 10,000 rooms
Shaanxhi	510	151	0	111'000	23.51	10.6
Sihouchuan	3'325	62	3'325	27'200	621.4	41.7
Chongging	523.1	32	5'799	35'000	3'317	14.4
Guizhou	115.7	9	10.2	12'276	5.4	2.4
Guanxi	838.1	20	9.15	329'000	21.7	21.7

Hunan	1 497.2	82	18.7	75'000	14.4	14.4
Fujian	147.81	39	2.88	72'034	5.25	5.25
Jianxi	660	31	3.7	150'000	29.8	28.8

Media coverage of the flooding has been good, and an interview with the Federation's information delegate was broadcast by the BBC on 30 June. On Monday Morning (8 July Beijing time) BBC will interview the Regional Head of Regional Delegation. The Federation's information delegate has been following RCSC relief activities and reporting on them regularly. Articles and photos are being posted on the Federation's website on a regular basis. In addition, the delegate in cooperation with the RCSC has prepared a video news release regarding the current situation.

Shaanxi Province: In Shaanxi, the greatest devastation had taken place in Foping county, which consists of nine small villages situated in a narrow valley along a small stream in the Qin Ling mountains. These villages were either partially or almost wholly destroyed. The deluge had taken most of the road, 170 small bridges, power and telephone pylons, 14 hydro-power stations, 2,500 houses, an enormous amount of fields as well as at least 132 lives with an additional 200 reported as missing because their bodies had not been recovered.

Guizhou Province: The situation in Guizhou which is one of China's poorest provinces, is similar to that in Shaanxi, in that remote villages were devastated by flash floods and landslides. In Meitan county, which is north of the provincial capital of Guiyang, many farmhouses situated in small valleys and surrounded by high mountains suffered heavy damage from water, mud and rocks. Government officials said 15 towns, 115 villages and more than 50 per cent of the families in Meitan had been affected. Some 806 houses were damaged in Meitan county alone.

While houses can be rebuilt, many of the fields can not. It takes generations to build up rice paddies and only a few hours to destroy them. Farmers are now considering moving to one of China's big cities to work as a casual labourer in order to continue supporting their family.

Coordination •

A teleconference was held on 2 July between the RCSC, Participating National Societies (PNS) and representatives from the Federation in China and Geneva.. The purpose of this conference was to respond to specific queries from five PNS.

Objectives, activities and results •

Targeting

The RCSC and the Federation's delegation are supportive of maintaining a flexible approach to beneficiary selection at the provincial level, giving branches as much flexibility as possible in identifying the most vulnerable in their constituencies based on locally appropriate vulnerability criteria. village. During a visit to Meitan representatives of the RCSC and the Federation participated in a distribution where farmers were given rice and quilts paid for by the Hong Kong Red Cross. The beneficiaries had assembled in Meitan town centre, their names written on a poster which was displayed prominently. Later farmers were seen bringing the relief aid to their homes, which were universally badly damaged.

Health and care •

Four mobile medical teams comprising some 56 RCSC doctors have been travelling through Foping. The teams have set up emergency health posts and visiting homes. The main objective for the teams, is to prevent outbreaks of diseases in flood affected communities. Following flooding, susceptibility to skin diseases and water borne diseases increases. As a means of suppressing the outbreak of diseases, the medical teams promote good hygiene practice by wearing t-shirts with simple hygiene messages printed on them.

Water and sanitation •

Objective 1: to provide water purification powder and disinfectant for the benefit of 1 million men, women and children in areas where water sources have been contaminated.

Both water purification tablets and powder are needed. The distinction being that tablets will purify the water but do not make it look clear, whereas powder does both. Tablets and powder can be used for communal sources such as wells, but tablets are preferred for personal containers as tablets arrive in a set volume and the appropriate dosage is easier to calculate. - i.e. one tab per 5 litre. Prior to distributing powder it will be important to carefully instruct beneficiaries regarding the correct dosage. Many of the affected communities are experienced in the use of water purification materials since they experience flooding on a yearly basis. However, the RCSC with assistance from the Federation will need to provide more detailed messages in those provinces e.g. Shaanxi which are normally not affected by floods.

Disinfectant powder, such as bleach, will be used to spray areas that are potential health hazards such as stagnant water and rubbish.

Relief distribution of food and basic non-food items •

Objective 1: To provide one food commodity (rice or wheat) to 100,000 women, men and children for three months to complement existing foods which are available and accessible.

Although food security is not a problem in China, as there is a sufficient supply of rice in the rice bank, families who due to the floods must borrow rice from government could end up increasing already significant debts accumulated over previous years.

The RCSC and the Federation decided that providing food to flood victims reduces their need to engage in short term survival strategies, ie. borrowing from government, relatives and friends, therefore mitigating the potential for long term financial problems for affected families.

In addition, in those provinces where flooding occurs on a yearly basis, many communities are trapped in a cycle of poverty. After having lost their houses, possessions and source of income (land, livestock and harvests), during previous floods they have accumulated significant debts, and are therefore ineligible for government loan schemes. The RCSC with assistance from the Federation will also provide food to households, who are only partially assisted by the government.

National Society Capacity Building •

Five of the target provinces for this Operation are involved in the RCSC/Federation Finance Development Programme. This Finance Programme was created as a follow up to the 1998 and 1999 flood operation and was implemented in 21 provinces between 2000 and 2001. The three main objectives of the project were:

- To establish an accounting system in the national headquarters and 21 provinces.
- To establish an integration system for financial reports in the headquarters and provincial branches.
- To provide training to financial staff and management in headquarters and provincial branches.

It is envisaged that those provinces involved in the Finance Development Programme will be better placed to report on the 2002 Floods operation.

Furthermore, the Finance Officers from the eight target provinces will spend the second week of July in Beijing for a briefing on reporting requirements. At the end of June, the Branch Heads received briefings in Beijing. A representative from the Federation's finance unit in Kuala Lumpur is traveling to Beijing for a few days to establish appropriate systems for operation until the arrival of the Federation's finance delegate for the operation, and participate in the briefing of RCSC Branch Finance Officers.

Federation Delegation •

The Reporting, Field and Information Delegates will be in Geneva for briefing prior to traveling to China the week commencing 15 July.

Outstanding needs •

The contributions list shows a coverage of 3.7 %. Additional hard pledges have been received but are not yet showing on the system. These "unseen" pledges represent a coverage of approximately 31.5% percent. An

ECHO proposal is currently being prepared for submission next week and several National Societies are still to send pledges and to receive responses from their governments regarding their submissions for this Appeal.

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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 - Floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 16/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			05.07.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5'044'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 5.9%
BRITISH - RC		30'000	GBP	68'862	27.06.2002	FOR RELIEF ITEMS AND SUPPORT COSTS
FINNISH - RC		50'000	EUR	73'815	27.06.2002	
NEW - ZEALAND - RC		30'000	NZD	22'782	26.06.2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT		700'000	SEK	112'700	31.05.2002	
TURKISH - RC				20'000	25.06.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				298'159	CHF	5.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%