

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:FLOODS

7 October 2005

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 over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA017; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 6 September – 4 October 2005; Appeal coverage: 17.1%¹: ([click here for the attached contributions list](#)) ([click here for live contributions list available on the website](#))

Appeal history:

- Launched on 11 August 2005 for CHF 5,501,604 (USD 4,274,751 or EUR 2,525,539) for 9 months to assist 400,000 beneficiaries.
- Information bulletin 1 to 7 and Operations Update no.1 issued.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000

Outstanding needs : CHF 4,269,245 (USD 3,466,703 or EUR2,765,951)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [China Annual Appeal 05AA058](#)

Operational Summary: The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) provincial branches in Anhui, Sichuan and Jiangxi faced further challenges as several typhoons and severe rainstorms struck these provinces over the reporting period, leaving thousands more homeless and causing billions of dollars in damage. The RCSC and the Federation are moving forward with the purchase of rice and procurement of quilts with funding secured so far. For the rice distribution, beneficiaries are selected according clear and identifiable criteria: families that have had their homes and/or farmland destroyed, have more than one member injured/killed or have no income will receive full assistance. As the RCSC county branches are committed in providing at least some support to all who have been badly affected, families that do not meet the criteria but still suffered substantial losses will also receive partial assistance.

In addition to the confirmed funding shown in the contributions list, discussions are underway with three other donors for an additional CHF 1,150,000, bringing total contributions to CHF2,092,658. Nevertheless, substantial further support is required to meet all of the appeal's needs.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

¹ The contributions list may yet have been fully consolidated to reflect the most up-to-date response to the appeal.

Background

In a season of relentless disasters, Typhoon Longwang slammed into the Southeast coast of China on 2 October, killing 65 people and leaving dozens more missing in Fujian province. Among the dead are 50 members of China's paramilitary armed police, who were trapped in a training school barracks that was washed away by typhoon-induced landslides. In September alone, typhoons Talim, Khanun and Damrey have killed more than 130 people across the southern part of the country. On 1 September, some 1.84 million people in five provinces were evacuated when Typhoon Talim struck southern and eastern China, destroying thousands of homes and crops. According to the latest available statistics, 97 people were confirmed dead and 30 remain missing. Ten million people were displaced by torrential rainfall, severe landslides and mudflow in Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian and Jiangxi in eastern China, and central China's Hubei province. At the same time, landslides and floods brought on by the typhoon and continuing heavy rains destroyed or damaged enormous stretches of farmland and some 374,000 houses.

In Anhui province, the poorest province in east China, torrential rainstorms brought on by Talim fell from 1 to 3 September. Some 6.6 million people were affected by the typhoon's aftermath, with dangerous conditions leading to the evacuation of 457,000 people. Amongst the worst affected areas are Yuexi, Jinzai, Huo Shan, Yuan and Hanshan counties, with some ten thousand houses destroyed in Yuexi county alone. The RCSC Anhui provincial branch initiated local fund raising activities in response to the typhoon and distributed food, rice, tents, quilts and disinfectant.

Four days later, the heaviest rainstorms to strike Sichuan province this year triggered destructive floods in the north-eastern part of the province, leaving a reported 55 people dead, 52 missing and hundreds trapped. Most of the affected were spread out in the province's foothills and mountainous areas, making poor road access an added challenge to rescue workers responding to that emergency.

On 12 September, China's government announced changes to the country's legislation that would promote greater transparency in reporting on damage caused by disasters. The changes in legislation are intended to facilitate increased public awareness, more effective disaster prevention, relief initiatives and international collaboration. As China continues to introduce new disaster management initiatives, there is an increasing awareness that effective preparedness and response depends on full access to information on damages and the needs arising from natural disasters. Withholding such information creates obstacles in a disaster area's recovery and can have a negative impact on local development. For relief work, timely and precise figures are critical to ensure the efficient distribution of resources. In a recent press release, the government underscored that accurate reporting and greater transparency about disasters will improve the country's capacity for evaluating assistance requirements and function as a deterrent against corruption in disaster relief activities.

Operational developments

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective: Recovery assistance in the form of rice and quilts is provided to 100,000 of the neediest families (400,000 individuals) in five flood-stricken provinces (Anhui, Guangxi, Hunan, Jiangxi and Sichuan).

Progress/Achievements

On 8 September, the RCSC's relief division and the Federation's flood relief operation team facilitated an operational planning meeting in Changsha hosted by the RCSC Hunan provincial branch. Relief officers from the five branches covered through this appeal worked together to identify constraints experienced thus far this year and in previous years in distributing relief items, while proposing solutions for overcoming these constraints. Branch relief officers worked together with representatives from RCSC headquarters relief division and the Federation delegation to develop pragmatic and specific criteria for beneficiary and village selection. One of the key outcomes of the 8 September meeting was the fine tuning of the beneficiary selection criteria. The second was to adjust operating methods in a way that will facilitate greater involvement of the provincial branches in monitoring relief activities.

Beneficiary and village selection

At the meeting, the RCSC and Federation delegation agreed upon certain criteria and procedures for distributing

items. Rice will be distributed to beneficiaries based on two kinds of criteria. Firstly, 15kg of rice will be distributed to each family member in a single household if the following conditions are met:

- Family's house was totally destroyed.
- All farmland destroyed by the disaster.
- More than one person injured or killed by the disaster in the family.
- No family members are working.
- Household has not received government assistance or assistance from other source.

Secondly, for vulnerable households in the affected villages that do not fully meet the above criteria but have nevertheless suffered substantial loss, the rice ration will be provided calculated against 50 per cent of the total number of household members (approximately one to three 15kg sacks of rice). The RCSC county branches are committed to ensure that every household that suffered serious damages in the floods have received at least the minimal level of RCSC assistance.

Operating procedures for the distribution are as follows:

1. After the distribution plan is finalised, a public bulletin will be posted in the village three days prior to the distribution. Relief items will be distributed according to this list unless there are any objections from the villagers.
2. The RCSC headquarters will receive one week's notice from the provincial branches prior to the distribution of relief items. RCSC shall then inform the Federation of the distribution date, whereby RCSC and the Federation will arrange for the joint monitoring of activities.
3. Packages are not allowed to be opened and content may not be divided.
4. Original copies of the beneficiary lists are kept by the RCSC county branches.

Distribution of 1500 MT rice

The counties in the five-affected provinces that will receive Federation-supported assistance were identified based on needs assessments conducted by the five RCSC provincial branches in consultation with the national society's Beijing headquarters. Keeping in mind China's size, the population of each of these counties averages around 500,000 people (approximately the same size as the city of New Orleans).

Following a tendering process organised by RCSC headquarters, bids from three rice suppliers were jointly selected by the RCSC and the Federation on 23 September for delivery to county branches in the different provinces as specified in the table below. As such, it is important to note RCSC county branches are responsible for final transport of relief items to the villages, which, depending on the area's terrain, often incurs high costs for the branches that are at best minimally equipped in terms of available vehicles and personnel. Most rural farmers receiving assistance, especially those living in remote areas, are unable to travel to the county centres as they lack access to sufficient transport. Thus distributions take place at the village level with the county branches arranging for the final distributions. This involves hiring vehicles and day labourers to load and unload the heavy items.

Province	Quantity	Unit	Beneficiary County				
Anhui (2,640)	300	MT	Suzhou	Haozhou	Huainan	Bengbu	Fuyang
			Tongqiao	Woyang	Maoji	Huaiyuan	Linquan
			80	70	50	50	50
Sichuan (2,760)	300	MT	Guang'an	Yibin	Nanchong	Dazhou	Ganzi
			60	60	60	60	60
Hunan	300	MT	Xinshao	Xianhua	Zhonggang	Changning	Pingjiang
			80	65	75	45	35
Jiangxi	300	MT	Yongxiu	Jing'an	Anyi	Ruichang	Xingzi
			100	80	70	30	20
Guangxi (2,560)	300	MT	Xiangzhou	Jinxiu	Xincheng	Changzhou	Zhaoping
			50	50	70	50	80

Table 1: Distribution plan for rice to five provinces in China

In addition to funds raised through this appeal, the Hong Kong Red Cross has also raised RMB 6 million for RCSC flood relief activities. These funds are being used by the RCSC to distribute rice (15 kg per person ration)

in other provinces: Chongqing, Hunan, Guangxi, Guizhou and Sichuan. Wheat flour is also being distributed in Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang.

Restocking of relief supplies

Objective: A minimum emergency stock of non-food relief items is rebuilt to allow RCSC to respond to future disasters

Progress/Achievements

The RCSC and the Federation continue to work in partnership to seek out further support for this part of the planned operation.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

China - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA017

PLEDGES RECEIVED

06/10/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					TOTAL COVERAGE	
					5,501,604	17.1%
AUSTRALIA - RC		20,000	AUD	18,970	29.08.05	RICE, QUILTS
CANADA - RC		50,000	CAD	52,275	12.08.05	
FINLAND - RC		50,000	EUR	78,025	19.08.05	
ICELANDIC - RC		250,000	ISK	4,900	26.08.05	
IRELAND - GOVT		100,000	EUR	155,000	9.08.05	
JAPAN - RC		213,700	USD	275,032	17.08.05	
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				505	25.08.05	
SWEDEN - GOVT		2,000,000	SEK	332,000	16.08.05	
TURKEY - RC		20,000	USD	25,740	26.08.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				942,447	CHF	17.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	