

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

CHINA: Floods

Emergency appeal no. MDRCN002
GLIDE no. ° FL-2007-0097-CHN
Operations update no. ° 06
7 April 2008

Period covered by this Operations Update:

20 January 2008 to 31 March 2008;

Appeal target: CHF 9,462,000 (USD 7,692,683 or EUR 5,710,320);

[<click here to view the attached interim financial report>](#)

Appeal coverage: 26%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 30 July 2007 for CHF 9,462,000 (USD 7,692,683 or EUR 5,710,320) for 12 months to assist 400,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF): CHF 240,000 (USD 199,465 or EUR 146,468) was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond.

Summary: The 2007 flooding, caused by torrential rains from June to September, left hundreds of thousands of families displaced and more than 1,000 people dead or missing. In the areas where the Federation is supporting the flood operations, at least 243,000 houses were reported totally collapsed in five provinces, Henan, Hubei, Anhui and Sichuan provinces and Chongqing Municipal City. The Federation allocated immediate assistance through its disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) for the Red Cross Society of China on 16 July and distributed relief goods, such as rice, quilts, water purification and disinfectants. After the emergency appeal was launched on 30 July, additional relief goods were distributed in the five provinces, including construction materials for the rebuilding of the collapsed houses.

The rice and quilt distribution has been completed and the key funding support has met the needs for quilts, but more support is still needed in order to meet the goals to support 2,000 families in the reconstruction of their homes. At this point, 330 families have been supported by the appeal fund with most of their new houses completed by the end of March. The community-based disaster preparedness project sites were selected by the RCSC headquarters and the Federation. Xinfeng village and Huangshan village in Henan Province, Huangjin Village in Chongqing Municipal City, and Mehekou village and Xianyuan village in Anhui Province are preparing for CBPD activities.



Chen Mingtang of Linyin County in Henan Province moved into a new house from their temporary hut at the corner of their yard. The Red Cross contribution of materials has greatly reduced his debt in rebuilding, although he will still owe about CNY 20,000 (CHF305) which will require approximately two years to pay back. Federation



Guandong Province is the one of 21 provinces affected by the snow disaster. RCSC

The situation

Torrential rains across southern China during the 2007 summer season caused some of the worst flooding in decades, and in some areas, in recorded history. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) was able to respond immediately across five of the worst hit provinces with the assistance of DREF and emergency appeal funding from the Federation. Relief goods were distributed and reconstruction of housing commenced before the Chinese New Year. Further support for community-based disaster preparedness is currently underway in five communities.

In the meantime, these provinces were hit with the worst winter weather in five decades. The odd streak of cold weather started mid-January 2008 and hit south and central China in areas that rarely get snow and are not prepared for

such severe weather. These snowstorms have killed at least 107 people and caused economic losses of around CNY 111.1 billion (USD 15.4 billion). The Red Cross Society of China launched a national appeal on 1 February, which also attracted contributions internationally after the Federation's two information bulletins. The RCSC raised CNY 247 million in cash (CHF 35 million) and in-kind donations of relief items, and has provided food, medicine, cotton-padded tents to the worst hit areas, which include Hunan, Hubei, Guangxi, Guizhou, Anhui, and Jiangxi. The RCSC has turned its relief from emergency response to rehabilitation and is planning to allocate CNY 100 million (CHF 14.4 million) for reconstruction of houses and clinics and disaster risk reduction activities.

Coordination and partnerships

In China, relief work is done by the government and the Red Cross. There are no NGOs working in this field in China. The East Asia regional office continues to support the RCSC in the flood relief operations. Coordination of appeal related activities are done jointly between the RCSC headquarters' relief department and the delegation's disaster management team. The Federation's East Asia regional disaster management team is currently composed of the regional disaster management delegate, the relief coordinator seconded by the Japanese Red Cross, and a disaster management assistant. All three have been working closely with the relief department of the RCSC headquarters and have travelled to the five provinces with both headquarters and local branches to monitor the situation and assess the selection of beneficiaries. The relief coordinator has continued to work closely with RCSC during the procurement, distribution and reconstruction phases of the relief and recovery efforts. The regional finance manager and PMER manager are also continuing to provide support as needed to RCSC headquarters and branches in meeting the expectations of financial and narrative reporting.

The Red Cross Society of China was able to rapidly respond to the extensive flooding through their extensive network of branches throughout the nation. The branches were able to respond to the needs of the affected populations with both preparatory measures and relief efforts, including both food and non-food items delivered to those affected by the disasters. Rice, tents, clothing and blankets have been provided to those most severely affected by floods this year.

Generous donations towards quilt procurement by a number of donors allowed for the rapid distribution of warm quilts to affected families. The quilts were well received by beneficiaries before the cool months of winter set in throughout the region.

National Society Capacity Building

The capacity at both headquarters and local branch levels is high for these projects, with adequate support and funding. The national society has already raised a good portion of funds for the floods and the local branches are able to respond rapidly to the needs of the communities, when properly supplied.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The distribution of rice and quilts was promptly and efficiently carried out through the collaborated efforts of the RCSC headquarters and the provincial branches in affected areas. However, due to a shortage of funding received on this appeal, some Red Cross branches decided to spread the rice in smaller quantities to a larger number of villagers, to make a more fair distribution to all. The distribution of the planned target number of quilts was met through support of the Danish Red Cross, the German government and German Red Cross, and the Swiss Red Cross. Both the distribution of rice and quilts was completed by mid-November.

Beneficiaries for housing reconstruction, a total of 330 families in Henan and Hubei provinces, had Red Cross assistance in rebuilding their homes. The Red Cross assistance consists of a grant for building materials, which is supplemented by a local government grant. The reconstructed homes, in many cases replacing houses built out of mud and timber, will be sited in safe locations with convenient access to local markets. The reconstruction of 150 houses in Hubei Province was completed by the end of January and 180 houses in Henan have almost been completed by the end of March.



Zhou Lianghe, with a family of three, from Hubei Province received three bags of rice according to the Red Cross's standards for the 2007 flood relief operation. Federation

The third objective to be met by this appeal is for the selected communities to go through facilitated community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) activities. This important component would empower the local communities to identify their risks and undertake certain mitigation activities that would reduce that community's risk in future flood seasons. Many of the areas affected by this year's floods have been hit repeatedly and face similar losses again in the near future. Many local people attribute the rising risks of repeated damage to the effects of global climate changes they witness each year.

The RCSC headquarters and the Federation visited provinces to monitor the distribution of rice and quilts and also to visit construction sites to see if the materials from the Federation arrived on time to be used for the planned houses. The Federation conducted a workshop of vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) between 4 and 9 December. This helped the provincial Red Cross branches to better implement and manage the CBDP projects.

The relief and recovery efforts in the five provinces covered in this appeal have been moving along steadily. A brief summary of the operation since the last operations update is as follows:

- Reconstruction work involving 150 houses in Hubei province was completed by the end of January 2008.
- Reconstruction work involving 180 houses in Henan province was also mostly completed by the end of March 2008.
- CBDP communities were selected in Anhui, Chongqing and Henan Province in January.
- CBDP mitigation activity plans were finalized.
- The CBDP project agreement was signed between RCSC and the Federation in March.

Progress towards objective

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 100,000 of the most affected families (400,000 people) in Anhui, Henan, Hubei, Sichuan, and Chongqing have received 6,000 MT rice (15kg per person/one time distribution), 45,000 quilts, and 3000 boxes of water purification tablets.

Expected results	Activities planned
Reduce affected people's expenditure by providing basic necessities'.	Distribute 15kg of rice per person and one quilt for two people to people house or crops or both.

RICE

Progress: The distribution of 942.54 MT of rice was completed by 22 September. The Swiss Red Cross additionally contributed 36 MT of rice (Plan of Action 7) to Henan Province. This rice was distributed by mid-November. The relief coordinator conducted monitoring of the rice distribution (Plan of Action 1 and 2) in Chongqing Municipal City, Henan Province and Hubei Province. The rice was distributed as planned.

Impact: 86,967 out of the targeted number of 400,000 people in five provinces have benefited from this rice distribution.

Challenges: In some areas, there was a discrepancy in the number of rice bags being distributed per person compared to the agreed standard for the operation. This was the result of a limited amount of rice that could be allocated per affected area due to a shortage of funding received on this appeal. While the RCSC originally planned to distribute 6,000 tonnes of rice to five provinces, the total amount that had been procured and distributed was limited to 1,180 tonnes. This shortage of rice caused some provincial Red Cross branches to decide to distribute a smaller amount of rice among the same number affected people in order to make it fair among villagers.

QUILTS

Progress: A total of 46,000 quilts were distributed in five provinces. The 5,000 quilts contributed by the Swiss Red Cross for Anhui province were completely distributed by 24 September. The 26,000 quilts from the German government and the German Red Cross have been distributed in Hubei as of 12 October. The 15,000 pieces donated by the Danish Red Cross were distributed by the end of November.

Impact: In November, the temperature can go below 5 degrees Celsius in these provinces. Those families who lost everything in the floods needed to have quilts to survive the coming winter. Considering a total of 46,000 quilts were delivered to beneficiaries by mid-November, the appeal goals have been met in this area.



The 2,500 quilts distributed in Suzhou county in Anhui Province provided much needed warmth during the cold months.

Challenges: In special circumstances, relief distribution efforts must be planned according to local situations. In one case, the quilt distribution had to wait until after a big event in the county. Because the beneficiaries were also proudly part of this event, they reported back to the Red Cross that they were understanding of the delay.

Emergency rehabilitation: reconstruction of homes

Objective: 2,000 most vulnerable displaced and poor families living in severely flood-affected villages are assisted in the rebuilding of their homes through co-funding with the local government.	
Expected results	Activities planned
2,000 beneficiaries have new homes without the burden of unmanageable debt.	CNY12,000 worth materials are given to a family who lost their house to reduce their financial burden.

Progress: Yunxi County in Hubei Province and Linying County in Henan Province were selected for re-construction and a total of 330 families are supported by the Federation appeal fund. All the materials, worth CNY 12,000 (CHF 1,740) per family, were delivered to the beneficiaries by mid-November in Yun Xi County in Hubei province. The houses in Hubei were completed by the end of January, and the village intended to hold a completion ceremony, but their plans were halted due to the snow disaster which also affected their area.

The purchase contract for cement was delayed in Henan due to the rising price of transportation fees since oil prices have been on the rise. Additionally, the snow disaster and cold temperatures further delayed construction work. However most of the houses were completed by the end of March. Some of the house owners are still waiting for cement to dry completely before moving into the new houses.



Villagers in Wanzhou County in Chongqing Municipal City brainstorming how to reduce the impact of floods. Federation

The houses for 148 families in Henan did not need to invest any funds for the reconstruction themselves, since the Red Cross materials, county government funds and each community fund covered the cost of their simple houses.

Challenges: The reconstruction of housing in various areas has been taken on by various entities, including the individual families and communities themselves. In some cases, even though they knew they were candidates for Red Cross assistance, they began reconstruction activities themselves. This caused a challenge for the Red Cross in considering those sites, especially because the RCSC is hoping to ensure quality standards for rebuilding these homes through the procurement of proper materials. Unpredicted oil price hikes and weather delayed the work on construction.

Community disaster risk reduction and flood mitigation needs

Objective: The vulnerability of communities affected by this year's flood disaster is reduced through Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) activities	
Expected results	Activities planned
Reduce risks by the floods in four communities.	Through the CBDP activities the communities decide flood mitigation and carry out involving local governments.

Progress: The RCSC headquarters and the Federation asked the five provinces covered by the appeal to submit a proposal for community-based disaster preparedness activities and conducted a basic assessment at four communities that submitted proposals. Those four, Xinfeng Village and Huanshan Village in Zhengyang County of Henan Province, Xiaoqiao Village of Wuhe County and Xianyuan Village in Huangshan district of Anhui Province, and Huangjin Village in Longsha County of Chongqing Municipal City were selected for community-based disaster preparedness activities. The agreement on these community-based disaster preparedness projects was signed between the RCSC and the Federation in mid-March.

The Federation conducted a Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) workshop for targeted provincial Red Cross staff at the beginning of December. This workshop gave a deeper understanding of community based projects to provincial Red Cross staff.

Impact: The estimated long-term impact of this component is very positive. The communities will establish a committee, disaster preparedness plans, and mitigation activities, as well as build on health education and first aid skills within the community.

Challenges: One key factor of a community-based project is for the Red Cross staff to lead the community to be active in implementing the project themselves. People in China are used to the top-down approach, as are the Red Cross staff. This type of community lead project is a big challenge for both Red Cross staff and villagers, but

many successes with community-based disaster preparedness in China over the past years have proven these challenges can be overcome. Funding in this area of the appeal is low, and thus these very important activities cannot be carried out in all beneficiary communities.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Up until early November, the East Asia regional delegation had a temporary communications specialist working with the RCSC and the Federation's disaster management team to work on advocacy and public information related to the floods. During those early months, the communications specialist was able to coordinate with international media on various stories regarding the floods operations and general information sharing. Due to a lack of funding, this position has been eliminated at the regional level, although the regional delegation will continue to support the national society in all of its communication needs. When the RCSC and the Federation made assessment trips and conducted all tenders, the events were covered by the local media, newspapers and local TV channels. On a few occasions, the Federation gave interviews to both international and local media. In addition, the East Asia regional office's planning, monitoring and evaluation and reporting (PMER) manager and assistant have been able to continue supporting the RCSC in their reporting requirements, while also taking various media calls and handling communications/information dissemination issues when needed.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- East Asia Regional Representation Office in China: Mr. Carl Naucler, (head of regional delegation), email; carl.naucler@ifrc.org; phone: +86 10 6532 7162; Mr. Qinghui Gu (regional disaster management coordinator), email; qinghui.gu@ifrc.org; phone +86 1391 0959 834, fax+86 10 6532 7166
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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCN002 - China - Floods 2007

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/2
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/6
Appeal	MDRCN002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		9,462,000				9,462,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>		355,050				355,050
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>		56,500				56,500
<i>China - Private Donors</i>		185				185
<i>Danish Red Cross</i>		60,964				60,964
<i>France - Private Donors</i>		503				503
<i>German Red Cross (from German Government)</i>		197,280				197,280
<i>Irish Government</i>		328,800				328,800
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		303,900				303,900
<i>Korea Republic Red Cross</i>		100,000				100,000
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>		25,095				25,095
<i>Netherlands Red Cross</i>		66,000				66,000
<i>New York Office (from Lehman Brothers Foundation)</i>		57,950				57,950
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		540,000				540,000
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>		23,250				23,250
<i>United Arab Emirates Red Crescent</i>		12,022				12,022
C1. Cash contributions		2,127,499				2,127,499
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>German Red Cross</i>		9,600				9,600
<i>German Red Cross (from German Government)</i>		54,400				54,400
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		35,552				35,552
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		99,552				99,552
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		27,573				27,573
C4. Inkind Personnel		27,573				27,573
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		2,254,624				2,254,624
D. Total Funding = B + C		2,254,624				2,254,624
Appeal Coverage		24%				24%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		2,254,624				2,254,624
E. Expenditure		-1,785,378				-1,785,378
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		469,246				469,246

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MDRCN002 - China - Floods 2007

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/2
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/6
Appeal	MDRCN002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		9,462,000					9,462,000	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	4,000,000						4,000,000	
Clothing & textiles	450,000		225,291			225,291	224,709	
Food	2,808,000						2,808,000	
Water & Sanitation	180,000						180,000	
Other Supplies & Services	500,000						500,000	
Total Supplies	7,938,000		225,291			225,291	7,712,709	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	135,000						135,000	
Computers & Telecom	25,000						25,000	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.			250			250	-250	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	160,000		250			250	159,750	
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	50,000						50,000	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	50,000						50,000	
Total Transport & Storage	100,000						100,000	
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	164,900		53,961			53,961	110,939	
National Staff	15,500		1,855			1,855	13,645	
National Society Staff	35,000						35,000	
Consultants	25,000		5,110			5,110	19,890	
Total Personnel	240,400		60,926			60,926	179,474	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	50,000		4,792			4,792	45,208	
Total Workshops & Training	50,000		4,792			4,792	45,208	
General Expenditure								
Travel	81,800		10,495			10,495	71,305	
Information & Public Relation	30,000		213			213	29,787	
Office Costs	14,400		133			133	14,267	
Communications	42,000		563			563	41,437	
Professional Fees	164,660		33,303			33,303	131,357	
Financial Charges	1,000						1,000	
Other General Expenses	24,710						24,710	
Total General Expenditure	358,570		44,707			44,707	313,863	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies			1,334,015			1,334,015	-1,334,015	
Total Contributions & Transfers			1,334,015			1,334,015	-1,334,015	
Programme Support								
Program Support	615,030		115,398			115,398	499,632	
Total Programme Support	615,030		115,398			115,398	499,632	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	9,462,000		1,785,378			1,785,378	7,676,622	
VARIANCE (C - D)			7,676,622			7,676,622		