

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Sichuan Earthquake

Emergency appeal n° MDRCN003

GLIDE n° [EQ-2008-000062-CHN](#)

Operations update n° 13

24 June 2008

Period covered by this Update: 16-23 June 2008

Appeal target (current): CHF 96.7 million (USD 92.7 million or EUR 59.5 million)

[<click here to view the attached revised emergency appeal budget>](#)

Appeal coverage: With contributions received to date, in cash and kind, and those in the pipeline, the appeal is currently approximately 70% covered.

[<click here for the current donor response list>](#)

[<click here to link to a map of the affected areas; or here for contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- This emergency appeal was revised on 30 May 2008 for CHF 96.7 million (USD 92.7 million or EUR 59.5 million) to support the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) to assist around 100,000 families (up to 500,000 people) for 36 months.
- The emergency appeal was launched on 15 May 2008 for CHF 20,076,412 (USD 19.3 million or EUR 12.4 million) for 12 months to assist 100,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 250,000 was allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the RCSC's response to the earthquake.



Excited villagers gather nearby as International Federation family tents are being distributed. Travis Betz/International Federation.

Summary: The 8.0 magnitude earthquake on 12 May devastated eight provinces: Sichuan, (the most severely affected), Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shanxi, Guizhou and Hubei. The death toll currently stands at 69,181. Over 15 million people are displaced (including over five million homeless).

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has continued to provide assistance to those in the affected areas, mobilizing medical teams and relief vehicles. A total estimated 180,000 RCSC volunteers and staff have been involved in rescue, medical, relief and recovery efforts. To date, more than one million earthquake survivors have received relief items from Red Cross.

The International Federation's water and sanitation emergency response units (ERU) are functioning well in the townships of Jiulong, Zundao, Xinglong and Gongxing in Deyang prefecture. All ERUs are working hard and scaling up activities to meet the needs in their respective areas. RCSC counterparts have been fully deployed and are working alongside the international ERU staff to ensure skills transfer and proper handover of ERUs to the RCSC.

The RCSC has requested 100,000 tents from outside of China through Red Cross Red Crescent sister national societies. Approximately 103,000 tents have been mobilized through these sources under the International Federation umbrella. These are arriving steadily everyday at Chengdu and are bound for the designated prefectures. To date, the International Federation has received and distributed 55,000 tents to earthquake survivors. A distribution tracking system that meets basic international standards is in place to ensure delivery from airport to prefecture to county to township and finally to village level.

Many partner national societies and other entities have made contributions to the appeal: American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross/Australian government, Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Croatian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross/Danish government, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Greek government, Icelandic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross/Japanese government, Malaysian Red Crescent, Mauritius Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, New Zealand Red Cross/New Zealand government, Norwegian Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Sri Lanka Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society, as well as contributions from the European Commission (ECHO), the American, Irish, Italian, Luxembourg and Slovenian governments, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Royal & Sun Alliance and United Technologies.

The RCSC has also received bi-lateral contributions from Cambodian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, Republic of Korea Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent and Vietnam Red Cross.

The International Federation, on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China, would like to thank all partners for their generous response to this appeal.

The situation

During the past few weeks, flooding caused by torrential rains has affected nine provinces in the southern region of China and has killed at least 57 people, forcing more than one million to be evacuated. Sichuan province, which was most heavily affected by the 12 May earthquake, has also suffered heavy rains which are increasing the risks of landslides and flooding. The rain, flooding and increasing heat have affected the earthquake relief activities.

By 23 June, the Sichuan earthquake and aftershocks have left 69,181 dead, 374,171 injured, 18,498 missing, and over 15 million displaced, of whom five million are homeless, according to the ministry of civil affairs. Rescue efforts have officially ended and the focus is now on debris clearing, transitional settlement, recovery needs including health, and reconstruction.

The threat of landslides from both aftershocks and heavy rains has caused the evacuation of over 111,000 people from areas near the epicentre. Already, 72,000 have been relocated, which took three days in difficult conditions.

Relief supplies continue to be sent to the quake zone and the government has distributed over 1.5 million tents, 4.9 million quilts, 14.1 million pieces of clothing, 1.2 million tonnes of fuel oil and 2.6 million tonnes of coal so far.

Relief workers have built 215,600 transitional houses, 42,100 were being installed, while material for 90,000 transitional houses had arrived in the affected areas. In one township, home to one of the larger resettlement sites, approximately 3,500 transitional houses were under construction. These transitional houses were being wired for electricity and communal toilet facilities were also being built.

On 19 June, the government released figures on the number of relief workers and volunteers mobilized since 12 May. This includes more than 139,000 soldiers, 28,000 police officers and firefighters, and 75,600 military reservists. This also includes 96,800 medical workers and 5,200 Chinese and foreign earthquake rescue workers. According to the report, more than 200,000 volunteers from across the country rushed to the quake-hit areas to join in the rescue and relief efforts.

Chinese tent manufacturers have been working at maximum production capacity, and are reported to have completed 70 percent of the order placed by the ministry of finance and civil affairs. The national development and reform commission has issued measures to ensure stable prices of tents and the ministry of railways is supporting the smooth transportation of tents.

With government funds and donations exceeding CNY 100 billion (CHF 15 billion), a 24-hour hotline has been set up for people to report fraud and malpractice involving relief funds and distribution. The Chinese authorities have sent nearly 10,000 audit officers to track relief funds and supplies to the Sichuan area. Auditing will occur in 18 ministry-level agencies, 240 provincial-level and 2,500 county-level organizations across the country.

Despite the many ongoing challenges, roads and enterprises are continually being restored in the area. A total of 52,111 kilometres of roads have been restored out of the 53,289 kilometres that was destroyed in the quake. According to the Sichuan authorities, a two-stage process will be implemented to repair the badly damaged road network in Sichuan – beginning with the rebuilding of existing roads, and moving onto strengthening roads with anti-quake measures.

In many areas, water is available but unsafe for drinking without prior treatment. The government is providing water purification tablets to people and continuous disease-prevention activities are taking place. To date, there has been no reported increase in water related illnesses or communicable diseases.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) is continuing to provide relief assistance to disaster affected communities across eight provinces. The provision of tents and other non-food items remain the focus of activities along with medical support (mobile teams and field hospitals) and psychosocial support. Emergency shelter and safe drinking water remain the top priorities for Red Cross Red Crescent action in the affected areas.

The transition to early recovery is beginning. The RCSC leadership has conducted an assessment in the affected areas of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi provinces to identify possible Red Cross interventions for the recovery phase. A plan of action will be developed after the leadership has properly discussed all options. This will be followed by joint sectoral assessments by the RCSC and the International Federation in the areas where Red Cross will focus its support for the longer term, which will include reconstruction.

RCSC volunteers and staff are meeting multiple flights at Chengdu airport every day, with International Federation logistics personnel working alongside providing advice and guidance. Almost half of the 103,000 tents mobilised by the international Federation has arrived at Chengdu and have been distributed to the prefectures. A plan has been put in place to increase the pace of consignments from Iran in order to meet the target delivery date of all tents by June 30.

The International Federation's emergency response units (ERUs) have made steady progress in meeting the water and sanitation needs in Deyang prefecture's townships of Jiulong, Xinglong, and Zundao and recently started serving an additional township of Gongxing. ERU teams have scaled up their activities in response to more requests from local authorities and surrounding villages. A total of 252 latrines have been erected.

Communities served by ERUs also receive training in sanitation and hygiene, and latrine construction and maintenance.

The Danish Red Cross ERU base camp is functioning well, and has had a very positive impact on the daily work of ERU personnel as well as RCSC volunteers and staff.

Over the weekend, all ERU teams have received counterpart teams from RCSC. These RCSC counterparts will play a vital role in the transfer of knowledge and skills, and a smooth handover in the coming weeks.

Shelter and relief

International Federation logistics personnel continue to work alongside RCSC volunteers and staff at Chengdu airport to process and clear shipments and to load goods onto distribution trucks bound for prefectures. 55,000 tents mobilised through the International Federation have arrived, another 30,000 have scheduled arrival dates before the end of June, while the remaining are awaiting flight availability. Working conditions for volunteers and staff at the airport have improved with the provision of supplies such as water and mattresses for resting.

International Federation standardised tracking systems have been established to ensure accountability at all levels for the distribution of tents and all forthcoming locally procured relief goods. The International Federation team has been tracking the distribution of tents from the airport to final destination at the village level. The system in place to track goods at all levels is adequate in meeting International Federation standards. Villagers were very happy to receive their tents. In one village, none of the 676 families were able to stay in their homes which had been either completely destroyed or were unsafe to live in. According to the village leader, families were currently living in a combination of tents of various types and small shelters constructed with plastic sheeting and wood salvaged from their previous homes.

A procurement delegate from the International Federation regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur has arrived in Beijing to assist with the procurement of 100,000 kitchen sets, hygiene kits and quilts. The procurement specifications for these relief items is being finalised along with the delivery schedule and distribution plan.



A Red Cross water and sanitation team leader gets some help with the water tank. Mike Wolf/Austrian Red Cross.



On 2 June, 100 Japanese Red Cross tents arrived in Malu village, Qingchuan county. Five other villages in the county received the 2200 tents donated by JRCS. Japanese Red Cross.

Water and sanitation

The International Federation's water and sanitation emergency response units (ERU) are fully functioning in communities within Deyang prefecture. The emergency response units currently consist of 17 personnel in-country with RCSC counterparts working closely alongside the international teams in order to ensure a transfer of knowledge about ERU operation.

Austrian/French Red Cross water and sanitation ERU

The team's main focus continues to be in Xinlong township which has a population of 20,000. At the request of the local health inspector and verified after a team assessment, coverage has also expanded to Gongxing township, serving a village of 250 people. 70,000 litres of clean water is stored in a large tank near the Xinlong base. Water is distributed by specially adapted trucks to 11 distribution sites in the villages which store another 65,000 litres of clean water. Local authorities are working closely with the team and visiting and checking the water quality regularly. On 22 June, the ERU team received three additional RCSC staff from Hunan province, which will strengthen the existing RCSC counterpart team working alongside the international staff with the objective of being able to take over the running of ERU activities in the coming month.

Spanish Red Cross water and sanitation ERU

The team has expanded their distribution network in Jiulong and Zundao townships, and are now operating 24 distribution sites with a total storage capacity of 99,500 litres connected to 34 delivery points serving a population of 8,000 people. Most of the water is transported from a treatment base to the distribution sites by specially adapted trucks. RCSC counterparts are working well alongside the team and already taking full responsibility for running specific components of the treatment and distribution process. Two new RCSC counterparts from Hunan province joined the team on 22 June. Cooperation with local authorities is very good, to the extent the authorities have made available four volunteers to work with the team. The team is regularly visited by health authorities.



Clean water is being trucked to a distribution and collection point. Mike Wolf/Austrian Red Cross

British Red Cross mass sanitation ERU

The mass sanitation ERU team is at the moment fully focused in Jiulong and Zundao townships. The communities have been key actors in the decision-making process of the activities. Zundao township has 21,740 people and work has been focused on five displacement camps and two villages serving about 8,800 people. Due to repeated requests from the villages of Zundao township, the team continues to assess the

situation in the rest of the villages. Hygiene promotion is being concentrated on school projects and community awareness days. Hand washing facilities and hygiene promotion posters are being distributed together with latrine construction. To date, the team has erected and distributed 252 latrines and are looking into constructing more in the near future. The communities have also expressed a need for washing facilities, in particular for women in the affected communities who are lacking washing/bathing facilities which will ensure their privacy. The team is thus looking into how they could assist the communities to meet this need.

Danish Red Cross base camp ERU

The base camp, with a capacity to accommodate 36 people, continues to function well, attracting much interest and visits by the community. The base camp provides accommodation, washing facilities and three daily meals to ERU personnel and RCSC volunteers and staff working alongside. Currently the base camp consists of 13 accommodation tents, each containing three to four beds. RCSC counterparts from Hubei province arrived on 21 June to work with the Danish team and are now in a process of being trained in the functioning and running of the base camp. Local authorities remain in frequent contact with the team and provide good cooperation.

Health

RCSC medical teams are still providing services on the ground. The International Federation is continuing to monitor and assess the health situation in operational areas with particular concern regarding the threat of disease and heat related ailments.

Recovery

An RCSC detailed assessment is being planned in order to form the basis for the RCSC recovery and reconstruction plan. Consultations with various levels of relevant government agencies are also ongoing. The detailed assessment is planned to take place in early July. It is intended that the findings will be presented at a meeting with interested partner national societies, scheduled for July 17-18.

Coordination and partnerships

The coordination efforts between the International Federation operations support team, the RCSC at all levels and relevant official agencies have been excellent and have helped facilitate a rapid response. The International Federation is committed to staying as long as it is needed to support relief and recovery efforts, including training and capacity building on the global tools (emergency response units) provided to RCSC. On 17 June, Qatar Red Crescent, together with the Qatar government, visited Chengdu to get an overview of the International Federation's quake response and to discuss possibilities for Qatar government support to be channelled through the Red Cross Red Crescent working modalities.

The RCSC is regularly involved in high level coordination meetings with government authorities, and in discussion with the ministry of construction regarding reconstruction planning.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is supporting ongoing operations with three translators, including one with a background in logistics. This practical form of assistance provided by the ICRC has been very helpful to the ongoing quake response operations.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The International Federation's regional media specialist remains in Chengdu conducting interviews, writing stories and taking photos. On 17 June, the head of the regional office delivered a presentation on the Red Cross Red Crescent response to the earthquake to the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China in Beijing, which generated international media coverage via Associated Press reports. Updated press releases, stories, and photos are available online at www.ifrc.org and www.flickr.com/ifrc.

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 (NGOs) 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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REVISED APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

CHINA: SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE**MDRCN003**

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter/Tents (Including Air Transport)	630,000	45,200,000	(44,570,000)
Construction Materials	5,000,000	17,000,000	(12,000,000)
Clothing & Textiles	4,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
Food	5,000,000	5,000,000	
Water & Sanitation	285,000	120,000	165,000
Medical & First Aid	740,000	740,000	
Teaching Materials	-	500,000	(500,000)
Utensils & Tools	825,000	3,500,000	(2,675,000)
Other Supplies & Services	-	11,200,000	(11,200,000)
Total Relief Needs	16,480,000	84,260,000	(67,780,000)
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Land & Buildings	-		
Vehicles Purchase	90,000	90,000	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	30,000	40,000	(10,000)
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	-	120,000	(120,000)
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Distribution & Monitoring related to Relief Needs	200,000	800,000	(600,000)
Transport & Vehicles Costs	100,000	350,000	(250,000)
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International Staff	316,800	2,130,000	(1,813,200)
National Staff	72,000	428,000	(356,000)
National Society Staff	48,000	48,000	
Consultants	108,000	108,000	
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	50,000	150,000	(100,000)
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	180,000	600,000	(420,000)
Information & Public Relations	36,000	108,000	(72,000)
Office running costs	85,200	360,000	(274,800)
Communication Costs	78,600	246,000	(167,400)
Professional Fees - auditing fee	847,400	319,400	528,000
Financial Charges	3,000	9,000	(6,000)
Other General Expenses	46,445	288,000	(241,555)
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	1,304,967	6,288,274	(4,983,307)
Total Operational Needs	3,596,412	12,482,674	(8,886,262)
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	20,076,412	96,742,674	(76,666,262)
(Less) :Available Resources		37,222,888	
Net Request	20,076,412	59,519,786	(76,666,262)



China: Earthquake

