

CHINA: FLOODS 1996

*appeal no: 10/96
28 August 1996*

THIS REVISED APPEAL SEEKS A TOTAL OF CHF 5.42 MILLION TO ASSIST 1.47 MILLION BENEFICIARIES FOR 3 MONTHS

The Context

The monsoon season has had a devastating impact on China this year. With the launch of Federation Appeal 10/96 on 22 July for CHF 4.42 million, 1.2 million beneficiaries were targeted to receive aid in six provinces in south and central China. As anticipated, more death and destruction occurred as the rains moved north and typhoons continued to storm in from the ocean. More than 900 people were killed in the most recent flooding around the country. At least 100 remain missing. Six provinces were particularly badly hit.

The Intended Operation

The Red Cross Society of China National Headquarters will extend its emergency relief operation to cover another 270,000 beneficiaries in six more provinces, bringing the total to be assisted to 1.47 million. It will distribute funds to its provincial branches in the newly affected areas to enable them to make local purchases of the most urgently needed relief items which, according to initial field assessments, are medicine, disinfectants, food and tents. The Red Cross Society of China and the Federation Reporting/Monitoring Delegate are currently travelling in two of these provinces for additional assessments.

The Disaster

The most recent round of bad weather caused serious damage in Fujian, Hebei, Henan, Jiangxi, Shangdong and Xinjiang provinces. Typhoon Herb, dubbed a super typhoon in media reports, caused extensive destruction in mid-August in Fujian Province. Other storms added to the destruction caused in Jiangxi by flooding in July. Xinjiang Province was devastated by flash floods: in one village the wall of water crashing down was as high as 6 - 7 metres. As the waters poured through the tributaries into the Yellow River, they caused extensive flooding in Shangdong, Henan and Hebei Provinces. In Henan Province alone, approximately 200,000 people have taken refuge on dikes along the river.

Because of the further flooding, an extra CHF 1 million is sought to assist the Red Cross Society of China in providing relief aid for three months to the most vulnerable flood victims in these six additional provinces -- bringing the total appeal amount to CHF 5.42 million. To date, CHF 3.15 million has been pledged by Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world.

Province	Deaths	Injured	Rooms Damaged/Destroyed	Homeless
FUJIAN 8 prefectures, 30 counties	55	2537	227,000/39,900	279,000
HEBEI 11 prefectures, 19 counties, 800 townships, 9,919 villages	432	631	*	17,000
HENAN 8 prefectures, 48 counties, 382 townships, 643 villages	135	3684	118,000/83,500	369,000
JIANGXI 7 prefectures, 83 counties, 708 townships, 8,726 villages	204	3656	296,000/120,000	131,000
SHANGDONG 14 cities, 71 counties, 566 townships	27 27 missing	1667	351,970/169,459	*
XINJIANG 10 states, 32 cities, 168 towns	59 89 missing	338	*/74,200	100,000

* data currently unavailable

The Response so far

Government Action •

The Government of China continues to mobilise personnel to shore up dikes, repair infrastructure, provide emergency aid and carry out search and rescue operations. In co-operation with the RCSC and the Department of Public Health, medical teams are providing health care to flood victims.

Red Cross Society of China •

The RCSC is providing emergency relief assistance through its provincial and local branches to over 1.4 million of the most vulnerable flood victims in 12 provinces. Procurement and distribution of medicine, disinfectants, clothing, food, and tents is being done in co-ordination with the RCSC National Headquarters.

Co-ordination •

The RCSC co-ordinates closely with the Government of China in assessing needs and providing relief aid to flood victims. The RCSC remains in close contact with the Federation Delegate as well as the Federation Secretariat in Geneva.

The Needs to be met

Assessment of Needs •

The initial assessment of needs was done in co-operation with the RCSC National Headquarters and its provincial and local branches. An assessment team from Headquarters that will include the Federation Delegate will travel to the new disaster areas within the next few days.

Immediate Needs •

Immediate needs identified include medicine, disinfectants, food, and tents, and well as medical teams to treat health problems arising from the floods.

Red Cross Objectives

The objectives of the operation in the six newly affected provinces are to provide relief aid to approximately 270,000 beneficiaries. This includes provision of rice/grain for one month, distribution of medicine, medical treatment, sanitising of water supplies and public and residential areas, and tents.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Capacity of the Red Cross Society of China •

Through its large network of staff and volunteers, the RCSC has the capacity to assess needs, procure relief goods in country, and distribute aid to the beneficiaries. In addition, in co-operation with the Department of Public Health, tens of thousands of medical teams can be dispatched to the 12 affected provinces.

Present Capacity of the Federation in China •

The Federation has a Reporting/Monitoring Delegate stationed in Beijing who is working in close co-ordination with the RCSC and carrying out field trips to the affected provinces.

Evaluation •

Evaluation will be on-going throughout the operation with a formal exercise conducted at its conclusion to determine if the objectives were met. The process will also be examined to identify lessons learned and how they can benefit future operations. The evaluation will be conducted as part of the overall evaluation of the operation in appeal 10/96.

Immediate action

Cash contributions are urgently needed.

Budget summary

A detailed plan of action and breakdown of the budget for the six additional provinces will be available in the next few days.

Conclusion

With the addition of six provinces to the appeal, the Red Cross Society of China will be providing flood relief aid in a total of 12 provinces. More than 1.4 million people will benefit from the operation. The monsoon season is not yet over but it is hoped that the worst has passed.

The Red Cross Society of China wishes to express its appreciation to all donors for their support of the Society and the victims of the floods.

Under-Secretary General,
Disaster Response & Operations Co-ordination

Secretary General