

CHINA: FLOODS

15 September 1998

appeal no. 21/98 (revised)

situation report no. 5

period covered: 02 - 14 September

China's record floods have now affected 223 million people and left nearly 16 million homeless. The situation is worsening in the northern provinces which must also contend with an early winter. Purchasing and distribution is under way, providing 400,000 beneficiaries with food and 580,000 with safe water. Cash is still urgently needed to fund further procurements and so reach the beneficiary total of two million people targeted by the revised appeal.

The context

Relentless rains over the past five months have caused vast flooding that is affecting an estimated 223 million people in central, south east, north and north-east China. The Yangtze River's water levels in the south, and the Songhua and Nen rivers in the north-east reached record highs. In many areas of the south, the floods are being described as the worst in living memory; in the north-east, the floods are the worst since records began.

New official figures state that more than 3,000 people have died in the floods, some 1,320 of them along the Yangtze River. 15.85 million people have been evacuated and resettled. 4.97 million houses have been destroyed, and 21 million hectares of land has been flooded, including 1.3 million hectares of lost harvest. Past government reports estimated that: 12.05 million houses were damaged, 4.78 million hectares of crops destroyed and 14 million people left homeless.

Because of the magnitude of the disaster and the anticipated worsening of the situation in the northern provinces, the Federation reviewed the size of its support to the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and increased the Emergency Appeal budget from CHF 6.7 million to CHF 13.4 million. The revised budget will assist two million beneficiaries including affected people in the northern Heilongjiang Province and Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

Latest events

A report by the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters states that the water level in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River in Central and East China is continuing to fall slowly. The water level is still considered dangerous and is not expected to drop below the danger level until late September. The central and south-eastern areas of China endured a stifling three week heat-wave that has eased somewhat, from 39 degrees to 34/ 35 degrees Celsius, over the reporting period.

Cases of snail fever, also known as schistosomiasis, are on the increase in central China, where the disease is endemic. In Jingzhou, Hubei Province, some 513 infectious cases of snail fever were reported, accounting for 70 per cent of the province's total. Flooding has increased the size of the areas where the

snails and blood fluke larvae that cause the disease are found. The government has launched an aggressive public education and health campaign to treat and educate people living in areas that may be affected.

Rain and thunder showers continue in northern flood-affected areas. North-eastern China is racing against time to provide shelter for one million homeless flood victims before the onset of the region's harsh winter. Night time temperatures are slowly declining to below 10 degrees Celsius.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Red Cross action / Relief activities •

Over the reporting period, the Federation team and the RCSC focused their efforts on the swift distribution of relief goods purchased with Federation funding. The following table illustrates relief goods purchased and distributed, or in the process of being purchased, to date:

Monetary Value of Relief Goods Transferred to RCSC to Date (all funds in CHF)					
Provinces Assisted	Water Purification Tablets	Medicines	Sanitation Materials	Food	Monetary Total of Goods By Province
Hubei	144,970	191,160	36,364	488,191	860,685
Hunan	134,898	124,740	36,364	338,191	634,193
Jiangxi	134,898	118,260	36,364	316,684	606,206
Fujian	31,283	51,840	35,455	161,307	279,885
Guangxi	62,566	51,840	35,455	161,307	311,168
Sichuan	31,283	51,840	35,455	154,317	272,895
Monetary Total by Type	539,898	589,680	215,457	1,131,806	
Percentage of assistance by Type	23%	23.8%	8.7%	45.7%	TOTAL 2,476,841

These relief supplies will ensure food assistance for some 400,000 beneficiaries, and access to safe water for some 580,000 beneficiaries.

The RCSC has been involved in flood relief work throughout China from the onset of the floods: it continues to support some 10,000 Red Cross / Public Health medical and first aid teams working in the flood-affected areas, and distribute relief goods in a timely and needs-based manner.

Planning •

RCSC provincial response teams continue to plan for the relief needs of affected people, prioritising items required to face the pending change of seasons and associated drop in temperature. A third distribution plan, currently being formalised and funded by the Federation, will focus on support to the northern areas of Heilongjiang and Inner Mongolia. This support, worth CHF 1,472,000, will include medicines, winter coats, warm quilts, and food. In addition, two vehicles will be purchased to facilitate the distribution.

Fund-raising •

The Red Cross Society of China continues to actively fund-raise at both headquarters and branch level. Donations, mainly in kind, totalling RMB 180 million (CHF 32.4 million) have been raised through domestic contributions by 27 provincial Red Cross Branches. This local fund-raising has been used to assist people in the provinces in which it was received.

In addition, RCSC National Headquarters has raised RMB 146.18 million (CHF 26.2 million) which has been distributed to Jiangxi, Hunan, Hubei, Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, and Sichuan provinces and autonomous regions.

Federation Delegation •

The Federation Field Delegate recently completed an assessment mission to Heilongjiang Province. The Field and Information/Reporting Delegate are currently on an assessment trip to Inner Mongolia to review the relief requirements of this autonomous region. Later next week, the Federation Field (ECHO Reporting) Delegate will travel to central China to monitor distribution of ECHO-funded relief.

The Federation Delegation is composed of four delegates -- one representative, one information/reporting delegate and two field delegates with monitoring and reporting functions -- and in addition receives technical support in the areas of finance and information from the Southeast and East Asia Regional Delegation.

Government Action w

Both the central and provincial levels of government remain actively involved in the distribution of relief materials and money throughout flood affected areas and have mobilised significant resources to fight the floods. In response to public criticism regarding the speed of government relief activities, the Ministry of Civil Affairs has stated that it will speed up deliveries of donations to the flood affected areas. The Department of Health continues to play a lead role in staffing and supporting some 20,000 medical teams which provide direct service to flood victims.

Other Agency Relief Efforts •

World Vision is currently involved in relief and rehabilitation operations in Hubei, Jiangxi, Sichuan and Guangxi. So far, it has distributed rice and maize to 80,000 flood victims, and shelter materials, vitamin supplements, seeds, disinfectant, medicine and water purification materials. Medecins du Monde (MDM) recently completed an assessment mission to Heilongjiang Province. Many of their findings support the Federation's findings of a week earlier. UNICEF also recently completed an assessment trip to the Dongting Lake area in northern Hunan Province.

Outstanding needs

To ensure that two million beneficiaries receive the assistance they urgently require, the most pressing need continues to be for cash. National Societies that have made pledges are urged to transfer funds as soon as possible, to allow large scale procurement of relief items to move ahead.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Federation Delegation in China continued to work closely with both international and Chinese national media. Since the end of July, some 110 interviews have been given by the Delegation focusing primarily on the human aspects of this disaster, the work of the RCSC, the needs of those affected, and the Federation's expanded appeal for CHF 13.7 million. In addition some 25 interviews have been given from the Secretariat in Geneva.

Information sharing with Beijing-based embassies continues on a weekly basis. The Federation continues to co-ordinate closely with MSF, Medecins Du Monde (MDM), World Food Programme,

OCHA, CARE, UNICEF, and Handicap International to strengthen relief delivery through shared information.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The worsening situation, the increase in the numbers of people affected, and the onset of cool temperatures in northern flood-affected areas make rapid relief action essential. To achieve this, continuing support, particularly in the form of cash, is urgently required.

For further information, please contact Marcel Fortier, Desk Officer, on +4122 7304268 (e:mail: fortier@ifrc.org).

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CHINA - FLOODS

APPEAL No. 21/98

**PLEDGES
RECEIVED**

15/09/98

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL				13,604,000	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		100,000	USD	150,000	04/08/98
AUSTRIAN - RC				100,000	21/08/98
BRITISH - RC/GOVT		150,000	GBP	368,070	25/07/98
BRITISH - RC/GOVT		250,000	GBP	613,450	24/08/98
CANADIAN - RC		50,000	CAD	51,230	15/07/98
CANADIAN - RC		160,000	CAD	163,936	20/08/98
CANADIAN - RC		100,000	CAD	102,460	20/07/98
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT		50,000	CAD	51,230	28/08/98
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT		200,000	CAD	204,920	20/08/98
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT		442,000	CAD	452,873	04/09/98
DANISH - RC		500,000	DKK	108,500	24/07/98
DANISH - RC/GOVT		2,000,000	DKK	434,000	05/08/98
ECHO		355,000	XEU	590,507	
GERMAN - RC/GOVT		350,000	DEM	294,630	11/08/98 WATE
GERMAN - RC/GOVT		399,399	DEM	336,214	04/09/98 QUILT
GERMAN - PRIVATE		1,300	DEM	1,060	04/09/98
ICELAND - RC		200,000	ISK	4,204	20/07/98
IRELAND - GVT		50,000	IEP	106,000	14/09/98
ITALIAN GOVT		100,000	USD	150,000	31/08/98
JAPANESE - RC		10,000,000	JPY	107,760	13/08/98
JAPANESE - RC		20,000,000	JPY	215,400	14/09/98
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC		20,000	CHF	20,000	07/09/98
REP. KOREA RC		30,000	CHF	30,000	08/08/98
LUXEMBOURG - RC				500,000	26/08/98
MACAU - RC		136,736	USD	202,506	14/08/98
POLAND - RC		2,000	USD	3,000	28/08/98
NETHERLANDS - RC		270,000	NLG	201,626	20/08/98 MEDIC
NORWEGIAN RC/GOVT		1,350,000	NOK	267,300	23/07/98
NORWEGIAN - RC		150,000	NOK	29,700	23/07/98
SPAIN - RC/GOVT		12,000,000	ESP	118,992	12/08/98
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT		1,500,000	SEK	283,200	12/08/98
SWISS - RC				350,000	31/08/98

US EMBASSY - BEIJING	250,000 USD	375,000	27/07/98
US - PRIVATE	40.00 USD	60.00	06/08/98
SWITZERLAND - PRIVATE		2,040	12/08/98
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH		7,027,368 CHF	

KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE
CANADIAN - RC	1 DEL X 10 WEEKS			12,500	
BRITISH - RC	1 DEL X 6 MONTHS			30,000	
DANISH - RC	1 DEL X 3 MONTHS			15,000	
BELGIUM - RC	1 DEL X 3 MONTHS			15,000	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				72,500 CHF	

NOT REQUESTED IN APPEAL

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED					
				0.00 CHF	