

CHINA: FLOODS

9 November 1998

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situation report no. 7

period covered: 1 - 31 October 1998

The latest Federation assessment missions report that many areas are beginning the long process of recovery from record floods. However, many challenges continue to face the Red Cross Society of China - with flood water receding in the South, there is the danger of epidemics and in the North the Inner Mongolia Red Cross is undertaking an essential emergency shelter programme for 2,500 families. Purchasing and distribution of essential relief items continues. Funds were allocated to Provincial Red Cross branches for the purchase of a one month food ration for 200,000 beneficiaries and 33.5 million water purification tablets, which will give some 560,000 beneficiaries access to safe water.

The context

The extensive flooding that has affected an estimated 223 million people in central, south east, north and north-east China is now starting to recede. Towns and villages visited by boat during the previous reporting period are now becoming accessible to delegates on foot for the first time this month. Whilst the fall in water comes as a relief to those areas affected, the full extent of the resulting destruction has now been exposed. The pollution of villages and farm land is of major concern to the government, which with the assistance of the Chinese Red Cross, is going to great lengths to ensure that living areas and polluted water supplies are fully decontaminated before residents are allowed to return to reclaim what is left of their homes. According to data released by the government this month, 90 percent of the estimated 30,000 victims of the 1954 floods died from contagious diseases after the flood water receded. It is in this context that the Federation is concentrating its efforts on providing essential relief items to the worst affected areas.

Official figures are continuing to be updated on the effects of the flooding. The latest statistics state that 3,656 people have died in the floods, 15.85 million people have been evacuated and resettled, 4.97 million houses have been destroyed, and 25 million hectares of land have been flooded, resulting in 4.78 million hectares of damaged crops and 1.3 million hectares of land on which no harvest will be reaped at all this season. Furthermore, 12.05 million houses were damaged and 14 million people were left homeless. Of the 2.9 million people previously reported to be living on dikes in the flood affected areas, the Federation estimates that up to 80% have now been temporarily resettled with host families.

Latest events

Although water levels have now dropped in most areas along the Yangtze River, local authorities in both the southern, flood-affected provinces of Hubei, Jiangxi and Hunan and north eastern provinces of Inner Mongolia report that some areas are still either submerged or cut off by the flood waters. It is not expected that the water will fully recede for another month.

Recent Federation assessment visits to both Hubei, Fujian and Inner Mongolia clearly show the importance of monitoring in the regions, given constantly changing conditions. With the receding water level, priorities have changed, and based on the field reports by delegates returning from the affected

areas, the Federation has been able to develop new initiatives which concentrate funds and relief supplies where they are most needed.

Red Cross action

Relief activities •

Over the reporting period, the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and the Federation team continued to focus their efforts on providing the Provincial Red Cross organisations with the funds and materials to assist the most vulnerable in the flood areas. The RCSC continues to be the major agency assisting the Public Health and Civil Affairs Departments in the post flood period. Red Cross / Public Health, medical and first aid teams are at the forefront of the struggle to ensure that epidemics, widespread following such disasters, are kept under control. The Provincial Red Cross, with its intimate knowledge of the extent of the flooding continues to be active in the distribution of both Federation and locally donated relief goods. The Federation delegates have been impressed by the professional response to the needs of the most vulnerable.

Inner Mongolia Emergency Temporary Shelter

Following the assessment trip to Inner Mongolia that alerted the Federation to the needs for temporary emergency shelter and food, the Federation reallocated a total of CHF 1.5 million in a revised Appeal budget towards this emergency shelter programme. The programme aims to support a total of 2,500 families with the building materials to build basic shelters.

Information received during the latest field mission to the area indicates that of the 6.19 million people that were affected by flooding, some 375,400 were made homeless. While up to 80% have been moved from their villages to live temporarily with family and friends in less affected areas, some 75,000 continue to live exposed to the elements in inadequate temporary shelters.

The latest mission saw that the Provincial government of Heilongjiang was starting some limited shelter programmes which required quite high inputs of cash from the victims themselves. The buildings being constructed are more substantial than those planned in the RCSC/Federation project. Given that the project areas chosen by the regional Red Cross branches have been affected in previous years by a series of droughts, the RCSC/Federation are considering assisting only the poorest families.

The Red Cross, in collaboration with Regional and local government, have made some changes to the original programme. These are due in part to the new local government initiatives, and also to the inaccessibility of some of the proposed sites. Proposed changes were also agreeable to the Delegate who recently visited the area where some 12 villages are still cut off by water.

A draft contract has been drawn up between the Regional/County level Red Cross and Government which outlines the various parties' responsibilities. This gives the Red Cross an important input into both the selection of villages and the monitoring of the project. The government accepts the responsibility of sourcing the building materials as well as transporting them to the new villages. They also will provide technical advice when needed.

Funds distributed

Of the funds raised by the International Federation to date, CHF 7.3 million has been or is currently being used to purchase and distribute the following:

Monetary Value of Relief Goods Transferred to the RCSC to date (all funds in CHF)							
Provinces Assisted	Water Purification Tablets	Medicines	Sanitation Materials	Food	Coats/ Quilts	Housing	Monetary Value of Goods, by Province
Hubei	308,215	253,360	313,950	637,160	NA	NA	1,512,685
Hunan	243,220	167,375	253,950	338,175	NA	NA	1,002,720
Jiangxi	165,772	160,875	189,600	422,475.00	NA	NA	938,722
Fujian	31,365	52,000	39,000	161,400	NA	NA	283,765
Guangxi	62,577	52,000	39,000	161,400	NA	NA	314,977
Sichuan	31,365	52,000		154,406	NA	NA	237,771
Heilongjiang	0.00	143,000	20,300	396,825	225,000	NA	785,125
Inner Mongolia	0.00	91,000	40,700	550,745	48,000	1,500,000	2,230,445
Monetary Total by Type	842,514	971,610	932,500	2,822,586	273,000	1,500,000	
Percentage of assistance by Type	11.53%	13.29%	12.27%	38.63%	3.73%	20.53%	TOTAL 7,301,620,

Fund-raising •

The Red Cross Society of China continues to fund-raise actively both at headquarters and branch level. The RCSC, in partnership with the Bank of China, American CyberCash and Unicom Sparkice, has launched a global on-line donation facility for China's flood victims. All donations to this web site will go to the RCSC flood relief operation concentrating on reconstruction projects and anti-epidemic work in the flooded areas.

Federation Delegation •

Federation Delegates completed assessment missions to Inner Mongolia, Hubei and Fujian. Some positive reports were received by participants from the contributing National Societies who visited Heilongjiang and Hubei Provinces at the end of the last reporting period.

The Federation Delegation is now comprised of three delegates - one Representative, 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

Many reports in the media indicate that the government is concentrating resources on sanitation and prevention of epidemics. Much of the government's food assistance is now being issued on a loan basis, which the victims have to repay when they harvest their next crop. Given the low level of income of many of the victims, it will be difficult for them to accept such loans.

Much emphasis is now being placed on the root cause of the flooding. Measures are being planned to ban the cutting of trees in the forests of the upper reaches of the Yangtze. The workers formally employed as lumberjacks are being re-trained in reforestation techniques.

Work is already underway using World Bank loans to strengthen dikes along the Yangtze in the southern provinces of Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi.

Other Agencies' Relief Efforts •

Following the United Nations assessment of the southern flood-affected provinces of Hubei, Jiangxi and Hunan, and the northern flood-affected provinces of Heilongjiang and Jilin, an appeal for international assistance was launched. The emphasis will be on rebuilding damaged infrastructure, such as roads, safe drinking water supplies, schools, hospitals and other public facilities.

As part of the unified UN Appeal, the WFP is seeking USD 80 Million for food-for-work programmes that are also linked to rehabilitation of infrastructure and farming land.

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 the emergency shelter programme in Inner Mongolia to proceed, together with large scale procurement of relief items.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Federation Delegation in China continued to work closely with both international and Chinese national media. Whilst there has been a reduction in international media reporting, the national media are still active in covering the work of the Federation. CCTV film teams have been present on all the delegates' field trips to the Provinces. Since the end of August, some 121 interviews have been given by the Delegation, in addition to some 40 interviews given by the Federation Secretariat's Media Service. Interest has focused on the co-operation between the RCSC and the Federation, as well as the mechanisms involved in transporting the relief goods to the most vulnerable.

Information-sharing with Beijing-based Embassies takes place on a weekly basis. The Federation continues to co-ordinate closely with MSF, Médecins Du Monde (MDM), World Food Programme, OCHA, CARE, UNICEF, and Handicap International to strengthen relief delivery through access to quality information.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

Whilst the worst of the flooding is now over, the risk of disease caused by the polluted water remains. The Federation aims to continue supporting the RCSC with relief items during this critical phase of the recovery period. To achieve this, continuing support, particularly in the form of cash, is urgently required.

For further information, please contact Marcel Fortier, Desk Officer, on +41 22 730 4268 (e:mail: fortier@ifrc.org).

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APPEAL No. 21/98

PLEDGES
RECEIVED

09/11/98

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL				13,604,000	
AUSTRALIAN - GVT		100,000	USD	136,099	04/08/98
AUSTRIAN - RC		100,000	CHF	100,000	21/08/98
AMERICAN - RC		15,000	USD	20,760	15/10/98
CANADIAN - RC		100,000	CAD	98,500	20/07/98
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT		200,000	CAD	186,900	20/08/98
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT		50,000	CAD	49,800	28/08/98
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT		442,000	CAD	412,165	04/09/98
CANADIAN - RC		160,000	CAD	153,600	20/08/98
CANADIAN - RC		50,000	CAD	51,300	15/07/98
CANADIAN - RC		150,000	CAD	137,175	25/09/98
DANISH - RC/GOVT		2,000,000	DKK	437,130	05/08/98
DANISH - RC		500,000	DKK	109,916	24/07/98
ECHO		1,050,000	XEU	1,746,570	21/09/98
ECHO		355,000	XEU	590,507	20/08/98
FRANCE - GOVT		150,000	FF	36,510	07/10/98
FINLAND - RC		300,000	FIM	81,150	16/09/98
FINLAND - RC/GOVT		1,000,000	FIM	271,300	26/10/98
BRITISH - RC/GOVT		150,000	GBP	368,070	25/07/98
BRITISH - RC/GOVT		250,000	GBP	574,754	24/08/98 WATER & FOOD
GERMAN - RC/GOVT		350,000	DEM	294,630	11/08/98 WATER TABLETS
GERMAN - RC/GOVT		399,399	DEM	336,214	04/09/98 QUILTS
GERMAN - RC/GOVT		300,000	DEM		23/10/98 SOFT PLEDGE
GERMAN - PRIVATE		1,300	DEM	1,060	04/06/98
ICELAND - RC		200,000	ISK	4,204	20/07/98
IRELAND - GVT		50,000	IEP	106,000	14/09/98
IRELAND - GVT		75,000	IEP	155,100	02/11/98
ITALIAN GOVT		100,000	USD	150,000	31/08/98
JAPANESE - RC		20,000,000	JPY	215,400	14/09/98
JAPANESE - RC		10,000,000	JPY	103,400	13/08/98
REP. KOREA RC		30,000	CHF	30,000	08/08/98

NETHERLANDS - RC/GVT	650,000 NLG	485,400	18/09/98	
NORWEGIAN - RC	150,000 NOK	29,700	23/07/98	
NORWEGIAN RC/GOVT	1,350,000 NOK	267,300	23/07/98	
MACAU - RC	136,736 USD	202,506	14/08/98	
MONACO - RC	30,000 FF	7,390	01/10/98	
US - PRIVATE	40.00 USD	60.00	06/08/98	
PRIVATE (Ernst & Young)	50,000 USD	66,875	13/10/98	
POLAND - RC	2,000 USD	3,000	28/08/98	
SWITZERLAND - PRIVATE		2,040	12/08/98	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC / PRIVATE		18,260	07/09/98	
LUXEMBOURG - GVT		500,000	26/08/98	
SPAIN - RC/GOVT	12,000,000 ESP	118,992	12/08/98	Water & Health
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT	1,500,000 SEK	283,200	12/08/98	
SWEDISH - RC	3,000,000 SEK	536,100	02/11/98	Shelter programme
SWISS - RC		350,000	31/08/98	
SWISS - RC/GOVT	50,000 CHF		16/10/98	SOFT (Medicines)
USA - AMCROSS: private donors	25,000 USD	37,500	12/08/98	
USA - AMCROSS: private donors	70,000 USD	105,000	17/09/98	
US EMBASSY - BEIJING	250,000 USD	375,000	27/07/98	Water/Sanitation
USAID	300,000 USD	415,200	13/10/98	Water & Health
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH		10,963,363 CHF		

**KIND AND SERVICES
(INCL. PERSONNEL)**

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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		

APPEAL

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