

CHINA: FLOODS

16 December 1998

appeal no. 21/98 (revised)

situation report no. 8

period covered: 31 October - 15 December 1998

The devastating flooding in central and north eastern China in July and August left nearly 14 million homeless. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) reports that while much of the flooding has receded there are still pockets of homeless victims throughout China facing a bleak winter.

In the north east, the Inner Mongolian Branch of the RCSC has completed over 1,000 shelters within the current shelter programme. The onset of winter has forced a temporary halt to the work, which will resume next spring.

The RCSC and Federation are continuing to assist the most vulnerable, concentrating their joint resources on supplying food, quilts, tents and heavy winter clothing to the worst affected areas.

The context

More than sixty days of rains during the summer caused devastating flooding in 29 provinces along the banks of the Yangtze, Nenjinag and Songhuajiang rivers. An estimated 223 million people were affected, of whom some 15.85 million were forced to evacuate their homes and seek temporary shelter. Now that much of the flood waters have receded, the true cost of the destruction is becoming apparent. Of the 2.9 million people previously reported to be living on dikes in the flood affected area, the Federation estimates that up to 80% have been temporarily resettled with other families. There still remain isolated pockets of homeless living in temporary shelters close to their original villages. Free government distributions of emergency food, medicines and shelter material have ceased, leaving flood victims reliant on borrowing basic food stocks from the local government. The RCSC is concentrating its activities on assisting the poorest victims who are unlikely to be able to repay such loans because of the destruction of their farm land.

Latest events

Although water levels are continuing to drop in most areas along the Yangtze River, local authorities in both the southern flood-affected provinces of Hubei, Jiangxi and Hunan and the north eastern provinces of Inner Mongolia report that approximately 5% of the total area initially flooded is still under water. Many families who are now returning to what is left of their homes, in an effort to try and safeguard their previous land holdings, have been forced to construct temporary shelters while they wait for the waters to fully recede. Their fear is that, given the new government initiatives to try and re-house people in safer but less productive areas away from the flood plains, they may lose their precious high yielding plot.

The total number of returnees in temporary shelters is difficult to judge. According to some reports, in a few counties, up to 6% of the families who have returned are in temporary residence on the dikes.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Relief activities •

Over the reporting period, the Federation and the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) have concentrated their efforts on ensuring that the Provincial Red Cross organisations are supplied with the funds and materials to assist the most vulnerable in the flood areas. With the onset of winter, the main focus has been on supplying clothing, food and quilts for the winter months. Sanitation materials and water purification tablets continue to be supplied to Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi to assist those pockets of victims living on the dikes.

Inner Mongolia Emergency Temporary Shelter

The programme aims to provide 2,500 families with the materials to build basic shelters. According to the latest reports, over 1,000 shelters have been completed, giving over 4,000 victims adequate heated shelters over the coldest months. With the onset of the winter, and temperatures below minus 18 Celsius in places, a temporary halt has been called to this programme. Some funds from this project will be reallocated to meet the immediate needs of the beneficiaries in the north-east.

In recent meetings representatives from both Heilongjiang and Inner Mongolia indicated that the majority of the homeless have now found shelter, albeit temporary, with friends and other families.

Funds distributed

Of the CHF 11.84 million (out of the total target of 13.6 million) raised by the International Federation so far, CHF 8.4 million has been spent or allocated to purchase relief items.

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	352,506	250,250	285,412	726,310	132,000	NA	1,746,478
Hunan	275,290	164,125	230,866	406,445	NA	NA	1,077,026
Jiangxi	316,492	157,625	172,365	425,685.00	132,000	NA	1,204,167
Fujian	31,283	52,000	35,454	144,300	NA	NA	263,037
Guangxi	62,566	52,000	35,454	144,300	NA	NA	294,320
Sichuan	31,365	52,000	32,724.00	138,047	NA	NA	254,136
Heilongjiang	0.00	136,500	37,000	624,338	225,000	NA	1,022,838
Inner Mongolia	56,462.00	84,500	18,818	768,120	129,000	1,500,000	2,556,900
Monetary Total by Type	1,125,964	949,000	848,093	3,377,545	618,000	1,500,000	
							TOTAL 8,418,902

Fund-raising •

The Red Cross Society of China continues to fund-raise actively at both headquarters and branch level. Significant donations have been received from the Hong Kong Red Cross Branch of the RCSC.

Federation Delegation •

The Federation delegation held a meeting with all of the Regional and Provincial branches currently involved in the Emergency Appeal. The aim was to obtain a comprehensive update on the current

situation in the provinces, along with the main outstanding needs of the flood victims. Based on the outcome of this meeting, the delegation was able to design the next Plan of Action which will concentrate on meeting the medium term needs of the most vulnerable during the coming winter months.

The Federation delegation now comprises three delegates - one representative, and two field delegates with monitoring and reporting functions - and in addition receives technical support in finance and information from the South East Asia Regional Delegation. The regional finance delegate spent time during the reporting period with the delegation and with the Finance Department of the RCSC.

Government Action w

The government is rebuilding the dikes destroyed during the recent flooding. There is a current drive to try to move villages that had encroached on areas that traditionally acted as natural flood overflows, into safer areas. While the theory is sound, in practice it presents huge problems to the local administrations whose job is to implement it. Not only are people reluctant to move away from the fertile flood plains, but the numbers involved, and the lack of adequate free land add to the difficulties of carrying it out.

Other Agency 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. It emphasises rebuilding damaged infrastructure, such as roads, domestic water supplies, schools, hospitals and other public facilities.

Outstanding needs

To ensure that two million beneficiaries receive the assistance they still 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.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Federation Delegation in China continued to work closely with both international and Chinese media. During the reporting period delegates were involved in three CCVT (China Television) interviews, plus a number of interviews with the international media based in Beijing. The main interest has been on the co-operation between the RCSC and Federation, as well as the post flood recovery work now taking place throughout China.

Information sharing with Beijing-based embassies continues on a monthly basis. The Federation continues to co-ordinate closely with MSF, World Food Programme, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, and Handicap International to strengthen relief delivery through shared information. A Federation representative is now present at the weekly UNDP-chaired Disaster Management (DMT) co-ordination meetings.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for the list of contributions to this revised Appeal.

Conclusion

As with many disasters, there is a tendency to assume that once the flood waters recede, the emergency is over. In reality, it is only when the flooding ends that the full extent of the devastation can be measured,

and the Red Cross can attempt to meet the needs of those victims whose livelihoods have literally been washed away. While the Government is making great efforts to rebuild the infrastructure, very little attention has been given to the individual needs of the most vulnerable. For this reason, the Federation is reviewing the operation's plan of action and revising the budget in order 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).

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding & Reporting Department

Hiroshi Higashiura
Director
Asia & Pacific Department

APPEAL No. 21/98**PLEDGES
RECEIVED**

16/12/98

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL				13,604,000	98.55%	
AUSTRALIAN - GVT		100,000	USD	136,000	04/08/98	
AUSTRIAN - RC				100,000	21/08/98	
AUSTRALIAN PRIVATE DONORS		25,000	USD	33,188	19/11/98	
BRITISH - RC/GOVT		150,000	GBP	368,070	25/07/98	
BRITISH - RC/GOVT		250,000	GBP	574,750	24/08/98	
BRITISH - RC		46,858	GBP	106,396	17/11/98	INNER MONGOLIA SHELTER PROGRAM
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		150,000	CAD	137,175	25/09/98	
CANADIAN - RC		50,000	CAD	51,230	15/07/98	
CANADIAN - RC		400,000	CAD	344,120	12/11/98	
CANADIAN - RC		500,000	CAD	430,150	30/11/98	
CZECH GOVT		20,000	USD	26,550	16/11/98	
DANISH - RC/GOVT		2,000,000	DKK	437,000	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	
FINLAND - RC		300,000	FIM	81,150	16/09/98	
FINNISH - RC/GOVT		1,000,000	FIM	271,300	26/10/98	
FRENCH - GOVT		150,000	FRF	36,945	07/10/98	
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 - PRIVATE		1,300	DEM	1,060	04/06/98	
GERMAN - RC		300,000	DEM		23/10/98	
ICELAND - RC		200,000	ISK	4,204	20/07/98	
IRELAND - GVT		50,000	IEP	106,000	14/09/98	

ICRC	500.00 USD	692.00	09/10/98	
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	
JAPANESE - RC	15,000,000 JPY	168,075	10/11/98	
REP. KOREA RC	30,000 CHF	30,000	08/08/98	
LUXEMBOURG - RC		10,000	01/12/98	
MACAU - RC	67,867 USD	94,165	17/10/98	
MONACO - RC	30,000 FRF	7,389	23/09/98	
NETHERLANDS - RC	270,000 NLG	201,626	20/08/98	MEDICAL SUPPLIES
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	
POLAND - RC	2,000 USD	3,000	28/08/98	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC / PRIVATE		18,260	07/09/98	
LUXEMBOURG - GOVT		500,000	26/08/98	
BARBADOS - PRIVATE	50,000 USD	69,200	09/10/98	ERNST & YOUNG
SPAIN - RC/GOVT	12,000,000 ESP	118,992	12/08/98	
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
SWITZERLAND - PRIVATE	660.00 CHF	660.00	01/10/98	
SWISS - RC		350,000	31/08/98	
SWITZERLAND - PRIVATE		2,040	12/08/98	
AMERICAN - RC	21,279 USD	28,248	23/11/98	
USA - AMCROSS: private donors	25,000 USD	37,500	12/08/98	
USA - AMCROSS: private donors	15,000 USD	20,760	15/10/98	
USA - AMCROSS: private donors	70,000 USD	105,000	17/09/98	
USA - USAID	300,000 USD	415,200	08/10/98	HEALTH / WATSAN
US EMBASSY - BEIJING	250,000 USD	375,000	27/07/98	
US - PRIVATE	40.00 USD	60.00	06/08/98	
AMERICAN - RC	837,500 USD	1,111,781	15/12/98	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH		13,319,844 CHF		97.91%

**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 6 MONTHS			30,000		
BELGIUM - RC	1 DEL X 3 MONTHS			15,000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				87,500 CHF		0.64%

**NOT REQUESTED IN
APPEAL**

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