

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Floods

Information bulletin n° 2
GLIDE : [FL-2010-000122-CHN](#)
16 July 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Red Cross Society of China, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

Rainstorms and consequent floods that have been sweeping South China again in July have left 135 people dead and 41 missing in eleven provinces and municipalities mostly along the Yangtze River, including Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan.

Latest official figures indicate that over 35.5 million people are affected, with more than 1.2 million people relocated and 113,000 homes destroyed since 1 July 2010.

RCSC continues to support emergency relief operations in the affected areas. Additional relief materials were mobilized by both RCSC headquarters and its branches since the middle of July to four more provinces which are badly affected by the latest round of floods.



More Red Cross relief materials including Red Cross quilts are reaching the hands of affected people. Families are forced to evacuate for temporary shelters such as school classrooms in many of the affected area. Photo: RCSC

[<click here for an updated map of the affected areas; click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

There were a few days of dry weather for some of the mostly affected areas in south of China after the last round of torrential rains reported in the last [information bulletin](#). A fresh round of storms on 1 - 16 July 2010 resulted in floods, landslides, lightning strikes, broken bridges and roads, collapsed homes and buildings, and caused 135 deaths with 41 people missing, 1.2 million evacuated and an estimated 35.5 million affected. At least 281.3 thousand hectares of farmland is devastated, and direct economic losses have reached up to CNY 26 billion (CHF 4 billion) within two weeks.

Geographically, the July floods is still more concentrated in the middle and southern part of China along the Yangtze river but is affecting other parts of China as well. The provinces of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and Guangdong province were removed from the government's worst-affected list, but three other provinces was added, bringing the total number of worst hit provinces from 10 to 11. The 11 provinces and municipalities include Anhui (east China), Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan (south-west China).

It is also notable that heavy rain pounded parts of western China, especially in Qinghai province where a devastating 7.1 Richter scale earthquake took place in April 2010. The flood, which is the worst on record in the usually dry region in western part of China, was triggered by rainstorms and melting snow in the Golmud



Local police and armed forces helped residents to transfer to safe place in Anqing, east China's Anhui Province on 13 July 2010. Photo: Xinhuanet

river basin. So far the flood and resulting landslide caused at least 28 deaths and more than 60,000 affected. Along the Wenquan reservoir, more than 9,700 people had to be evacuated while hundreds of soldiers and armed police are still rushing to complete a drainage channel to prevent the reservoir from bursting which might lead to further floods in a city of up to 205,700 people.

Official statistics released from the government on 15 July indicated that since beginning of the year, intervals of torrential rain and triggered floods and landslides has already caused a total of 594 lives lost in 26 provinces in China, with 212 still missing and direct economic losses no less than CNY 120.2 billion (CHF 18.5 billion).

More rain and flooding is expected to hit the country in the near future with typhoon season already arriving. On 15 July 2010, the national flood control authority launched a level-three disaster control emergency response, and the national marine authority issued an orange alert, which is the second highest level warning for wave surges, for Typhoon Conson. Typhoon Conson is expected to make landfall in southern Guangdong and Hainan in the coming two days.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

Since May, the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has been carrying out relief work in the affected provinces. Materials mobilized by end of June include tents, quilts, padded coats, jackets, family packs, mosquito nets and disinfectants, and reached the most affected areas despite poor transportation conditions due to heavy rains and floods.

On 12 July, based on a needs assessment carried out by Chongqing, Hubei, Anhui and Guizhou provincial Red Cross branches, the RCSC headquarters mobilized 150 tents, 1,500 family packs, 2,000 quilts and 1,334 environment disinfectants to the four provinces, totaling CNY 1.02 million (CHF 157,300). Another 1,000 family packs are being mobilized to affected areas in Anhui by the Hong Kong branch of the RCSC at time of reporting.

Separately, on 13 July 2010, the Yunnan branch of the RCSC conducted an immediate emergency assessment a few hours after a flash flood hit Qiaojia county which caused 17 deaths, 28 people missing and injured 43 people. On 14 July, RCSC headquarters immediately mobilized 400 family packs to the Yunnan branch of RCSC, who, together with 500 quilts and 500 pieces of warm clothes, distributed the relief items to the affected communities in a timely manner.

RCSC has launched a national appeal in preparation for more relief action. Assessments are ongoing for each of the provinces.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) East Asia regional office is closely monitoring the situation together with RCSC and providing updated information as it becomes available. It has indicated readiness to support RCSC's relief operation as needed.



Free medical services were provided by a team of Red Cross volunteers to the worst-hit area in Fuzhou of Jiangxi province in Jiangxi. Photo: RCSC



Apart from non-food relief items, local Red Cross branches also helped to provide food and safe drinking water for displaced population in temporary shelters and settlements. Photo: RCSC

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 \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

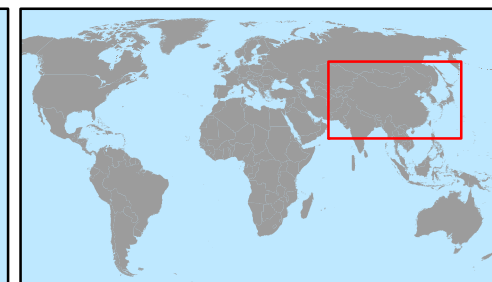
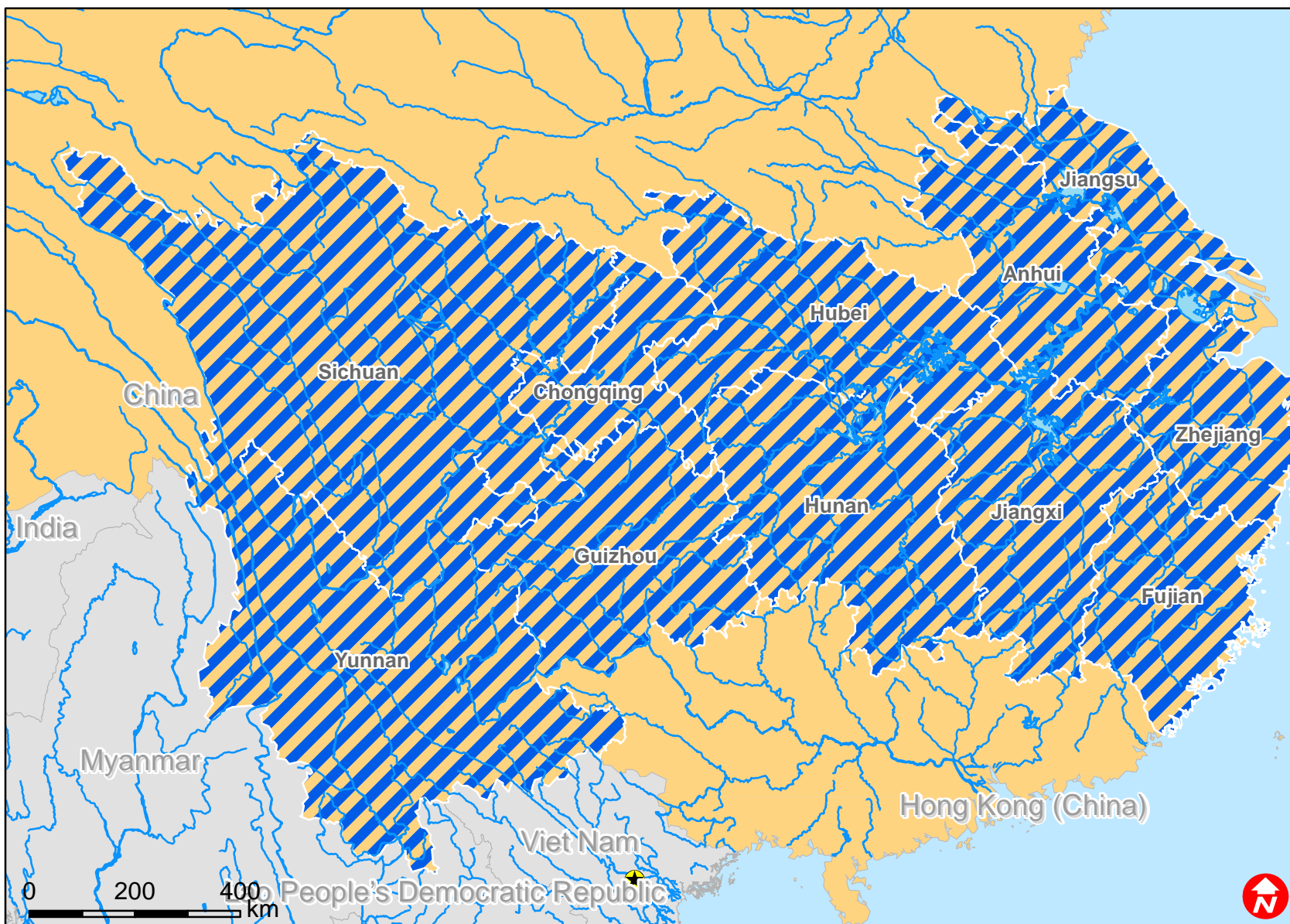
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information>](#)



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 Worst affected provinces