

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## China: Floods

Information bulletin n° 5  
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This bulletin reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Red Cross Society of China welcomes direct cash assistance to provide support to the affected population. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) can also receive cash contributions on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China through its [annual support plan](#) from donors for this operation.

Floods triggered by heavy rains in China continue, with the latest figures issued by national media indicating that the floods this year has claimed the lives of 742 people, with 367 missing in 28 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, affecting more than 120 million people and 7.6 million hectares of crops. While the figures are an accumulative statistic since beginning of the year, most of the casualties are linked to the heavy rains and subsequent floods and landslides which hit the country since May. More floods are expected, the situation exacerbated by the approaching typhoon season.



The Red Cross Society of China distributed relief items to the affected people in Hubei province. Photo: RCSC

This information bulletin focuses on individual flooding situation update in some of the worst affected areas.

[<click here to view the map of the affected areas, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

### The situation

Torrential rains and storms, massive flooding and landslides are estimated to have affected up to 120 million people in 28 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities to date. According to the latest official figures released by the Chinese government, 742 people have died and 367 people are missing since the beginning of the year due to floods in the country. In July alone, 12 provinces have been affected, with 273 dead, 218 people still missing and over 3 million people displaced. Devastated farmland has reached up to 7.6 million hectares, with direct economic lost amounting CNY 58.27 billion (CHF 8.95 billion). With the typhoon season approaching, it is estimated that more are to be affected in the coming months.

Floods this year are concentrated in the southern and central part of China, but as storms and rains continues across a vast part of the country, some of the areas in east and north of China were seriously affected as well.

In northwest China's Shaanxi province, as of 25 July 2010, two floods and other rain-triggered disasters in the past 11 days had left at least 111 dead and 167 missing. The first floods, from the rain-swollen Hanjiang River and its tributaries, hit Shaanxi's Ankang, Hanzhong, and Shangluo cities on 14 – 19 July. Another flood that began on 22 July has exacerbated the situation. The floods have affected about 4.25 million people and forced 703,000 people to be evacuated. In the worst-hit Ankang City, 63 people were killed, 119 missing and 2,824 injured, with an estimated economic loss of CNY 9.56 billion (CHF 1.48 billion). On 24 July 2010, the Luofu River, a tributary of Weihe River in Shaanxi, burst to an 80-metre gap. More than 3,000 soldiers have tried to close the gap and managed to narrow it to approximately two meters with stones and sand bags in the beginning, but the action is still not complete since the breach expanded again as water continues to flow through. More than 9,300 residents had to be evacuated due to the breach.

Rainstorms have also caused havoc in the northeastern provinces of Liaoning and Jilin since 19 July 2010, leading to the collapse of 5,700 houses and relocation of 152,000 people.

In the south, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan were greatly affected by Typhoon Chanthu, which killed two people and leveled 2,915 houses. At least 1.36 million residents are affected, causing direct economic losses of approximately CNY 2.4 billion (CHF 373 million).

Although the Three Gorges dam protected many of the residents around the Chongqing municipalities in southwest China from the Yangtze river, the rains triggered landslides and in-land flooding. On 20 July, a landslide at Miaoba town of Chengkou county in Chongqing threatened at least 10,000 residents by the barrier lake and were forced to evacuate.



The government has mobilized the military to rescue the affected people in Chongqing. Photo: cqnews.net (Chongqing local media)

Torrential rain in another south western province, Sichuan has claimed the life of four and 16 others missing in the Chenhe Township of Tongjiang County, where rainstorms pelted the area for more than a 10 hours. 3,100 people evacuated their homes and were relocated to warehouses and tents in higher ground.

The situation remains serious in other provinces such as Hubei and Hunan in central China and Anhui in the east, with the government closely monitoring swelling lakes and rivers.

## Red Cross Red Crescent action

Since May, the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has been carrying out extensive relief work in the affected provinces. In Shaanxi, provincial Red Cross branch mobilized up to CNY 400,000 (CHF 62,183) in cash and relief materials to the three most affected prefectures. A donation campaign is ongoing.

In Chongqing, up to 22 July 2010, a total of 150 tents, 500 family packs and 500 boxes of drinking water disinfectants were mobilized by RCSC headquarters and dispatched. The Chongqing municipalities Red Cross branch also sent 100 tonnes of rice to the ten worst hit areas/counties. In Hubei, the RCSC Hong Kong branch mobilized 1,000 family packs to the affected areas.

To date, RCSC has launched an appeal at headquarters level in preparation for more relief action in response to the floods. It is noted that RCSC has already launched two appeals of different scales since the beginning of the year (including the appeal for the floods operation); the National Society responded independently with its own resources to the exceptionally serious drought, and launched a national appeal (in both headquarters and provincial levels) for the Qinghai earthquake.

RCSC recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Qinghai provincial government. According to the agreement, the Red Cross (RCSC headquarter and provinces, Hong Kong branch of RCSC, Macao branch of RCSC, Taiwan Red Cross Organization and any other partner national society support, if applicable) will support recovery of Yushu with an amount no less than CNY 2.3 billion (CHF 357.5 million). RCSC-led support will focus on schools, health and care and village houses reconstruction, with the balance on social care and disaster risk reduction facilities. The estimated allocation of funds based on the budgeted CNY 2.3 billion are as follows:

- CNY 1.8 billion (CHF 279.8 million) for the reconstruction of 29 schools and 33 health facilities
- CNY 300 million (CHF 46.6 million) to support reconstruction of village houses
- the balance will be used for village roads, drinking water facilities and disaster risk reduction facilities (including two disaster preparedness centres)

There is strong indication that it will be hard for the RCSC to mobilize enough resources to support the earthquake relief operations as well response to the recent flood situation.

International support can be made either directly to RCSC or through the IFRC's 2010 country plan for China. At this moment, IFRC plans to support Hubei province with CHF 150,000 in providing 3,000 families with 30 kilogrammes of rice and two quilts each (as indicated with the update of the assessment in the last information bulletin).

The IFRC East Asia regional office continues discussions with RCSC on how to support the emergency response to the floods through the IFRC's country plan for China for 2010.



RCSC headquarters assessment team checking the relief goods to be distributed in Hubei province. 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

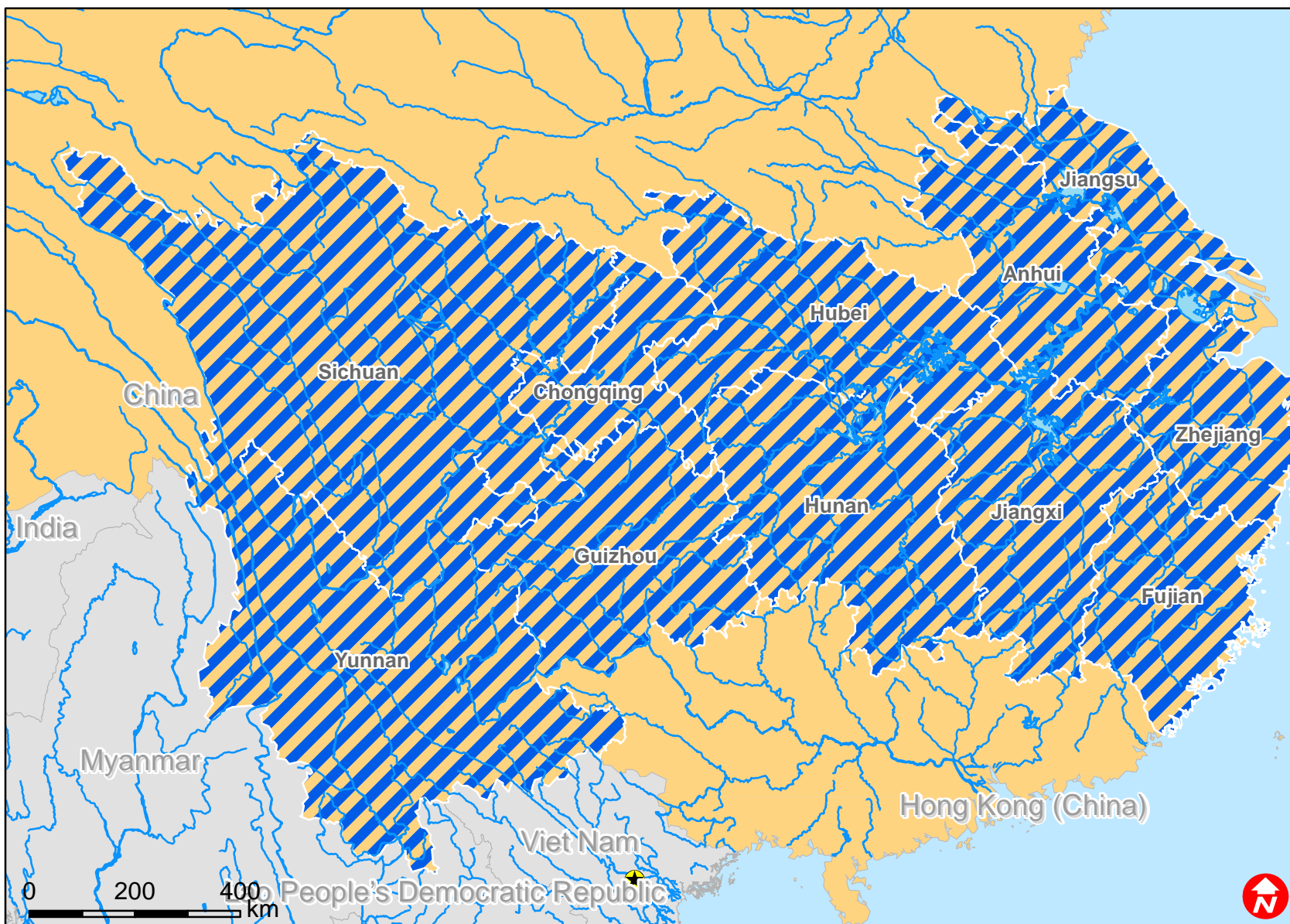
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 Worst affected provinces