

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Floods

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The Red Cross Society of China continues to respond to some of the most severe flooding to have affected China in the past ten years. However it is struggling to mobilize adequate resources in the wake of the domestic appeals it carried out to respond to the Qinghai earthquake and serious drought in central parts of China earlier in the year.

Latest figures from China's flood control authorities indicate that floods this year have left 968 people dead and 507 missing all over China as of 29 July. To date, the floods have affected 134 million people in 28 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, resulting in direct economic losses of CNY 176.5 billion (CHF 27.5 billion).

As of 27 July, the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) headquarters has provided assistance amounting to CNY 14.48 million (CHF 2.25 million) in cash and kind to the affected areas, including a large shipment of relief items such as quilts, clothes and blankets to the most affected areas of Sichuan, Shaanxi, Henan and Liaoning provinces.



A beneficiary in Hubei province carrying the relief items distributed by RCSC back to home. Photo: RCSC

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

The situation

Latest figures from China's flood control authorities indicate that floods this year have left 968 people dead and 507 missing all over China as of 29 July. According to the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters (SFDH), the floods have affected a total of 134 million people in 28 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, resulting in direct economic losses of CNY 176.5 billion (CHF 27.5 billion). A total of 887,000 homes have collapsed, with up to 9.61 million people evacuated and 8.76 million hectares of crops flooded nationwide. SFDH statistics also showed that the direct economic losses caused by floods this year more than doubled the average level during the past ten years, and the number of homes that collapsed has increased by 60 percent.

The detailed information for four most affected provinces are given below:

Province/ municipality	Total population (1998 census)	Number of people affected (% of total population)	Number of people displaced	Number of people killed, missing, injured
Hubei	60,280,000	10,000,000 (17%)	35,780	74 dead, 4 missing, 4,619 injured
Shaanxi	36,050,000	3,650,000 (10%)	700,000	111 dead, 167 missing, 2851 injured
Jiangxi	41,400,000	5,000,000 (12%)		19 dead
Sichuan	83,290,000	17,220,000 (21%)	2 million	
Total	221,020,000	35,870,000 (16%)		

The government has mounted massive relief efforts to help the affected communities and mitigate the worst effects of floods in the flooded areas. Some 287,000 military personnel have been mobilized for rescue work under difficult conditions. In Sichuan province, funds mobilized include CNY 60 million (CHF 9.35 million) from the local government, CNY 10 million (CHF 1.55 million) from central government allocations and CNY 20 million (CHF 3.12 million) from agricultural production units to date in response to the floods. The Sichuan provincial government provided 36,000 tents, 120,000 quilts, 13,000 beds, 5,000 sleeping bags and 100 tonnes of tarpaulins and plastic sheeting. However, massive size of the affected areas, rapidly changing situation and forecasts for more floods pose enormous challenges to these efforts.

The economy in the affected areas is mainly mixed industrial and agricultural. In addition to the economic damages to the local economy, the knock on effect at individual household levels in these areas is devastating, especially for the farmers who rely on small-scale farming and depend entirely on their own crops. Yields will not be sufficient this year to satisfy their nutritional needs. The southwestern provinces have two rice harvests per year and their next harvesting season is in late August – early September whereas central province have only one rice harvest which is coming in August, meaning that for some families already their entire annual rice crop in this flood season and with that, their main income source for their families for the next one year.

The full extent of the long term effects of the current flooding across the country is difficult to quantify, but even at this point of time, it is clear that they will be extensive. These include devastation to the local economies, long term effects on the livelihood of subsistence farming communities and displacement or relocation of populations living in high-risk flood areas.

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. The RCSC has launched a national appeal to provide more relief action.

As of 27 July, RCSC headquarters has provided assistance amounting to CNY 14.48 million (CHF 2.25 million) in cash and kind to the affected areas. Relief items distributed so far include tents, food (rice) and non-food items such family packets, quilts, blankets, towels and clothing. To meet urgent drinking water needs, the National Society distributed bottled drinking water and water



RCSC staff visited the people relocated in the tents allocated by RCSC in Hubei province. Photo: RCSC

purification tablets as well as disinfectants for environmental hygiene. On 27 July, RCSC dispatched a further large shipment of relief items to the most affected areas of Sichuan, Shaanxi, Henan and Liaoning provinces. The shipment includes 11,000 quilts, 600 family packets, 4,000 pieces of clothing, 2,000 towels, 2,000 blankets and 500 boxes of water purification tablets.

In Shaanxi, the 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 and dispatched to affected communities. The Chongqing municipality 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.

As of 28 July, the local Red Cross branch in Gansu successfully mobilized CNY 500,000 (CHF 77,926) to support affected communities.

On 28 - 30 July, the IFRC East Asia regional communications delegate conducted a field visit to Ankang and Shangluo prefectures in southern Shaanxi, one of the areas most affected by floods in the province. These visits helped to profile the Red Cross collective relief efforts and highlight the stories of struggles and coping of those affected by the current floods.

While local and national authorities are essentially meeting the most basic and immediate needs of the affected communities through the provision of basic relief items, nonetheless, a gap remains for the most affected and vulnerable families, especially those who do not have buffer resources or savings to meet the additional financial demands associated with living in relocated places or to get through the extended non-earning times when they cannot resume their normal economic activities.

RCSC welcomes cash contributions from partners to support its effort on the floods' response and recovery. Alternatively, cash contributions can be directed to the IFRC' annual support plan in China to support the floods operations of the RCSC. IFRC will to provide up to 3,000 flood-affected families in Hubei with 30 kilogrammes of rice and two quilts each through its disaster management programme in the annual plan. With increasingly pressing needs on the ground, IFRC welcomes additional contributions in cash or kind through its annual plan to support more families affected by the floods. Please click [here](#) for IFRC's latest programme update available for details.

Cash assistance to the RCSC from the international community in support of these operations will complement RCSC relief funds raised domestically, enabling RCSC to meet the gaps such as those described above. Using continually updated assessment information, the contributions will be directed where it most needed, focused on the four most affected provinces of Hubei, Shaanxi, Jiangxi and Sichuan and for distribution of key food and non-food items.

IFRC and RCSC will continue to assess and monitor the evolution of the long term needs and progress of the recovery efforts in the coming months and adjust its interventions, as appropriate.

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

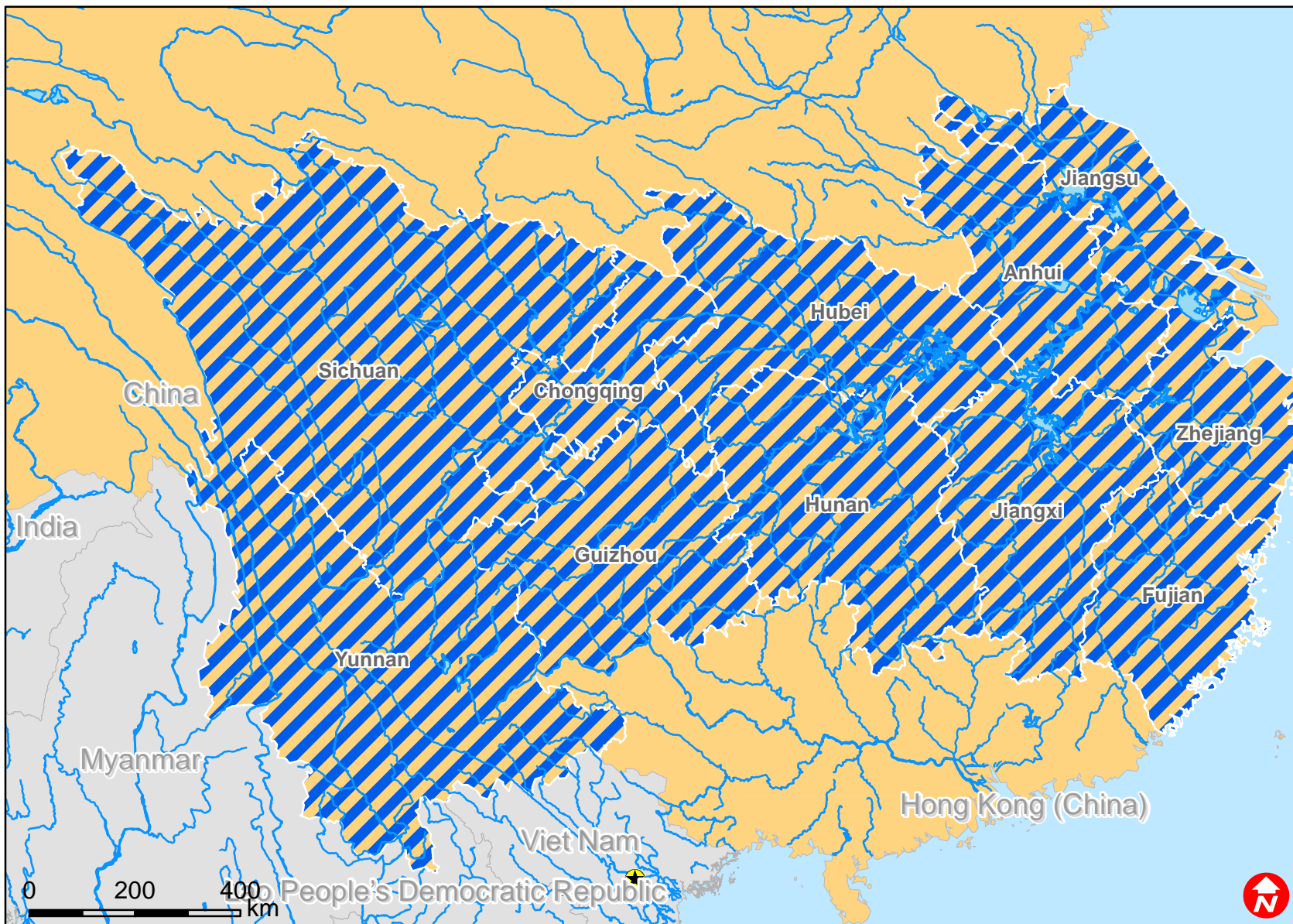
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page >](#)



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 Worst affected provinces