

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CHINA: FLOODS

22 August 2003

FOCUS ON ANHUI PROVINCE

Appeal No. 18/2003; Operations Update no. 02

Appeal launched on 22 July 2003 for CHF 7,932,000(USD 5,770,000 or EUR 5,120,000) in cash, kind or services to assist 440,000 beneficiaries for 9 months.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 300,000

Period covered: 14-21 August, 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 9.3%; for details see the attached list of contributions; also available on the Federation's website.

Outstanding needs: CHF 7,194,556

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeal for China (no. 01.66/2003)

Operational Summary: Forty days following the start of the floods, almost four million people are homeless and living a precarious existence. Many families remain living in temporary settlements on the dykes without any access to toilets or formal washing facilities. Funding for planned RCSC relief activities is urgently needed so that the Society's headquarters and its branches can move forward with providing the most vulnerable with critical assistance.

Operational developments

It has been slightly over forty days since flooding in China, which commenced at the end of June, overwhelmed a grand total of 26 Provinces and autonomous regions. Some 150 million people throughout the 26 provinces and autonomous regions are affected, and economic losses due to the flooding are estimated to be around USD 7.89 million. 3.85 million people throughout the 26 Provinces were forced to flee their homes and have temporarily resettled in makeshift tented settlements on dykes, sometimes extending for up to several kilometres or when possible in empty schools. Although the floodwaters have resided continuing rain and high temperatures add to the difficulties of the homeless and are delaying the commencement of rebuilding those buildings, which are salvageable. The majority of people who have been affected by the flooding are from rural communities and make their living as farmers or from working on farms. According to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, 2.11 million hectares of crops were completely destroyed and 6.89 million hectares of crops were damaged, thus many people have been left without a source of income, or in some cases their primary source for feeding their families until the next planting season which may be as far off as April 2004.

In particular, seven Provinces and Chongqing municipality in Central-eastern China were among the most severely affected areas due to the flooding. These seven provinces; Anhui, Jiangsu, Henan, Hunan, Guangxi, Sichuan, Hubei and Chongqing municipality experienced the worst flooding in more than a decade, resulting in massive

losses of homes, personal belongings and crops in each of these Provinces. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), with support from the International Federation, is implementing flood relief activities in the seven named Provinces and Chongqing municipality. As of the second week of August, according to figures released by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the government released RMB 229 million (USD 23.7 million) from its Disaster Relief Fund. RMB 2.8 million was allocated for individuals in 11 Provinces who were evacuated from their houses to provide them with rice, dry noodles, drinking water, coal and clothing. The government also deployed four hundred medical teams to the flood affected areas. According to the most recent available statistics, the government distributed a total of 44,000 tents with the largest number of tents, 19,000 going to Anhui Province.

The RCSC is also working with the Hong Kong Red Cross on a one-month food aid programme to assist 160,000 beneficiaries in Anhui, Hunan, Guangxi and Guizhou provinces.

An additional concern is the recently published report from the Ministry of Health of a rise in the number of cases of schistosomiasis, a parasitic disease carried by freshwater snails that attacks the blood and liver in humans. In 1998, there was a large rise in the number of cases of schistosomiasis following a similar flood disaster by the Yangtze River. Five of the seven Provinces which sustained the greatest amount of damage due to this year's flooding, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi and Yunnan were cited by the Director of China's National Institute for Parasitic Disease Control and Prevention as possessing a high potential for the spread of this sometimes fatal disease.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief

Objective: To provide recovery assistance in the form of rice, quilts and mosquito nets to 110,000 families in seven provinces and one municipality most affected by this year's floods.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

CHF 300,000 received by the RCSC from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was used for the purchase of tents and water purification tablets. Millions of people were forced to abandon their homes on account of the dangers posed by the strong force of the flood's current, therefore one of the first and most immediate needs for the flood affected population was for shelter and the purchase of tents. As Anhui and Jiangsu were identified to be the worst affected Provinces, with some 1.04 million people evacuated from their homes in Anhui alone a decision was taken to focus tent distribution of 700,000 tents within these two Provinces.

The other remaining urgent need, and one that is more difficult to meet, is the need for clean water. Rural water and sanitation systems are relatively basic. The primary source of drinking water are individual wells, while open pit latrines are used for collecting human waste. The pit latrines and individual wells were completely flooded by the rush of flood water leading to the intermingling of human and animal waste products into the drinking water supply, thereby contaminating the drinking water supplies of entire villages and leaving the population much more susceptible to waterborne and communicable diseases. Additionally, a vicious cycle is created as many of the homes have sustained considerable water damage, or as a result of the flood waters entering need to be cleared of mud, silt etc. The only available water, however, is this same supply of contaminated water leaving people with no alternatives for sanitizing their houses. Because of this, the RCSC and the Federation elected to apply funding received from DREF to the immediate purchase of 1,014,119 water purification tablets.

The RCSC and the Federation quickly devised a preliminary plan of action "Plan of Action 1" for the Society's first response to the floods. Representatives from the RCSC's Relief and International Relations Department worked with the Federation's Regional Disaster Preparedness delegate as well as the Federation's Flood Relief Coordinator and field delegate to develop the plan. Set forth below is a table of the items purchased using the DREF funds. The RCSC shall reimburse the Federation's DREF when funding becomes available.

Plan of Action 1: 22 July - 22 August 2003 Distribution of Relief Items: DREF

RELIEF ITEMS	ANHUI	JIANGSU	HENAN	HUNAN	GUANGXI	CHONGQING	SICHUAN	HUBEI	TOTAL RMB
TENTS (700,000)	315,000	385,000							700,000
WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS (1,014,119)	126,764.94	126,764.94	126,764.94	126,764.94	126,764.94	126,764.94	126,764.94	126,764.94	1,014,119.52

The RCSC in close consultation with the International Federation's Flood Relief coordinator and Field delegate are currently in the process of implementing the second phase of the Society's planned assistance, "Plan of Action 2." As August through September are warm months in China, where mosquitoes are likely to breed and increase the risk of malaria in flood affected areas, the RCSC must act in accordance with the demands of the season and distribute nets now when they are most urgently needed. Therefore the RCSC in consultation with the Federation has elected to use currently available funding for the purchase of mosquito nets. The RCSC relief department in Beijing is working with the Federation flood operations delegate to ensure that the tendering and purchase of the nets are made and recorded according to the standards outlined by the International Federation's Logistics department. During the third week of August the RCSC reviewed bids from three local suppliers of mosquito nets and identified a supplier.

The RCSC, with support from the Federation has also submitted a distribution plan of quilts for consideration by the German Red Cross (GRC) for funding. Upon acceptance by the GRC, the RCSC will, within three weeks of confirmation of the activity, deliver a total of 27,000 quilts valuing RMB 65 a piece, including transportation costs to the seven affected Provinces and Chongqing municipality. The quilts will be distributed as follows through the Provincial branches of the RCSC: Anhui (4,500); Jiangsu (4,500); Henan (4,500); Hunan (4,500); Guangxi (3,000); Chongqing (3,000); Sichuan (3,000) and Hubei (3,000). The RCSC Provincial branches are responsible for identifying those people who have been affected by the floods who have the greatest need for assistance.

Focus on Anhui Province

During the period 16-18 August, the RCSC accompanied by the Federation's Flood Relief Operation Coordinator and Field delegate, went to Anhui Province to assess how the situation has evolved since launching the Appeal one month ago. Visits made to Feng Tai and Shao Counties reveal that the floods have left the affected communities homeless, and at high risk to water borne and communicable diseases. Additionally thousands of children will not be able to return to school in September as many of the schools were either destroyed or sustained severe water damage. Additionally the loss of crops means that families who grow their own food will be without food and those who earn their income from working on farms will not earn any money to purchase food. In general, the affected families in the rural areas have no additional savings and are now in the position of having to rebuild or make substantial repairs to their homes, replace clothing, household and personal items lost in the floods plus continue to provide food for their families on a daily basis.

Some 360,000 people have been affected in Anhui Province's Feng Tai County, where 336 villages were flooded, and some 58,000 people were evacuated from or fled from their homes. At the moment many of the affected families have set up make shift shelters on mud dykes. The dykes which are around some seven metres wide, and as they are only made of compressed dirt highly susceptible to breakage, have become home to thousands of families but also are being used as roads. As the rain continues to fall these homeless families, who up until the floods supported themselves by working on farms, have no place to go as most of 2003's crops were lost to the floods. Despite high temperatures during the second week of August much of the cropland remains submerged under a metre of water. Families have lived for the past six weeks on the damp muddy dykes and children wander seeking somewhere to play as large trucks roll through the temporary settlements.

Additionally, all of the local supplies of drinking water have been contaminated due to the floods. Flooded pit latrines and wells has led to the intermingling of human and animal waste materials into the area's drinking water supplies greatly increasing the exposure of the families to communicable and water borne diseases. Although people on the dykes are receiving some potable water from fire trucks, there is an immediate and critical need for

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water purification materials so that these families can have access to clean drinking water. Especially as at the moment there are no basic hygiene facilities available.

An estimated 20,000 houses collapsed in Feng Tai County due to poor construction. Houses are often constructed out of mud, or mud is used in place of cement to bind bricks together. The structures which have been constructed out of mud or relied on mud as an adhesive were unable to hold up against flood level amounts of water. Heaps of bricks from destroyed houses were found to "have been washed completely clean" following the flooding.

The rapidly approaching start of the school year in September poses two more problems. The first is that some 1,506 of the Province's classrooms were destroyed. As it is the norm for each class room to house 60 students apiece many students will not be able to begin school on time this year. At the same time schoolrooms which withstood the flooding are currently being used to house elderly people who are without family who with the start of the school year will lose their temporary shelter.

When the team arrived in Anhui Province's Shao County they found even more severe conditions. What was fertile farmland had been transformed into a lake and some 910,000 persons have lost their homes and or their life's belongings in the floods. The team had absolutely no available road access and surveyed the area using a small boat. As with Feng Ti families have settled on the dykes where joint RCSC-Ministry of Civil Affairs medical teams have set up small health clinics. But the resources of these clinics have been over extended and there is an immediate need for antibiotics. Skin infections are quite common due to the damp conditions. The RCSC in Shao County has handed over supplies of rice, water purification tablets and some RCSC tents to community leaders for distribution to elderly people and children but most of the families still urgently require assistance.

As one travels through the flood affected areas one sees signs of the communities' efforts to survive or save their belongings as rooftops are dotted with a family's furniture wrapped in plastic. But returning to any sense of normalcy is a long way away as families will have to restore their homes and wait until April 2004 to begin working the land again. In the meantime the flood-affected families in all eight Provinces have an immediate need for quilts to protect them from the dampness and keep them warm when the temperatures start to drop,

Federation coordination

Field coordination of flood relief activities by the Federation is performed by the Regional Delegation in Beijing and the Flood Relief Operations Delegates. The desk officer in Geneva is working with international donors and potential donors to raise funds for the operation.

In addition, the Federation in cooperation with the RCSC have developed a system for working on a cash transfer basis. The RCSC and the Federation prior to conducting a cash transfer shall: 1) create a Plan of Action; and 2) create and execute a Project Agreement between the two parties which will contain both a budget and an annex containing narrative reporting formats and reporting deadlines.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Due to high profile events occurring in the Middle East it has been difficult to attract media attention for the flood disaster. Therefore, in addition to the initial press releases launched in July, a second media campaign was coordinated by the Federation's Media Service in Geneva. A Video News Release was prepared in Anhui for distribution, while a press release was distributed on 21 August. The Federation's Relief Coordinator was contacted by BBC and the French press for interviews, and a story was aired on BBC on 22 August.

Red Cross Society of China capacity building

An evaluation of the RCSC was conducted in April 2003 following the close of the 2002 Floods Operations. The evaluation report featured several recommendations regarding how the RCSC can incorporate Federation standards into their operating procedures. The RCSC has given this report careful consideration and issued their own formal written comments to suggestions made in the evaluation. The management of the RCSC has clearly expressed their intent both in the written statement and verbally in subsequent meetings with the Regional Delegation and the newly installed Federation Flood Relief Operations Team to incorporate Federation standards into their current operating procedures for relief, finance, logistics and reporting. RCSC has extensive experience

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managing relief operations, and has ongoing projects throughout the country with Sister National Societies (Norwegian, Australian and Netherlands Red Cross Societies) and NGOs and is quite familiar with the fact that different partners often have varying requirements for operating. Of note are two very successful ECHO funded water and sanitation projects, which were developed in cooperation with the Federation following flooding in 2002, with the Guangxi and Hunan Provincial Branches.

RCSC National Headquarters views this operation as an opportunity to learn and incorporate procedures established by the International Federation. The Federation's Flood Operations' Relief Coordinator, Finance, Field and Reporting Delegates are taking this task and the RCSC's desire to incorporate Federation standards and practices into their own way of operating very seriously. At a meeting conducted at RCSC headquarters in Beijing, senior representatives from the Society's Relief, Logistics, Finance, External Relations and for the first time Information Department affirmed their desire to comply with international and Federation standards for conducting a relief operation. As mentioned in earlier reports, and following up on suggestions made in the Evaluation report Federation Floods operations' delegates are seated with the RCSC in Beijing at RCSC headquarters. Learning will be facilitated by daily contact between the delegates and RCSC staff. Formal bi-weekly meetings between senior RCSC staff and Federation delegates will supplement daily ad hoc contact. The biweekly meetings which will be held at RCSC headquarters are an opportunity to make sure that everyone involved is updated on the latest activities and will function as a forum for questions.

For further information please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

China - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 18/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

22.08.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					7'932'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 9.3%	
AUSTRIAN - RC		40'000	EUR	61'960	05.08.03			
DANISH - RC		277'500	DKK	57'581	23.07.03			
DANISH - GOVT		30'000	USD	40'530	25.07.03		DIRECTLY TO DELEGATION	
ESTEC NDF/ESA		10'000	EUR	15'490	24.07.03			
FINNISH - RC		50'000	EUR	77'150	24.07.03			
JAPANESE - RC		249'543	USD	337'133	25.07.03			
SWEDISH - GOVT		700'000	SEK	117'600	25.07.03			
TURKISH - RC				30'000	22.07.03			
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				737'444	CHF			9.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES						
				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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