



CHINA: FLOODS

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 240,000 (USD 199,551 or EUR 144,781) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over four weeks, and will be completed by August 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation by November 2007. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Operational Summary: Already, more than 105 million people have been affected by floods alone this year in China. Severe flooding in Anhui, Sichuan and Hubei provinces, which were the most severely affected provinces, have caused the evacuation of 3.6 million people. At least 425 have been killed, with another 110 missing. More than one million rooms¹ have been damaged and at least 360,000 rooms completely destroyed. It is estimated that 6.4 million hectares of farmland have been destroyed and economic losses are mounting to CNY 33.5 billion (CHF 5.3 billion). DREF funding will be used to support the Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) provincial branches in Anhui, Sichuan and Hubei to provide rice, blankets and water purification materials to affected families in the flooded areas. These activities are being coordinated through the RCSC headquarters which is seeking national support and support from RCSC branches to meet immediate needs in other provinces affected by recent floods and landslides through a national appeal.



Villagers using boats after waters rose to high levels.

The distribution of relief items is expected to be implemented over the next four weeks and will be completed by 31 August 2007. The Federation is currently seeking un-earmarked funds to repay DREF.

¹ Traditionally, housing is allocated according to rooms. One house may have multiple families, unrelated so officially, rooms are counted.

Background and current situation

The floods caused by continuous torrential rain since mid-June have affected over 105 million people and 3.6 million people have been relocated as the rainy season coupled with fierce floods continues to batter central Huaihe river and southern China. Millions of people stretched across 24 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have been lashed by torrential rains and floods. Natural disasters thrust millions of rural poor into a vicious cycle of not having sufficient reserves to cope with disasters when they strike thus being driven back or further down into poverty by the multitude of disasters that occur each year in China.



Flooding in Anhui province is considered to be the worst in more than 50 years.

For millions of people, mostly the rural poor, who have been evacuated country-wide and the thousands who lost their homes and crops over recent weeks, the period of temporary displacement can often last up to as long as three months to one year. Displaced by the floods, families will seek temporary shelter in public buildings, with family members or in makeshift shelters until the flood waters dissipate increasing the demand for emergency relief items such as water purification tablets, disinfectant to prevent the spread of diseases from overflowing pit latrines common to rural areas and animal pens, quilts and warm clothing to shield those who are homeless from the damp weather, and plastic sheeting which can be used to protect personal items or for temporary shelter and rice.

Although much improvement has been made in the country's poverty levels, it is important to keep in mind that according to the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), China is home to one fifth of the world's poor. Over 600 million people in China sustain their families on USD 2 or less per day. At the same time some 23.65 million people throughout the country's 148,000 poorest villages subsist on annual incomes below China's own poverty benchmark of CNY 683 (CHF 108). According to UNDP's 2005 *China Human Development Report*, natural disasters are important causes of poverty in China's central and western areas, as well as the country's mountainous and minority-inhabited regions. Natural disasters are also the source of pockets of poverty in more developed rural areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Based on the 15 July findings of an assessment team led by the RCSC's vice-president, the CHF 240,000 allocated through the Federation's DREF will be used to support RCSC's Anhui, Sichuan and Hubei provincial Red Cross Branches to provide rice, blankets and water purification materials to affected families in these three provinces. These activities are being coordinated through the RCSC headquarters who are seeking national support and support from RCSC branches to meet immediate needs generated by the floods in an additional number of provinces through a national appeal.



Relief supplies provided by the Red Cross Society of China arrive and are ready for distribution.

In Anhui Province, floods have affected more than 20 million people, claiming the lives of 30 and causing the evacuation of over half a million from their homes. It has been among the worst-hit provinces by this season's floods. Considered as a poor province, the Anhui provincial branch has been actively involved in relief operations and has been distributing relief supplies since June to flood affected counties deploying medical teams and volunteers who have treated and helped people affected by the disasters.



Temporary shelters have been set up along the flooded areas and are housing millions.

To date, RCSC has supported relief operations in 13 provinces and provided relief supplies worth over USD 1,000,000 (CHF 1.2 million) to support the provincial Red Cross's response to the disasters. A national appeal is in process of being launched in order to continue to support the relief activities in the country. Both the Hong Kong Red Cross and Macao Red Cross Branches have played a very important role through their support of relief funds to the RCSC.

RCSC HQ Emergency Response Distribution January-Present 2007

As of 16th July 2007

Province	Month	Type of Disasters	Types of Relief Supplies	Value (CNY)	Value in CHF
Liao Ning	March	Snowstorm	Quilts	153,600	24,420
Inner Mongolia	March	Snowstorm	Quilts	76,800	12,190
Chongqing	April	Hailstorm	Warm clothes, quilts	188,200	29,873
Sichuan	April	Hailstorms(2)	Quilts, tents	289,692	45,983
Hunan	April	Hailstorm	Quilts	79,500	12,619
Guizhou	April	Hailstone	Quilts, tents	191,232	30,354
Chongqing	May	Heavy rain	Summer family kits, tents, water purification tablets	318,991	50,633
Hunan	May	Heavy rain	Water purification tablets, disinfectant, quilts	137,000	21,746
Chongqing	June	Flood	Water purification tablets, disinfectant, coat	226,200	35,905
Sichuan	June	Flood	Water purification tablets, disinfectant, quilts, summer family kits	325,000	51,587
Hunan	June	Floods, landslides	Quilts, disinfectants, rice	496,620	78,829
Guizhou	June	Floods, landslides	Quilts, tents	298,464	27,027
Yunnan	June	Earthquake	Tents, quilts, summer family kits, cash, water purification tablets, rice, mobile lavatories, medicine (CNY 1,003,750)	2,070,906	328,715
Guangxi	June	Floods, landslides	Tents, quilts, mosquito net, water purification tablets	345,164	28,775

Guangdong	June	Floods, landslides	Water purification tablets, disinfectant	168,000	26,709
Hubei	June	Floods, landslides	Water purification tablets, disinfectant, clothes	162,800	25,882
Hubei	June	Floods, landslides	Quilts, family kits, water purification tablets	302,000	47,937
Jiangxi	June	Flood	Tents, mosquito net	91,204	14,477
Chongqing	July	Flood	Rice, water purification tablets, family kits, quilts	450,590	20,094
Sichuan	July	Flood	Quilts, water purification tablets, disinfectant, cash, rice	1,130,310	179,414
Guizhou	July		Rice	100,000	15,873
Guangxi	July	Typhoon	Water purification tablets	144,000	28,775
Hubei	July	Floods	Disinfectant, family kits, water purification tablets, quilts	660,600	104,857
Hubei	July		Rice	100,000	15,873
Jiangxi	July	Flood	Quilts, disinfectant	299,800	47,587
Jiangsu	July	Tornado	Water purification tablets, tents, quilts	351,343	55,769
Anhui	July	Flood	Water purification tablets, tents, quilts, family kits	702,491	111,506
Henan	July	Flood	Water purification tablets, tents	196,972	31,265
Shaanxi	July	Flood	Quilts	153,600	24,381
				10,211,079	1,529,056

DREF: Plan of action 21 July – 21 August

Funds received from DREF will be used by the Federation to support the RCSC's Provincial Branches of Anhui, Sichuan and Hubei to:

- Provide 15 kg rice to 15,000 people for a month.
- Provide 15,000 blankets for 15,000 people.
- Provide 300 boxes of water purification materials.
- Provide 600 boxes of disinfectants.

The plan of action was developed jointly by the RCSC and the Federation based on the findings of a joint RCSC/Federation assessment led by the RCSC's Vice President which was conducted in Anhui province on the 14-16th of July 2007.

These findings are as follows:

1. Over half a million people have been evacuated from their homes in Anhui province by floods which struck Eastern China one week ago. In Huainan prefectures, 23,000 people have been evacuated near the Huaihe river and are currently staying in the temporary shelters with an urgent need food and water.
2. 30 people have been killed in Anhui by floods and landslides.
3. More than 60,000 homes have collapsed in Anhui province.
4. Over 585,000 people have been evacuated to temporary shelters in Anhui province and are now located in school buildings and tents.

5. More than 300,000 are suffering a shortage of drinking water.
6. In Sichuan province, over 12 million people in 55 counties have been affected since flooding began in June.
7. Since late June, Hubei has been hit with rainstorms that caused floods and landslides, killing dozens and destroying thousands of homes.
8. There is an urgent need to provide food and water for people currently housed in temporary shelters throughout these flooded areas.
9. The RCSC is planning to issue a national appeal.
10. Based on the evolving needs, the International Federation is strongly considering issuing an international appeal in the coming weeks.



Relief supplies of food and water and delivered by the Red Cross Society of China at the most critical moments for those displaced by the flooding.

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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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

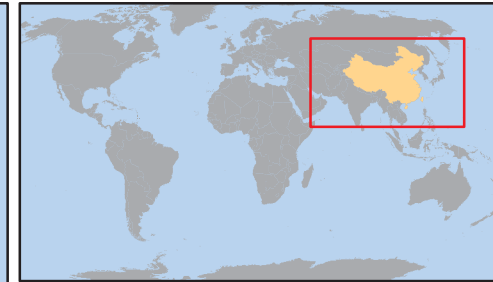
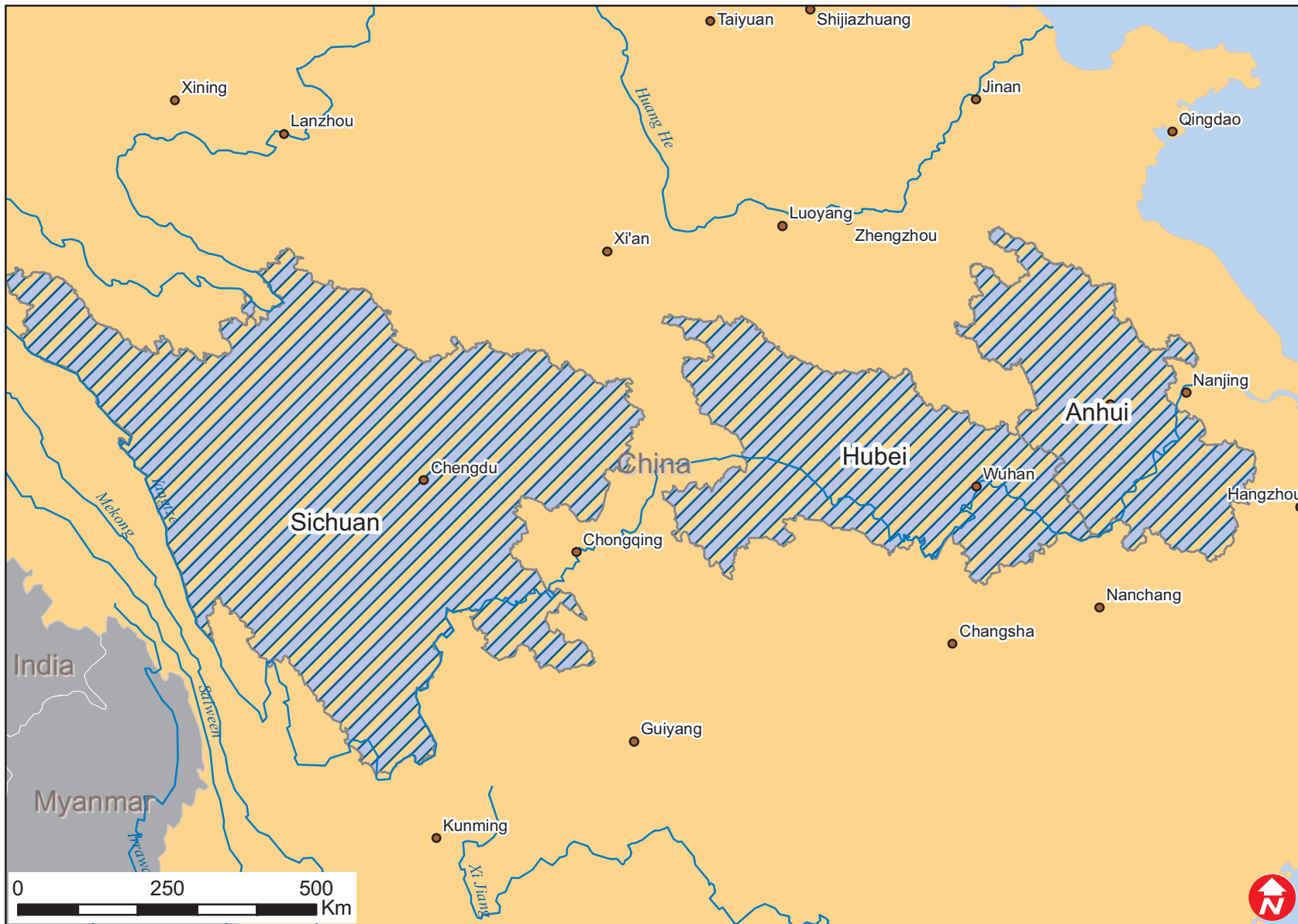
Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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 Most affected provinces