

# DREF operation update



## China: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCN004  
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000122-CHN  
DREF operation update n° 1  
23 August 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**Period covered by this update:** 12 - 20 August 2010

**Summary:** CHF 493,628 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 12 August 2010 to support the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) in delivering assistance to some 5,000 families (20,000 beneficiaries).

As of 18 August 2010, the death toll of mudslide which hit Zhouqu county in Gansu province has increased to 1,364, with 401 people still missing. At this moment, two water supply facilities are operational and about 38 mobile toilets were set up in the disaster hit area, temporarily meeting part of the needs for some of the affected population. RCSC and IFRC are currently arranging for the procurement and related logistics of relief items according to IFRC guidelines to ensure that the food, hygiene kits and kitchen utensils procured are up to standard quality and delivered to the hands of the displaced families in due time.

In addition, following the assessment conducted on 11 August 2010, RCSC, together with IFRC and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office (DG ECHO) arrived in Zhouqu county on 18 August 2010 for further needs assessment and operational planning for the DREF relief operation.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and completed by 11 November 2010. In line with IFRC reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation, and will be available by 11 February 2011.

<click [here](#) for DREF budget; or [here](#) for contact details>



Individuals affected by the landslides have been living on instant noodles and bottled water ever since the mudslide hit Chouqu county in early August. Efforts to clear the mud and debris in affected areas continues. Photo: RCSC

of the operation, and will be available by 11

## The situation

Since May 2010, starting from southern China and extending to other areas in the following months, major rivers flowing through China experienced the most serious flooding in a decade. As of 6 August 2010<sup>1</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> Figure does not include the recent landslide in Gansu, Yunnan and Sichuan, or disaster figures for the recent floods in Jilin province.

torrential rains and storms, typhoons, massive flooding and related disasters this year have already claimed 1,454 lives, with 669 people still missing, 12 million displaced, 13 million hectares of farmland affected as well as 1.364 million houses destroyed and 3.581 million damaged. Direct economic losses had reached CNY 275.1 billion (CHF 42.98 billion). According to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, flooding this year is one of the most serious in the century, with disastrous levels just lower than 1991 and 1998. A total of 28 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities were affected with different levels of destruction, with the most seriously affected areas including Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, Chongqing, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Anhui, Shaanxi and Gansu.

Among the rain-induced disasters, according to latest figures released, landslides alone from January to July 2010 have occurred 26,009 times around the nation, claiming the lives of 843 people and with direct economic losses amounting to CNY 3.34 billion (CHF 506.7 million). Starting from August, a new bout of rains caused severe landslides in Gansu Zhouqu, Yunnan, Sichuan Mianzhu and Wenchuan. So far, the National Ministry of Land and Resources have the Level I alert three times—the highest level of land disaster emergency response within ten days. In Yunnan, on 18 August 2010, a landslide spread across an area of approximately 8.7 hectares, with some 300,000 cubic metres of mud and rock which hit Puladi township of Drung-Nu Autonomous county of Gongshan in Lujiang. The landslide resulted in six deaths, with 86 people still missing and approximately 1,000 evacuated. Power supplies and communications were disrupted. In Sichuan, early in the week of 13 August, rain-triggered mudslides killed 15 people and injured nine others in the province's Wenchuan county - the epicentre of the 2008 quake; another three people were killed and four others missing in rain-triggered flash floods and landslides in Qingchuan county, forcing 10,000 people to evacuated. Three major roads leading to the neighbouring counties have been cut off by landslides, leaving the county isolated.

On 8 August 2010, a massive mudslide hit Zhouqu county of Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The mudslide, considered the deadliest of its kind in decades, occurred in a location with a long history of vulnerability to flooding and geographical disaster due to high mountain and loss of ground. Cracks in the mountain caused by the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and the effects of a lingering drought for the past nine months since late 2009 have further deteriorated the structure of the mountain. Triggered by 73.7mm/hour torrential rain on 7-8 August 2010, a devastating avalanche of sludge and debris finally crashed down on the county seat. As of 19 August 2010, at least 1,364 people were recorded dead and 401 are listed as missing. Some 45,000 people were evacuated. Numerous houses, basic infrastructures were demolished including water supplies, power and communication lines. More than 200 hectares of farmland was devastated. Bailong River valley, which passes through the county and is flanked by mountains on both sides, was blocked by the mudslides, creating a barrier lake that overflowed and sent massive waves crashing down on the county. In the worst-hit village of Yuanyue, not a single structure remain intact.



Efforts to clear mud and debris are ongoing to make space for tents which will be set up for the displaced population. Days of rains ahead might slow down the progress. Photo: Xinhua News

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The Ministry of Civil Affairs, together with other government departments and institutions, has deployed a post-disaster assessment team consisting of 12 specialists to Zhouqu county. On 20 August 2010, the team completed an overall assessment and it is expected that a more comprehensive report on destruction and affected areas would be issued soon.

Up to 15 August 2010, apart from the emergency materials mobilized from the government's warehouse as indicated in the DREF operation document, the government received donations from all over the country in response to the landslides, including 1,030 tents, 1,000 sleeping bags, 52,000 bottles of bottled water, 53,400 boxes of instant noodles, 7,500 kg of flour, 3,810 boxes of sausage and 3,147 boxes of biscuits. About 80 per cent of the materials has been sent to Zhouqu county.

As of 19 August 2010, more than 1,700 mudslide evacuees who resided in three local schools in Zhouqu county of northwest China's Gansu Province will be relocated as students will start the new semester soon. More than 400 households, altogether over 1,700 people, will be moved to Shachuan village in the western

part of the mudslides-levelled county. For the relocation, more than 1,000 tents will be erected at the new settlement zone covering an area of 67 *mu* (approximately 4.5 hectares), with three tents for each family. It is also expected that the relocated population will need to spend the coming winter in the tents. The number of relocated families is expected to rise as more relocation sites is being identified from the government.

Currently, limited power, water supply and communication is slowly recovering, and some 40 mobile toilets are in place. However, weather forecasts indicate that there will be continuous rain in the coming days which may cause additional landslides in the area that may hinder the progress of relief and recovery works.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) is an auxiliary partner to the government in times of disaster and it is a first respondent to communities affected by disasters, providing much needed relief supplies and support. It is recognized by the government of the People's Republic of China as an important institution for addressing a variety of humanitarian needs facing China's people, especially in times of disaster. RCSC, through its headquarters based in Beijing and branches corresponding to state administrative units in affected areas (provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities), is closely coordinating its actions with central and local governments at each corresponding level, ensuring that Red Cross activities are focused in areas where they have greater impact and cooperation from the local governments. RCSC also works with various domestic partners in fundraising through its national appeal in providing relief support to affected communities.

RCSC has an active programme of international cooperation with other members of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, including its special branches in Hong Kong and Macao, the American, Australian, British, Canadian, Finnish, Netherlands, Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). With IFRC's support, RCSC keeps these partners updated on the evolving flood situation in the country and welcomes their support on a bilateral basis.

IFRC has been closely coordinating its activities with other key organizations in China since the start of the floods in the country.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards outcomes

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>	
<b>Objective 1: To provide 5,000 most affected and displaced families (approximately 20,000 individuals) Zhouqu county, with essential food and non-food items to meet their immediate needs.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
5,000 most affected and displaced families (20,000 people) affected by the landslides receive food and non-food assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a selection criteria of target locations;</li> <li>• Develop a selection criteria of beneficiaries;</li> <li>• Identify and register most affected and displaced families;</li> <li>• Procure food and non-food items in accordance with IFRC procurement standards;</li> <li>• Distribute food and non-food items to identified beneficiaries;</li> <li>• Continuously monitor relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions;</li> <li>• Conduct an ongoing assessment of the impact of the flood and review support strategies;</li> <li>• Conduct an impact evaluation.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2: Provide 5,000 targeted families living in transitional shelters with improved hygiene conditions</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
5,000 most affected and displaced families (20,000 people) affected by the landslides will receive hygiene kits and improved awareness of hygiene practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure and distribute hygiene kits to the affected households living in transitional shelters</li> <li>• Short refresher training for 25 Red Cross volunteers on hygiene promotion</li> <li>• Reproduce and disseminate hygiene promotion materials of the Gansu Red Cross, by adapting the messages to the current living conditions, as appropriate</li> <li>• Mobilization of Red Cross volunteer to the communities for hygiene promotion</li> <li>• Set up Red Cross boards with hygiene promotion messages in transitional shelters</li> </ul>

**Progress:** IFRC and RCSC are working around the clock to ensure that respective relief materials procured are up to IFRC standards and are dispatched to the affected population in due time. Following the first assessment led by RCSC and IFRC on 11 August 2010, another assessment team which includes the IFRC East Asia regional disaster management delegate, the ECHO rapid response coordinator and RCSC representatives has reached the area on 18 August 2010. The team will further assess needs on the ground while continuing plans for the necessary arrangement of the DREF operation.

**Challenges:** At this stage emergency rescue continues, and the clearing of mud and debris is not yet completed. Although some water sources were identified but it is expected that water supply cannot satisfy the need of all of the affected population in a short time. Resettlement of the affected population is still ongoing, which may present additional challenges in the systematic distribution of relief materials.

## How we work

All IFRC 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

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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**[<DREF budget below; click here for title page>](#)**

**DREF BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Food	140,000	140,000
Medical & First Aid	15,000	15,000
Utensils & Tools	170,000	170,000
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	115,000	115,000
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>440,000</b>	<b>440,000</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	15,000	15,000
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
Travel	8,500	8,500
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,500</b>
Programme Support	30,128	30,128
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>30,128</b>	<b>30,128</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>493,628</b>	<b>493,628</b>