

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCN004
GLIDE n° [FL-2010-000122-CHN](#)
DREF operation update n° 2
12 September 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: 21 August – 9 September 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).

A month after the massive mudslide hit Zhouqu county in northwest China's Gansu province on 8 August 2010, the death toll has increased to 1,471 people, with 294 still missing.



Large machines working in Zhouqu county to pull down dangerous buildings where structure were destroyed by the mudslide. Efforts to clear up the debris and mud is still ongoing. (Photo: Xinhua Net)

Continuous torrential rain around the area during the month has made rescue and resettlement more difficult, but the situation is slowly stabilizing. With more than 400 heavy machine working around the clock to clear the debris, the first temporary resettlement site was set in north of Zhouqu where tents were set and some 400 families were able to move in. In this reporting period, RCSC and IFRC have been working closely together to arrange for procurement and related logistics to support 5,000 displaced families with food, kitchen and hygiene utensils which were damaged and lost during the disasters. Meanwhile, as of 7 September 2010, the Gansu branch of the RCSC has mobilized and distributed a total of CNY 17.08 million (CHF 2.56 million) in relief materials including instant noodles, bottled water, quilts, clothes and medicine to the affected population.

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>

The situation

According to the latest figures available from the government on 31 August 2010, floods and landslides have left 3,185 people dead and more than 1,060 missing to date in China this year, with situation worsening steadily since May, with several rounds of torrential rains hitting the country. An estimated 230 million people were affected, with 15.2 million people evacuated and an estimated 16.5 million hectare of crops affected. Direct economic losses stood at more than CNY 350 million. Unlike previous years where flooding is mainly concentrated on the southern part of the country, this year, heavy rains have already badly affected up to 28 provinces in different time intervals, which including provinces from the north and the west such as Gansu, Sichuan, Shaanxi, Jilin, Jiangxi and Hubei.

On 8 August 2010, a massive mudslide battered Zhouqu county of Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu province. The mudslide, considered rare in terms of its destruction level, toppled the homes for more than 45,000 people where they were forced to evacuate to schools or to live with their relatives. Basic infrastructure such as water pipes, electricity lines and roads were destroyed. More than 200 hectares of farmland was devastated. The fact that the affected area was surrounded by high mountains with a narrow passage to town as well as limited space inside the affected town continues to challenge efforts in rescue efforts and clearing the debris.

Water levels of the Bailong River, which goes through the affected area and was blocked by mud, has been cleared, with water flow returned to normal. The flood waters inside the town centre of Zhouqu county has mostly receded by 5 September 2010. On the other hand, thousands of soldiers, together with some local volunteers are still using heavy machinery for the clearing effort. So far, some 24,000 cubic meters of mud has been cleared. With mud accumulated as deep as 3 metre deep in some area, it is estimated that clean-up would not be completed till later this week.

According to government reports, some 205 buildings that were inundated with mud and debris need to be checked for safety before re-opening to the public. Buildings that were severely damaged will be demolished and rebuilt. So far, 67 buildings were identified as severely damaged, of which 57 of them have already been pulled down.

A temporary resettlement site was set up by the government. Some 400 families who originally sheltered in one of the remaining and intact schools in town were relocated. It is expected that the families will stay in the site through winter. More temporary resettlement sites will be identified towards the end of mud clearing efforts.



New semester opening ceremony in one of the temporary schools.
(Photo: Xinhua Net)

So far, 5,905 primary and secondary school students, about 97.6 percent of the total in Zhouqu, have returned to school for the fall semester as scheduled. While many of the students remained in the undamaged school in Zhouqu after the displaced population moved out to the temporary resettlement site, another 1,000 students and teachers have relocated to Lanzhou to begin their new school year since their school was damaged by the mudslide.

Recovery efforts are still at the planning stage, especially on the reconstruction layout of destroyed villages in the worst hit Sanyanyu and Luojiayu valleys of Zhouqu. Meanwhile, water and electricity has been re-established. According to the government, some 138,000 square metres including three drinking water sources were sterilized to provide safe drinking water to the victims.

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 Red Crescent action

Since May to 8 September 2010, RCSC has mobilized emergency relief materials valuing CNY 31.81 million (CHF 4.78 million) to 18 of the provinces most affected by the floods, namely Guangxi, Guangdong, Hunan, Fujian, Hubei, Jiangxi, Guizhou, Anhui, Sichuan, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Henan, Jiangsu, Jilin, Liaoning, Gansu and Shandong. Materials included food, water, family packs, quilts, tents, clothes, environment sterilizers and water purification tablets. IFRC East Asia office provided 6,000 quilts and 90 tonnes of rice to 5,000 families in Hubei province, while more actions have been planned with the support of other donors.



Gansu branch of the RCSC distributed instant noodles and bottled water for the affected population three times a day. Photo: RCSC

In response to the Zhouqu mudslide in particular, with the support of RCSC headquarters, other Red Cross branches and through a public fundraising campaign, the Gansu branch of RCSC mobilized up to CNY 17.08 million (CHF 2.56 million) in relief materials to Zhouqu county, providing the affected communities with tents, instant noodles, bottled water, sausages, garlic, edible oil and medicines. A total of CNY 53.72 million (CHF 8.07 million) in cash donations was also received by the Gansu branch and will be used to support the longer term recovery and reconstruction operation in the area which would be planned after the emergency phase.

Progress towards outcomes

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

hygiene practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization of Red Cross volunteer to the communities for hygiene promotion • Set up Red Cross boards with hygiene promotion messages in transitional shelters
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Progress: RCSC and IFRC 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. In this reporting period, suppliers were identified according to the emergency procurement procedure and negotiation on terms and quality control measures of relief materials were put in place. Distribution is expected to take place in the end of September once transitional shelters are set up by the local government, and the kitchen sets, hygiene kits and food parcels will be distributed to families settled in those transitional shelters. The Gansu branch of RCSC is working to identify beneficiary lists together with the local government for the 5,000 families supported by this operation. Gansu branch is also developing hygiene information, education and communication materials, preparing hygiene promotion activities and training volunteers for community education activities.

Challenges: Work to clear mud and debris is still ongoing and remains the top priority in the affected area before resettlement work can be planned and performed. Although three water sources were identified, it is expected that the limited supply cannot satisfy the needs of all 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. Continuous rains in the affected area and neighbouring vicinity may hinder transportation of materials to the affected area.

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
Total Supplies	440,000	440,000
Distribution & Monitoring	15,000	15,000
Total Transport & Storage	15,000	15,000
Travel	8,500	8,500
Total General Expenditure	8,500	8,500
Programme Support	30,128	30,128
Total Programme Support	30,128	30,128
TOTAL BUDGET	493,628	493,628