

CHINA: EARTHQUAKE IN HEBEI PROVINCE

22 September 1998

appeal no. 3/98

situation report no. 6

period covered: June - August 1998

Reconstruction projects on hospitals, schools, roads and other infrastructure is nearing completion. Though work has begun on reconstruction of homes, completion is not expected before late September or early October when the cold weather begins.

The context

On 10 January, an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale struck Hebei Province, seriously affecting some 700 villages, primarily in the counties of Zhangbei and Wanquan in Zhangjiakou Prefecture. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), supported by the Federation, provided immediate emergency assistance, which was completed in late January. Red Cross assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of village dwellings and essential Red Cross structures began as soon as the weather permitted.

Latest events

Favourable weather conditions during the planting and harvest season resulted in an above-normal harvest in the earthquake-hit areas. No general food shortages are presently reported in the area.

From 19 to 22 August, the Federation Representative, accompanied by the RCSC programme officer and local Red Cross officials, made an assessment trip to the earthquake zone in the counties of Wang Quan, Shag Yi, and Zhangbei. The assessment team visited the following medical facilities: Zhangbei Town Red Cross First Aid Centre, Tailigou Red Cross Community Hospital, and the Liang Jian Zhuang Red Cross Community Hospital. All these medical facilities have been reconstructed or repaired with ECHO-donated funds.

The assessment team met with local authorities, village leaders and individual villagers in the Shang Yi County villages of Da Man Jing, Niu Jian Cun, and Kang Leng. All these villages are receiving Federation support for private housing rehabilitation.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The ECHO-funded repairs and reconstruction of two Red Cross Hospitals, one Emergency Centre and two First Aid Stations are expected to be completed by the end of September. Hospital equipment -- including three X-ray machines, three electrocardiographs, three ultra-sonographs and three binocular microscopes -- has been purchased and is being distributed to these health facilities as repairs and reconstruction work are finalised.

Since March, five temporary Red Cross outpost hospitals have served as emergency health centres for the population. Once the permanent health facilities have been reconstructed, these temporary posts will be used for storage and Disaster Preparedness.

Support for the reconstruction of private homes has started and will benefit 1,205 families (or 3,448 beneficiaries.) Each family receives bricks, cement, plaster and wood for frames to construct one room. Families of four or more receive enough materials to construct two rooms. Reconstruction is under way, and villagers are helping each other with the construction, but completion is not expected until late September or early October. In many cases, support for reconstruction from Red Cross, government and other donors covers less than half of the reconstruction costs, and families have had to obtain help from relatives, loans from banks or other means of support to finalise their homes.

In Zhangbei County, reconstruction of the Red Cross First Aid Centre in Zhangbei Town has been completed. This centre now serves some 46,000 people from the surrounding area, treating an average of 150 patients per day. At the Tailigou Red Cross Community Hospital, construction of new buildings has been finalised and the repair of old buildings is expected to be finalised in mid-September. The hospital is functioning, treating 80-90 patients per day.

In Wang Quan County, the Li Jia Zhuang Red Cross Community Hospital is still under construction and is scheduled to be finished in September. The temporary Red Cross outpost hospital, supplied in March, is still being used for medical treatment.

In addition, an ECHO-funded training course in Disaster Relief and Red Cross knowledge was implemented from 10 to 19 July for 350 Red Cross staff and volunteers from local counties, townships and villages.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Close contact and co-operation with local authorities has been maintained by the Red Cross Society of China throughout the relief operation and rehabilitation assistance.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

Thanks to the rapid coverage of this Appeal by donors, the programme was fully funded. Through initiatives from the local population, with support from the Chinese government and the Red Cross, most health facilities, schools, roads and other infrastructure will be repaired or reconstructed before the cold weather begins in October.

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CHINA - EARTHQUAKE

APPEAL No. 03/98

PLEDGES
RECEIVED

22/09/98

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL		2,000,000	
USA GOVT/USAID/BHR/OFDA	25,000 USD	35,875	16/01/98
AMERICAN - RC	40,000 USD	57,400	20/01/98
AMERICAN - RC	125,000 USD	199,538	16/01/98
BRITISH GOVT/RC	200,000 GBP	470,400	16/01/98
DANISH - RC	100,000 DKK	21,220	19/01/98
CANADIAN - RC	20,000 CAD	20,180	14/01/98
ECHO	414,000 XEU	660,868	27/01/98
ICELANDIC - RC	200,000 ISK	3,997	14/01/98
ITALY - RC	20,000,000 ITL	16,500	26/01/98
Private donors / WHO/VERF	3,000 USD	4,305	28/01/98
JAPANESE - RC	18,000,000 JPY	196,578	13/01/98
MACAU - RC	150,995 USD	218,943	16/02/98
MONACO - RC	50,000 FRF	11,970	16/03/98
BRAZILIAN - RC	1,000 USD	1,450	26/02/98
Private Donors/AMEX	15,000 USD	21,750	24/02/98
SWISS -RC	90,000 CHF	90,000	23/03/98
SWISS - PRIVATE DONORS (WHO STAFF)		3,000	26/01/98
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH		2,033,974 CHF	

KIND AND SERVICES
(INCL. PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE
JAPANESE - RC	BLANKETS	6,800,000	JPY	74,263	13/01/98
JAPANESE - RC	BLANKETS	320.00	UNITS		23/01/98
JAPANESE - RC	WINTER JACKETS	884.00	UNITS	82,703	20/02/98
MONGOLIA - RC	BLANKETS/CL OTHES				23/01/98

SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES	156,966 CHF
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NOT REQUESTED IN
APPEAL

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED					0.00 CHF