

CHINA: FLOODS

**Revised appeal
no:21/98
2 September 1998**

Revised appeal

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 13,604,000
IN CASH AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 2 MILLION BENEFICIARIES***

Summary

It has been raining virtually non-stop in China for the last five months. The rains are causing vast flooding that is now affecting an estimated 223 million people.

Because of the magnitude of the disaster and the anticipated worsening of the situation in the northern provinces of China, the Federation has decided to reinforce its support to the Red Cross Society of China by increasing the Emergency Appeal budget from 6.7 million CHF to 13.6 million CHF, as the number of beneficiaries rises to two million, to include the newly affected in northern China's Heilongjiang Province and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The Background

Flooding caused by almost continuous rains since March is now affecting an estimated 223 million people in 29 provinces in central, south east and northern China. The Yangtze River has reached record levels, and in many areas the floods are being described as the worst in living memory.

According to the latest official figures, more than 3,000 people have been killed, 4.97 million houses have been destroyed and some 14 million people have been left homeless. In total, 21 million hectares of land have been flooded and 4.78 million hectares of crops have been destroyed.

Meteorological forecasts indicate that the flood season will continue well into September. Temperatures are now dropping in the northern provinces, and cold fronts from Siberia could bring snow to the region in a matter of weeks.

Latest events •

Conditions are worsening in **central China** where the waters have now reached levels unseen since floods in 1954 killed more than 30,000 people, and are continuing to rise. Waterlogged, secondary levees (mud embankments) are collapsing along the flood-swollen Yangtze River, the world's third longest river. Millions of soldiers and civilians are maintaining round-the-clock vigils on the dikes, watching for signs of

collapse and plugging leaks. (There are some 6,300 km of dikes along the river). In Hubei Province alone, some 1,697 dike locations have been repaired, according to official reports.

Many flooded areas in **south east and central China** are now in the grip of an oppressive heat wave that has sent temperatures rocketing to 39 degrees Celsius. Heat-stroke and dehydration are on the rise as those who have sought safety on the dikes bake under the sun. The high temperatures alternate with torrential rains. In Hunan, 31.29 million people are now affected by the floods with 1.93 million evacuated, and 240,000 left homeless. In Jiangxi 46 days of rain caused flooding that has left 1.59 million people homeless.

In the **north and north east**, the situation continues to deteriorate. Some 2.16 million people in Heilongjiang Province are homeless, with 900,000 of them living in the open. Some 52 counties in the province, covering 33,000 sq. km and including 622 villages, have been flooded to date. Previous dike breaches along the Nenjiang rivers have forced the relocation of more than 100,000 residents. In Inner Mongolia, floods have so far affected 5.67 million people, destroying 250,000 homes and leaving some 375,000 people homeless. At least 117 people have died, and 861,300 people have been evacuated. Temperatures are now dropping to 10 degrees Celsius at night.

Cases of typhoid and cholera have been reported and environmental pollution in the flooded areas could increase the possibility of epidemics in the coming months, according to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The Response so far

Red Cross relief action •

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has been carrying out relief work throughout China since the onset of the floods. So far, it has assisted some 1.5 million people, drawing on financial support from the Federation and from local fundraising. There are some 10,000 Red Cross / Public Health teams working in the flood areas and water purification tablets are being distributed.

Emergency assistance continues in the worst affected provinces. In Jiangxi province, some 3,700 Red Cross and Public Health medical and sanitation teams have been dispatched to provide assistance and free treatment to more than one million affected people. By 22 August, RCSC in Jiangxi province had received domestic and international relief materials including medicines, food, clothing and drinking water worth RMB 10 million (CHF 1.8 million). Some RMB 4 million (CHF 727,000) worth of these donations have been distributed so far.

In Hunan, some 210 Red Cross/ Public Health medical teams distributed more than RMB 1.48 million (CHF 269,000) worth of medicines prior to 22 July. From 23 July onwards, more than 1,500 medical teams consisting of 15,000 staff, were dispatched and the RCSC Hunan branch has raised more than RMB 2 million (CHF 364,000) worth of medicine, food, clothing, disinfectants and other materials.

Fund-raising •

The Red Cross Society of China continues to fund-raise at both headquarters and branch level. Donations received remain primarily in-kind goods. Low cash contributions continue to make it difficult to transport in-kind donations.

Camp management •

The Red Cross is helping the displaced in temporary encampments on the dikes. During a recent assessment trip the Federation team observed Red Cross rice and medicine distributions on dikes in northern regions of Hunan and Jiangxi provinces. In many areas, affected villages maintain their

governance structure once re-established on the dikes. In some cases, this structure has taken on a support role to help relief teams maintain sanitation and distribute relief supplies to the most vulnerable.

Government Action

Both the central and provincial levels of government are actively involved in the distribution of relief materials throughout the flood affected areas and have mobilised significant resources to fight the floods. The Department of Health continues to take a lead role in staffing and supporting thousands of medical teams which provide direct service to flood victims.

External relations

The Federation Delegation in China continues to work with the media: it completed 21 interviews over the past week, with both international and Chinese national media, on the human aspects of this disaster, the work of the Red Cross Society of China, the needs of those affected, and the Federation's initial appeal for CHF 6.7 million. So far, since the launch of the appeal, the delegation and the Federation Secretariat has given some 100 interviews, providing high visibility to Red Cross humanitarian efforts. The RCSC is increasingly seen as a leading humanitarian agency in China, mainly due to its extended grass-roots capacity in all provinces. The National Society has high visibility and receives tremendous support from local communities and enterprises.

Last week, discussions commenced with the World Health Organisation (WHO) on health issues and with the World Food Program (WFP). A co-ordination meeting was held with Medecins du Monde. Discussions with Handicap International, an NGO currently working with disabled people in Guangxi province, on how they can best complement Red Cross flood assistance also began. Recently representatives from MSF met with the Federation to discuss long-term health issues and determine areas of future need. Information sharing with Beijing-based embassies continues on a weekly basis.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs

In mid-July, a Federation assessment mission to flood-affected areas in central China provided first hand information that became the basis of the Federation's initial appeal launched 20 July. Since the appeal launch, ongoing needs assessments by both the Federation and the RCSC throughout central, south east and northern China have closely monitored the rapidly changing disaster situation and the ever increasing needs of flood victims. These assessments all point to a steadily worsening situation and the need to adjust the appeal to better meet the needs of the most vulnerable among those affected.

Planning

RCSC provincial response teams are now planning for the upcoming relief needs of affected people with an emphasis on items required to face the pending change of seasons and associated drop in temperatures. With winter temperatures approaching in north and north-eastern China, Red Cross Branches in these areas are already facing an increased demand for warm quilts and winter clothing.

The revised Appeal will target the immediate procurement and distribution of blankets, quilts and heavy coats, food, and medical and sanitation supplies, including water purification tablets.

Under the expanded Appeal, the RCSC plans to continue distributions of food rations and medical supplies, concentrating on the most vulnerable communities. Food and non-food distribution planning takes account of the following three points:

- | Severity of the disaster (for example, the Dongting Lake area was severely affected by historic flooding levels and has an enormous affected population.)

- | Endemic health issues within a locality that represent additional risk factors (for example, areas that have endemic diseases such as shistosomiasis).
- | Capacity: if an affected population has food security (access to a harvest or to unaffected agricultural land) they receive less assistance than those areas with low food security.

The RCSC's primary source of information for the above three points is its local, grass-roots branches. This information is supplemented by population statistics and data on the numbers of affected people -- both figures received from government sources .

Red Cross Objectives •

- To ensure the rapid mobilisation of funds and goods to provide immediate assistance;
- To provide basic food (rice/wheat) to more than 1 million people for 20 days with a ration equivalent to 1,600 Kcal per day;
- To supply medical and sanitation teams with basic medical and sanitation supplies to assist 85,000 beneficiaries;
- To provide 1.5 million people with safe water for a period of 60 days by supplying 90 million water purification tablets (representing 10 litres of water per person per day);
- To provide winter quilts and blankets to 300,000 people;
- To provide heavy overcoats to 50,000 people.

Procurement •

All relief items are being procured in China. Donors are asked to note that it is prohibited to import used clothing into China.

Capacity of the RCSC, and the Federation •

The RCSC has an extensive nation-wide network of 153,000 grassroots volunteer groups, 2,562 county and district branches, 347 prefecture and city branches and 31 provincial branches. During the last 15 years the number of members has increased from 1.5 million to almost 23 million, making the RCSC the largest National Society in the world. The RCSC has extensive experience in relief operations. Operational procedures and effective management structures are well in place. The Red Cross has an excellent working relationship with local authorities and a decentralised approach. It has a proven record in the mobilisation of resources.

The Federation has had a permanent presence in China since early this year. The operation will continue to be supported by the Federation Delegation, which is composed of four delegates -- one representative, one information/reporting delegate and two field delegates with monitoring and reporting functions -- and in addition receives technical support in the areas of finance and information from the Federation's Southeast and East Asia Regional Delegation.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details. The original appeal, No. 21/98, is 88.68% covered (see attached list of pledges).

Conclusion

The deteriorating situation and the increasing numbers of people affected make it essential to expand the scope of the present operation and despatch relief to beneficiaries as rapidly as possible. To achieve this, continuing support is urgently required. The most pressing need is for cash. National Societies that have made pledges are urged to transfer funds as soon as possible, to allow large scale procurement of relief items to move ahead.

For further information, please contact Marcel Fortier, Desk Officer, on +4122 7304268 (e.mail: fortier@ifrc.org).

Margareta Wahlström
Under Secretary General,
Disaster Response & Operations Coordination

George Weber
Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARY

CHINA: Emergency Floods Operation
Revised Budget

APPEAL N°. 21/98R
IN CHF

ANNEX 1

FOOD ITEMS

Basic Food (Rice/Wheat - 8.000 MT x CHF 485) 3,880,000.00

NON FOOD ITEMS

Basic medical supplies 1,940,000.00

Sanitation material, vector control 410,000.00

Water purification tablets (90.000.000 tablets) 1,377,000.00

Blankets (150.000 pcs x CHF 7.90) 1,185,000.00

Quilts (150.000 pcs x CHF 15.40) 2,310,000.00

Winter coats (50.000 pcs x CHF 17) 850,000.00

Vehicles (4 x 4WD x CHF 38.000) 152,000.00

EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES 12,104,000.00

Transport (relief goods - 8.500 MT)/ Storage/ 492,000.00

Personnel (Expat staff / 18 months/del) 180,000.00

Personnel (180 local staff x CHF 190 x 5 months) 171,000.00

Training 30,000.00

Travel & communications 105,000.00

Information 18,000.00

Evaluation 15,000.00

Administrative, office & general expenses 75,000.00

Secretariat operational support 414,000.00

NEEDS IN CASH 1,500,000.00

TOTAL APPEAL 13,604,000.00

LESS CASH ON HAND 6,004,000.00 **0.00**

NET REQUEST CASH & SERVICES 7,600,000.00

NB: All relief items will be procured locally

CHINA - FLOODS

APPEAL No. 21/98

**PLEDGES
RECEIVED**

02/09/98

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------

CASH

REQUESTED IN		13,604,000	
APPEAL----- ----->			
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	100,000	USD	150,000 04/08/98
AUSTRIAN - RC	100,000	CHF	100,000 21/08/98
BRITISH - RC/GOVT	150,000	GBP	368,070 25/07/98
BRITISH - RC/GOVT	250,000	GBP	613,450 24/08/98
CANADIAN - RC	50,000	CAD	51,230 15/07/98
CANADIAN - RC	160,000	CAD	163,936 20/08/98
CANADIAN - RC	100,000	CAD	102,460 20/07/98
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT	50,000	CAD	51,230 28/08/98
CANADIAN - RC/GOVT	200,000	CAD	204,920 20/08/98
DANISH - RC	500,000	DKK	108,500 24/07/98
DANISH - RC/GOVT	2,000,000	DKK	434,000 05/08/98
ECHO	355,000	XEU	590,507 20/08/98
GERMAN - RC/GOVT	350,000	DEM	294,630 11/08/98 WATE
ICELAND - RC	200,000	ISK	41,870 20/07/98
ITALIAN GOVT/Emergency Fund	100,000	USD	150,000 31/08/98
JAPANESE - RC	10,000,000	JPY	107,760 13/08/98
LUXEMBOURG GOVT	500,000	CHF	500,000 26/08/98
REP. KOREA RC	30,000	CHF	30,000 08/08/98
MACAU - RC	136,736	USD	205,104 14/08/98
NETHERLANDS - RC	270,000	NLG	201,626 20/08/98 MEDIC
NORWEGIAN RC/GOVT	1,350,000	NOK	264,033 23/07/98
NORWEGIAN - RC	150,000	NOK	29,337 23/07/98
POLISH RC	2,000	USD	3,000 28/08/98
SPAIN - RC/GOVT	12,000,000	ESP	118,992 12/08/98
SWEDISH - RC/GOVT	1,500,000	SEK	283,200 12/08/98
SWISS RC	350,000	CHF	350,000 31/08/98
AMCROSS: AMERICAN EXPRESS	25,000	USD	37,500 36,019
US EMBASSY - BEIJING	250,000	USD	375,000 27/07/98
PRIVATE	40.00	USD	60.00 06/08/98
PRIVATE	1,200	CHF	1,200 12/08/98

IN CASH

**KIND AND SERVICES
(INCL. PERSONNEL)**

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	
CANADIAN - RC	1 DEL X 10 WEEKS			12,500		
BRITISH - RC	1 DEL X 6 MONTHS			30,000		
DANISH - RC	1 DEL X 3 MONTHS			15,000		
BELGIUM - RC	1 DEL X 3 MONTHS			15,000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				72,500 CHF		

**NOT REQUESTED IN
APPEAL**

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