

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CHINA: FLOODS

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This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Since 21 June, South China's Huaihe River valley, has been subjected to continuous rainstorms leading to a rapid rise of the water level on the upper and middle reaches of the river. Consequently, for the first time in 12 years, the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters had to divert floodwater. The sluice gates at the Wangjiaba section of the Huaihe River, in Anhui Province's Funan County, were opened at 1:08 on Thursday morning. Over 15,000 people were directly affected by the diversion and had to be evacuated. By the end of this week, the provinces of Sichuan, Shaanxi, Hubei, Henan, Shandong, Jiangsu and Anhui as well as the Chongqing Municipality will have received an average rainfall of 100 to 150 millimetres. More rainstorms are forecast for the coming days, especially in South Henan, North Anhui and North Jiangsu Provinces. According to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the floods in various provinces and regions of central and southern China have affected over 44 million people.

In Guangxi Province several riverine counties, 50% of the houses have collapsed, and banana, rice and corn crops were washed away. While another crop of rice could be gathered in November, banana and corn are yearly crops. The authorities confirmed that the situation is the worst it has been since 1971.

Preliminary statistics for Guangxi Province, according to local authorities, indicate the following flood related damage:

- Four prefectures (Guilin, Qinzhou, Baise, Hechi) affected.
- Approximately 3.7 million people affected.
- 12 people dead.
- 1,695 people left homeless.
- 10,890 rooms destroyed (based on five units per house).
- 126,750 acres of cropland destroyed.
- Estimated direct economic loss caused by floods and hailstones from April to date is RMB 2.5 billion (CHF 408,000,000).

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and the International Federation joint assessment team, including the Federation's Programme Coordinator based in Guangxi, have visited the most affected areas in Hunan and Guangxi Provinces from 1-4 July.

The RCSC Headquarters has transferred quilts and tents from their Disaster Preparedness centre to the Anhui Red Cross branch to assist the flood victims.

In Guangxi, Red Cross volunteers have distributed clothing, quilts, tents, medicine and water purification tablets. Over 104 medical staff from the RCSC branch travelled to the affected areas along the River valley in Guangxi. They have treated 2,803 people suffering from flood related injuries.

The RCSC branches are assisting the local authorities with resettling flood victims who had to be evacuated.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.