

# 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: CONTINUED FLOODING IN CHONGQING AND SICHUAN

8 September 2004

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.*

### In Brief

**This Information Bulletin (no. 8/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the DREF update.**

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*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

### The Situation

The total number of flood related deaths in Chongqing and Sichuan rose by Wednesday 8 September to over 143 people with more than 50 people missing. Harsh rain pummeled the area over the past five days causing deadly landslides, mud and rock flow as well as flash floods throughout the mountain valleys Chongqing and Sichuan are noted for.

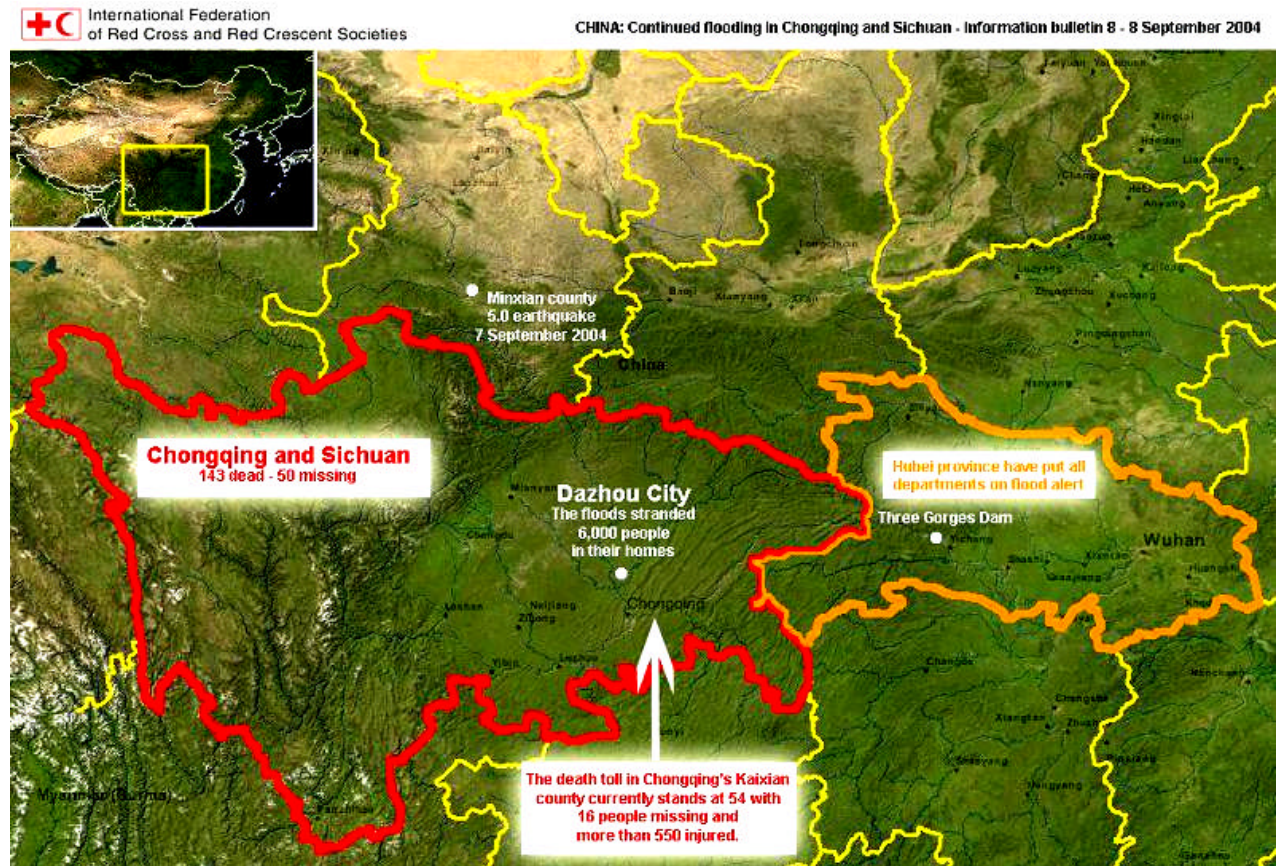
Sichuan's provincial disaster relief office confirmed 89 deaths and 41 missing people. Continuous rains on 6 and 7 September made rescue work difficult especially in the mountainous areas where many of the access roads have been destroyed. In Dazhou City for example, the floods stranded over 6,000 people in their homes.

The death toll in Chongqing's Kaixian county currently stands at 54 with 16 people missing and more than 550 injured (*refer to map*). Official statistics indicated that floods affected all 55 townships and villages of Kaixian county and that thousands of homes collapsed. This week's events affected more than 800,000 local residents or 53 percent of the county's total population.

The central government and the local governments in Sichuan and Chongqing actively carry out relief activities to provide flood victims with shelter, food and medical assistance.

Central China's Hubei province have put all departments on flood alert in anticipation of the largest flood peak since 1998 following continuous torrential rains in the upper reaches of the Three Gorges dam areas along the Yangtze river.

While Sichuan and Chongqing coped with floods, an earthquake on 7 September measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale struck Minxian county in northwest China's Gansu province, which shared the same epicentre as the earthquake that struck nine months ago on 13 November and destroyed 20 percent of the area's buildings. These events demonstrate the frequency and magnitude of natural disasters in China.



**Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The director of the Red Cross Society of China’s (RCSC) relief and health division and officers from the relief and information division joined the president of the RCSC Sichuan provincial branch in Dazhou county. The RCSC Sichuan provincial branch and the Dazhou prefecture branch actively distribute relief items, often using boats to obtain access to stranded families. The RCSC branches in Chongqing also carry out relief distributions although access to some areas remains difficult.

The RCSC headquarters released 500 boxes of disinfectant and water purification powder, 500 quilts and 500 sets of warm clothing to the branches in Chongqing and Sichuan to supplement local relief distributions of items like dried noodles, quilts and clothing. The Macau Red Cross further donated RMB 200,000 to the provincial branch in Chongqing to purchase instant noodles for distribution to affected communities.

Hubei’s provincial branch of the RCSC in is on alert in the event that flooding occurs over the next 24 hours in the province.

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the [Federation’s Annual Appeal](#).*

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