

# 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

10 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. 09/2004) 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.

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- Red Cross Society of China: Mr. Yang Xusheng, Head of the Relief Division, email: [rcsc@chineseredcross.org.cn](mailto:rcsc@chineseredcross.org.cn); phone +86-10-6512-4169; fax +86-10-6512-4169
- East Asia Regional Delegation: Mr. Alistair Henley (HoRD), email: [ifrcen01@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcen01@ifrc.org); phone +86 1350 1205 973, fax +86-10-6532-7166
- Federation Geneva: Mr. Satoshi Sugai, Desk Officer, email: [satoshi.sugai@ifrc.org](mailto:satoshi.sugai@ifrc.org); phone +41 22 730 4222; fax +41 22 733 0395

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

Flash floods, landslides and mud and rock slides which commenced seven days ago due to constant heavy rain in Sichuan and Chongqing left at least 177 people dead and more than 60 people missing. The floods caused hundreds of thousands of people to be evacuated, and according to the provincial disaster relief office in Sichuan it left 102 people dead, 35 missing and 10,000 people down with flood related illnesses and injuries. Chongqing officials reported 75 people dead, 25 missing and 2,513 treated for injuries.

The central and provincial governments of Chongqing and Sichuan released emergency funds to support relief activities and restore transportation and telecommunication facilities following the sudden rapid floods which damaged hundreds of thousands of homes and devastated crops in minutes.

Part of the assessment team deployed by the Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) headquarters returned to Beijing on 10 September after visits to Yingshan county in Sichuan province's Dazhou county. As flood waters recedes and road access improves, members of the RCSC relief division will join representatives from the Chongqing provincial branch to conduct assessments of areas that flood waters made inaccessible until today. In Sichuan province's Yingshan county, families left homeless by the flood are sheltered in public buildings like the local school and in tents provided by the government and the RCSC. In Sanhui where floods isolated the residents, 6,000 people are taking shelter in a school creating a continuous need for food, quilts and scarce drinking water.

The Sichuan provincial branch and Dazhou prefecture branches of the RCSC report that flooding over the past seven days left some 100,000 people homeless in the Dazhou prefecture alone. As many as 1 million people could face a shortage of food and limited access to clean water, and floods as well as landslides destroyed 2.13 million hectares of farmland. Residents of the mountainous areas most severely affected were primarily rural farmers. Farming families that often comprised of five people spanning three generations on average live on less than a dollar a day on an annual income of RMB 2530 or approximately USD 300. With the destruction of the crops, farmers will have to wait until May 2005 before the next harvest opportunity.

Hubei province's Hankou is still on flood alert, while elsewhere in China a mudslide in Yunnan province earlier this week left eight people dead. Over the period of May through September nearly 1,000 deaths in China have been related to the season's floods and typhoons.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

RCSC headquarters is sending 40,000 pieces of quilts and clothing from Beijing to Sichuan for distribution by the provincial branch to affected individuals. The RCSC headquarters also released 200 tents gathered from the disaster preparedness centre in Shaanxi and other local branches, which were transported to Sichuan from Beijing.

The RCSC Sichuan provincial and local branches actively distributed relief items released from the disaster preparedness centre in Chengdu. The large needs of flood victims however depleted the current supply of disaster preparedness stock and the RCSC now transports stock from the warehouse in Yunnan. The branch is requesting rice, quilts, clothing and purified water for distribution. Local efforts to raise funds have also been initiated as well and local companies are supporting branch activities with contributions of food items and clothing.

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

[\*Click here to return to the title page or contact information.\*](#)