

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

3 June 2005

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

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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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

An estimated 255,300 people are reported to be homeless in China's Hunan province alone as a result of severe flooding which destroyed around 30,000 homes and damaged thousands more. Rural farmers in Hunan, Sichuan and Guizhou provinces have seen their crops, livestock, homes and belongings washed away by floods triggered by heavy rains which began on Tuesday 31 May. So far there are a reported 68 people dead and 68 people missing because of flooding in the three provinces with 47 of the total dead and 53 missing in Hunan, 17 dead and four missing in Guizhou as well as four dead and five missing in Sichuan.

Hunan province has seen the worst of this past week's flooding, particularly in Shaoyang, Loudi, Yiyang, and Tujia-Miao autonomous prefecture of Xiangxi. In Huaihua's Xupu county, the floods destroyed 37 of the area's dikes and 1,300 head of livestock. The Red Cross society of China's (RCSC) Hunan provincial branch reports that some 590,000 people are in need of food in Hunan alone as they wait out the emergency.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) is acutely aware of the devastating effects that flooding has on China's rural farmers. According to the Society's Hunan provincial branch, the farmers in the communities affected by the flooding have an estimated annual income of some RMB 800 per year or roughly slightly under USD 100. The Hunan provincial branch and the RCSC have been working closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with support from European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and the Danish Red Cross Society, to mitigate the effects of flooding through the community vulnerability reduction project and community-based disaster preparedness activities. Nevertheless, in China where each province is

roughly the size of a European country and where the scale of the disasters mirror the scale of the country, it is impossible to fully prevent the adverse effects of flooding.

The RCSC's Hunan provincial branch is reporting that Shaoyang, Loudi and the Western part of Hunan province are seriously affected and that the full extent of the disaster is still unknown. The Hunan provincial branch's vice-president and head of relief division were in Xin Shao today to distribute relief items. So far the RCSC branch has distributed quilts, tents and disinfectant to flood victims. The branch is continuing to run further checks on the disaster conditions and death toll and has requested quilts, rice, tents, clothing and disinfectant from the RCSC's headquarters-based relief division in Beijing.

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.

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