

# 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

6 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. 02/2005) 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

To date, 204 people are reported to have been killed in China and 79 people remain missing because of severe floods, which commenced during the last week of May and affected 16 provinces. Surging waters and landslides have destroyed some 137,900 homes countrywide. Hunan province remains the most heavily affected, where 100,000 people have been evacuated from their homes. Local authorities have voiced their concern over the threat of disease in Hunan, where at least three people have been diagnosed with typhoid fever in Taizhimiao, a township of Hunan's Xinshao county.

Over the past few months, there has been increased attention from the government and international organizations about the formidable challenges faced by the country's millions of rural poor. Sudden onset disasters such as this week's floods could very well be the breaking point for thousands of farmers living beneath the poverty line or just emerging from poverty in the affected areas. The floods have already affected an estimated 1.8 million hectares of arable land and led to a shortage of drinking water, affecting some 6.37 million head of livestock.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) Hunan provincial branch is continuing to distribute relief items such as quilts, tents and disinfectant to families displaced by the floods. RCSC's Hunan provincial branch has been working closely with the Federation to implement disaster response and preparedness activities, which the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) has supported over the past few years, and is maintaining close contact with Federation staff in the province. Following initial assessments by the branch, a Federation representative will attend the branch's distribution of relief items on Tuesday 7 June.

In Chongqing municipality, 72 hours of heavy rain over 3 to 5 June has left one person dead, resulted in the evacuation of 30,000 people and left 31,000 homeless. Among the affected areas are Dianjiang and Liangping, where the branch introduced ECHO-supported community vulnerability reduction activities in 2005. The RCSC is currently in the affected areas distributing tents, disinfectant and clothing. The branch has requested further support from RCSC headquarters for rice, clothing and quilts.

In Guizhou province, where 21 people have been killed and four people are still missing, local and provincial Red Cross branches are distributing urgently needed relief items to thousands of affected individuals such as medicine, rice and quilts.

The Federation's East Asia regional delegation and RCSC headquarters in Beijing are monitoring the situation closely and will continue to provide updates on the situation as it evolves.

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's [China Annual Appeal 2005 \(05AA058\)](#).*

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