

# 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

22 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. 04/2005) 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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### The Situation

Following continuous floods in south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region in recent days, 24 people have been confirmed dead and 23 others missing, according to the regional headquarters for disaster relief on 22 June.

Heavy floods have hit central and northern parts of Guangxi since June 18, with the water level of many local rivers exceeding the warning line. The water level in Wuzhou river reached 25.7 meters by 10:00 a.m. on 22 July, 8.5 meters higher than the warning line, and the water level is rising by 10 cm per hour. The city government of Wuzhou has made preparations to evacuate local residents if the flooding bursts through the river dike. The towns of seven counties – Zhaoping, Yongfu, Yangshuo, Pingle, Changzhou, Wanxiu and Xincheng – as well as Liuzhou city have also been affected by floods.

All bodies have been found and rescue work concluded on 20 July, after the deadly floods that claimed 109 lives in Shalan town in Ning'an, a city in northeast China's Heilongjiang province. Of the dead, 105 were primary school students and four were villagers. The accident occurred on 10 June when 352 pupils and 31 teaching staff were conducting classes in the low-lying primary school, which was quickly submerged by the flash flood.

Many surviving pupils dare not go back to the school last week, and instead resumed classes at a middle school two kilometres away from the devastated site. Local authorities have been extending both medical and psychological help to the children and the affected families. The government also plans to rebuild the school in a safer place, as well as a new residential area for people made homeless by the floods. Rescue workers, including the Red Cross, continue to console bereft families and distribute much needed relief material.

Premier Wen Jiabao and Vice Premier Hui Liangyu Tuesday demanded the governments at all levels make all-out efforts in flood prevention and control. Directives have been given out to local governments to identify duties, improve emergency plans, enforce prediction and monitoring of floods and carry out mapped measures.

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

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has started fundraising to rebuild the primary school in Ning'an city's Shalan town, Heilongjiang province. In Guangxi, the local branch of the RCSC has sent a relief team to assess the situation in the affected areas with the Federation delegation's field coordinator. Distribution of relief items are expected later on.

The American embassy has donated USD 100,000 to the RCSC for the flood relief operation in Hunan, Guangxi, Guizhou, Chongqing and Sichuan provinces. The Federation's 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 [Annual Appeal](#).*

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