

# 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: FLOODING IN GUANGXI

24 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. 05/2005) 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

According to the latest statistics from China's office of state floods control and drought relief headquarters, floods in China that is affecting a total of 22 provinces has left 536 people dead and 137 people missing.

In one of the areas of China's Guangxi autonomous region, which was worst affected in this week's floods, 761,800 people were evacuated and had to seek temporary shelter. The flooding in Guangxi destroyed hundreds of kilometres of dikes and a reported 91 reservoirs, killing 38 people and leaving 27 missing.

The strong force of the flood waters destroyed 30,000 homes and damaged 420,000 others in the region. Wuzhou city was among the hardest-hit areas in Guangxi where, as of writing, families are struggling to salvage their belongings as they navigate the city streets using small boats.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) Guangxi branch in Nanning and network of prefecture and county-level branches have had years of experience responding to destructive floods that strike Guangxi on an annual basis. As such, the branch maintains disaster preparedness centres stocked with relief supplies, such as water purification tablets, food items and clothing. The RCSC supports branches in the flood-prone areas from its national headquarters in Beijing by supplementing the branches' available stock according to local needs.

Guangxi RCSC branch's leadership are in Wuzhou city today on a fact finding mission. In 2002 to 2003, the Guangxi branch worked with the Federation to implement ECHO-supported water and sanitation activities in the area. These water and sanitation activities, which include the construction of Ecosan latrines and improved water

sources, were designed in response to previous floods to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases caused by poor sanitation. By constructing stable sanitation facilities and water sources, local communities are put into a better position to recover from floods, which often have the effect of contaminating local water sources, leaving people with no available clean water.



The RCSC branch responded immediately to the needs of 58,334 beneficiaries by distributing relief items: 20 MT of rice, 1,000 boxes of water purification tablets, 5,000 sets of clothing and, 2,000 quilts. A joint RCSC and Federation participatory review of RCSC relief activities in 2003, which was based on interviews with beneficiaries and relief officers from the branches, demonstrated that during floods, the beneficiaries most appreciated items like food, clothing, quilts and water purification tablets. The RCSC has also indicated that it will provide further relief items to the flood affected.

*Photo on the left: Red Cross relief items are ready to be distributed to beneficiaries.*

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

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