

Floods in China 1996

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At least 14 provinces are suffering the effect of the heavy monsoon-rains plaguing China. More rain is predicted by local weather forecasters. The Red Cross Society of China and disaster relief officials are keeping a close watch on the situation along the Yangtze River as water levels continue to rise at numerous points as it passes along or through 7 provinces.

- Heavy rains on 17 - 18 July in Hubei Province resulted in flooding and landslides leaving more than 30 people dead and thousands injured. More than 33,000 people are surrounded by flood waters. Local officials evacuated nearly 9,000 people to higher ground. The Yangtze River runs approximately 300 km between Waungshi City and Honghu City, both of which are experiencing the second serious flooding episode in less than 3 weeks. Media sources report that 1 million people have been mobilised to shore up dikes and reinforce the banks along the river. The water level in the large lakes continues to rise above the danger level.
- In Hunan Province the water level in Dongting Lake continues to climb above the danger level. Local governments have released workers and shut down all but essential activities to participate in the relief effort. Thousands of heavy trucks and boats are deployed to help in evacuations, transport relief goods, and move workers in attempts to hold back the water.
- Heavy rains between 3 June and 10 July left 73 people dead and 1111 injured in Sichuan Province, More than 10,000 people were rendered homeless by the storm as 6760 rooms collapsed and 72,000 were damaged.
- At 01h00 on the morning of 15 July, a strong tornado ripped through Jinagsu Province, killing at least 29 people and injuring 962. The tornado touched down in 3 prefectures affecting 24 townships. Hard hit were Yangzhou City, Zhenjiang City, and Yancheng City. In Yancheng, 80 km of power lines were damaged. 126 of the 422 injured were in serious condition. In total the tornado affected approximately 267,000 people who are still recovering from the terror such a storm can instil.
- In all provinces the RCSC, in co-operation with the Public Health Department, deployed medical teams. In response to the tornado, Jiangsu Provincial Branch mobilised 40 medical teams. In six other provinces, nearly 1500 medical teams are in the disaster area providing first aid, dispensing medication, and helping to sanitise wells and living areas.

The appeal will be launched at the beginning of the week.

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