

# ***CHINA: FLOODS***

*11 June 1998*

## ***Information Bulletin N° 01***

### ***The Disaster***

Severe seasonal floods in China have already left nearly 300 dead and another 20,000 injured, besides causing widespread devastation.

The flood season has begun one month early in Jiangxi, Hunan, Hubei and other provinces along the Yangtze River and heavy floods are predicted in the June-August period. Torrential rains in the South have caused heavy damage to agriculture and infrastructure. In late April, east Shandong Province had to evacuate some 180 villages flooded by the Yellow River. Flooding and landslides in eastern and south-western China left dozens dead or injured. Fujian province also suffered heavy agricultural damage.

Experts warn that flooding will continue to be a major threat in the next few months in southern China. The central and eastern flood-prone provinces are also anticipating very bad floods. China's Anti-flood and Anti-Drought Headquarters are urging threatened areas to take preventive measures such as reinforcing embankments, improving water control projects, and carrying out evacuation drills in schools and factories.

Official figures list at least 273 dead, more than 20,000 injured; 780,000 houses damaged, 230,000 houses collapsed; more than 2 million hectares of farmland affected and 200,000 hectares of harvests destroyed. The direct economic loss is put at 7.4 million RMB (CHF 1.3 million).

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) grassroots units in Hangzhou, Xiaogan, and Guangdong are on a continuous disaster response alert. Local branches have begun collecting clothing and quilts. Red Cross members in medical centres throughout the flood prone regions have been organised into response teams and are standing by. Frequently used medicines and medical equipment, based upon past flood relief experience, have been packaged units for use by the medical teams. Local branches have been instructed by the National Society headquarters to conduct small unit drills in what is called "self-help relief" at village level.

A relief training seminar was held 1-5 June in the RCSC's Nanjing Disaster Preparedness Centre, located in the province of Jiangsu, one of the most prone to flood damage. Participants were 79 finance and relief personnel from RCSC Provincial Branches.

### ***Needs***

So far, the Government of China has not officially qualified the situation as an emergency. The RCSC points out that no international appeal is currently being sought. However, as a preparedness measure, it has established what additional supplies would be required in its regional disaster preparedness centres

serving the flood-prone areas, should the situation deteriorate further and a large-scale relief operation become necessary.

<b>Provinces</b>	<b>clothing (mixed sets)</b>	<b>quilts</b>	<b>cooking pots</b>	<b>washing basins</b>	<b>tents (10-12 people)</b>	<b>jerry cans</b>
Hangzhou	10,000	10,000	1,000	1,000	500	1,000
Xiaogan	6 to 8,000	6 to 8,000	800	800	400	800
Guangzhou	6 to 8,000	6 to 8,000	800	800	400	800

As well, 1,000,000 water purification tablets would be needed for each of the above centres, to sustain up to 20,000 displaced victims for one month.

The RCSC has expressed its appreciation of the concern shown by the Federation and its National Societies. The RCSC and the Federation will continue to keep Sister National Societies informed of developments.

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