

# EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

Appeal no. **MDRCN002**

30 July 2007

[Glide no FL-20007-00097-CHN](#)

## CHINA: FLOODS

*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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 9,462,000 (USD 7,692,683 OR EUR 5,710,320) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 400,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 12 MONTHS**

**CHF 240,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF). Unearmarked funds to reimburse the DREF are encouraged.**

[<click here to link directly to the attached Appeal budget; and here to view the map of the affected areas>](#)

Since late May, torrential rains and swelling rivers have devastated more than 980 counties in 24 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities of China, affecting millions of people and have already resulted in the deaths of more than 500. Nearly five million have been rapidly evacuated from their homes as two of China's major rivers breach dangerous levels and flash floods and thunderstorms ravage the region. Some areas are seeing the worst flooding in 50-80 years while others are seeing the worst in recorded history. Compounding the situation, an excruciating heat wave of 36-40 degrees Celcius in the affected areas makes living conditions for evacuees in temporary shelters unbearable.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and the Federation, through support from this appeal, aim to provide immediate relief items to 400,000 people, materials for rehabilitating homes for 2,000 families, work with communities to reduce their disaster risk and introduce flood mitigation activities. These efforts will target the most vulnerable communities from impoverished areas and consist of ethnic minorities that are unsupported by conventional aid. Red Cross Society of China and the Federation are looking to provide support to these communities for immediate critical relief as well as co-fund their own rehabilitation and return to regular life.

The government is rapidly responding broadly to the disaster, but cannot possibly cover the extent of the needs present. The RCSC has a formal national mandate to help the most vulnerable, and has been reaching out since the beginning of the year to an inordinate number of disasters. With an exhausted stock, the Federation is seeking international support from the membership to assist the RCSC in carrying out these objectives.

Red Cross volunteers in China, Hong Kong and Macau have taken to the streets to raise awareness and mobilize funds to assist the relief efforts in China. With full awareness that many governments are reluctant to pledge support to China's relief efforts, RCSC and the Federation are seeking direct support from all partners and their volunteers. As a global movement, mobilizing the power of humanity, we propose that partner societies join the efforts of these volunteers in reaching the general public to help those most in need at this time in China.



Villagers in a rural area of Chongqing municipality walk through the rubble of their homes. RCSC

## The Situation

Floods and landslides caused by continuous torrential rain since mid-May have devastated more than 980 counties in 24 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities of China affecting millions of people and resulting in the deaths of more than 500. As rains have inundated both the major and minor river belts, including the Yangtze and Huai River areas, nearly five million people have been evacuated as their farmland and villages have been submerged in water. Compounded by extreme heat waves of 36-40 degrees Celsius, the millions in temporary shelters are facing even more health risks and discomfort.

Many areas affected are seeing the worst flooding in more than a century and in some cases the worst in recorded history. The most severely hit areas include some of the poorest farm communities along the Huai River basin in Anhui province, thousands of impoverished minority communities in mountainous Guizhou province and along the Yangtze River in Hubei province, Sichuan province and in Chongqing municipality and its surrounding agricultural areas.

[<click here for map>](#)

Dangerous water levels continue to rise as unprecedented downpours dump rains on already saturated regions. While hydrological stations are relieving pressure by releasing waters into buffer zones, flooding thousands of acres of farmland, there are warnings that the dykes are in danger of breaching. Again, more rain is forecast in the coming days and weeks ahead, potentially expanding the areas affected by the disasters, and extending needed relief efforts in already affected areas.

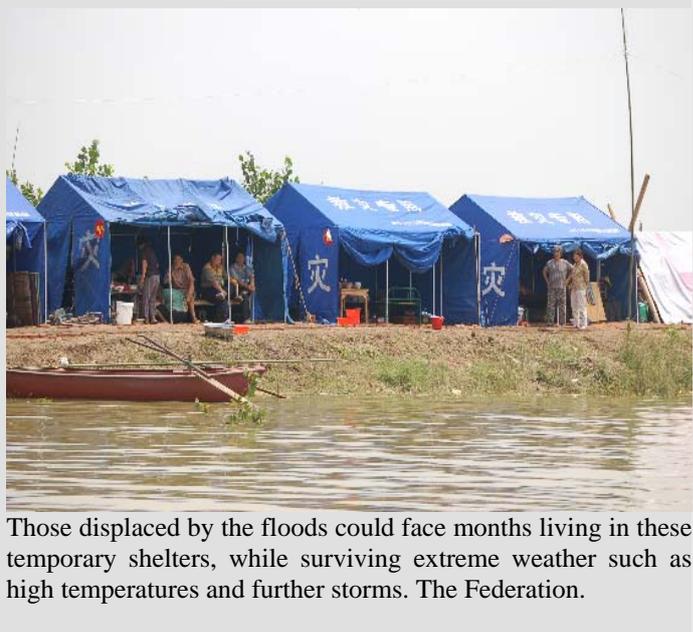
### Huai River basin

Flooding along the Huai River, the third longest river of China, is the worst in more than 50 years. With more than a million having been evacuated along the river, it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of homes and millions of hectares of farmland have been damaged or destroyed, resulting in estimated losses that extend above CNY 12 billion (CHF 2 billion) in economic losses thus far, 90 percent of which is accounted for in Anhui province, one of the poorest agricultural areas where farmers earn an average annual income of CNY 1,119 (CHF 180).

In Anhui Province alone, more than 17 million people (25 percent of the total population of 65.93 million) have been affected, claiming the lives of 34 people to date and causing the evacuation of nearly 700,000<sup>1</sup>. Situated along



Floods have submerged thousands of homes in Anhui province, and many have collapsed or suffered severe damage, adding economic pressure to already impoverished farmers. The Federation.



Those displaced by the floods could face months living in these temporary shelters, while surviving extreme weather such as high temperatures and further storms. The Federation.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics reflect updated numbers by each provincial government since the release of official figures on 16 July by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

## China: Floods; Emergency Appeal no. MDRCN002

the middle reaches of the Huai River basin, Anhui is home to a majority of the rivers' 20 diversion areas that are used to relieve the dangerously high levels of water from reaching industry and urban areas downstream. With more than two-thirds of them used this season so far, many of Anhui's poorest farmers have been forced to abandon their land for higher ground, using tractors and trucks to transport their most critical belongings and livestock, and then watch the floods rise around their homes, many of which they know will collapse once saturated. Already, reports show that more than 250,000 rooms<sup>2</sup> have been destroyed or seriously damaged in Anhui with nearly 1.5 million hectares of farmland affected.

Likewise, Henan Province, just west of Anhui along the Huai River, has also been hit hard by torrential rains that have caused the Huai river basin to be either saturated or purposefully flooded to divert dangerous water levels from cresting further downstream. More than 9.3 million people (total population 98.20 million) have been affected, with half a million evacuated. It is estimated that 50,000 rooms and more than half a million hectares of farmland have either been destroyed or damaged in the last few weeks. Being the province with the highest population and one of the poorest economies, the return to normality will be very difficult. More rains are expected, as farmers brace for a long emergency and recovery phase.

The water remains at dangerously high levels and concerns over weaknesses in the dykes that have been soaked for more than 20 days compound the risks to the area. Already, more than 546 high risk weaknesses in the dykes had been identified and patched. Evacuations of high risk areas have continued over the past weeks and days, fortunately planned just prior to a cofferdam bursting and flooding another five villages. To further compound matters, storms bringing tornados have brought down trees, houses and destroyed farmland, adding another CNY 22 million (CHF 3.5 million) in economic losses to Anhui.

### Yangtze River delta

Along the Yangtze River Delta and its tributaries, heavy rains have affected millions, displacing thousands of communities, since waters began to rise due to excessive rainfall brought by thunderstorms. The Three Rivers Gorge dam is reaching the 25 meter warning line, posing a threat to the safety of boats and neighbouring farmland. Sluices have been opened to flood "buffer zones" to relieve some of the pressure down river, but concerns mount as the economic toll rises from both affected trade routes along the river and flooded farmland.

Hubei (population 60.5 million), host to a long stretch of the Yangtze River and known as the "Province of Lakes", was hit by its seventh storm this season and has suffered severe flooding since late June. At least 62 are dead with another 26 missing and more than 15 million people affected, 400,000 of which have been evacuated. The second hardest hit this season, after Anhui, Hubei has had more than one million hectares of farmland damaged by the floods and another 43,000 rooms destroyed and nearly another four times that having been damaged.

Sichuan Province has seen the highest toll in lives with at least 87 dead and 37 missing as of 16 July, prior to further flooding that swept through the province. Flooding and landslides have affected more than 19 million people and caused the evacuation of more than 524,000 people. Some 44,000 rooms have been destroyed with three times as many damaged. Being home to more than 30 percent of China's ethnic minorities groups, Sichuan's mountainous region is both extremely culturally rich and economically poor. With a population of 87.73 million, 60 percent of which is in rural areas, the floods have affected more than 36 percent of the rural population of Sichuan thus far, most of whom are of minority ethnicity. Farmers in the province have an annual average income of only CNY 3,000 (CHF 480), well below the international poverty line of USD 2 per day. Once affected by floods and landslides, Sichuan's terrain is difficult to navigate making relief and recovery all the more difficult to some of the most vulnerable groups in need, many of whom are minority women and children.

Between Sichuan and Hubei provinces, Chongqing municipality and its agricultural regions were hit with thunder storms that brought unprecedented rainfall (total population 31.98 million, 80 percent of which is in surrounding rural areas). On 17 July, more than 266 mm of rain dumped onto the city within hours causing more than 55 deaths with more missing and tens of thousands of hectares destroyed. To date, the rainfall has affected more than seven

---

<sup>2</sup> Statistical data on housing in China is gathered to reflect the number of rooms, rather than stand alone homes. The average farm house may have 1-3 rooms.

## China: Floods; Emergency Appeal no. MDRCN002

million people with 310,000 evacuated. The economic toll is expected to rise beyond the currently estimated CNY 2.978 million (CHF 477,000), with 124,000 rooms either destroyed or severely damaged, and 230,000 hectares of land having been affected. Although much of the attention has been on Chongqing city itself, considering the images of ravaging waters flowing down the inclined city streets and stairwells, the agricultural area surrounding Chongqing accounts for a large portion of the loss and is expected to have a challenging recovery.

### Other regions

Other areas of the country have also been ravaged by floods. Like Chongqing, Jinan city, in Shandong Province, received record rainfall when the city was flooded with 188 mm of rain in a three hour time period on 18 July, killing more than 34 people in collapsing building, submerged vehicles or by electrocution. Poor drainage systems within the city were sited as cause of many of the deaths, which is a common risk in other large cities throughout China as well. Flooding in areas of Gansu, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Guangxi, and Guizhou provinces, which are predominantly populated by poor ethnic minorities, has destroyed thousands of homes, livestock, and hundreds of thousands of hectares of land. Herders and their livestock have been stranded in mountainous regions of Xinjiang and vehicles have also been stranded and transportation routes halted in Tibet due to landslides caused by heavy rains.

| <b>2007 Total Natural Disaster Statistics Nationwide 1 January to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007</b><br>(Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs) |                       |                  |                     |                     |                       |                                  |                     |                   |                                  |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
|  | Affected<br>(Million) | Dead<br>(Person) | Missing<br>(Person) | Injured<br>(Person) | Evacuated<br>(Person) | Damaged<br>Farmland<br>(Hectare) | Collapsed<br>Rooms* | Damaged<br>Rooms* | Direct Eco.<br>Loss<br>(Million) |
| <b>China</b>   | <b>200</b>            | <b>715</b>       | <b>129</b>          | <b>n/a</b>          | <b>4,446,000</b>      | <b>26,182,100</b>                | <b>533,000</b>      | <b>1,020,000</b>  | <b>73,580</b>                    |
| <b>Provincial statistics for flood related disasters available as of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007 (Ministry of Civil Affairs)</b>         |                       |                  |                     |                     |                       |                                  |                     |                   |                                  |
| Anhui  | 17.271                | 30               | 9                   | 1200                | 585,000               | 1,445,600                        | 70,000              | 186,000           | 9,380                            |
| Hubei  | 15.42                 | 62               | 26                  | 2840                | 394,000               | 1,071,400                        | 43,000              | 159,000           | 4,200                            |
| Sichuan  | 19.419                | 87               | 37                  | 2148                | 524,000               | 395,800                          | 44,000              | 122,000           | 2,330                            |
| Chongqing  | 9.178                 | 49               | 7                   | 1031                | 368,000               | 375,600                          | 30,000              | 96,000            | 1,520                            |
| <b>Provincial statistics for flood related disasters available as of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007 (Ministry of Civil Affairs)</b>         |                       |                  |                     |                     |                       |                                  |                     |                   |                                  |
| Henan  | 5.966                 | 0                | 0                   | 0                   | 368,000               | 610,000                          | 21,000              | 28,000            | 2.28                             |

\* Statistical data on housing in China is gathered to reflect the number of rooms, rather than homes. The average farm house may have 1-3 rooms.

## Impact so far of the disaster in China

The Ministry of Civil Affairs recently released statistics showing that natural disasters have had an inordinately heavy impact thus far this year. As of 16 July, natural disasters accounted for the deaths of 715 people with another 129 still missing. An additional 150 were killed the following week. More than 200 million people have been seriously affected and at least 4.5 million had been evacuated to safety. It was reported that, up to that time, more than 533,000 homes have been destroyed and 26 million hectares of land had been damaged. Estimated economic losses were well above CNY 70 billion (CHF 11.2 billion), and the government had already set aside millions of Yuan in aid to respond to the floods.

While the government has been responding quite rapidly and effectively in the emergency phase of disaster response, their contribution towards reducing the losses will not go far enough. Millions of people are stranded in temporary shelters, for what could be months, until waters recede and homes are rebuilt. Lack of water and food, as well as the spread of disease and illness, are of immediate concern. Adequate protection from the damp and mosquitoes is of critical importance. And still, those who lost everything are most concerned about how they will survive long-term in rebuilding their livelihoods and their homes.

## Health

Reducing disaster related health risks in cramped camps for evacuees are also of highest priority for the Ministry of Health. Local health bureaus have been tasked to take the lead role to provide basic health care needs to the affected population including sending mobile medical teams and disinfection of camp areas. Drinking water sources are under great threat and temperatures across the nation have risen to 36-40 degrees Celcius. In many areas, rains have been interspersed by heat waves that settle over the flooded areas and invite the growth of algae and mosquitoes. Insect bites are common in the evenings, and those living in temporary shelters have little relief from the pests that pose the risk of spreading dangerous disease. Furthermore, without an adequate water supply in the shelter areas, people are dipping their washcloths or even their whole bodies into the polluted water to cool off.

At the same time, millions of rats have taken to high ground causing panic and disgust as whole villages are overwhelmed by the rodent infestations. It is estimated that more than 1.6 million hectares of land spared by the floods have been utterly destroyed by the rodents, leaving yet another swath of land indirectly affected by the floods. While the government is claiming the rodent problem is under control, they are still emphasizing the health risks associated with flooding and high temperatures.

## Poverty

Natural disasters take the hardest toll on those already in or near impoverished conditions. Those affected by this years floods, are some of China's most vulnerable. They are poor farmers living in the "buffer zones" with very little resources for rehabilitating their livelihoods. They are also minority groups living in remote, often inaccessible, areas of mountainous regions in the central and southern provinces.

The loss of over 26 million hectares of land to recent floods only exacerbates the obstacles faced by the country's rural farmers. Even without the obstacles posed by flooding, few farmers have enough land to farm on. According to the nation's social security authority about 40 million farmers lost their land as a result of rapid urbanization. At the same time China's arable land has reduced from 130 million hectares in 1996 to 122 million hectares in 2005; and per capita arable land is 0.093 hectares, only one-third of the global average. Agricultural production is limited to the amount of land assigned to each household with the average acreage per family about one *mu* (Chinese land measurement standard) of land roughly equivalent to one-tenth of an acre.

Because farming has become so difficult, and following the loss of land after the flood, many of the rural poor are migrating to the cities to find work. Thus, it is young female rural farmers who are hardest hit by the floods, as the women in the rural villages are responsible for much of the agricultural work. With an increasing number of men employed in the cities as migrant labourers, the women remain in the countryside to attend to the farms and take care of young children and aging parents.

Year to year, the cycle of loss is exacerbated by the lack of structurally sound buildings constructed in frequent flooding zones. Many houses were lost in this years flooding due to inadequate construction using mud-based brick sealant, and substandard construction techniques. Unable to afford to hire construction teams and buy better quality materials, these families live in fear that a flood may sweep away their homes and all the possessions they have worked so hard to earn. Although government subsidies allow for the construction of a percentage of housing, it will never cover the full extent of need, and in many cases, due to limited allocation of funds, shortcuts will most likely be taken once again by farmers in the reconstruction process, leaving them vulnerable again in future years.

Unfortunately, each year floods ravage the China river basins, it is the poorest of the poor that suffer most. They face a worrisome future of food and water shortages, lost homes and possessions, and a lack of means for income generation. With more than 600 million of China's population living on USD 2 or less per day and 23.65 million of those living below China's own poverty benchmark of CNY 683 (CHF 110) per year, poverty is already a great challenge for many farmers living in these regions. The constant cycle of natural disasters in China forces even more to fall into, or deeper into, poverty. Although relief efforts are improving, there is still a grave lack of long-term assistance to help those living in high risk areas protect themselves from the inevitable. The costs to recover losses for these millions of people affected will far exceed the abilities of local and national governments.

Table 2: Countries most affected by water –related disasters

| Countries most affected by water-related disasters (1900-2005)<br>sorted by number of people killed and affected |             |           |              |             |                 |
|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Country  | Date        | Killed    | Country      | Date        | People Affected |
| China P Rep  | Jul-1931    | 3,700,000 | China P Rep  | 6-Aug-1998  | 238,973,000     |
| China P Rep  | Jul-1959    | 2,000,000 | China P Rep  | 18-May-1991 | 210,232,227     |
| China P Rep  | Jul-1939    | 500,000   | China P Rep  | Jun-2002    | 190,035,257     |
| Indian Ocean   | Dec-2004    | 250,000   | China P Rep  | Jul-1996    | 154,634,000     |
| China P Rep  | 1935        | 142,000   | China P Rep  | 23-Jun-2003 | 150,146,000     |
| China P Rep  | 1911        | 100,000   | India        | 7-Jul-1993  | 128,000,000     |
| China P Rep  | Jul-1949    | 57,000    | China P Rep  | May-1995    | 114,470,249     |
| Guatemala  | Oct-1949    | 40,000    | China P Rep  | Jun-1999    | 101,024,000     |
| China P Rep  | Aug-1954    | 30,000    | China P Rep  | 14-Jul-1989 | 100,010,000     |
| Venezuela  | 19-Dec-1999 | 30,000    | China P Rep  | Jun-1994    | 78,974,400      |
| Bangladesh   | Jul-1974    | 28,700    | Indian Ocean | Dec- 2004   | 5,000,000       |

*Table 2: Countries most affected by Water-related Disasters (1900-2005). Based on: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, Université catholique de Louvain , Brussels , Belgium".*

## Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), together with provincial Red Cross branches, is taking action to meet the needs of those affected by the disasters. As part of its well established mandate to complement the government in times of disaster, the RCSC has already been responding since the start of the year to a variety of disasters that have struck 24 of China's 31 mainland provinces and major municipalities. This includes disasters ranging from snow and hailstorms to floods and earthquakes.

Since June, RCSC has been regularly monitoring the increasing number of flood related disasters. A number of assessment teams from the society's Beijing headquarters, with representatives from the Federation, have been dispatched to affected areas in Anhui, Sichuan, Hubei and Chongqing. The assessment teams are finding the local Red Cross branches are responding quickly and effectively to the needs of those left vulnerable after the disaster. The local governments are appreciative of Red Cross support and eager to ensure continued involvement in relief efforts.

### DREF allocation

Based on a joint field assessment conducted by representatives from RCSC headquarters and the Federation's regional delegation, the first response has been to allocate CHF 240,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to partially meet the immediate needs in Anhui, Sichuan and Hubei provinces with rice (200 MT), blankets (15,000 pcs.), and 300 boxes of water purification materials.



RCSC Vice-President, Mme Su, visits Anhui flood areas with relief items. RCSC has been responding to the disaster by providing relief items and sending assessment teams. RCSC

## China: Floods; Emergency Appeal no. MDRCN002

To date, the RCSC has provided funds and relief materials worth USD 1.5 million (CHF 1.8 million) to affected provinces and regions including Anhui, Sichuan, Hubei, Henan and Chongqing. The RCSC headquarters in Beijing allocated tents, quilts and disinfectants to the affected areas where many local people are currently living in temporary shelters. A national appeal has been launched with positive response from the local public. Provincial branches of the RCSC have been actively responding to the disasters providing relief materials and funds to the affected areas, with the Red Cross in Hong Kong and Macao also having contributed USD 650,000 (CHF 790,000) to the floods affected regions.

The RCSC's efforts were highlighted in recent news reports in China. Click on the link below to see an English language report on RCSC's recent visit to Anhui.

[http://www.cctv.com/video/worldwidewatch/2007/07/worldwidewatch\\_128\\_20070716\\_14.shtml](http://www.cctv.com/video/worldwidewatch/2007/07/worldwidewatch_128_20070716_14.shtml)

**Table 3: Distribution of relief items by RCSC Headquarters 1 January – 27 July**

| RCSC Headquarters Emergency Response Distribution |       |                    |  |             |              |
|---|-------|--------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| January-Present 2007                              |       |                    |  |             |              |
| As of 27 July 2007                                |       |                    |  |             |              |
| Province  | Month | Type of Disasters  | Types of Relief Supplies   | Value (CNY) | Value in CHF |
| Liao Ning   | March | Snowstorm          | Quilts   | 153,600     | 24,420       |
| Inner Mongolia                                    | March | Snowstorm          | Quilts   | 76,800      | 12,190       |
| Sichuan   | April | Hailstorms(2)      | Quilts, tents  | 289,692     | 45,983       |
| Guizhou   | April | Hailstone          | Quilts, tents  | 191,232     | 30,354       |
| Chongqing   | April | Hailstorm          | Warm clothes, quilts   | 188,200     | 29,873       |
| Hunan   | April | Hailstorm          | Quilts   | 79,500      | 12,619       |
| Chongqing   | May   | Heavy rain         | Summer family kits, tents, water purification tablets                | 318,991     | 50,633       |
| Hunan   | May   | Heavy rain         | Water purification tablets, disinfectant, quilts                     | 137,000     | 21,746       |
| Hunan   | June  | Floods, landslides | Quilts, disinfectants, rice  | 496,620     | 78,829       |
| Guangxi   | June  | Floods, landslides | Tents, quilts, mosquito net, water purification tablets              | 345,164     | 28,775       |
| Sichuan   | June  | Flood              | Water purification tablets, disinfectant, quilts, summer family kits | 325,000     | 51,587       |
| Hubei   | June  | Floods, landslides | Quilts, family kits, water purification tablets                      | 302,000     | 47,937       |
| Guizhou   | June  | Floods, landslides | Quilts, tents  | 298,464     | 27,027       |
| Chongqing   | June  | Flood              | Water purification tablets, disinfectant, coat                       | 226,200     | 35,905       |
| Guangdong   | June  | Floods, landslides | Water purification tablets, disinfectant                             | 168,000     | 26,709       |
| Hubei   | June  | Floods, landslides | Water purification tablets, disinfectant, clothes                    | 162,800     | 25,882       |
| Jiangxi   | June  | Flood              | Tents, mosquito nets   | 91,204      | 14,477       |

**China: Floods; Emergency Appeal no. MDRCN002**

|               |      |            |   |                   |                  |
|---------------|------|------------|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Yunnan        | June | Earthquake | Tents, quilts, summer family kits, cash, water purification tablets, rice, mobile lavatories, medicine(1,003,750 yuan ) | 2,070,906         | 328,715          |
| Sichuan       | July | Flood      | Quilts, water purification tablets, disinfectant, cash, rice  | 1,130,310         | 179,414          |
| Hubei         | July | Floods     | Disinfectant, family kits, water purification tablets, quilts, rice   | 760,600           | 120,730          |
| Anhui         | July | Flood      | Water purification tablets, tents, quilts, family kits,   | 702,491           | 111,506          |
| Chongqing     | July | Flood      | Rice, water purification tablets, family kits, quilts   | 685,518           | 20,094           |
| Jiangxi       | July | Flood      | Quilts, disinfectant  | 299,800           | 47,587           |
| Henan         | July | Flood      | Water purification tablets, tents   | 512,972           | 81,424           |
| Shaanxi       | July | Flood      | Quilts  | 153,600           | 24,381           |
| Guizhou       | July | Flood      | Rice  | 100,000           | 15,873           |
| Jiangsu       | July | Tornado    | Water purification tablets, tents, quilts   | 351,343           | 55,769           |
| Guangxi       | July | Typhoon    | Water purification tablets  | 144,000           | 28,775           |
| Shandong      | July | Flood      | Rice, disinfectant  | 160,000           | 25,397           |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |      |            |   | <b>10,922,007</b> | <b>1,604,612</b> |

**Immediate needs**

Although the immediate needs are overwhelming for the nearly five million people displaced by the floods, making the joint response action challenging, the RCSC and the Federation are aware that an operation targeting 400,000 of the most vulnerable people may appear to have a limited impact on the overall scope of the disaster but this does not discourage the Red Cross action to provide much needed assistance to the affected communities.

For the millions of people, mostly the rural poor, who have been evacuated country wide and the thousands who lost their homes and crops over recent weeks, the period of temporary displacement can often last up to as long as three months to one year. Displaced by the floods, families will seek temporary shelter in public buildings, with family members or live outside in makeshift shelters until the flood waters dissipate increasing the demand for emergency relief items such as rice to meet basic food needs, water purification tablets, disinfectant to prevent the spread of diseases, and quilts to shield themselves from the damp weather.

The government of China mobilized significant funds, human resources, and goods to provide immediate relief, but the scale of the disaster leaves many needs yet to be addressed, and an expectation that the Red Cross Society of China, as an auxiliary of the government in disaster relief, will be able to fulfil if supported.

**The proposed operation**

This operation aims to combine various disaster management elements into an integrated plan that will allow RCSC to meet both emergency and longer-term needs of the most affected populations. The international appeal of CHF 9.462 million targets support to 400,000 beneficiaries from four provinces and one municipality for 12 months in emergency relief, including construction materials for rebuilding homes, and community disaster risk reduction and flood mitigation. These five regions Anhui, Henan, Hubei, Sichuan, and Chongqing, have been selected because they have been areas most severely affected by this year's floods and they all have high levels of poverty.

## China: Floods; Emergency Appeal no. MDRCN002

Immediate needs will be met through the procurement and distribution of rice, water purification tablets, and quilts to those in the affected areas. Through support from DREF, these activities are partially already underway, but will require extensive financial support to reach the mass numbers still in need and provide them with the basic necessities required during this first phase of relief efforts. The Federation will also contribute construction materials for rebuilding collapsed homes for poverty stricken families in inaccessible minority populated areas.

With the floods of 2006, the RCSC modified its strategy in disaster response. After reviewing the impact and effectiveness of the disaster response strategy it had been applying in the past, which focused almost exclusively on the provision of emergency and short-term recovery assistance in the form of basic relief supplies and food aid, the RCSC looked at ways to make a long-term impact that can work towards poverty reduction and community sustainability.

They found that while basic relief supplies were useful and appreciated, the majority of beneficiaries interviewed as part of the monitoring of past operations have consistently stated that their top priority is the rebuilding of their homes. RCSC determined that with its branch outreach and influence, it is well positioned to be able to participate in meeting some of the needs by complimenting the government's intervention that includes small grants for housing, and thereby reduce one of the main burdens inflicted on the disaster affected populations.

RCSC, with support from the Federation East Asia regional delegation, piloted a project in 2006 to provide material support for rebuilding homes for the most flood affected poor families, reinforcing their own rehabilitation efforts in coordination with local governments' efforts to address these needs. Despite the size of China's rural population, due to the nature of the country's social structure, local governments are well able to identify those families with the greatest needs and to organize the required work within a short timeframe. These local governments agreed to work with Red Cross partners ensure the most vulnerable are targeted. The Federation, for its part, works alongside RCSC to identify and recruit local construction experts to provide quality assurance, and to advise and monitor RCSC branches in the three target provinces.

In 2006, with support from the flood appeals, RCSC was able to rebuild 1,200 houses, four schools and 15 clinics in seven provinces. Careful consultation went into selecting beneficiaries as well as the building sites and the materials to ensure that these buildings could withstand further risks of flooding in those areas. With the funds provided, families were able to not only return to their lives once again, but have a more secure future.

Another area in which the society has been building its expertise in recent years is in the field of disaster reduction. With support from partners such as its Hong Kong Red Cross branch, the Australian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross and the Federation, the RCSC has been implementing a number of community-based disaster preparedness programmes (CBDP) in provinces such as Jiangxi, Hebei, Henan, Guangxi and Hunan. These have seen the development of a range of small-scale but effective disaster mitigation projects, backed up by the creation of village level disaster committees that build a sense of ownership and commitment to community self-help in times of disaster.



Hong Kong Red Cross branch has mobilized its volunteers to raise awareness and funds on the streets of Hong Kong. HKRC

## Objectives and activities planned

### Emergency relief (food and non-food items)

**Objective 1: 100,000 of the most affected families (400,000 people) in Anhui, Henan, Hubei, Sichuan, and Chongqing have received 6,000 MT rice (15kg per person/one time distribution), 45,000 quilts and 3000 boxes of water purification tablets.**

#### Planned activities:

- Identification of the most vulnerable beneficiaries through criteria agreed upon between the national society and the local communities.
- Immediate release of available relief items from RCSC DP centres.
- Procurement of other relief supplies by the RCSC based on Federation logistics standards.
- Organization of a transport and distribution system by each of the local branches concerned.
- Distribution of relief items with proper recording.
- Through DREF, 200 MT rice, 15,000 blankets and 300 boxes of water purification tablets have been procured for immediate distribution.

### Emergency rehabilitation: reconstruction of homes

**Objective 2: 2,000 most vulnerable displaced and poor families living in severely flood-affected villages are assisted in the rebuilding of their homes through co-funding with to the local government.**

#### Planned activities:

In each of the selected provinces, the Federation together with the three respective RCSC branches will:

- Establish agreements between the RCSC branch and the local county government identifying beneficiary selection criteria to targeting the most vulnerable.
- Select beneficiaries by using criteria agreed upon jointly.
- Identify a safe site to relocate new housing in each county.
- RCSC branches in partnership with the local government will identify and form a contract with the project contractor specifying: design standards, criteria for quality control; and, will have beneficiaries participate in the design and building process.
- The procurement of material and services will comply with Federation procurement standards.
- The Federation-recruited local experts and delegates together with RCSC provincial branches will conduct regular monitoring of the re-building process.

### Community disaster risk reduction and flood mitigation needs

**Objective 3: The vulnerability of communities affected by this year's floods to future flood disaster is reduced through the introduction of community based flood mitigation activities in four villages.**

#### Planned activities:

- Villages identified as most vulnerable to natural disasters are selected.
- Each village develops an agreed risk reduction plan with prioritised mitigation measures.
- Mitigation measures such as the building of access roads, dykes and irrigation pathways are implemented in the identified villages.
- The Federation will provide support in monitoring and evaluation.

## **Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

The Federation's regional delegation in East Asia will work in partnership with the RCSC's media department to raise media attention and public awareness about the RCSC's response to the floods and the socio-economic impact of natural disasters have on China's rural poor. Opportunities for advocacy for flood resistant housing and support to the most vulnerable communities will also be pursued.

## **Capacity of the National Society**

The Red Cross Society of China was founded in 1904, becoming one of the first members of the Federation in 1919. The mission of the RCSC is reflected in its law, acknowledged by the central and provincial governments, and is reflective of the good working relationship with government particularly in the fields of relief and health activities. Today with over 21 million members, a headquarters in Beijing (217 staff) and established regional branches (5,959 staff) corresponding to state administrative units, the RCSC is well placed to act as a valuable auxiliary partner to the government in times of disaster.

Floods and typhoons are frequent and annual occurrences in China, and as such the RCSC has developed well established response mechanisms to ensure delivery of assistance to affected individuals. When disaster strikes, RCSC branches at the provincial and local levels immediately launch local appeals for funding and items such as warm clothing to assist flood victims. Branches in the most heavily affected areas have already distributed tents, water purification tablets, rice, food quilts etc.

The RCSC maintains a nationwide network of six regional disaster preparedness centres. These are essentially warehouses with stocks of relief supplies, but they also serve as focal points for training staff in disaster management, including logistics, report writing skills and first aid tailored to different kinds of disasters.

## **Capacity of the Federation**

The Federation's East Asia regional delegation, in Beijing comprises a head and specialist delegates in disaster management, health and care, reporting, finance and information, backed by a committed team of zone staff in Kuala Lumpur and relevant regional and technical departments at the Geneva secretariat.

The Federation focal point for this operation will be the regional disaster management delegate, whose key function will be to provide support as necessary to RCSC in successfully implementing the operation and to be the interface with the Federation secretariat and donors. Other in-country delegates will participate in monitoring the relief and rehabilitation activities. In addition, local construction consultants will be contracted to support the monitoring of construction activities.

Through the posting of a web story on the Federations website and the issuing of regular information bulletins since the start of the flood season, the Federations regional delegation has supported the RCSC in raising public awareness about the developing flood situation its socio-economic implications and the RCSC's response.

## **Coordination**

Coordination is a high priority to ensure the most effective use of available resources towards the needs of vulnerable people. Besides the central and local government authorities, RCSC is the only other party currently engaged in disaster response activities on a nationwide scale in China. The RCSC works to ensure a close coordination of its activities with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Health, particularly at the local operational levels. The government authorities assume the major responsibility for both emergency disaster response and follow-up rehabilitation activities such as the restoration of damaged infrastructure, such as rebuilding of roads and bridges. RCSC focuses on providing supplementary disaster response in the immediate aftermath of

## China: Floods; Emergency Appeal no. MDRCN002

disasters and, as far as resources permit, on the continuing humanitarian needs. Regional coordination meetings will be held regularly between the RCSC and the Federation, including operations planning in all sectors.

When there is a need for coordination at the international level in Beijing, the UN organizes meetings of the UN disaster management team (UNDMT). These gather representatives from the government of China (usually represented by either the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, or the Ministry of Health), UN agencies, the World Bank, donor country embassies, the international NGOs working in China that are involved in humanitarian activities, as well as the Federation and RCSC. Outside of such meetings, the Federation's regional delegation liaises with partner national societies around the world, donor country embassies and international agencies to keep them informed about Red Cross relief activities in China and progress on resource mobilization and programme implementation of the 2007 flood operation.

## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation on an ongoing basis will be through RCSC and Federation's normal accountability and reporting systems. It is intended to carry out an evaluation at the end of the operation as well as an external audit according to Federation international standards.

## Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Thomas Gürtner  
Director ai.  
Coordination and Programmes Division

Markku Niskala  
Secretary General

[Appeal budget below; click here to return to the title page](#)

## How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

### The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Red Cross Society of China: Mr. Wang Xiaohua, director of external relations department; email: [rcsc@chineseredcross.org](mailto:rcsc@chineseredcross.org); phone: +86.10.6404.8366, fax +86.10.6402.9928.

**China: Floods; Emergency Appeal no. MDRCN002**

- East Asia Regional Representation Office in China: Ms. Ewa Eriksson, (acting regional representative), email; [Ewa.Eriksson@ifrc.org](mailto:Ewa.Eriksson@ifrc.org); Mr. Qinghui Gu (regional disaster management coordinator), email; [qinghui.gu@ifrc.org](mailto:qinghui.gu@ifrc.org); phone +86 1391 0959 834, fax+86-10-6532-7166.
- Kuala Lumpur Regional Logistics Unit, Mr. Ilir Caushaj (regional logistics coordinator), email; [ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org](mailto:ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org); mobile: + 60 12 628 2707, fax: +603 2168 8573
- Kuala Lumpur Disaster Management Unit, Mr Naoki Kokawa (head of DMU), email: [naoki.kokawa@ifrc.org](mailto:naoki.kokawa@ifrc.org); tel + 60 3 2161 0892, mobile; +60 12 375 1635.
- Federation Asia Pacific Zone in Malaysia: Mr. Jagan Chapagain (deputy head of Zone) email; [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org); phone + 60 3 2161 0892, fax + 60 3 2161 1210, mobile + 60 12 215 3765.

**APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

CHINA FLOODS 2007

Annex 1

MDRCN002

**ORIGINAL****RELIEF NEEDS**

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Shelter                        | 4,000,000        |
| Clothing & Textiles            | 450,000          |
| Food                           | 2,808,000        |
| Water & Sanitation             | 180,000          |
| Other Supplies & Services/CBDP | 500,000          |
| <b>Total Relief Needs</b>      | <b>7,938,000</b> |

**CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Vehicles Purchase             | 225,000 |
| Computers & Telecom Equipment | 25,000  |

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Distribution & Monitoring  | 50,000 |
| Transport & Vehicles Costs | 50,000 |

**PERSONNEL**

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| International Staff    | 73,200 |
| National Staff         | 15,500 |
| National Society Staff | 35,000 |
| Consultants            | 25,000 |

**WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Workshops & Training | 50,000 |
|----------------------|--------|

**GENERAL EXPENSES**

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Travel                           | 81,800  |
| Information & Public Relations   | 30,000  |
| Office running costs             | 14,400  |
| Communication Costs              | 42,000  |
| Professional Fees - auditing fee | 166,460 |
| Financial Charges                | 1,000   |
| Other General Expenses           | 24,610  |

**PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Programme Support - PSR | 615,030 |
|-------------------------|---------|

---

**Total Operational Needs** **1,524,000**

---

**Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)** **9,462,000**

---

**(Less) :Available Ressources**

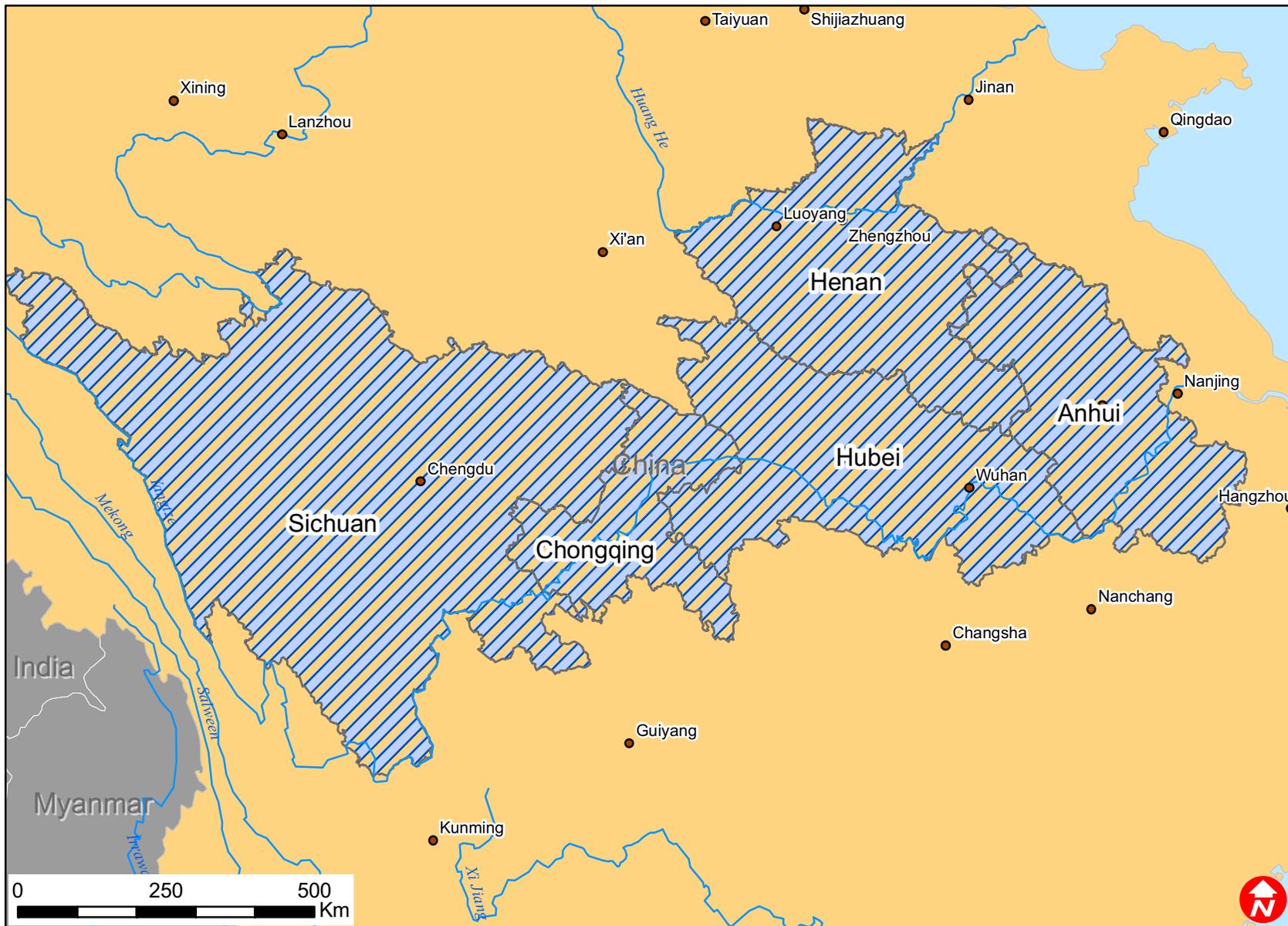
---

**Net Request** **9,462,000**

---



# China: Floods



 Most affected provinces

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.  
Map data sources: ESRI, Federation