

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## China: Sichuan Earthquake

Emergency appeal n° MDRCN003  
GLIDE n° EQ-2008-000062-CHN  
Operations update n° 14  
1 July 2008

**Period covered by this Update:** 24-30 June 2008

**Appeal target (current):** CHF 96.7 million (USD 92.7 million or EUR 59.5 million)

[<click here to view the attached revised emergency appeal budget>](#)

**Appeal coverage:** With contributions received to date, in cash and kind, and those in the pipeline, the appeal is currently approximately 65% covered.

[<click here for the current donor response list>](#)

[<click here to link to a map of the affected areas; or here for contact details>](#)

**Appeal history:**

- This emergency appeal was revised on 30 May 2008 for CHF 96.7 million (USD 92.7 million or EUR 59.5 million) to support the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) to assist around 100,000 families (up to 500,000 people) for 36 months.
- The emergency appeal was launched on 15 May 2008 for CHF 20,076,412 (USD 19.3 million or EUR 12.4 million) for 12 months to assist 100,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 250,000 was allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the RCSC's response to the earthquake.

**Summary:** The 8.0 magnitude earthquake on 12 May devastated eight provinces: Sichuan, (the most severely affected), Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shanxi, Guizhou and Hubei. The death toll currently stands at 69,195. Over 15 million people are displaced (including over five million without shelter).

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has continued to provide assistance to those in the affected areas, mobilizing medical teams and relief vehicles. A total estimated 180,000 RCSC volunteers and staff have been involved in rescue, medical, relief and recovery efforts. To date, more than one million earthquake survivors have received relief items from the Red Cross.

The International Federation's water and sanitation emergency response units (ERU) are functioning well in the townships of Jiulong, Zundao, Xinglong and Gongxing in Deyang prefecture. All ERUs are working hard and scaling up activities to meet the needs in their respective areas. RCSC counterparts have been fully deployed and are working alongside the international ERU staff to ensure skills transfer and proper handover of the ERUs.

Approximately 103,000 tents have been mobilized by the International Federation in response to a request from the RCSC. These continue to arrive steadily in Chengdu, where volunteers have been working tirelessly everyday to process them and load them onto trucks bound for designated prefectures. To date, the International Federation has received more than 88,000 tents and continues to track the distribution from the airport to prefecture, county, and township and village level. Feedback from the field has indicated that people are moving into transitional housing very quickly and planning is underway to re-distribute the balance of tents to other areas of need.

Many partner national societies and other entities have made contributions to the appeal. Details are available in the [current donor response list](#).

The International Federation, on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China, would like to thank all partners for their generous response to this appeal.



Community members pick up the latrines provided by the Red Cross. Photo: British Red Cross.

## The situation

According to a government statement on 29 June, the earthquake and aftershocks have left 69,195 dead, 374,177 injured, 18,404 missing, and over 15 million displaced, of whom five million require shelter. Across the total disaster area of 440,000 square kilometres, there are 417 affected counties, 4,656 affected townships and 47,789 affected villages.

Rescue and relief work has been difficult because most of the worst-hit areas are in the mountains and deep valleys. The destruction of infrastructure, such as roads and communication links, also prevented rescue teams and equipment from getting into the quake zone quickly. Relief work has also been hampered by frequent aftershocks, landslides and mud-rock flows as well as rain and flooding. Nonetheless, the scale and speed of rescue and relief efforts have been remarkable. The latest reported figures from the government are as follows:

- 140,000 People's Liberation Army (PLA) and armed police have been deployed
- 100,000 public security staff, fire fighters, paramilitary members and reservists have been despatched
- 84,017 survivors have been pulled from debris
- 200,000 people have been treated for quake-related injuries by 96,800 medical personnel
- 1.58 million tents, 4.87 million quilts, 14 million garments and 1.52 million tonnes of fuel oil have been distributed
- 313,700 transitional houses have been built; 32,100 in progress and materials are in place for another 63,700 transitional houses

In order to prevent the spread of diseases, the country's top government body has called on its health, environmental protection, construction, water conservation and agriculture agencies to step up checks on water sources and supervision of food aid in affected areas. For the same reason, Beichuan, a town of about 12,000 which lost half its residents in the quake, has been sealed off after having been opened recently. The move was to allow people to go back to their former homes to look for vital possessions but the chaos that followed when the town was reopened forced authorities to close it down again.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

The focus of Red Cross Red Crescent action has been on relief – mobilization and distribution of tents, the provision of safe water and sanitation, and medical support. In line with the current transition to recovery, an

assessment is being planned and the findings are to be shared with a meeting of interested partner national societies, currently scheduled for 17-18 July.

RCSC headquarters has convened a meeting involving provincial/prefecture branches to discuss the overall RCSC recovery and reconstruction plan, as well as the use of allocated funds to support the government's reconstruction programme. Up to CNY 2.5 billion (CHF 372 million) has been allocated for RCSC recovery and reconstruction activities in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi.

RCSC staff and volunteers have been working alongside international ERU teams, which are currently undergoing personnel rotation. The focus in the weeks ahead is on skills transfer, handover of ERU operations and discussions with local authorities on needs and plans. The ERU teams have built goodwill and trust in the community they are operating in, to the extent that some members of the community recently gathered together and made a large banner in English to express their appreciation of the hard work and dedication of the international teams.

### **Logistics, relief and shelter**

International Federation logistics personnel continue to work alongside RCSC volunteers at the Chengdu airport to process and clear shipments, and load relief items onto distribution trucks bound for prefectures and then onwards to townships and villages. As many as 88,351 of the tents mobilized through the International Federation have arrived in Chengdu; another 14,393 are to arrive within the next few days.



A Tibetan family in Maoxian county, Aba prefecture sitting outside their temporary home – a tent provided by the International Federation. International Federation.

The International Federation relief team has been tracking the distribution of tents from the airport to prefecture, county, township and village level. On 23 June, the team made a 13-hour trip to Maerkang in Aba prefecture to follow and assess the distribution. Road travel was difficult as many sections of the road have been damaged by the quake and landslides. Many government transitional houses have been set up – people are either living in tents waiting for transitional housing to be completed or they are building their own. The relief team also visited Wenchuan county which involved four hours of travel over difficult road conditions. The streets of Wenchuan were busy; markets up and running, and tents and makeshift shelters set up in multiple locations. The town buildings were standing but visibly damaged and unsafe for occupation. Tents had arrived in Wenchuan and the people were grateful for the assistance. The relief team also travelled to the townships of Maoxian and Nanxin, where many Qiang (an ethnic minority group) people live. Transitional

housing was already constructed and in use in one village. People could choose to live in semi-detached wooden dwellings with dirt flooring and a blue plastic sheeting roof or in one of the units in a communal block. Electricity was provided to each unit but cooking was restricted to a communal kitchen and sanitation facilities were also communal with tap stands. A common need articulated by the community is for building materials such as bricks and corrugated iron.

### Water and sanitation

The International Federation's emergency response units (ERUs) have been fully functioning in communities within Deyang prefecture for a month. RCSC staff and volunteers from various provinces have been deployed and continue to work closely alongside the international personnel as part of the ongoing skills transfer and handover of ERU operations.

*Austrian<sup>1</sup> Red Cross ERU:* There is continuous monitoring of water quality and quantity at the 11 delivery points, and adjustments have been made based on rates of water consumption. New locations for delivery points have been identified in villages around Xinglong. There are three RCSC team members currently working closely with the international team. A rotation of international personnel is in progress. Training is taking place in all technical aspects of running the ERU including hygiene promotion. This ERU has been given the use of the present site until the end of July. The continual operation of the ERU on the present site after the end of July will depend on the identified ongoing needs and discussions with local authorities.

*Spanish Red Cross ERU:* The team continues to provide safe water to about 8,000 people residing in the area around Jiulong and Zundao, including the new arrivals in the tent camp next to the base camp. They are operating at 25 distribution points and the focus of their work is now optimizing the delivery route and locations of distribution points based on consumption rates. The team of Chinese staff and volunteers has integrated well into the team, and continuous training and learning is taking place. Regular discussions with local authorities have indicated that there will be a continual need for the provision of safe water in the operating areas in the months to come.



Members of the community gather around to set up their own latrines. International Federation.

*British Red Cross ERU:* Four RCSC team members from Yunnan province are working closely with the British team as part of the skills transfer and handover process. There was a recent arrival of almost 600 people at a site next to the base camp. These people had been displaced from three mountain villages and the plan was that they will be constructing transitional houses on this site. This is likely to place some pressure on sanitation facilities here. The community has requested water and sanitation assistance from the teams and this request is currently being addressed. Monitoring and follow-up of the community-erected latrines is now taking place in Jiulong. In general, the plan for the team is to consolidate the work carried out to date and ensure that existing activities are maintained and can meet the needs of the community. Up to 256 latrines have been completed, with 38 more in progress.

<sup>1</sup> The French Red Cross team member has completed her mission.

*Danish Red Cross Base Camp ERU:* The base camp continues to run smoothly, managed by two Danish delegates. The main focus of the work now is to train RCSC counterparts in all aspects of running the base camp. Equipment and operating manuals are being translated into Chinese. There has been some difficulty with getting regular refuse disposal but the situation is manageable. On average, the base camp has been providing accommodation, washing facilities and three meals a day for up to 40 people (who include Chinese and international ERU teams, local volunteers, drivers, and visitors) since it became fully operational.

### Health

The International Federation is continuing to monitor the health situation, undertaking ongoing assessments in the operational areas. In the township of Zundao, the health infrastructure (essentially one township hospital and one to two clinics per village) has been completely destroyed. Health services have resumed in government pre-fabricated buildings but most facilities lack running water, sanitation and equipment. Staffing levels are generally adequate but the hospital is facing difficulties obtaining enough medicines, especially for chronic diseases. Priority needs include X-ray and operating theatre equipment for the temporary hospital as well as the re-establishment of village clinics.

### Recovery

Consultations between RCSC at various levels and government agencies are ongoing. On 25 June, RCSC headquarters held a meeting for provincial/prefecture branches to discuss the overall RCSC recovery and reconstruction plan. RCSC headquarters has allocated CNY 500 million (CHF 74.4 million) to support the government's construction of one million transitional structures including schools and clinics, and allocated an initial CNY 2.5 billion (CHF 372 million) to support the first-phase recovery plan of constructing homes, schools, health centres and disaster preparedness/relief facilities in the provinces of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi. A recovery support office will be established at RCSC headquarters to coordinate recovery activities in the three provinces and provide guidance where necessary.

### Coordination and partnerships

The coordination efforts between the International Federation operations support team, the RCSC at all levels and relevant official agencies have been excellent and have helped facilitate a rapid response. The Canadian Red Cross delegate who headed the support operations is now at the end of a five-week mission and will be handing over the management of operations to the regional disaster management delegate who has just arrived in Chengdu. The latter will assume responsibility for operations until a new head of support operations is assigned.

The RCSC is regularly involved in high level coordination meetings with government authorities, and is in discussion with the ministry of construction regarding reconstruction planning.

A high-level delegation of the chief executives of global multinationals arrived in Chengdu on 29 June to visit the quake-affected areas, accompanied by representatives of USAID. The American Red Cross, represented by three senior executives, was also part of this delegation.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continues to provide practical assistance and support to the operations through the secondment of bilingual staff including one with a background in logistics.

## Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A Federation communications specialist has been working in Chengdu to document the stories and images related to the operation. Updated press releases, stories, and photos are available online at [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org) and [www.flickr.com/ifrc](http://www.flickr.com/ifrc).

## 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 (NGOs) 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 International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda,

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from

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".

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.cn](mailto:rcsc@chineseredcross.org.cn); phone: +86 10 6404.8366, fax +86 10 6402.9928.
- East Asia regional office in China: Mr. Carl Naucner, (head of regional office), email: [carl.naucner@ifrc.org](mailto:carl.naucner@ifrc.org); and 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.
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**REVISED APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

Annex 1

**CHINA: SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE****MDRCN003**

	<b>ORIGINAL</b>	<b>REVISED</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b>
<b><u>RELIEF NEEDS</u></b>			
Shelter/Tents (Including Air Transport)	630,000	45,200,000	(44,570,000)
Construction Materials	5,000,000	17,000,000	(12,000,000)
Clothing & Textiles	4,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
Food	5,000,000	5,000,000	
Water & Sanitation	285,000	120,000	165,000
Medical & First Aid	740,000	740,000	
Teaching Materials	-	500,000	(500,000)
Utensils & Tools	825,000	3,500,000	(2,675,000)
Other Supplies & Services	-	11,200,000	(11,200,000)
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>16,480,000</b>	<b>84,260,000</b>	<b>(67,780,000)</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>			
Land & Buildings	-		
Vehicles Purchase	90,000	90,000	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	30,000	40,000	(10,000)
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	-	120,000	(120,000)
<b><u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; VEHICLES</u></b>			
Distribution & Monitoring related to Relief Needs	200,000	800,000	(600,000)
Transport & Vehicles Costs	100,000	350,000	(250,000)
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>			
International Staff	316,800	2,130,000	(1,813,200)
National Staff	72,000	428,000	(356,000)
National Society Staff	48,000	48,000	
Consultants	108,000	108,000	
<b><u>WORKSHOPS &amp; TRAINING</u></b>			
Workshops & Training	50,000	150,000	(100,000)
<b><u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u></b>			
Travel	180,000	600,000	(420,000)
Information & Public Relations	36,000	108,000	(72,000)
Office running costs	85,200	360,000	(274,800)
Communication Costs	78,600	246,000	(167,400)
Professional Fees - auditing fee	847,400	319,400	528,000
Financial Charges	3,000	9,000	(6,000)
Other General Expenses	46,445	288,000	(241,555)
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>			
Programme Support - PSR	1,304,967	6,288,274	(4,983,307)
<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>3,596,412</b>	<b>12,482,674</b>	<b>(8,886,262)</b>
<b>Total Appeal Budget (Cash &amp; Kind)</b>	<b>20,076,412</b>	<b>96,742,674</b>	<b>(76,666,262)</b>
<b>(Less) :Available Resources</b>		<b>37,222,888</b>	
<b>Net Request</b>	<b>20,076,412</b>	<b>59,519,786</b>	<b>(76,666,262)</b>



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