

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° 15
29 July 2008



Regular visitors to the Red Cross water emergency response unit based at Xinglong township, Mianzhu county in Sichuan. Photo: Mike Wolf/ International Federation.

Period covered by this Update: 1-24 July 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: Currently, with contributions received to date, in cash and kind, and those in the pipeline, the appeal is approximately 73% covered¹.

[<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.

¹ Please note that the appeal coverage detailed in the interim financial report attached reflects financials and contributions up to end June 2008.

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 69,197, with thousands still missing. Over 15 million people are displaced, including over five million that were without shelter.

The relief phase is officially over – with the most basic needs of the affected populations addressed through the distribution of temporary shelters and relief supplies. The central government has released guidelines for reconstruction as well as plans for providing reconstruction subsidies to vulnerable groups. Reconstruction planning and activities at provincial levels have begun. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) is involved in high-level discussions with the relevant authorities regarding reconstruction planning.

The focus of Red Cross Red Crescent action in the last few weeks has been on finalizing the mobilization of tents, continuing the monitoring of relief distribution, completing the planned handover of all four emergency response units (ERUs) from the International Federation to the RCSC, and undertaking assessments to inform recovery and reconstruction planning. All the tents mobilized by the International Federation have arrived in-country and most have been distributed to prefectures in Sichuan and Gansu. The first of two parts of a joint RCSC-Federation rapid assessment on recovery needs was carried out in Sichuan province and the second part, covering Gansu and Shaanxi, was conducted on 20-26 July. The assessment's preliminary findings and recommendations were shared among Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners during a meeting in Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi province, on 17-18 July, where partners discussed options for reconstruction and recovery programming and a framework for cooperation and coordination between RCSC, the International Federation and other partner national societies.

Many partner national societies and other entities have made contributions to the appeal: American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross/Australian government, Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Cook Islands Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Czech Red Cross, Danish Red Cross/Danish government, Finnish Red Cross/Finnish government, German Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross/Icelandic government, Irish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross/Japanese government, Lithuanian Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent, Mauritius Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, New Zealand Red Cross/New Zealand government, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Singapore Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Sri Lanka Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society, as well as contributions from the European Commission (ECHO), the American, Greek, Irish, Italian, Luxembourg, Slovenian and South African governments, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Royal & Sun Alliance and United Technologies.

The RCSC has also received bi-lateral contributions from Cambodian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, Republic of Korea Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent and Vietnam Red Cross.

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.

The situation

According to a government statement on 21 July, the 12 May earthquake has left 69,197 dead, 374,176 injured and 18,222 missing. Most (94 per cent) of the 96,449 people hospitalized for injury have been discharged. Nearly 1.49 million quake-affected people have been relocated. At this stage, 546,100 transitional houses have been built; 14,100 are in progress and materials are in place for another 34,100 transitional houses. The phased withdrawal of soldiers has begun. The first batch of 40,000 soldiers (out of 130,000 deployed to undertake rescue and relief work) is set to leave the quake-affected areas.

Aftershocks continue to occur in the quake areas – on 24 July, three strong aftershocks measuring 4.8, 5.5 and 5.8 respectively hit the Sichuan-Gansu border region. The aftershocks caused the death of yet another person, and the collapse of 1,200 houses, demonstrating that the region is not yet safe from further damage. A total of 19,112 aftershocks have been detected by the China Earthquake Administration since 12 May.

The central government has issued guidelines on post-quake construction, which place emphasis on the repairing and rebuilding of homes foremost, and the reconstruction of public facilities including schools and hospitals. Furthermore, under a policy to provide one-to-one reconstruction support, the worst and most

seriously quake-affected counties (18 of which are in Sichuan), have been ‘twinned’ with other Chinese provinces or municipalities. Sister provinces need to spend at least 1 per cent of their annual gross domestic product (GDP) to support reconstruction work over the next three years. The prefecture and county plans and budgets for reconstruction are focused mainly on infrastructure (e.g. roads, water and sewage, electricity, and broadcasting), public buildings (e.g. schools, hospitals, clinics), and key sectors of the economy, such as tourism and production facilities.

Name of County	‘Twinned’ Province/Municipality
1. Beichuan	Shandong
2. Wenchuan	Guangdong
3. Qingchuan	Zhejiang
4. Mianzhu	Jiangsu
5. Shifang	Beijing
6. Dujiangyan	Shanghai
7. Pingwu	Hebei
8. An(xian)	Liaoning
9. Jiangyou	Henan
10. Pengzhou	Fujian
11. Maoxian	Shanxi
12. Lixian	Hunan
13. Heishui	Jilin
14. Songpan	Anhui
15. Xiaojin	Jiangxi
16. Hanyuan	Hubei
17. Chongzhou	Chongqing
18. Jiange	Heilongjiang
19. Seriously-affected areas in Gansu province	Shenzhen City (Guangdong)
20. Seriously-affected areas in Shaanxi province	Tianjin

Every quake survivor in need of assistance has been eligible to receive CNY 10 (USD 1.46 or CHF 1.51) and half a kilogramme of rice per day from the government. Orphans, the elderly and disabled without family support have received double the amount. The policy has covered about 8.8 million people but will end in August. It has been announced that from September onwards, each survivor experiencing financial hardship will get CNY 200 (USD 29.24 or CHF 30.25) per month until November. However the new system will not include any food allotment.

While post-quake relief and recovery efforts are ongoing, the southern and eastern regions of China, including Sichuan, have been hit with torrential rains and is bracing again for Typhoon Fung Wong to hit over the coming days. Already more than 340,000 people have been evacuated. The north, in the meantime, has suffered high heat and drought, which is affecting crop production and threatening drinking water availability in some areas.

As much of the nation’s attention is still on the earthquake zone, or turning towards the upcoming Olympics, these disasters have not been highlighted as much in the national media, which means that relief workers and organizations, such as the Red Cross, may be challenged to raise any additional funding needed to meet the needs of these newly affected populations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The focus of Red Cross Red Crescent action in the last few weeks has been on finalizing the mobilization and distribution of tents, continuing monitoring of tent distribution, and completing the planned handover of all four emergency response units (ERU) from the International Federation to the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC). The first part of a joint RCSC-Federation rapid assessment on recovery needs was carried out from 7 to 14 July in four townships in Sichuan’s Mianzhu county. The second part of the joint assessment, in the affected areas in Gansu and Shaanxi provinces was conducted on 20-26 July.

The RCSC has decided to invest CNY 2.5 billion (CHF 380 million) in batches for Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi post-earthquake restoration and reconstruction projects. On 10 July, a signing ceremony was held in Lanzhou, Gansu province, to launch the first phase of assistance to earthquake-affected areas in Gansu, for the amount of CNY 300 million (CHF 45.34 million)-- these funds will support the redevelopment of entire villages, including the reconstruction of village homes, village health stations, township hospitals, village and township schools, as well as community facilities/activities. On 14 July, a signing ceremony for recovery projects worth CNY 240

million (CHF 36 million) was held in Xi'an, Shaanxi province; this first batch of reconstruction funds will cover 8,374 village homes, 55 township schools and 47 township hospitals and a number of village-level health stations.

Logistics and relief

The International Federation logistics support to the Chengdu airport operations ended on 10 July, with a ceremony to recognize and acknowledge the efforts of RCSC volunteers and branch members. All equipment and furniture purchased for airport operations have been donated to the Sichuan branch of RCSC. As of 22 July, 98,732 tents have been delivered and despatched to prefectures, with another 3,478 awaiting confirmation from the field.

The International Federation's relief team continues to track and monitor the distribution of tents, as well as undertake ongoing assessments of changing relief needs. To this end, the team visited villages, townships and counties in Ya'an and Mianyang prefectures from 9-12 July as well as five resettlement camps in Beichuan and Anxian counties on 17-18 July. There were access difficulties as roads were still damaged or blocked. In general, the biggest needs identified are the reconstruction of homes; specifically the lack of money, lack of materials and lack of workers to rebuild. Many displaced families have not been able to salvage much from their homes and do not have their own full set of kitchen items; as a result, limited kitchen items are shared with other families. Hygiene items have mostly been purchased by the families but sometimes provided by the government or by other organizations or simply not used. Follow-up visits to Beichuan county are being planned in order to further assess the living conditions of people who have returned to their homes.

There has been a positive response to the International Federation's local procurement tender for 100,000 hygiene parcels, kitchen sets and quilts; the evaluation of bids is expected to take place shortly.

Water and sanitation

The last few weeks have been focused on completing the handover of all four emergency response units (ERUs) from the International Federation to the RCSC. With the exception of the Austrian Red Cross ERU, the other ERUs will continue operations under the RCSC for another month or until more permanent solutions have been identified. The handover process has been successful and a large part of it was due to the enthusiasm, dedication and diligence of RCSC counterpart teams and the skilful translations done by field officers attached to each of the ERU teams. Coordination between the International Federation and RCSC at all levels of ERU operations has been excellent at all times; in particular, very good relations have been established with the RCSC's head of relief and the ERU coordinator currently based in Chengdu.

Austrian Red Cross ERU: The operation of this ERU ceased on 24 July, following a phased process of dismantling and a gradual reduction of delivery points over a few weeks. The ERU treated a total of 491 cubic metres of water and served 3,300 villagers over its period of operation. Township authorities and villagers had been informed about the end of the operations and expressed warm appreciation for the ERU. It is understood that by the end of July, most of the population served by this ERU will be settled in transitional housing blocks with their own water supply points. This ERU, now handed over the RCSC, has been packed and will be stored at RCSC's Hunan branch.

Spanish Red Cross ERU: This ERU was handed over to the RCSC on 20 July. Over the entire period of operations from 5 June to 19 July, the ERU treated 1,550 cubic metres of water and served 8,759 villagers in the two townships of Zundao and Jiulong. In total, seven delegates from the Spanish Red Cross and two from the Indonesian Red Cross have been deployed to support the RCSC and total of 12 RCSC staff and volunteers have been trained in all aspects of ERU operations, including equipment inventory, operation and maintenance, and are now skilled and fully capable to run the unit independently. The RCSC will continue operating this ERU for another month or until more permanent solutions are identified.



Team members from the joint Spanish and Indonesian Red Cross team packing up the components of the water emergency response unit as part of the handing over to the Chinese Red Cross. Photo: Mariano Gomez/International Federation.



The community came together to construct more rapid latrines provided by the British Red Cross mass sanitation emergency response unit, which was recently handed over to the Red Cross Society of China. Photos: Mariano Gomez/International Federation

British Red Cross ERU: The British Red Cross team has been working with RCSC counterparts to ensure the latrines constructed during the first rotation are safe, both structurally and hygienically. The follow-up has also involved ensuring hygiene promotion activities are taking place on the proper use and maintenance of the latrines. As part of the handover process, the British Red Cross team has been supporting RCSC counterparts in developing their own priorities and plan of action after the unit is handed over. By the time this ERU was handed over to RCSC on 20 July, 249 latrines had been made structurally and hygienically safer, and eight people in two RCSC counterpart teams have been trained in setting up, operating and maintaining a mass sanitation unit, as well as in undertaking assessment and planning in emergency situations.



Villagers collecting the safe water provided by the Spanish Red Cross in Jiulong township, Mianzhu county in Sichuan province. Photos: Mariano Gomez/International Federation.



Danish Red Cross Base Camp ERU: The base camp continues to run smoothly, serving its purpose of providing accommodation, washing facilities and three varied meals a day for up to 40 live-in residents. A second rotation team of RCSC counterparts arrived on 15 July, and has very quickly taken over the running of the base camp, with continuing support from the Danish Red Cross base camp and kitchen managers. The main duties include maintaining records of daily work, developing budgets and hiring help. The solid waste disposal issue has been resolved well and a twice-weekly collection (of both waste and recyclables) have now been agreed upon. The RCSC will officially take over from 1 August and it is expected that the base camp will remain the focal point for the ERU operations in the area for another month or until its services are no longer required.

Joint RCSC-Federation recovery assessment

From 7 to 14 July, a team consisting of RCSC and International Federation representatives conducted the first of two rapid assessments to gather information that will provide a basis for recovery planning. The first part of the assessment was focused in Sichuan's Mianzhu county and covered shelter, health, water and sanitation, organisational development and community-based disaster preparedness/livelihoods. The assessment team had meetings with local government offices and local Red Cross branches and interviewed more than 100 families across four townships. With over 90 percent of homes and small businesses collapsed or considered unsafe ("standing debris"), virtually every household interviewed identified the rebuilding of their home as the single most pressing need. The key findings and recommendations of the first part of the assessment were shared with Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies at a meeting in 17-18 July in Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi province. The second part of the assessment, focused on affected areas in Gansu and Shaanxi, took place on 20 July and is expected to be completed by 26 July.



Mother and daughter in front of the ruins of their home in Baiyu Village, Mianzhu county in Sichuan province. Their most important priority is to rebuild their home. Photo: Ling Chin/International Federation.

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, which is now transitioning to a recovery phase. 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.

On 17-18 July, the RCSC hosted a meeting in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, which was attended by representatives from ten partner Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies (American, Australian, British, Canadian, German, Japanese, Malaysian, Singapore, Thailand and the Republic of Korea), the International Federation, RCSC

national headquarters and the branches of Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi and Hong Kong. The meeting discussed options for reconstruction and recovery programming and a framework for cooperation and coordination.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Red Cross Red Crescent efforts after the earthquake have continued to attract the attention of the media. A few examples of this include a journalist from The Times of London who visited the International Federation's operations in Jiulong on 8 and 9 July to cover a story about the post-quake situation in the township. Also, the International Federation's spokesperson was quoted in a BBC online story about accountability to donors in the distribution of relief goods. The Sichuan television network sent its crew to film the ERU operations in Xinglong and Jiulong on two separate occasions, the most recent being on 19 July. A story about the Red Cross plan for reconstruction in Sichuan is available on china.org. Furthermore, Canadian TV ran a story on 12 July, following an interview with a staff member of Canadian Red Cross who recently completed her mission as head of operations support in Chengdu. Latest press releases, stories, and photos are available online at www.ifrc.org.

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, 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:

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**<Revised budget and map of affected areas below;
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REVISED APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

CHINA: SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE**MDRCN003**

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
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)
Total Relief Needs	16,480,000	84,260,000	(67,780,000)
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
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)
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Distribution & Monitoring related to Relief Needs	200,000	800,000	(600,000)
Transport & Vehicles Costs	100,000	350,000	(250,000)
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
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	
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	50,000	150,000	(100,000)
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
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)
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	1,304,967	6,288,274	(4,983,307)
Total Operational Needs	3,596,412	12,482,674	(8,886,262)
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	20,076,412	96,742,674	(76,666,262)
(Less) :Available Resources		37,222,888	
Net Request	20,076,412	59,519,786	(76,666,262)



China: Earthquake

