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## DREF Operation Update China: Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRCN005**  
**GLIDE n° EQ-2013-00046-CHN**  
**13 February 2014**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**Period covered by this update:** 25 April 2013 – 31 October 2013.

**Summary:** CHF 400,000 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 25 April 2013 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 20,000 beneficiaries.

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit China's Sichuan province at 8.02 a.m. Beijing time on 20 April 2013 with its epicentre near Lushan county, Ya'an City of Sichuan province at a depth of 13 km. A total of 196 people were killed and a total of 14,785 injured. Over two million people have been affected across 19 prefectures and 115 counties of Sichuan province with 237,655 persons displaced. It is reported that 193,000 houses have collapsed, and 510,000 houses were severely damaged<sup>1</sup>.

Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) had sent a total of 25 emergency response teams (ERTs) with 400 team members and mobilized 113 relief vehicles to the affected areas for the emergency operation. These ERTs assisted in the distribution of food, drinking water, tents, quilts, umbrellas and other necessities to affected populations. Red Cross volunteers were also mobilized to participate in the provision of emergency medical services, relief supplies distribution, rescue operations, setting up of tents, providing psychological support and restoring family links.



Yunnan branch mass sanitation ERT is conducting hygiene promotion to the relocated people. Photo by Yunnan Branch of RCSC

<sup>1</sup> Source by local government by the end of April 24 <http://www.scio.gov.cn/xwfbh/xwfbh/wqfbh/2013/0425p/index.htm>

The DREF supported 5,000 family kits and 5,000 hygiene kits which were procured and distributed during April-May and September respectively to four earthquake-affected townships in Ya'an prefecture, benefiting some 31,069 people in total.

The DREF operation supported the deployment of mass sanitation ERT from Yunnan Red Cross branch. The ERT benefited around 10,000 people by building 167 latrines and conducting hygiene promotion 25 times in 15 villages of five townships.

All RCSC activities in the DREF operation have been completed within the timeframe. There is a balance of unspent funds to be returned to the DREF. Due to RCSC's financial procedure, the validated financial report can only be finalized and issued in March 2014. The final report of this DREF operation will be published by 31 March 2014.

This DREF has been fully replenished with generous contributions from Canadian Red Cross, CIDA, Danish Red Cross, DG ECHO, Japanese Red Cross, and Mondelez International. Details of all donors can be found on: [www.ifrc.org/dref](http://www.ifrc.org/dref).

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## The situation

An earthquake measuring 7.0 killed 196 people in China on 20 April 2013 with two missing and 14,785 injured<sup>2</sup>. The epicenter was situated in Lushan County of Sichuan Ya'an Prefecture, a mountainous rural area about 140 kilometers from Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan province.

The strong earthquake took the lives of 196 people with two missing and 14,785 injured<sup>3</sup>. A total of 237,655 persons have been displaced and 2.184 million people have been affected across 19 prefectures and 115 counties of Sichuan province. It is reported that 193,000 houses have collapsed, and 510,000 houses were severely damaged<sup>4</sup>. Government and NGOs had mobilized thousands of human resources and relief support for immediate relief action.

On 15 July, the State Council of China<sup>5</sup> released the 'Master Plan for Lushan Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction'.<sup>6</sup> The Central government has estimated CNY 86 billion (CHF 12.68 billion) would be required for the reconstruction. Central government's contribution towards this plan is to be supplemented by funds from Sichuan provincial government as well as funds from other sources including public loans. The Sichuan provincial government is responsible for the overall reconstruction and recovery which is planned to be completed within three years. The key factors of this master plan related to RCSC and IFRC's work are that government will provide guidance for publicly donated funds to participate in reconstruction programs; provide support for use of international loans for recovery and reconstruction projects; and provide guidance on grant support by international organizations.

After the October harvest, many displaced households in rural areas have started their housing reconstruction. As of 27 December 2013, nearly 70 per cent of rural housing reconstructions have started and 21.4 per cent of planned reconstruction have finished. In urban areas, the starting rate of housing reconstruction is 41.7 per cent. Sichuan provincial government stated that rural housing reconstruction will finish by the end of 2014, whereas reconstruction in urban areas will finish by the end of 2015. Some rehabilitation projects by the government including national road maintenance and improvement have also commenced<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Source by the State Council as of July 6 [http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content\\_2445989.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content_2445989.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Source by the State Council as of July 6 [http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content\\_2445989.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content_2445989.htm)

<sup>4</sup> Source by the State Council as of May 23 [http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content\\_2445989.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content_2445989.htm)

<sup>5</sup> State Council of China is synonymous with the Central People's Government of China  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State\\_Council\\_of\\_the\\_People's\\_Republic\\_of\\_China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Council_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China)

<sup>6</sup> Source: [http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content\\_2445989.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zwqk/2013-07/15/content_2445989.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Source by Sichuan provincial government "Progress report on Lushan EQ recovery and reconstruction situation to RCSC"(January 6, 2014)

## Coordination and partnerships

RCSC is auxiliary to the government and is one of the first responders to communities affected by disasters, providing much needed relief supplies and support. RCSC, through its branches at all levels, continues to maintain close coordination with state administrative units in affected areas. RCSC also works with various domestic partners through its national appeal for providing relief support to affected communities.

A team of RCSC representatives from its national headquarters was based in Lushan and Ya'an from 20 April onwards to provide ongoing support to local and provincial Red Cross branches. Throughout their stay, they held several meetings with local and provincial governmental authorities to assess and discuss ongoing needs and plans. The government disaster recovery plans have been submitted to the National Development and Reform Commission for feedback and approval. This team returned to national headquarters in Beijing in the end of June 2013.

RCSC and IFRC kept active communication with interested partners, including its branches in Hong Kong and Macau, partner national societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). RCSC and IFRC arranged a coordination teleconference with partner national societies on 30 April. A total of 11 partner national societies participated in the teleconference, which provided an update of the emergency and relief phase of the earthquake operation. Plans for rehabilitation and recovery phases were also discussed.

RCSC had taken a leading role in coordination with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions involved in the earthquake response. On 25 April, RCSC hosted a coordination meeting with key NGOs and academic organizations involved in earthquake operations where a possibility to build a common platform for earthquake operations was discussed. RCSC also offered to share its resources with NGOs. IFRC, ICRC and American Red Cross also participated in the meeting. Such coordination mechanisms led by Red Cross was new in China and very unique for RCSC in particular. RCSC aims to share its resources with NGOs at the grassroots level and aims to contribute in a more diversified manner in providing support.

RCSC furthered its unique initiative in China by continuing to lead the coordination with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions involved in the earthquake response through a network named 'China Non-profit Network for Disaster Risk Reduction'. The coordination network (also referred as 'the 4·20 platform') initiated by RCSC, two key NGOs and an academic institute is operating with the objectives of sharing information about response and recovery, providing resources (including skills, information, tools, funds) to NGOs and exploring a longer-term non-profit cooperation mechanism in disaster response and recovery.

On 19 June, volunteers from the network brought 700 children's books to Luojiacun primary school in Tianquan County and helped to establish the first Red Cross library in the affected area. This initiative will benefit 118 students directly. Several internal work meetings of the network have been held to review its progress, existing gaps and formulating plans for moving forward. During one of such meetings on 21 June, it was confirmed the network would support grassroots NGOs (including financial support) for implementing recovery projects in the affected areas. RCSC national headquarters announced an initial support of CNY 20 million (CHF 3.1 million) for the recovery efforts led by grassroots NGOs. These funds would be channeled through the network. By 3 September 2013, four projects of grassroots NGOs have been selected as the first sponsored post-earthquake recovery projects.

IFRC East Asia regional delegation representatives participated in the United Nations Disaster Management Team meetings in Beijing after the Lushan earthquake showcasing the response and recovery efforts led by RCSC and supported by IFRC.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### **Emergency response by RCSC**

RCSC was among the first organizations to respond after the earthquake. RCSC national headquarters immediately sent a team of its staff to be based in Ya'an and Lushan County from 20 April onwards.

Within the nine days of the earthquake, RCSC distributed relief items including 4,019 tents, 94,092 cartons of food and water, 183,503 boxes of medicine, and 10,000 boxes of commodity; and set up nine medical

treatment points. A total of 2,330 affected people received medical treatment from deployed RCSC medical response teams on the ground, whereby 62 people who were severely injured were transferred. Altogether, 4,474 houses were searched for live people. Two water treatment points had been set up and a total of 218 m<sup>3</sup> of safe water had been produced and distributed.



RCSC Hunan water ERT distributes clean water to local people in Lushan County. Photo by RCSC Hunan Branch

RCSC had sent a total of 25 ERTs with 400 team members and mobilized 113 relief vehicles to the affected areas, including branch ERTs in inner Sichuan and from other provinces. The deployed ERTs from other supporting provincial branches were RCSC 999 emergency rescue team (Beijing), RCSC relief ERT (ERT-Guangxi), RCSC mass sanitation ERT (Yunnan), RCSC water ERT (Hunan and Hubei), psychosocial support ERT (Jiangxi and Zhejiang) etc. It is important to note these ERTs were developed from the lessons learnt of 2008's Sichuan Earthquake response. Several of these ERTs including the mass sanitation and water have been established and developed with IFRC's support during 2008-2013.

The following table provides an overview of ERTs (from other provincial RC branches) deployment:

No.	RCSC ERT type	Beneficiaries	Key activities	Duration of field operations
1.	Yunnan mass sanitation	11,200	Construct hygienic latrines, promote hygiene and sanitation knowledge	23 April – 14 May
2.	Hunan water ERT	Total 20,000	Provide safe and clean water	25 April – 26 May
3.	Hubei water ERT			25 April - 22 May
4.	Guangxi relief ERT	affected population in Lushan, Baoxing and Tianquan county	Support relief-distribution, post-distribution monitoring and evaluation	23 April - 10 May
5.	Jiangxi psychosocial support ERT	1,100	Provide individual and group counseling	2 – 15 May
6.	Zhejiang Psychosocial support ERT	1,255		3 – 16 May
7.	Beijing 999 emergency rescue team	12,200	Distribute medicine, transfer injured to hospitals and provide hot meals	21 April - 2 May

Source: RCSC national headquarters (individual ERT reports and RCSC Weibo<sup>8</sup> account)

RCSC launched a national appeal to help those affected by the earthquake. As of 30 June 2013, RCSC had received donations totaling CNY 1.188 billion (CHF 175.2 million) with CNY 918 million cash and an equivalent of CNY 270 million in-kind, including support from Hong Kong and Macau branches and Taiwan Red Cross Organization. RCSC mobilized donations valued at approximately CNY 380 million (CHF 56 million) for emergency relief.

### **Additional relief supply by RCSC**

Since 8 May 2013, in addition to providing support through its ERTs and distribution of non-food items, RCSC allocated CNY 20.3 million (CHF 3.0 million) to procure and distribute rice and cooking oil to Lushan and Baoxing County. Three volunteers from The People's Daily continued to monitor the distribution process and provide suggestions for improvement. The food distribution benefited around 160,000 persons i.e. all households in these two counties. A bag of rice (15 kilos) was provided to each individual while a cooking oil packet was provided to each household.

### **Towards recovery by RCSC**

On 8 August, RCSC national headquarters sent a second team of its staff to its post-earthquake reconstruction office in Ya'an. The team cooperated with RCSC Sichuan provincial branch and Ya'an prefecture branch to implement and supervise the reconstruction programmes. On 10 August, RCSC and

<sup>8</sup> Weibo is a micro-blogging service/website popular in China, often known as China's Twitter

Sichuan provincial government signed an agreement for supporting recovery and reconstruction in Lushan earthquake-affected area. RCSC pledged to allocate no-less-than CNY 600 million (CHF 88.50 million) donation for the programmes concerned.

The recovery operations are mainly in the model of Bo Ai Jia Yuan programme, a flagship integrated programme of RCSC<sup>9</sup>. The recovery efforts will include construction of kindergartens, schools, hospitals, evacuation roads and squares, activity rooms, flood control dams and water and sanitation structures. The recovery plan will also focus on building knowledge and awareness mainly through support for Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), disaster risk reduction and health training, community contingency planning, and simulation drills. It would also incorporate livelihood technical skills training and provide small loans with an aim to increase family income and encourage migrant workers to return to their home.

### **Red Cross Red Crescent Movement support**

The IFRC, ICRC and partner national societies have kept in close coordination with RCSC in the wake of the earthquake to seek possible support for RCSC's relief and recovery effort.

In coordination with RCSC, IFRC has sent an operations coordinator from Asia Pacific disaster management unit to support field operations in April. IFRC East Asia regional delegation also supported and monitored RCSC's relief operations from the onset of the operation. It is coordinating with RCSC for the finalisation of recovery plans and would provide support as required. On 21 June, four IFRC staff from East Asia regional delegation staff went to Ya'an to provide training on 'Post-disaster Needs Assessment' for Red Cross and other volunteers. The training was facilitated through the network of non-profit organizations mentioned previously in the 'Coordination and Partnerships' section of this document.



IFRC staff is interviewing an elderly lady in quake-hit Renjia Village of Lushan County, 24 April 2013. Photo by IFRC

IFRC also supported RCSC through media and partner communications including IFRC's website and Weibo account. Three web stories<sup>10</sup> were published as well as two videos on the response operations were developed by IFRC East Asia regional delegation's communication team. IFRC representatives continued to interact with domestic and international media to share updated information about the operations.

ICRC set up a Restoring Family Links website for this disaster, both in English and Chinese on 23 April. Partner national societies such as American Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Korean Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross etc. contributed cash donation bilaterally to RCSC. In addition, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross Society have supported further relief operations through IFRC's [China Long-Term Planning Framework \(LTPF\)](#). Within the LTPF, 8,000 shelter tool kits were procured and distributed to 8,000 households in need of housing reconstruction during the end of November and early December 2013.

## **Progress towards outcomes**

<b>Relief distributions</b>	
<b>Outcome:</b> To provide 5,000 most affected and displaced families (approximately 20,000 individuals) in Ya'an prefecture, with essential relief items to meet their immediate needs.	
<b>Output:</b>	<b>Activities:</b>

<sup>9</sup> Bo Ai Jia Yuan programme was initiated by RCSC in 2010 as longer-term recovery programme after 2008 Sichuan earthquake  
<sup>10</sup> <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/volunteers-undertake-search-and-rescue-in-sichuan-after-earthquake-61276/>  
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/optimism-and-anxiety-mix-after-sichuan-disaster-61293/>  
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/specialist-teams-helping-survivors-in-sichuan-following-earthquake-61373/>

<p>5,000 most affected and displaced families within the target area have received essential items in an effective and accountable manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Procurement of 5,000 family kits.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Conduct an internal lessons learnt workshop on relief activities.</li> </ul>
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**Progress:**

During the first ten days after the disaster, three staff of the IFRC was on the ground at the most-affected areas. One of them was a disaster response operations coordinator from the Asia Pacific zone office, to support the RCSC in performing needs assessments, operational planning, as well as coordination with other Movement partners.



Beneficiaries are signing their names on the distribution form at the site of second batch of family/kitchen kits distribution, Yuquan Township, Tianquan County, Ya'an Prefecture September 12. Photo by RCSC.

A total of 5,000 family kits were procured and distributed in two batches. The first batch of 2,000 family/kitchen kits were distributed to 1,923 households in two villages of Longmen Township, Lushan County during 29-30 April. Among the 1,923 households, 77 families with five or more members received two kits. Longmen Township was one of the worst hit townships where relief items were extremely in need during the emergency phase. Beneficiaries interviewed by an IFRC/RCSC co-evaluation team said kitchen sets were very useful and needed. A large percentage of houses had been damaged in this township. RCSC Guangxi Provincial Relief ERT and local Red Cross branch coordinated the distribution process and conducted on-site monitoring. A total of 6,078 individuals benefited from the first batch distribution.

The second batch of 3,000 kitchen kits was distributed to 14 villages in two townships of Tianquan County, which was declared as heavily damaged by State Council on 12 September. A total of 12,099 individuals benefited from this distribution.

The beneficiaries were selected by the village committees and approved by the township's Red Cross. The name lists and selection criteria were posted in the villages for three to five days before the official distribution.

The distribution list of kitchen kits as per below; total beneficiaries: 18,177

Kitchen kits Distribution	Quantity	Date	County	Township	Num. of Village	Benefitted Household Number	Beneficiary Number
1 <sup>st</sup> batch	2,000	29-30 Apr.	Lushan	Longmen	2	1,923	6,078
2 <sup>nd</sup> batch	3,000	12 Sep.	Tianquan	Xinhua	10	2,265	9,135
				Yuquan	4	735	2,964

The items in each of family/kitchen kits distributed include:
One cooking pot
One frying pan
One wok
Five plates
Five bowls
Five cups

Five sets of chopsticks and five spoons	IFRC staff with RCSC Sichuan province branch and Ya'an prefecture branch conducted monitoring and evaluation on the DREF relief items distributed in September 2013. From the evaluation report, the relief items were welcomed by most of the beneficiaries. The evaluation result has been shared with RCSC headquarters and related local branches during the lessons learnt meeting on 30 October. The distribution report has been submitted by Sichuan Red Cross in January 2014.
One stirring spoon	
One kitchen knife	
One scouring pad	

During the response operation, RCSC discovered their own gaps especially in their own logistics management and procedures. In response to RCSC's request for support, IFRC East Asia regional delegation organized a logistics workshop between 14-17 October in Beijing, as part of lessons-learnt process with RCSC headquarters' disaster preparedness centre. A total of 42 participants from RCSC's local warehouse units nationwide studied IFRC's logistics management. This includes the information sharing system and focus was also put on the importance of standardizing the storage and distribution system for disaster preparedness and response.

A lessons learnt meeting was held by RCSC headquarters on 30 October. Some 40 staff from IFRC, RCSC headquarters, ERT and local branches in Lushan earthquake-affected area attended the meeting. During the meeting, lack of logistics capacity, in-kind donations, management and beneficiary communication skills were pointed out as constraints of the operation. Further capacity building is in the works to address these constraints.

<b>Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion</b>	
<b>Outcome:</b> To support at least 5,000 families (approximately 20,000 individuals) living in transitional settlement areas with improved sanitation and hygiene conditions.	
<b>Output 1:</b> Targeted population is supported with essential hygiene materials and improved awareness of hygiene practices.	<u>Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and site selection.</li> <li>• Procure and distribute hygiene materials for 5,000 affected families living in re-settled areas.</li> <li>• Reproduce and disseminate hygiene promotion materials.</li> <li>• Refresher short training for 25 Red Cross volunteer leaders on hygiene promotion.</li> <li>• Mobilization of Red Cross volunteers to the communities for hygiene promotion.</li> <li>• Hygiene promotion messages disseminated in re-settled areas with IEC materials.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2:</b> Transitional latrine facilities are accessible to 1,000 displaced people.	<u>Activities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize RCSC Mass Sanitation Emergency Response Team (ERT) to provide sanitation services.</li> <li>• Establish at least 50 temporary latrines in the transitional settlement areas.</li> <li>• Prepare for the capacity to establish 100 more latrines upon further assessment.</li> </ul>

## Progress:



RCSC staff introducing the materials in the hygiene kits to beneficiaries in Longmen Township, Lushan County, 30 April 2013. Photo by IFRC

The 5,000 hygiene kits were procured and distributed as two batches. The first batch of 1,000 hygiene kits was distributed to 970 households in one village (same village where family/kitchen kits were distributed) of Longmen Township, Lushan County towards the end of April and May respectively. 30 households with more family members received two hygiene kits. RCSC Guangxi Relief ERT and local Red Cross branch coordinated this distribution process and conducted on-site monitoring as well as with the first batch distribution of family/kitchen kits.

The second batch of 4,000 hygiene kits was delivered to 14 villages in Sijing Township, Tianquan County on September 25, benefitting 12,892 people.

The distribution list of hygiene kits, total beneficiary 15,919, full coverage of the 15 villages:

Hygiene kits Distribution	Quantity	Date	County	Township	Num. of Village	Benefitted Household Number	Beneficiary Number
1 <sup>st</sup> batch	1,000	29 Apr, 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Lushan	Longmen	1	970	3,027
2 <sup>nd</sup> batch	4,000	25 Sep	Tianquan	Sijing	14	3,127	12,892

Each of the hygiene kits distributed included the following items:

- 12 body soaps
- Five laundry soaps
- 40 sanitary pads
- Three hand towels
- Two bath towels
- Six toilet paper rolls
- Two toothpaste
- Five toothbrush
- Four razors

A total of 167 latrines were built by RCSC Yunnan mass sanitation ERT (deployed between 23 April-14 May), benefited a maximum of 10,000 people in five townships in Lushan County.<sup>12</sup> The ERT was dispatched in two phases. The first team comprising of nine members arrived in Lushan County on 23 April to respond to the emergency sanitation needs in affected areas. They conducted site-selection assessment for latrines and immediately set up a total of 98 transitional latrines in three townships of the county. The second team arrived in Lushan on 4 May and departed on 14 May. During the 11-day deployment, the second team set up 68 new latrines and maintained 50 of the 98 original latrines in a total of five townships in

Lushan county.

At the same time, the ERT members trained nearly 100 Red Cross local volunteer leaders for hygiene promotion. The ERT members together with those volunteers conducted hygiene promotion to 15 villages and 25 resettlement points in five townships, reaching 1,200 beneficiaries. During the hygiene promotion exercise, they organized games for children, distributed IEC (information, education and communication) materials, organized local people to clean their neighbourhoods, and helped children to cut nails and taught children the correct way to wash hands. They encouraged people to adopt healthy behaviour changes such as not drinking tap water directly, not eating unclean/uncovered food, and washing hands before meals and after using latrines. Through building latrines and conducting hygiene promotion, the beneficiaries paid more attention to the sanitary situation around latrines. Used toilet papers, initially having been scattered here and there, were disposed into trash boxes in the latrines. The change of behaviour is a major contribution towards the prevention of infectious diseases



Yunnan branch mass sanitation ERT teaching children on hygiene awareness at the temporary latrines set up by the ERT. Photo by Yunnan Branch of RCSC

<sup>11</sup> Due to limited transportation capacity, the 1,000 kits arrived separately at the village.

<sup>12</sup> The beneficiary number was the total population of allocated areas. Actually, some of the housings were still able to use their own toilet but the data was unaccounted. The ERT tried to allocate the latrines strictly against Sphere standards, but due to emergent and massive needs in the affected areas, in some villages they had to set a smaller number of toilets than Sphere standards.

The ERT handed over the operation and maintenance of 158 latrines to Lushan County Red Cross branch and nine latrines to the armed police force.

### Challenges and lessons learnt

The first batch of relief items (2,000 family/kitchen kits and 1,000 hygiene kits) were mobilized from Asia Pacific zone warehouse by air cargo to secure the quickest distribution to the affected population immediately after the disaster. IFRC initially planned to procure the second batch of items (3,000 family/kitchen kits and 4,000 hygiene kits) domestically in China. However, the bids received by local suppliers for the hygiene kits were twice above the budget ceiling of this operation. It was then decided that this second batch would also be procured by the zone logistics unit (GLS-ZLU) through an international tender, which caused some delays on the distributions.

Earthquake-affected areas also suffered from the torrential rains and resulting floods. Many county-level Red Cross branches in affected areas with only a few staff struggled to manage the immense tasks since 20 April. The lack of management resources had been the biggest challenge in relief operation and continuous projects in recovery phase.

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## DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 25 April 2013 for CHF 400,000 for six months to assist 20,000 beneficiaries.
- Two DREF operation updates issued.



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### How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.