



Guizhou province, China. This year, flooding has struck particularly hard in China and North Korea. Other Asian countries suffering from flooding include Bangladesh, India, Nepal, the Philippines, South Korea and Vietnam. In the Americas, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama have all been inundated. In Guyana more than 35 per cent of the country's total surface has been flooded. Yemen has also experienced severe floods.



KEystone AP / JAMES THOM



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▲ **Rangpur, Bangladesh.** In 1995 alone, floods struck 87 times. Of those floods, more than 40 per cent occurred in Asia with the other 60 per cent divided almost equally among Europe, the Americas and Africa.

Troubled waters

IN THE LAST 25 YEARS, ON AVERAGE FLOODS HAVE AFFECTED MORE THAN 56 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE EVERY YEAR. SOME 12,000 PEOPLE A YEAR ARE KILLED BY FLOODING AND APPROXIMATELY 3.5 MILLION A YEAR ARE LEFT HOMELESS.



HONG KONG RED CROSS

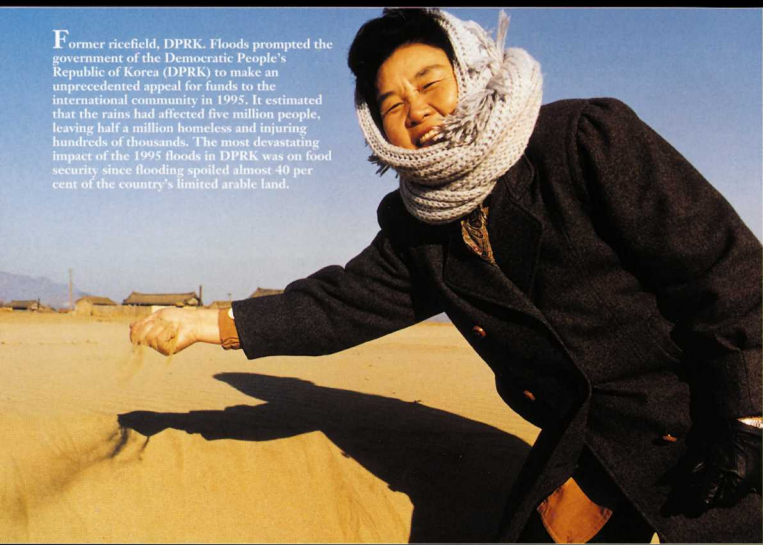
▲ **Guiyang hospital, Guizhou province, China.** Over 1500 Red Cross Society of China medical teams worked relentlessly to administer first aid and follow up medical treatment for those injured in the floods. They also diagnosed ailments, sanitised inhabited areas against disease and safeguarded clean water supplies. In July, the Federation appealed on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China for SFr 4.4 million to help some 1.2 million people identified as being most vulnerable to the catastrophe.

HONG KONG RED CROSS

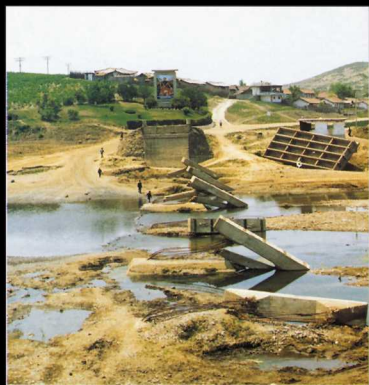


▲ **Jiangxi province, south-east China.** In China this year, some 92 million people – almost twice the annual average over the last 25 years – had been affected by floods two months after the monsoon rains began at the end of May. This is the sixth consecutive year that China has experienced massive flooding and direct economic losses were estimated in July to be on the order of SFr 8.3 billion.

Former ricefield, DPRK. Floods prompted the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to make an unprecedented appeal for funds to the international community in 1995. It estimated that the rains had affected five million people, leaving half a million homeless and injuring hundreds of thousands. The most devastating impact of the 1995 floods in DPRK was on food security since flooding spoiled almost 40 per cent of the country's limited arable land.



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Unpa Bridge, DPRK. Heavy rains began again in DPRK in mid-July and, in addition to crops and homes, they quickly damaged industrial and mining facilities, roads, railways, bridges and a reservoir that had been under repair. The DPR Korea Red Cross, with the support of the Federation, undertook to feed 130,000 people among those left completely destitute from the 1995 floods and responded immediately to the excess rainfall this year.

PHOTO: KIM HONG RED CROSS



RED CROSS SOCIETY OF CHINA



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▶ Guizhou province, China. Like other major natural disasters, floods are not only immediately devastating but also have destructive consequences in the long term. Emergency needs include evacuation, distribution of food, medicine and essential household items as well as provision of temporary shelter. Destruction of crops, top soil and irrigation systems or of important infrastructure that often accompanies severe flooding means that continued assistance, especially food relief, may be necessary.



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Sole survivor of an area of Guiyang where houses collapsed. Guizhou province, China.

