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Information bulletin Italy: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The Italian Red Cross, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

Summary: A magnitude-5.9 earthquake struck north-eastern Italy on Sunday 20th May, early in the morning, killing at least seven people, injuring 50 and toppling several buildings. The quake struck at 4:04 am between Modena and Mantua, about 35 kilometres north-northwest of Bologna at a relatively shallow depth of five kilometres. The epicentre was between the towns of Finale Emilia, San Felice sul Panaro and Sermide, but was felt as far away as Tuscany and northern Alto Adige. According to seismologists, it was one of the strongest quakes to shake the region. The initial quake was followed by a 5.1-magnitude aftershock an hour later. Until the end of the day 75 aftershocks were registered.



The Italian Red Cross National Operations Room in Legnano (Milan), is constantly monitoring the situation in the affected regions. Photo: Italian Red Cross

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

A strong earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale struck northern Italy at 4:04 a.m. on Sunday 20th May, particularly the region of Emilia Romagna. Seven deaths and some 50 injuries have been reported so far. The epicentre is located some 35 km north of Bologna between the provinces of Modena and Ferrara. Hundreds of people overflowed into the streets and, as the day broke, helicopters started flying over remote villages, looking for collapsed buildings in which survivors might be trapped. The damage to the cultural heritage appears significant, particularly in the towns of San Felice sul Panaro, where the tops of several towers of a 14th-century castle were collapsed while churches in the town were seriously damaged. In Finale Emilia, the historic Palazzo dei Veneziani was partially collapsed.

Another quake of magnitude 5.1 has also occurred in the early afternoon with the epicentre located in the town of San Prospero, in the province of Modena. Some 3,000 people have so far been displaced due to the

damage assessment and uninhabitable buildings. Until the end of the day 75 aftershocks were registered in the area.

The last serious earthquake to strike Italy was the 6.3 scale shock in L'Aquila in 2009, which killed nearly 300 people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Italian Red Cross responded immediately after the earthquake, activating the National Operations Room in Legnano (Milan), which is coordinating the operations, and the Regional Operations Room in Emilia Romagna, and the Provincial Rooms. Already in the early hours of dawn, the Red Cross branches in Ferrara, Modena, Reggio Emilia and Bologna were mobilized, with some 211 volunteers at work, 32 vehicles (25 ambulances and 6 vehicles for the transportation of materials to the site), and 12 inflatable tents that are sheltering affected people.



Assistance in the collective Centre. Photo: Italian Red Cross

The Italian Red Cross has set up 120 beds and is providing assistance to 350 persons: 50 beds in Camposanto, 30 in Finale Emilia, and 20 in

Mirandola, for the province of Modena. An additional 30 beds have been made available in Bondeno (Ferrara). Three Advanced Medical Posts have also been deployed to provide first aid for those in need.

Six Red Cross staff in the National Operations Room are now constantly monitoring the worst-affected region of Emilia Romagna, as well the other regions that have been affected to a less extent, such as Lombardy (where, in the province of Mantova, the Red Cross has opened a reception centre for 250 people) and Veneto, where no damages have been reported.

The Italian Red Cross is managing the reception centre for the population, health care and logistics, distribution of basic necessities. About 150 meals per hour are being served.

The Red Cross Regional Operations Rooms of Marche, Umbria and Toscana remain in a state of pre-alert and are ready to deploy volunteers and vehicles in case of need.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 (NGO's) 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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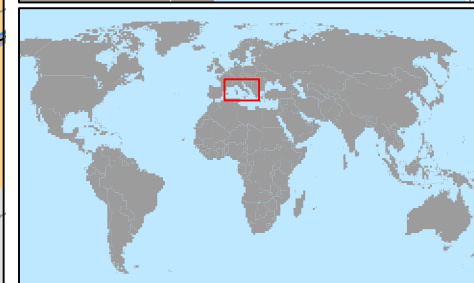
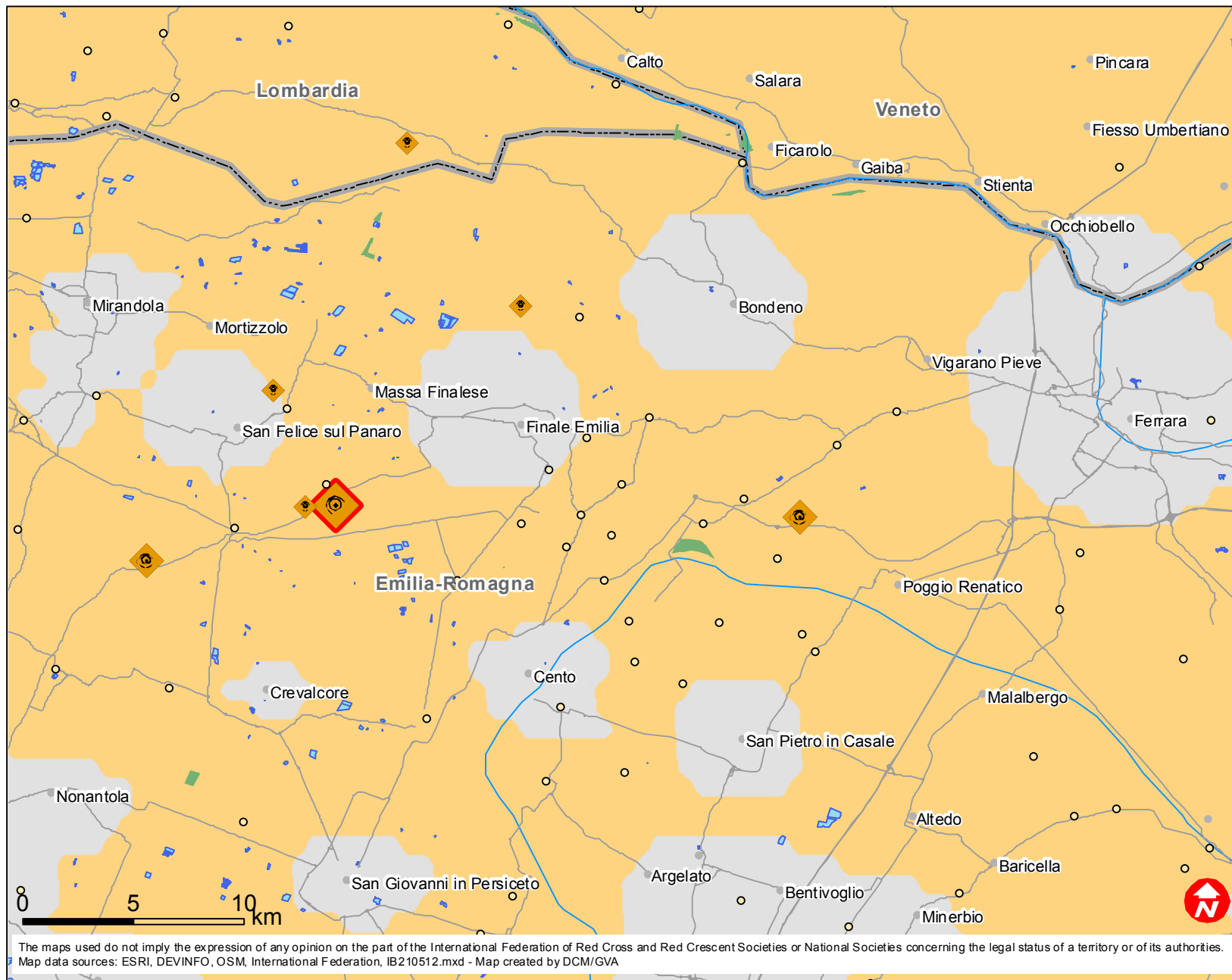


The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



Italy: Earthquake



Earthquakes

Magnitude

- 4-4.9
- 5-5.9
- 6

Main roads

Urban extent

0 5 10 km

