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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.



Italian Red Cross staff and volunteers are setting up campsites for reception centres of the evacuated population. Photo: Italian Red Cross

Summary: An earthquake of a magnitude 5.8 on the Richter scale killed at least 17 people in northern Italy on Tuesday, 29th May, damaging buildings and leaving 14,000 people homeless in the Emilia Romagna region north of Bologna, in one of Italy's agriculturally and industrially most productive areas. The epicentre of the earthquake, which struck at depth of 9.6 km (6 miles), was less than 30 km (19 miles) from Modena, not far from the place where the magnitude 6 earthquake had struck on 20th May.

Officials said 350 people were injured. Buildings that had been previously damaged during the quake last week, were damaged further or destroyed.

Italian Red Cross has immediately increased its presence in the affected area, by deploying more ambulance cars and volunteers to the field. Red Cross staff and volunteers are involved in logistics, and emergency health activities through provision of medical service and psychosocial support. In close cooperation with the Civil Protection, the Red Cross is involved in managing the reception centres where the evacuated people are accommodated. Also the Red Cross is supporting the damage assessment of the buildings and the needs assessment of the affected population.

[<click here for detailed contact information, click here to see the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

After the earthquake of 20th May another earthquake hit the northern part of Italy on 29th May. The epicentre of the new earthquake of a magnitude of 5.8 was less than 30 km (19 miles) from Modena. The depth of the earthquake was registered at 9.6 km, therefore the quake was felt across northern and central Italy. The towns of Mirandola, Medolla and Cavezzo were closest to the epicentre, but the northern cities of Milan and Bologna were shaken too. The area was hit by several large aftershocks, one of 5.6 magnitude. Prior to May 20, the last earthquake in the region of a similar magnitude was in 1501.

So far 17 deaths and at least 350 injuries were reported. Many victims of the new quake, like the one nine days ago, were at work in the huge warehouses that collapsed, including one who died inside a machinery factory in Mirandola.

Schools and tall buildings were evacuated as far south as Florence and as west as Milan. Several historic buildings, some hit by the previous quake, suffered further damage. In Mirandola, the San Francis church collapsed, leaving only its facade standing.

The situation of buildings and homes worsened after the previous earthquake as those were further damaged or collapsed. The number of people made homeless has now gone up from 6,000 to more than 14,000, the Italian government says.

The Civil Protection department was setting up new emergency campsites in order to provide residents with shelter for the night. Initial rescue operations were hampered by disruption to the mobile phone network and to the railway network around Bologna.

The quake hit one of the most productive regions in a country struggling with a deep economic recession. Farmers estimated the damage of the previous quake to agriculture in one of Italy's most fertile areas at more than 700 million Euros. Sports car maker Ferrari and motorcycle firm Ducati closed their plants in the region for safety reasons.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Italian Red Cross responded immediately after the new quake earthquake. The National Emergency Operations Room in Legnano (Milan), which is coordinating the operations, and the Regional Operations Room in Emilia Romagna, and the Provincial Rooms were activated. The Italian Red Cross, in close cooperation with the Civil Protection Department, is increasing its presence in the anew-affected earthquake areas. Already in the early hours of dawn on 29th May, the Red Cross branches in Modena, Bologna and the neighbouring region were mobilized. A total of 200 volunteers are engaged in logistics and emergency health activities, 55 ambulances, one van, one coach and four buses have been used so far in the operation; and 20 inflatable tents were set up for sheltering affected people and used as Advanced Medical Posts.

The Red Cross is providing transportation for the injured at Advance Medical Posts located in the camps of evacuated people, and has boosted the number of ambulances at the hospitals for the possible evacuations and emergency activities. 24 Italian Red Cross transportation vehicles have been committed to the evacuation of the hospital in Carpi; also Modena Hospital was partially evacuated.

Italian Red Cross was involved in setting up new sheltering camps for the evacuated people. One centre was set up near Bologna for 300 displaced people and another one was established in Mantua sheltering 250 people. Soup kitchens run by the Italian Red Cross were put on stand by to be deployed to cover the needs of the affected people. At the reception centres of S. Agostino, Finale Emilia, Camposanto, Bondeno, Mirandola, Ferrara and Moglia, the Red Cross volunteers and staff continue their assistance activities including the provision of psychosocial support for the displaced people.

The staff of the Red Cross is also involved with the new Regional Relief Teams for the logistic support and the assessment of the possible removal of the debris.

In addition, the Red Cross is supporting the damage assessment activities of the buildings in the municipalities affected by the new shocks.

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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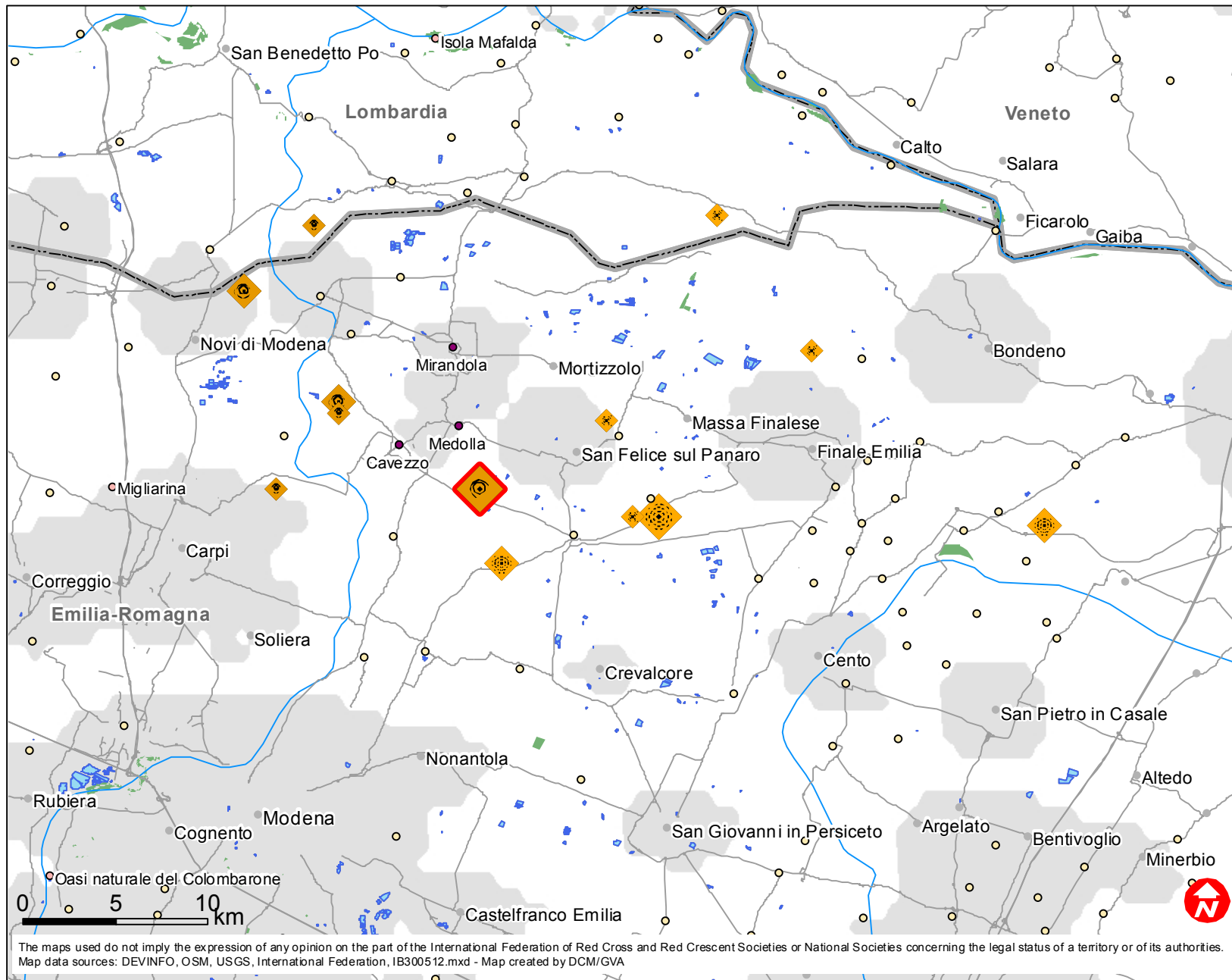


The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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 29 May

Magnitude

- 4.2 - 4.7
- 4.8 - 5.5
- 5.6 - 5.8

Earthquakes 20 May

Magnitude

- 4-4.9
- 5-5.9
- 6

— Main roads

■ Urban extent

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
 Map data sources: DEVINFO, OSM, USGS, International Federation, IB300512.mxd - Map created by DCM/GVA