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Information bulletin no. 1

Italy: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: 18 January 2017	Point of contact: Ruben Romero, DM Coordinator IFRC Regional Office for Europe
Host National Society: Italian Red Cross	

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

The situation

On 18 January 2017, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake struck the central regions of Italy. The quake hit at 10:25 local time (9:25 GMT) at depth of 9 kilometres, the epicentre being 3 kilometres far from Montereale, 4 kilometres from Capitignano, 9 kilometres from Campotosto and Amatrice. Around one hour after the earthquake, a second and a third one followed with a magnitude of 5 in the same area. A fourth quake of 5.1 magnitude hit the same regions in the early afternoon.

Following the earthquake, a specific alert has been launched for the following most hit towns: Campotosto, Montereale and Capitignano (L'Aquila).

The tremors came after some 36 hours of steady snowfall in mountainous areas around Amatrice and Norcia.

Following the series of earthquakes, an avalanche hit a hotel situated in a ski resort in the central Abruzzo region. Many people are reported missing. Blizzards and strong winds slowed the rescue and are still making the operation difficult.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Italian Red Cross activated its Mobile Operation Centre and is coordinating and working closely with the Italian Civil Protection to assess damages and provide support to the affected population as required. The Italian Red Cross has been responding to the situation through the involvement of its 250 volunteers and operators as well as 93 vehicles in the following geographical areas.

Abruzzo Region

Personnel and vehicles are available and ready to intervene; special 4x4 vehicles have been solicited with other necessary equipment to respond to the consequences of the heavy snowfalls and quakes. A cooking unit has been made available to provide 1,000 meals per day to those affected. Some 110,000 people have been left without electricity, the systems are expected to be restored in 24-48 hours. All ambulances have been alerted, as well as the Italian Army to make available heavy vehicles.



Mobile Operation Centre of the Italian Red Cross based in L'Aquila.
Photo: Italian Red Cross

Three snowmobiles are on stand-by and ready for the emergency response. A VM90 vehicle has been sent from Florence to the affected regions. Several villages located close to the epicentre of the earthquake are extremely difficult to access because the snow in some places is over the level of 1.5 metres.

The following means have been mobilized at regional level to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance in the exceptional weather conditions: cutters, snow throwers and small equipment suitable for clearing the snow from the secondary roads and reaching the isolated towns and villages mentioned below.



Italian Red Cross ambulances struggling the extreme weather conditions.
Photo: Italian Red Cross

L'Aquila: a first aid point run by volunteers has been set up; an Italian Red Cross volunteer is at disposal of the Mobile Operational Centre in L'Aquila. There are light damages in the structure of the S. Salvatore Hospital and the emergency procedures have been activated. No mass evacuation of the hospital is needed at the moment. Reception centres are being organized by the National Society and the Italian Civil Protection.

Castel Castagna (Teramo): one person died due to collapse of a building, caused by the quakes which affected the region.

Castiglione Messer Raimondo (Teramo): two people were rescued from the ruins of a collapsed house, they have been transported to the hospital for hypothermia conditions.

Avezzano (L'Aquila): a place with an accommodation capacity of 100 people has been set up.

Monte Reale (L'Aquila): 57 people are going to be evacuated from a health residence centre, some buildings have been damaged, but no collapse was reported.

Campotosto (L'Aquila): a roof has collapsed, with two people reportedly stuck under the ruins. The Italian Red Cross is in contact for regular updates. The building of the municipality is damaged; the Italian Army is helping to restore road access compromised by heavy snowfall. One person could be missing after an avalanche.

Ortolano di Campotosto (L'Aquila): an avalanche hit 7 people, an helicopter has been alerted with a first aid team on board.

Mopolino (L'Aquila): some buildings have been damaged.

Teramo: the Prefectural Palace has been evacuated. Schools and shopping centres have been evacuated too. No injuries have been reported.

Prati di Tivo (Teramo): upon the hit of an avalanche, some people are reported isolated in a hotel.

Lazio Region

Rome: the underground system was temporarily shut and evacuated as a safety precaution. Some schools have been also evacuated.

Amatrice: the remains of the S. Agostino Bell Tower, damaged during the August 2016 earthquake, collapsed.

Rieti: schools has been evacuated.

Marche Region

There is alarm of avalanches in Marche Region. 25,000 people are reported to be left without electricity, the systems are expected to be restored in 24-48 hours. In Arquata del Tronto (Ascoli Piceno), 15 farmers have been rescued, all of them are now safe.

The IFRC Regional Office for Europe is in permanent contact with the Italian Red Cross to obtain information on the extent of damages, affected people and further steps.

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.