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Information bulletin China: 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 Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) is in discussion the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to determine if external assistance is needed.

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Lushan county of Ya'an city in south China's Sichuan province at 8:02 a.m. Beijing time on 20 April. The earthquake's epicentre was monitored near Lushan county (30.3 degrees north latitude and 103.0 degrees east longitude) at a depth of 13 kms. Up to 29 aftershocks have been reported, with the biggest one at magnitude 5.3. As of the reporting time, at least 100 people were killed and more than 2,000 injured. Around 120,000 people are reported to be evacuated and relocated in Lushan county.



A health care team is providing medical treatment to injured people. **Photo :** IFRC

Teams from the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) headquarters and Sichuan Red Cross provincial branch and Ya'an Red Cross branch staff are on the way to the affected areas to conduct a needs assessment and initial relief distribution. RCSC headquarters has sent 500 tents from its Chengdu disaster response and preparedness warehouse. A volunteer emergency team of RCSC Sichuan branch has also departed to the affected areas with food, medicine, drinking water and other relief supplies.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) East Asia regional delegation and Asia Pacific zone office are closely tracking the situation and ready to provide any international assistance.

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

The situation

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Lushan county of Ya'an city in south China's Sichuan province at 8:02 a.m. Beijing Time on Saturday, April 20, 2013. The earthquake's epicentre was near Lushan county (30.3 degrees north latitude and 103.0 degrees east longitude) at a depth of 13 kms. Several aftershocks have been reported with the strongest one being a 5.3-magnitude earthquake that jolted the border areas between the counties of Lushan and Tianquan at about 11:34 a.m. At least 100 people were killed and more than 2,000 people were injured with 135 seriously injured. Around 120,000 people are reported to be evacuated and relocated in Lushan county.



Collapsed structures in the affected area. **Photo:** Xinhua Net

Lushan county, a mountainous rural-area, is about 140 kilometers from Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province and has a population of around 120,000. It was also badly hit during the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. Yaan city, a city with a population of 1.2 million is around 120 kilometers from Chengdu. The hardest-hit areas are in the townships of Longmen, Baosheng and Taiping of Lushan county. It is also reported that Longxiang township and Shuangshi township in Lushan county (both are located in Northern part of the county centre) are likely to be severely damaged. However, rescue teams are struggling to reach there as the roads are damaged.

Vehicles damaged by rolling rocks were seen in the county. Houses along a street in the Lushan county seat have also collapsed. Patients are receiving medical treatment on the ground in front of the Lushan County Hospital.

The State Council and China Earthquake Administration have announced Level I¹ Emergency Response while the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Disaster Reduction Committee have activated Level III. Premier Li Keqiang of People's Republic of China along with senior government officials is on his way to the earthquake-affected areas to guide the relief operations. The leader of the Sichuan province has arrived at the epicentre and relief and rescue efforts are underway.

Ministry of Civil Affairs has sent 30,000 tents, 50,000 quilts and 10,000 folding beds to the affected area. It is reported that about 2,200 soldiers from Chengdu Military Area Command (MAC) of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) were rushing to the epicentre. Two helicopters were tasked to find out more about the situation on the ground. Another rescue team with about 220 soldiers from a PLA Air Force unit in Sichuan has also been dispatched to the quake-hit area.

A national medical emergency response team consisting of more than 180 doctors, as well as over 2,000 policemen and firefighters have been sent to the quake-hit areas. About 200 technicians from China Mobile Limited's Sichuan branch have also been dispatched to the areas to repair the telecommunications network.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Teams from the RCSC headquarters and Sichuan provincial and Ya'an Branch staff are on the way to the affected areas for impact assessment.

RCSC headquarters has sent out 500 tents from its Chengdu disaster response and preparedness warehouse immediately after the quake. Another 5,000 family kits, 5,000 quilts, 5,000 cotton clothes, and 1,200 tents have been distributed in a second batch. RCSC Shandong province has allocated CNY 200,000 (approximately CHF 29,865) funds to Sichuan Branch. A total of 650 first aid kits in value of CNY 245,000 (approximately CHF 36,585) have been delivered by air from Qingdao branch.

¹Levels are from I to V with highest level being level I.

The provincial rescue team as well as a volunteer emergency team of RCSC Sichuan branch brought in food, medicine, drinking water and other relief supplies to the quake-hit areas. As the main road to Lushan county is blocked by rocks caused by landslide, currently it is difficult to reach the worst-hitting areas.

The Blue Sky Rescue team and the Beijing Disaster Management (DM) center are on alert. RCSC Chongqing, Guizhou, Shandong, Guangdong branches as well as Hong Kong and Macau Red Cross are getting ready to assist in the response. Taiwan Red Cross Organisation has also announced the willingness to participate in emergency response if needed. More response/actions will be initiated upon receiving the latest updates of the situation.

RCSC will work closely with the government in the area of shelter, relief and health.



Staff of disaster response warehouse of Nanchong Prefectural Red Cross Branch in Sichuan carry the tents to support earthquake-affected area.



After the earthquake, RCSC Sichuan provincial branch mobilized a relief team immediately to the affected area. Blue Sky Rescue volunteers and Red Cross prefectural branches in Sichuan such as Luzhou, Nanchong and Deyang have also joined the team.

IFRC East Asia Delegation and Asia Pacific Zone Office are closely tracking the situation and ready to provide any international assistance. IFRC is also supporting RCSC headquarters on disaster assessment and needs analysis.

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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.

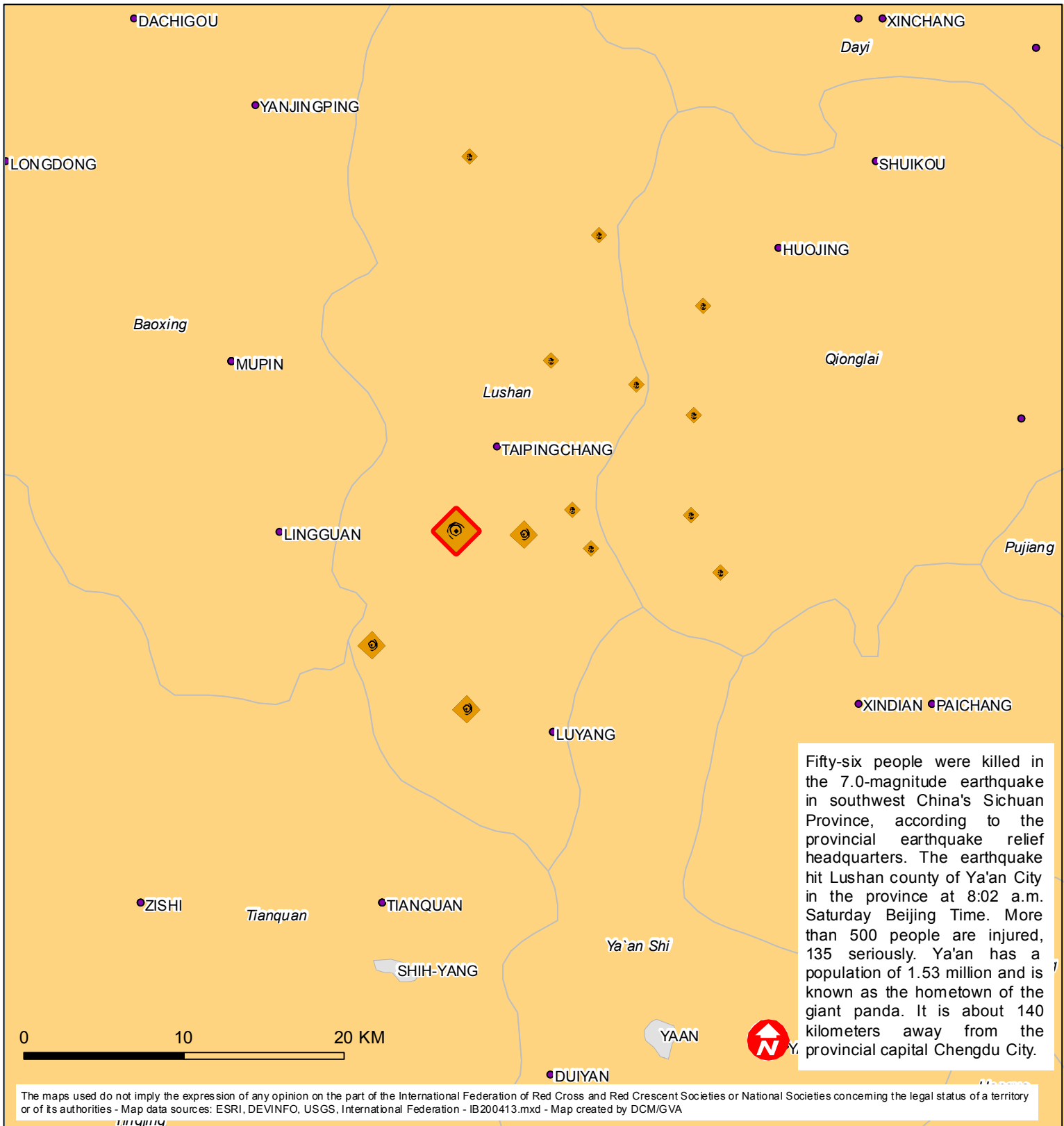


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.
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China: Earthquake



- Main Earthquake
- Magnitude 5
- Magnitude 4
- Counties