

www.ifrc.org  
Saving lives,  
changing minds.

## Information bulletin China: Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 2  
GLIDE n°: [EQ-2013-000046-CHN](#)  
21 April 2013

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) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are jointly assessing the needs in the affected areas and will soon determine if external assistance is needed.

Details of devastation and damage continue to emerge after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit south China's Sichuan province. The earthquake, that struck at 8.02 a.m. Beijing time on 20 April, had its epicentre near Lushan county (30.3 degrees north latitude and 103.0 degrees east longitude) at a depth of 13 km. A large number of aftershocks continue to shake the affected area with several of them being above magnitude 5.

Around 1.5 million people have been affected across 14 prefectures and 89 counties of Sichuan province. At least 186 people were killed and 21 are missing. A total of 11,393 are reported to be injured, among which around 968 persons are severely injured. It is reported that 26,411 rooms have collapsed, 2,986 kilometers of road and 327 bridges have been damaged.

Rescuers are gradually reaching the affected areas that have been difficult to access due to damaged and obstructed roadways. It is expected that the damage and loss figures will increase once more information is available.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) relief response team comprising of 400 staff and volunteers from several of its branches including headquarters have arrived in Lushan county and are trying to enter the worst-hit areas. They have distributed food, drinking water, tents, quilts, umbrellas, etc. to affected populations. Red Cross volunteers are also assisting with medical care, medicine and relief supplies distribution, rescue, setting up tents, providing psychological support and restoring family links.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) East Asia regional delegation and Asia Pacific zone office are in close contact with RCSC to keep updated about the latest situation. Two staff members, including a disaster response coordinator from the zone office, are in Lushan county to assist RCSC teams in conducting needs assessment.



Red Cross volunteers providing medical care to injured people  
Source: RCSC

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

## The situation

Since the first information bulletin, details of further devastation and damage from the 20 April 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Sichuan are now becoming clear. The earthquake that hit at 8.02 p.m. Beijing time on 20 April, had its epicentre near Lushan county (30.3 degrees north latitude and 103.0 degrees east longitude) at a depth of 13 km. A large number of aftershocks continue to shake the affected area with several of them being above magnitude 5.



Houses collapsed in quake-hit areas; Source: Xinhuanet The first night after the deadly earthquake; Source: People's Daily

It is reported by Sichuan Civil Affairs Bureau that around 1.5 million people have been affected. At least 186 people were killed and 21 are missing. A total of 11,393 are reported to be injured, among which around 968 persons are severely injured. The earthquake has affected 14 prefectures and 89 counties of Sichuan province. It is further reported that 26,411 rooms have collapsed, 2,986 kilometers of road and 327 bridges have been damaged.

The details so far of affected areas, human loss and missing persons are as follows:

No.	Prefecture name	Number of deaths <sup>1</sup>	Number of missing persons
1.	Ya'an	167	21
2.	Chengdu	8	
3.	Meishan	1	
4.	Zigong		
5.	Deyang	2	
6.	Mianyang		
7.	Leshan		
8.	Nanchong		
9.	Yibin		
10.	Neijiang		
11.	Ziyang		
12.	Ganzi (Tibetan Autonomous prefecture)	5	
13.	Aba (Tibetan/Qiang Autonomous prefecture)	1	
14.	Liangshan (Yi Autonomous prefecture)		

While county centres and townships near them are gradually getting back to normal, several places still remain inaccessible due to blocked roads and resulting traffic jams. As rescuers are gradually reaching the inaccessible affected areas, it is expected that the damage and loss figures will increase once more information is available. Senior government officials are in the affected areas including Premier Li Keqiang who is emphasizing the priority on all rescue teams saving lives.

<sup>1</sup> The total number of human loss as per this table is 184 (as oppose to the 186 human loss reported in the rest of this report) due to lack of detailed information.

A total of 8,814 members of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and armed police have already been deployed in the affected area and another 10,000 members are on standby. State Grid (the national electricity company) has sent 500 technicians with 12 emergency generator vehicles and 56 generators to repair damage to electricity lines. Electricity is reported to have been recovered throughout much of the affected area, however telecommunication is still not working properly in five townships. The Ministry of Civil Affairs has dispatched another 20,000 tents and 50,000 quilts in addition to the 30,000 tents, 50,000 quilts and 10,000 folding beds that were reported in the first information bulletin.

A specialized rescue team has been deployed to the area. The China International Search and Rescue team comprising of 200 members, 12 rescue dogs and medical equipment arrived at noon on 21 April in Lushan County. The teams, divided into five groups, started their rescue operation in the worst-affected counties of Baoxing and Lushan.

Baoxing County, reported to be severely affected, continues to be difficult to access due to blocked roads. Electricity, water and gas services were disrupted in the county. It is reported that all the houses in the county have been damaged, including the buildings restored after the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. Rescue and relief workers are mainly reaching the county with relief food supplies. It is still assessed that food and water will continue to be a main need for the area even after the first round of relief distribution.

State media (Xinhua) has reported that plastic sheets and umbrellas are the most urgent needs. It should be noted that Ya'an prefecture is known as the 'rainy city' of Sichuan and rains are forecasted for today and in the coming few days. Other reported needs are baby food, cotton, dry food items such as biscuits, bread, and instant noodles, water, tents, electric torches, batteries, generators, radios, medicines and women's sanitary supplies.<sup>2</sup>

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The RCSC relief response team comprising of 400 staff and volunteers from several of its branches (including headquarters, Sichuan provincial branch and Ya'an prefecture branch) have arrived in Lushan county and are trying to enter the worst-hit areas. They have distributed food, drinking water, tents, quilts, umbrellas, etc. to affected populations. Red Cross volunteers are also assisting with medical care, medicine and relief supplies distribution, rescue, setting up tents, providing psychological support and restoring family links.

RCSC is one of the members of the Earthquake Relief Command Headquarters set up by The State Council. RCSC headquarters is coordinating with its various branches and the IFRC to ensure effective operations. Dr Zhao Baige, Executive Vice President of the RCSC, has been appointed as the leader of the RCSC relief operation and she is currently in Sichuan to guide the Red Cross response.

Sichuan provincial branch of the RCSC has launched a 24-hour hotline service for disaster-related enquiries. It is important to note that RCSC has activated its 'Restoring Family Links' service to assist the affected families.



Medical team helping an injured old lady.

Source: RCSC and IFRC joint-assessment team

As of the reporting time, RCSC has distributed the following relief materials in the affected areas:

Family kits	10,650
Quilts	8,180
Jacket	5,000
Winter clothes (down-feather jackets)	2,000
Carpets	2,000
Tents	2,584

<sup>2</sup> [http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2013-04/21/c\\_115470622.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2013-04/21/c_115470622.htm)

Mineral water cases	2,300
Instant noodles boxes	2,500
Mattresses	447

RCSC launched a nationwide appeal and has received contributions from the government, sources of international assistance and the general public. Red Cross branches including Qingdao, Qinghai, Guangxi, Chongqing, Tianjin, Beijing, Shandong branches have sent rescue teams, volunteers and relief materials such as tents, family kits, instant food and water. Several RCSC branches including Shandong, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Hong Kong branches as well as Taiwan Red Cross Organization have contributed emergency funds to support the relief operations.

It is to be noted that various skilled Red Cross personnel have been sent as part of the response team from various RCSC branches. In addition to the health response team of Chongqing provincial branch, RCSC headquarters has sent its specialist 999 Health Relief Team from Beijing. Sichuan provincial branch has dispatched nine response teams for emergency response, health care, emergency telecommunication, search and rescue (Blue Sky Team) and mountain area rescue. Six rescue teams have been sent by Beijing, Shandong, Guangdong, Qinghai and Chongqing branches of RCSC.



RCSC volunteers helping emergency health response in affected areas. **Source:** RCSC

In addition to financial contribution, Hong Kong Red Cross branch has sent four disaster response specialists, of which one of them has already reached the badly-hit Longmen Township of Lushan county.

RCSC is coordinating with all its teams on the ground to finalize its needs assessment. Two staff from the IFRC East Asia regional office and Asia Pacific zone office, currently in the worst-affected areas, are assisting RCSC in this process. RCSC is also in discussions with IFRC to launch a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) application.

As per the initial reports, providing safe drinking water, promoting safe sanitation and hygiene practices including setting up latrines and waste management at temporary settlement sites appear to be needs that Red Cross could further address. In this context, national water and mass sanitation emergency response teams (ERTs) of RCSC are currently being assembled from different provinces to provide any additional support needed.

IFRC's East Asia regional delegation and Asia Pacific zone office continue to remain in close contact with RCSC to keep updated about the latest situation.

## Contact information

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

- **National Society:** Ms Zhang Ming, director of external relations department;  
Email: [rcsc@redcross.org.cn](mailto:rcsc@redcross.org.cn); phone: +86 1064048366, fax +861064029928.
- **IFRC East Asian regional office in Beijing:** phone: +86 10 65327162, fax: +86 10 65327166
  - Mr. Martin Faller, head of office, email: [martin.faller@ifrc.org](mailto:martin.faller@ifrc.org); mobile: +86 13511075162
  - Mr. Francis Markus, communications delegate; email: [francis.markus@ifrc.org](mailto:francis.markus@ifrc.org);  
mobile: +8613.910096892
- **IFRC Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur:** phone: + 60 3 9207 5700, fax: +60 3 2161 0670
  - Head of operations: Mr Al Panico, email: [al.panico@ifrc.org](mailto:al.panico@ifrc.org), phone: +603 9207 5700
  - Operations coordinator: Ms Karen Poon, email: [karen.poon@ifrc.org](mailto:karen.poon@ifrc.org),  
mobile:+60 1 3360 0366
  - Zone communications manager: Mr Patrick Fuller, email: [patrick.fuller@ifrc.org](mailto:patrick.fuller@ifrc.org);  
mobile: +6012 230 8451

---

**Click here**

1. [Return](#) to the title page
  2. [Go](#) to map
- 

## 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.

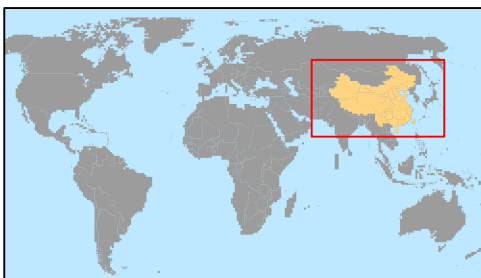
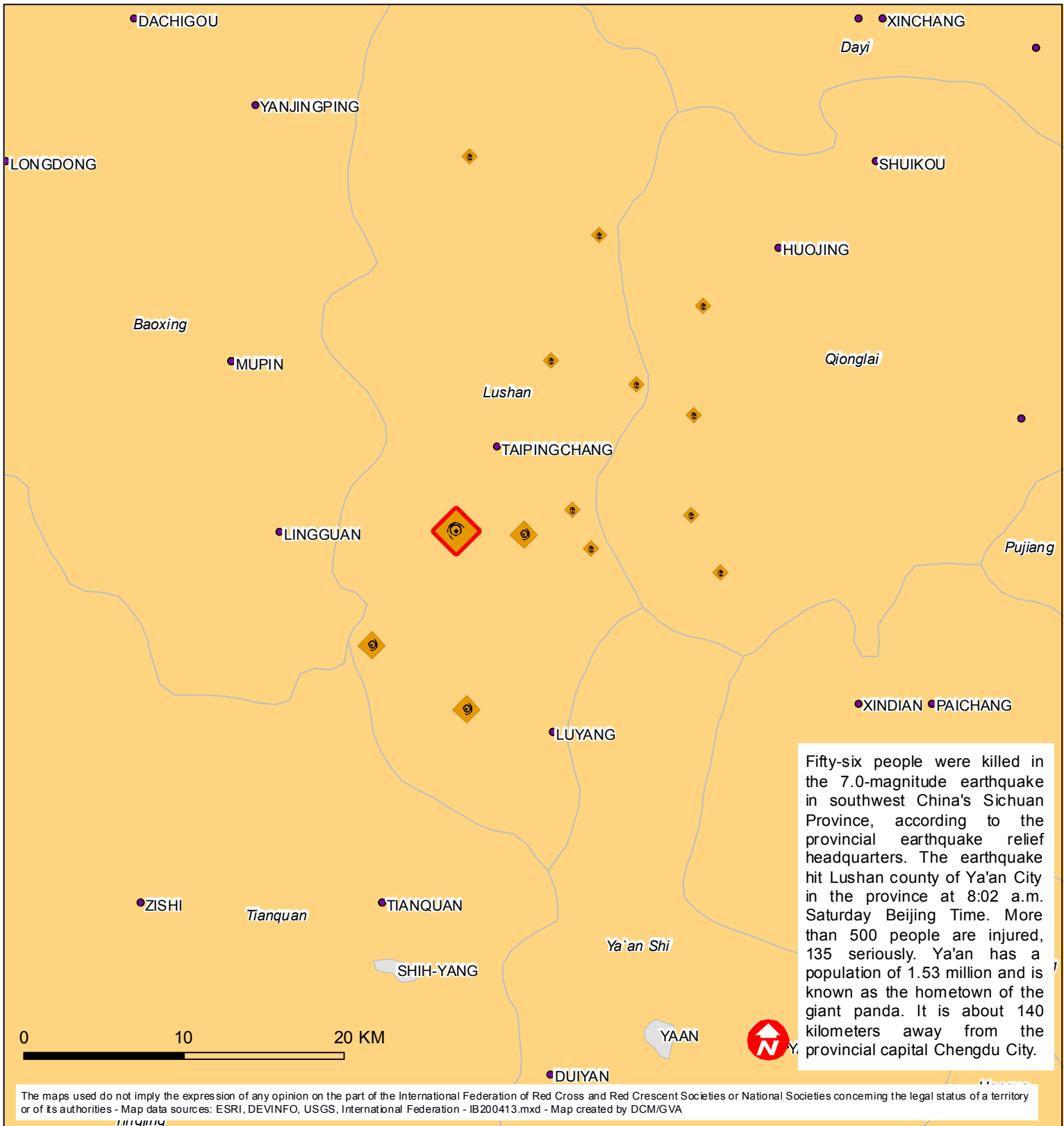


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.
-



# China: Earthquake



- Main Earthquake
- Magnitude 5
- Magnitude 4
- Counties