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Information bulletin

China: Ludian 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) has launched a national appeal. At the same time RCSC will accept direct assistance from abroad to provide support to the affected population. Voluntary contributions towards this earthquake operation can also be channelled through the IFRC's Long-Term Planning Framework for China.

A 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck Yunnan Province, southwest part of China 4:30 pm, August 3, with the epicenter in Longtoushan Township, 23 km southwest of the county seat of Ludian, in Zhaotong City.

As of 18 August, a total of 1.09 million people were affected and 229,700 people were displaced in Yunnan Province. At least 617 people were confirmed dead, with another 114 still missing and 3,143 injured. 25,800 houses collapsed and 40,600 houses were severely damaged. Besides Yunnan Province, minor impacts have spread to part of Guizhou and Sichuan Provinces, affected a total of 27,100 people¹.



A Chinese Red Cross (Yunnan) Mass Sanitation ERT member is teaching people in temporary shelters, Longtoushan Town, Ludian County, how to wash hands correctly. Photo by RCSC.

A total of 18 RCSC National and Provincial emergency response teams (ERTs) with more than 480 team members have been deployed to the affected area to provide support services including search and rescue, safe drinking water, mass sanitation, relief item distribution and psychosocial support. RCSC have distributed 600 tents, 11,000 quilts, 10,422 jackets and 20,000 family kits from its disaster preparedness stocks to the affected people.

The situation

A 6.5-magnitude earthquake jolted Ludian County of Zhaotong City in southwest China's Yunnan Province at 4:30 p.m. on August 3. The earthquake caused big human resource and infrastructure

¹ According to the statistics by the Yunnan Provincial Civil Affairs Bureau (<http://yunnan.mca.gov.cn/>)

damage in the affected area. The epicentre was monitored at 27.1 degrees north latitude and 103.3 degrees east longitude with a depth of 12 kilometres, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

Three large landslides occurred since 9 August, which blocked a river channel and increased the flooding threat of Hongshiyuan barrier lake. National Land Resources Bureau had thoroughly investigated 322 geological disaster sites in 98 administrative villages, whose potential risks of landslides were largely increased by the continuous aftershocks and intermittent heavy rains.

An earthquake with magnitude 5.0 scale occurred in Yongshan County near Ludian County, Zhaotong Prefecture at 6:07 am on 17 August. This earthquake affected 7,589 people in five townships of the county with 20 people injured, 45 housings collapsed, 575 severely damaged. Yunnan Provincial Civil Affair Bureau issued level-4 response immediately after the quake and delivered relief items to those newly displaced.²



One of the affected people in temporary shelters in Longtoushan Town, Ludian County, is unpacking the family kit donated by the Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China. Photo by RCSC.

Large scale rescue and relief operations by the government, military and civil organizations have lasted for more than two weeks. Rescue workers are struggling to reach the remote villages near the epicenter as the roads were still not cleared, and the falling rocks from the mountains are still threatening the rescue workers. The affected people who survived the earthquake but trapped within their villages were able to manage, through sharing their own food supplies and water extracted from the wells, until the relief goods arrived.

The barrier lake in Huize County was successfully drained through 7-day effort by more than 1,000 rescue members from the army and armed police on 12 August. This has cleared the potential threat to over 1,000 villagers living upstream and another 30,000 population living downstream.³ Experts from the Water Management Department will research and define a plan to make full use of this new lake dam to benefit the locals in future development.

The first temporary facility for an elementary school was established in Longtoushan Town on 13 August. To date, local governments are building more transnational prefabricated school buildings to ensure the new school semester can resume on 1 September as per scheduled.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

To continuously respond to the disaster, RCSC headquarters and branches have launched a large scale of fund raising and relief operation. In cooperation with RCSC, IFRC has deployed two staff to join the RCSC field operation team and supported the deployment of three ERTs

As of 14 August, RCSC, including the Hong Kong branch, Macao branch, Taiwan Red Cross Organization and IFRC's donation, have received a total amount of CNY 250 million (approximately CHF 36.6 million), in which CNY 178 million is cash donation and the remaining CNY 72 million is in kind⁴.

RCSC has distributed 600 tents, 11,000 quilts, 10,422 jackets and 20,000 family kits to the affected people since the earthquake. A total of 18 RCSC National and Provincial ERTs with more than 480 team

² http://news.xinhuanet.com/local/2014-08/17/c_1112110054.htm

³ http://news.xinhuanet.com/photo/2014-08/13/c_126864464.htm

⁴ http://finance.ifeng.com/a/20140816/12939846_0.shtml

members have been deployed to the affected area to provide support services including search and rescue, safe drinking water, mass sanitation, relief item distribution, psychosocial support, etc.

IFRC EARD has allocated CNY one million (approx. CHF 147,467) emergency response fund from annual budget to support the deployment of Chinese Red Cross (Yunnan) Mass Sanitation ERT and Yunnan Red Cross Water and Relief ERTs, including the procurement of 100 temporary latrines for the affected people. IFRC also deployed two staff to join the field assessment and operation with RCSC until August 16.



The temporary latrines set up by Yunnan Red Cross mass sanitation ERT. Photo by IFRC.



Water ERT is distributing clean water to earthquake affected people in Longtoushan Town. Photo by IFRC

Mass Sanitation ERT

From 8 to 17 August, Chinese Red Cross (Yunnan) Mass Sanitation ERT with 11 staff and volunteers has been set up 72 latrines in affected area. More latrines will be set up as planned to reach a total of 100 latrines. Besides setting up and fixing latrines, the team also delivered hygiene promotion activities. Some 356 hygiene promotion posters were posted while basic health knowledge was disseminated to 1,910 people.

Water ERT

Yunnan Red Cross Water ERT made up of 11 members arrived at the affected area on 6 August. After a rapid assessment and preparation, the Water ERT has started to set up the water purification equipment. The treated water was inspected by local health department and successfully passed the quality standard. From 7 to 17 August, the Water ERT has provided 302 tons of safe drinking water to 20,133 beneficiaries. The Water ERT is planning to finish its mission when the regular water provision service is recovered from the local government in the coming few days.

Relief ERT

Six staff of Yunnan Red Cross Relief ERT have been working with other Red Cross relief ERTs to conduct needs assessment, relief items distributions and other relevant services since 6 August. The team members have been conducting needs assessment in Huangcaoping village and helped to distribute tents to the villagers. Besides the relief services, the team also helped to set up latrines, move and set up water equipment and manage Red Cross camp sites.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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1. Map [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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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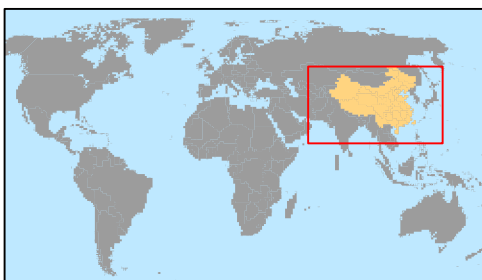
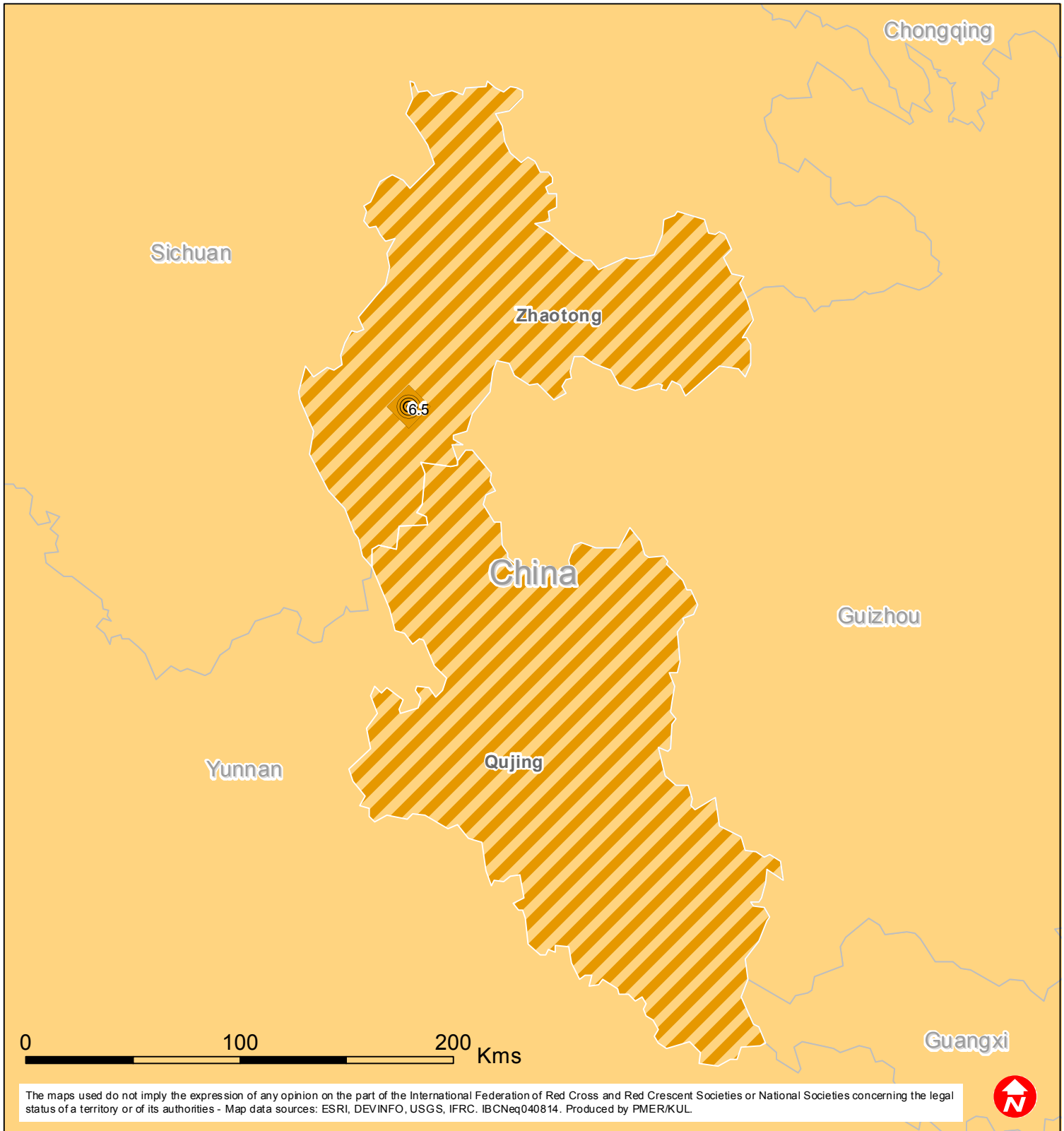


The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



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6.5



Affected areas