

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Sichuan Earthquake

Emergency appeal n° MDRCN003
GLIDE n° [EQ-2008-000062-CHN](#)
Operations update n° 2
17 May 2008

Period covered by this Update: 48 hours after the launch of appeal

Appeal target (current): CHF 20,076,412 (USD 19,304,242 or EUR 12,431,215);

[<click here to view the attached Revised Emergency Appeal Budget>](#)

Appeal coverage: Since the launch of this Appeal on 15 May, pledges of funding have been pouring in, and the appeal is already more than 50% covered, with new pledges in the pipeline.

[<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was launched on 15 May 2008 for CHF 20,076,412 (USD 19,304,242 or EUR 12,431,215) for 12 months to assist 100,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 250,000 was allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the Red Cross Society of China's response to the earthquake.



A local Red Cross volunteer team pledging their courage and determination to save those affected by the earthquake prior to their departure on 16 May to the affected areas, Chengdu, Sichuan (Red Cross Society of China, Sichuan branch).

Summary: The 7.8-magnitude earthquake which devastated the south-western province of Sichuan on 12 May has left 28,881 dead, 198,346 injured and 4.8 million people displaced, according to the emergency

response office of the state council, as of 17 May. The most affected province is Sichuan, however the earthquake also affected seven other provinces and municipalities - Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shanxi, Guizhou and Hubei provinces. A total of 15.61 million houses in the quake affected areas have been damaged, while 3.13 million homes have collapsed. As of 16 May, 116,460 injured people have been hospitalized, with 12,858 people in critical condition.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) headquarters, along with its Sichuan branch and many other provincial branches of RCSC, have been providing non-stop assistance to those in the affected areas. Rescue and medical teams, and RCSC staff and volunteers have been distributing tents, food, water, clothes and medicines around the clock. They have also been heavily involved in the rescue and treatment of the injured and those pulled out alive.

By 16 May, the RCSC headquarters and its branches have received more than CNY 1,155 million (about CHF 200 million) in donations, internationally and fundraised nationally, in cash and in-kind. CNY 223 million has so far been spent by the RCSC on emergency relief items in the disaster affected areas.

The International Federation's earthquake operation centre has been set up in Sichuan province on 18 May. The centre will move on to Mianyang, one of most affected prefectures, to provide support to the RCSC in the relief operations.

There has already been a very quick and generous response to the International Federation's Emergency Appeal. Contributions have already been received from the American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Canadian government, and New Zealand Red Cross, with other pledges of funding in the pipeline.

The situation

As of 17 May, the death toll from the powerful earthquake which hit southwest China's Sichuan province, has risen to 28,881, with 198,347 injured, according to the information office of the state council. A total of 15.61 million houses in quake areas have been damaged, while 3.13 million have collapsed. As of 16 May, 116,460 injured people have been hospitalized, with 12,858 people in critical condition.

The 7.8-magnitude earthquake of 12 May has caused 4.8 million people to be displaced in eight affected provinces and municipalities including Sichuan (the province most severely affected), Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shanxi, Guizhou and Hubei, according to the emergency response office of the State Council, as of 16 May.

In Beichuan, there are frequent aftershocks in Chaping township today, and the water level of the local reservoir has been rising quickly. There is serious threat of flooding if the dam bursts. Survivors of the earthquake have now been moved to safety, to higher positions on the mountainside.

Located in the north-west of Sichuan Province, Mianyang municipality is a traffic link, 90 km from Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. The total area of Mianyang municipality is 20,249 kilometres² with a population of 5,170,141 people. The distance between the epicentre and the urban area of the city is approximately 170 kilometres. By 16 May, the death toll in Mianyang municipality had reached 8,767. Some 59,616 people have been injured, and 21,125 people have been rescued from the ruins. It is estimated that about 4.1 million people are suffering from this disaster.

In the north-east of Chengdu plain, Sichuan Province, Deyang City is 58 kilometres from Chengdu, governing Jingyang region, Guanghan City, Shifang City, Mianzhu City, Zhongjiang County and Luojiang County. The total area of Deyang City is 5,954 kilometres² with a population of 3,740,000 people. The distance between the epicentre and the urban area of the city is approximately 90 kilometres. By 16 May, the confirmed death toll in Deyang City had reached 6,701 people. Some 56,075 people are wounded, 7,338 remain buried and 3,691 are stranded.

In Shifang, Deyang prefecture, 70 kilometres east of Wenchuan, the epicentre, the earthquake levelled the three township seats of Shifang. Seven schools, buildings and the workers' dormitories of three local factories have collapsed. Thousands of teachers, students and workers remain trapped under the rubble. By 16 May, the confirmed death toll in Shifang has reached 3,378, with 31,866 injured, 2,602 missing and 2,014 people buried under the rubble. A total of 325,000 rooms had collapsed, and 200,000 of the population have been affected. By 16 May, 1,235 people had been carried out of the rubble. Altogether 15,000 relief and rescue workers are working in Shifang. Over 6,000 injured people had received treatment at the field medical assistance stations. So far over 50,000 people are staying in 26 shelter locations in Shifang. So far, 2,246 dead bodies have been buried. Shifang's population before the earthquake was 400,000 people.



Hong Kong Red Cross branch is helping survivors with medical care in Beichuan, May 16 (RCSC, Sichuan branch).

Various departments of China's central government continued their work in disaster relief. The ministry of finance set aside another CNY 1.17 billion (USD 167 million) for disaster relief. The move brought the total monies earmarked from the central budget so far for quake relief to CNY 3.41 billion. The ministry of education ordered the publication of psychological counselling manuals to help students of primary and middle schools in quake-hit areas with psycho-social support. The national youth working committee called on youth volunteers and experts to help with psychological counselling to quake-affected children. According to the ministry of environmental protection, as of 16 May, 31 drinking water sources in 11 cities and counties in Sichuan, including Mianyang, Deyang, Guangyuan, Dujiangyan, Mianzhu and Beichuan, have been tested as safe. The ministry had inspected more than 10,000 companies and factories to clear environmental safety risks. The ministry of civil affairs on 16 May requested local bureaus to accommodate survivors properly, to build shelter centres and to provide relief supplies to them. The ministry had allocated more than 180,000 tents, 220,000 quilts and 170,000 cotton-padded clothes to the quake-hit areas as of 16 May. The state food and drug administration said it was stepping up efforts to ensure the safety of drugs and medical equipment donated by domestic companies to those affected by the earthquake. So far, CNY 170 million worth of medicine and medical equipment has been donated by drug manufacturers under the coordination of the state food and drug administration. The ministry of land and resources and the state



Rescue teams searching for people still buried under the rubble in Beichuan, 16 May (Red Cross Society of China, Sichuan branch).

bureau of surveying and mapping successfully took photos by air over quake-affected populated areas in Sichuan. The information would be provided for disaster relief and rebuilding efforts.

Relief and logistics

Relief items have been continuously transported to affected areas where most of the roads have been re-opened but the road conditions are still unstable due to frequent aftershocks. Many injured people still need to be transported out of their levelled villages and towns in the mountains. All of these are adding to the already challenging logistic arrangements. Many local Red Cross branches and local government staff have been buried, injured and killed by the quake. This has proved challenging for arriving relief items in the towns and county seats in the affected areas. There are difficulties to transport items further into remote villages which are either not accessible due to roads cut off by landslides, or due to a lack of manpower despite the many volunteers working in the field. Survivors who are able to walk usually spend days walking to town seats to be cared for in temporary shelters. Seriously injured people are rescued by helicopter or carried out. It takes 15 people half a day to carry one person out of the mountains. There are huge needs to provide food, water and clothes to survivors, and great logistical challenges.

Essential medical services and first aid

The government has mobilized over 100 medical teams from all over China to provide medical care to affected communities. The most recent field assessment reports indicate that medicines are available in enough quantities for the medical teams as shipments have arrived in the past two days. The International Federation's team and RCSC will continuously monitor and assess the rapidly changing situation for medical aid, medicines, water and sanitation, and other essential intervention areas.

Water and sanitation

The government and other organizations have responded to requests for drinking water in affected areas with large quantities of bottled water. However, the logistics of moving large quantities to some of the affected areas still remains a challenge, as the continued aftershocks caused landslides and blocked cleared roads. The government has ordered 48 mobile water-purifying machines into affected areas, each with a capacity to provide potable water for 5,000 to 10,000 people a day. In addition, the government has dispatched over 1.3 million water purification tablets, 1,000 household water purification sets and 50 portable toilets to the quake zone. The first large batch of those items arrived two days ago in Chengdu.

Psychological support

The psychological effect of the disaster on those who survived and witnessed the disaster in local communities as a whole is enormous. As the survival chances of those trapped in the rubble erodes by the hour, families are gradually facing the probability of not finding their loved ones alive. Local Red Cross staff and volunteers have been also affected, with many still missing. An urgent need for psychological first aid for disaster survivors is clear and the Red Cross plans to integrate this component throughout the operations. Providing emotional support simply by being there and advising people on how to cope with transitory psychological effects, which are to be expected in the aftermath of such traumatic events, are simple and effective.



Survivors looking for missing family members among the dead in Beichuan (International Federation).

Populations in special need

In line with its Fundamental Principles and mandate, Red Cross efforts will target the most affected, paying special attention to special health and psycho-social needs of the most vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, pregnant mothers, the displaced and disabled, among others.

Children: Since the earthquake struck during the day, many children have been buried under the rubble when the schools collapsed. It is estimated that 12 million school-age children live in Sichuan province, with two million of them in the worst-affected area. However, to date, it is not clear how many of those affected or have died are children. There has been a public outpouring of support for the orphans in China. The International Federation's team has been in contact with UNICEF, Save the Children and other children-specialized agencies.

Displaced people: As the roads to the hardest hit areas have been cleared, all survivors have been moved out to transitional camps in less damaged areas. To date, 407,284 people have been relocated to these camps.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

A ten-person relief team from RCSC headquarters arrived in Sichuan on 15 May to strengthen the overall coordination and response capacity of the Sichuan Red Cross branch in the earthquake operation.

So far, a total of eight teams have been mobilized by RCSC headquarters to support rescue and medical work. Besides these teams, many provincial Red Cross branches have also sent their response teams directly to Sichuan. Hunan Provincial Red Cross branch's emergency response team, consisting of 34 people has been working in Shifang since 14 May. This team is divided into two groups which rotate around the clock. The International Federation's media specialist is joining this team today in Shifang.



Volunteers lifting plastic sheeting to shelter injured people on a rainy night in Beichuan, 14 May (RCSC, Sichuan branch).

Sichuan Red Cross branch has organized 23 medical teams to serve the needs in Mianyang and Deyang areas.

Sichuan Red Cross branch has 25 staff in its provincial branch. It is estimated that at least 35,000 people including provincial, all prefecture and local Red Cross staff and volunteers have been working to provide relief.

A six-person medical team from Hong Kong Red Cross branch has been in Beichuan since 16 May and will be replaced by another medical team on 18 May after three-days of continuous work. The senior relief manager of Hong Kong Red Cross branch has visited Beichuan, Mianzhou, Mianyang and Deyang. Based on assessments, it is estimated that local communities will stay in temporary shelters for 6-12 months in Mianyang and Deyang. As such, Hong Kong Red Cross branch plans to focus on these two areas, setting up a field hospital and temporary schools which could last 6-12 months to serve the mid-term needs of the local community.

On 16 May, a well equipped rescue team of over 20 people, sent by Taiwan Red Cross Organization arrived in Chengdu. They started rescue work in Mianzhu, together with the local Red Cross branch.

By 15 May, donations to Sichuan Red Cross branch have reached CNY 200 million, including CNY 150 million in cash and CNY 50 million in-kind. By 16 May, RCSC headquarters and branches have received domestic and international donations totalling CNY 1,155 million (CHF 200 million) in cash and in kind.

A four-member team from the International Federation, composed of a team leader, health delegate, disaster management officer and a media specialist have arrived in Chengdu on 15 May. An operations office has been set up at Sichuan Red Cross branch headquarters in Chengdu.

The International Federation will provide support to the RCSC's relief operations, especially in areas of international coordination, monitoring the evolving relief situation and conducting health, water and sanitation, and logistics assessments. After discussion with the Sichuan Red Cross branch, it has been agreed that the International Federation will target its support to the RCSC relief operations in Mianyang prefecture, one of the two most affected areas.



Citizens in Chengdu donating to Red Cross for earthquake relief. May 16 (RCSC, Sichuan branch).

Coordination and partnerships

The Chinese government, through its ministry of foreign affairs is taking the lead in coordination of all international organizations responding to this earthquake. Regular consultations are being held between the government and the office of the UN resident coordinator in China.

The RCSC and the International Federation's team has been approached by numerous international organizations, embassies of foreign governments in China and individuals offering their support in kind, in cash, personnel, specialized medical teams and volunteers. For the purpose of effective coordination and information sharing, the International Federation's team together with the RCSC has been in regular communications with these agencies through phone calls, e-mails and information sharing meetings. A rough mapping of response activities of international organizations on the ground is being done. For instance, the World Food Programme (WFP) has provided USD 100,000 in-kind for food assistance through the International Federation's appeal. Medicines Sans Frontiers has donated 5,000 tents to the RCSC. A team from Action Aid China has started providing relief distribution in disaster-hit areas and plan to focus relief efforts in Mianyang prefecture. Teams from the Save the Children UK and Oxfam Hong Kong began assessments and coordination of relief work in the earthquake epicentre areas. The International Federation's operations team is aided by an UN volunteer living in Sichuan who offered his support in translation and interpretation work. However, due to the challenges in the logistics of communications and transportation, it is unclear who and how many international organizations have arrived at earthquake affected areas. There is a big outpouring of public sympathy, support and volunteers, including foreigners living in Sichuan and neighbouring provinces.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The International Federation's regional office in East Asia is working in partnership with the RCSC's media department to raise media attention and public awareness about the RCSC's response to the earthquake. Currently, a media specialist has joined the regional office's earthquake operation centre in Sichuan to provide timely and accurate information to the public and the media. Two local consultants have been hired to assist with camera and photography in documenting relief activities to support fundraising and public awareness campaigns. Today (17 May), the media specialist and his team is joining the Hunan Red Cross branch's rescue team in Shifang.

The reporting delegate will further support these efforts through timely reporting and communications with donors and partners. Opportunities for advocacy for more solid structures in the reconstruction and support to the most vulnerable communities will also be pursued. Support is also provided by the media service at the International Federation's secretariat in Geneva and Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Red Cross Society of China: Mr. Wang Xiaohua, director of external relations department; email: rcsc@chineseredcross.org; phone: +86.10.6404.8366, fax +86.10.6402.9928.
- East Asia regional office in China: Mr. Carl Naucner, (head of regional office), email; carl.naucner@ifrc.org; and Mr. Qinghui Gu (regional disaster management coordinator), email; qinghui.gu@ifrc.org; phone +86 1391 0959 834, fax+86-10-6532-7166.
- Federation zone office in Kuala Lumpur:
 - Alistair Henley, head of zone office, phone: +6012 203 8254, email: alistair.henley@ifrc.org,
 - Amy Gaver, acting head of disaster management unit, phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, fax: +60 3 2161 1210, mobile +60 12 220 1174, email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org
 - For pledges of funding: Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and PMER coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5775, email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org
 - Jeremy Francis, regional logistics coordinator, phone: +60 12 298 9752, fax: +60 3 2168 8573, email: jeremy.francis@ifrc.org
- Federation secretariat in Geneva: Christine South, operations coordinator Asia Pacific, phone: +41 22 730 4529; mobile: +41 79 308 9824; email: christine.south@ifrc.org

[<Updated donor response report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Annex 1

CHINA: SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE**MDRCN003****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	630,000
Construction Materials	5,000,000
Clothing & Textiles	4,000,000
Food	5,000,000
Water & Sanitation	285,000
Medical & First Aid	740,000
Utensils & Tools	825,000
Total Relief Needs	16,480,000

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Vehicles Purchase	90,000
Computers & Telecom Equipment	30,000

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	-
Distribution & Monitoring	200,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	100,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	316,800
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	72,000
National Society Staff	48,000
Consultants/ information	108,000

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	50,000
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	180,000
Information & Public Relations	36,000
Office running costs	85,200
Communication Costs	78,600
Professional Fees	847,400
Financial Charges	3,000
Other General Expenses	46,445

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	1,304,967
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Total Operational Needs **3,596,412**

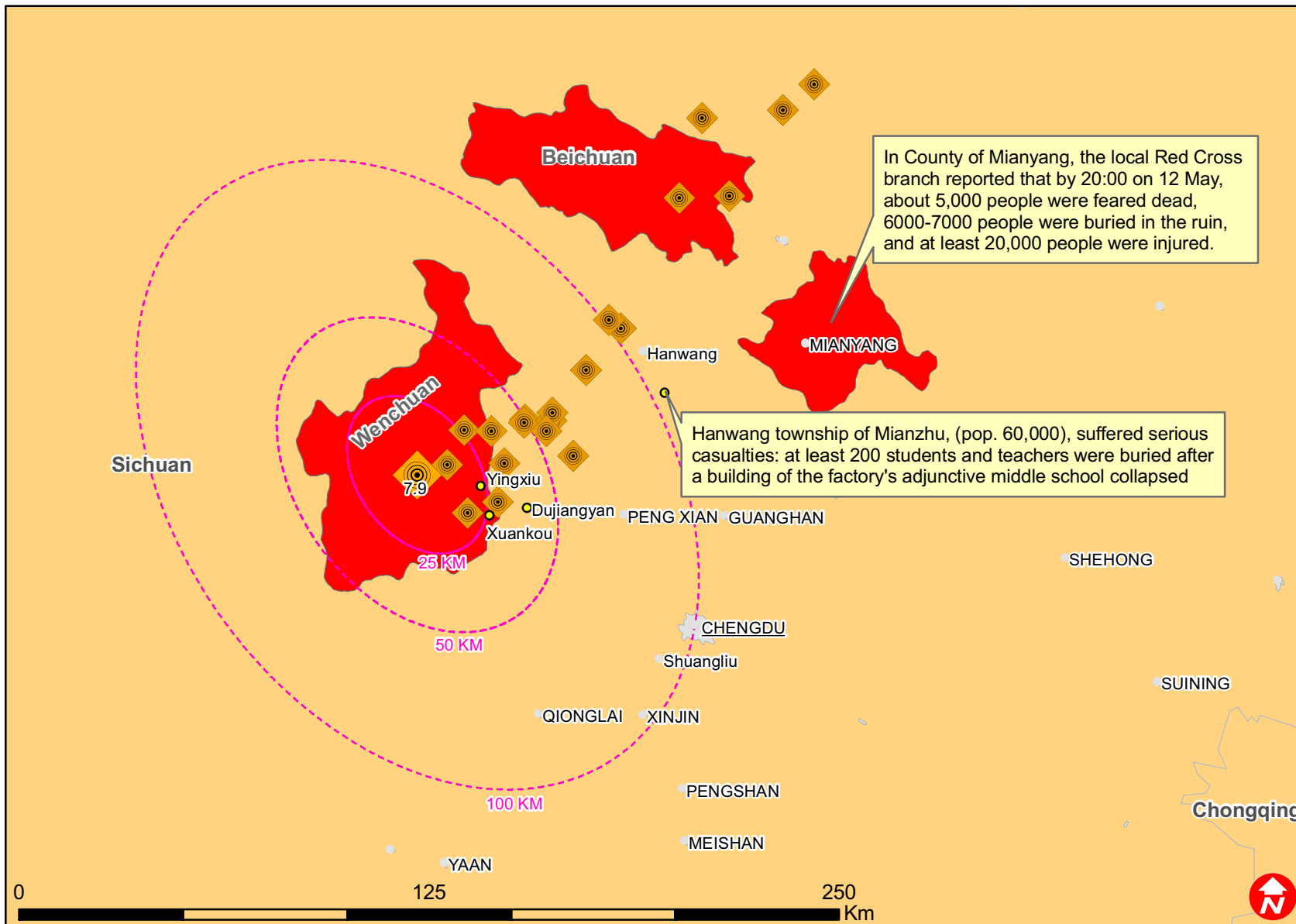
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) **20,076,412**

Available Resources

Net Request **20,076,412**

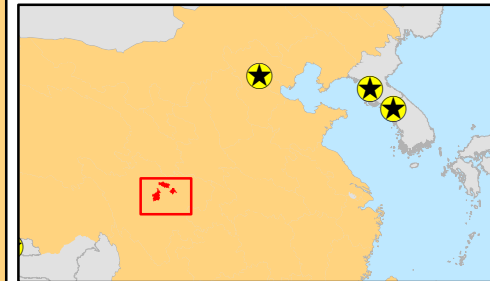


China: Earthquake



In County of Mianyang, the local Red Cross branch reported that by 20:00 on 12 May, about 5,000 people were feared dead, 6000-7000 people were buried in the ruin, and at least 20,000 people were injured.

Hanwang township of Mianzhu, (pop. 60,000), suffered serious casualties: at least 200 students and teachers were buried after a building of the factory's adjunctive middle school collapsed



- Main earthquake
- Aftershocks
- Most affected counties