

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CHINA: YUNNAN EARTHQUAKE

12 August 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin 01/2004 is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

According to the latest reports received on 12 August from a representative of the Red Cross Society of China's Yunnan provincial branch's relief department, thousands of people have been evacuated in Yunnan province's Ludian county (pop. 370,000) following a strong earthquake on Tuesday 10 August. Four people have been reported dead and close to 600 people were injured in the earthquake which measured 5.6 on the Richter scale. The powerful earthquake which struck the northeast of the province was followed by 92 aftershocks destroying some 5,000 homes while damaging thousands more. The two local hospitals servicing the county were overwhelmed by the influx of patients seeking treatment for earthquake related injuries. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and the Ministry of Civil Affairs have been quick to respond to the emergency and have already commenced with the distribution of tents, food and clothing to meet the immediate needs of the affected population, but there are still continuing needs for food, medicine, tents, water and clothing. Additionally, continued support for medical services in the field is required to meet all the demands created by the earthquake.

The earthquake on 10 August was the third major quake to strike Ludian county over a period of twelve months as two quakes measuring 5.1 and 5.0 on the Richter scale struck the county on 15 and 26 November 2003. Yunnan is also among the provinces most severely affected by this year's floods, hail and mudslides which have already left thousands in the locale homeless.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The RCSC has provided a total of USD 60,000 in relief items to the affected population including 1,500 blankets, 1,500 cotton-padded clothes, 100 tents and 20 MT of rice.

The relief division of the RCSC has been working closely with the provincial branches, particularly those branches in areas highly susceptible to natural disasters on disaster preparedness activities. To this end the Yunnan Provincial branch that was already coping with floods was able to respond quickly to the earthquake as urgently needed relief items such as blankets, clothing and tents were pre-positioned in the branch's provincial disaster preparedness centre. The items were released from the RCSC Yunnan provincial branch's disaster preparedness centre within 24 hours of the earthquake, allowing the branch to provide those people who lost their homes or those whose homes have been classified as unsafe with blankets, coats, tents and rice to help them cope in the difficult period immediately after the quake. The Red Cross Society in Zhaotong City has also distributed 300 blankets and 130 sets of clothing while the national office of the RCSC in Beijing contributed tents, clothes and quilts worth RMB 300,000 (USD 36,000).

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the [Federation's Annual Appeal](#).

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