

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## China: Earthquake

Information bulletin n° 6  
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**This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.**

**Summary:** The death toll has risen to 2,220 with reportedly 70 still missing after the deadly earthquake measuring 7.1 Richter scale hit Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai province on 14 April 2010. More than 12,000 were injured and an estimated 100,000 were left homeless. Many more were affected, as tremors affected neighbouring areas, including Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan province.

Rescuers acclimating to the high altitude have stepped up measures to ensure environmental hygiene, with particular efforts made to prevent the outbreak of an epidemic. Relief supplies were being delivered to the quake-hit area around the clock by air and by road. Despite continuous challenges due to bad weather conditions that have been affecting access roads, many of which meander along mountains at over 4,000 metres, teams of relief workers and the local government continue to be on guard to ensure these lifelines remain passable.



The Red Cross Society of China water emergency response team from Hunan successfully set up emergency clean water supply facility in Yushu.

Photo: Red Cross Society of China

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has responded with the delivery of tents, quilts, warm clothing and other relief supplies to the earthquake area. A total of six emergency response teams in the area including first-aid units, medical and surgery care, emergency rescue, water and sanitation units were sent in. Some of these units have completed their mission within the last few days.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

## The situation

An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale hit northwest China's Qinghai province at 07:49 local time on 14 April 2010 (23:49 GMT on 13 April 2010). Its epicentre is calculated to be 33.2 north and 96.6 east (revised official data on 17 April 2010), which is about 50km away from the Gyegu town (previously translated as Jiegu township), the government headquarters of the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yushu, and about 800km away from Xining, the Qinghai provincial capital. Qinghai is located on the northeastern part of the Tibetan Plateau. Some 1,404 aftershocks have been recorded as of 23 April 2010, with the largest one registering a magnitude of 6.3, about an hour and 36 minutes after the earthquake. The earthquake destroyed 85 per cent of the houses, leaving 100,000 residents homeless.

In the press conference held on 25 April 2010 by the vice governor of Qinghai, it was reported that the death toll reached 2,220, with more than 12,000 injured and 70 still missing. There are 34 teams totalling 12,600 rescue workers from around the country who took part in the rescue effort and 1,455 people had been rescued from the

debris. To provide medical treatment to the victims, there are 52 medical teams totalling 3,032 medical personnel in action and as of 30 April, they have treated 9,145 patients, of which 2,674 have been transferred to neighbouring provinces for ongoing treatment.

According to the deputy director of the provincial education bureau, the quake affected 63 schools with 22,019 students and teaching staff, where approximately 37 percent of the school buildings collapsed. Up to 207 school children were killed in the earthquake, of which 35 per cent were killed by collapsed school buildings.

Relief operations are continuously challenged by the high altitude, difficult road access and rapidly changing weather. It was reported that some relief workers forced to retreat from the area due to severe altitude sickness.

To prevent an epidemic outbreak after the sighting of Himalaya marmots (a type of ground squirrel) that awakened from their hibernation in the area, the ministry of health called for measures to be taken to ensure proper environmental hygiene in the quake zone.

Up to 30 April, the Chinese central government allocated a total of CNY 500 million for rescue, medical services and relief supplies. As of 25 April, a total of 59,093 tents, 207,959 quilts, 110,000 padded coats, 1,670 tonnes of food and drinking water, 13,000 stoves and 1,520 tonnes of coal were distributed to survivors in the quake zone. According to the Foreign Ministry, China has received nearly USD 4 million (CHF 4.33 million) in quake aid and donations and condolences from almost 200 countries, and international and regional organizations.

The Chinese government has clearly indicated that there is no need for international support for the earthquake response as there are enough resources and capacity within China to be able to meet the needs.

## Red Cross Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) continues to send supplies of relief materials into the quake zone. The RCSC also mobilized a water emergency response team (ERT) and sanitation emergency response team to the area. The water ERT from RCSC's Hunan branch has been operating since 25 April to provide potable water to approximately 30,000 people. The sanitation ERT has installed 34 environmentally friendly portable latrines out of the 100 planned.

As of 26 April, RCSC and its branches have received cash donations amounting to CNY 695 million (CHF 110 million) and donations-in-kind of CNY 244 million (CHF 38.7 million). The RCSC had already released CNY 45 million (CHF 7.13 million) in cash relief and CNY 190 million (CHF 30.13 million) worth of relief materials.

The Taiwan Red Cross Organization medical team which has been stationed in Xining hospital in Qinghai province have completed their mission. Up to 200 people injured were treated in this mission. Unfortunately, six of the team members of the sanitation emergency team from Yunnan have shown signs of high altitude



People injured in the disaster who needed further treatment were transferred to neighboring provinces. Photo: Xinhua News Aencv



The sanitation emergency response team from Yunnan provincial Red Cross set up latrines in Yushu. Photo: Red Cross Society of China

sickness and were forced to return to their home province. The remaining nine members stayed in the quake-zone to complete the mission in setting up the rest of the emergency sanitation facilities.

At this moment, RCSC has not sought an international appeal, but welcomes cash contributions from partners to support RCSC's effort on the earthquake response and recovery. IFRC can receive donations on behalf of the RCSC through its annual support plan in China. Click [here](#) for IFRC's revised plan and budget for its support to RCSC in 2010.

## 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 \(NGOs\) 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.

## Contact information

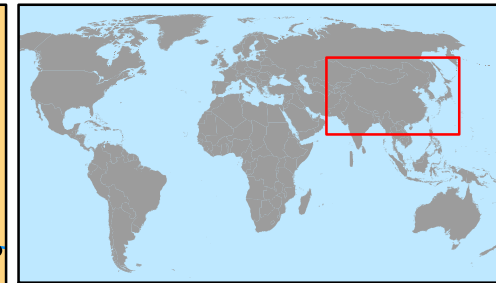
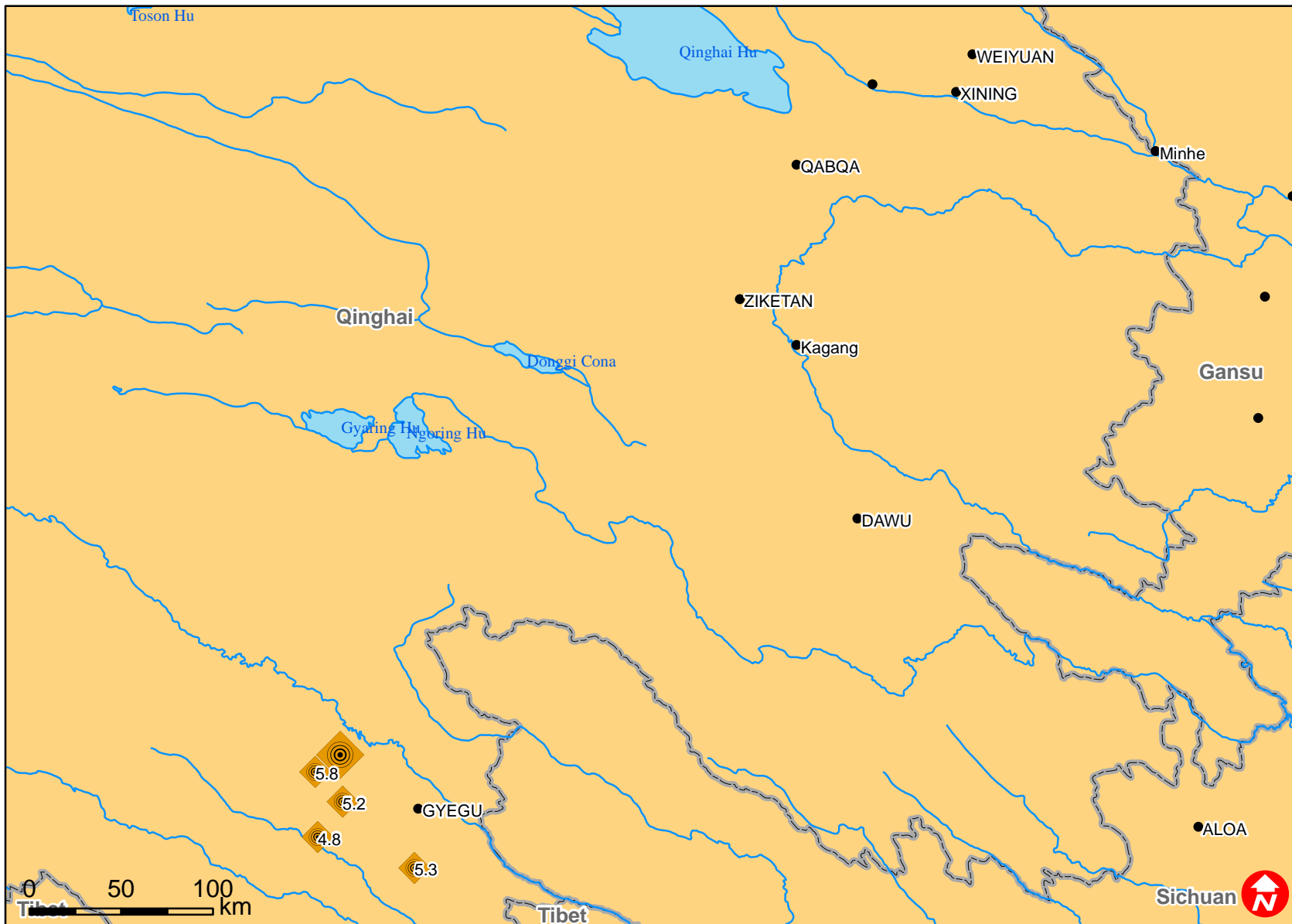
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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-  Provinces