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**CHINA: EARTHQUAKE IN YUNNAN PROVINCE**

Dr. Sun Baiqiu, Vice President of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and senior staff from the International, Health/First Aid, Relief and Public Relations Departments have completed their assessment tour of the earthquake stricken area in Yunnan Province. They concluded that the damage was very serious, estimating that up to 70% of the houses in the three villages they visited had collapsed.

The second plane-load of relief supplies provided by the RCSC arrived in Kunming on Friday, 9th February. Distribution of medicine, clothes, quilts, food, tents and cookware is continuing.

The flight organised by the British Red Cross on behalf of the Federation, carrying 30 tons of blankets and plastic sheeting, has also arrived. Staff and volunteers of the RCSC in Yunnan Province are currently distributing the supplies.

Relief supplies from Federation warehouse stocks are being sent in two shipments. The first planeload of goods arrived in Bangkok with an ETA in Kunming at 14.20 hours local time today. The second flight leaves today from Geneva. These shipments include blankets, plastic sheeting, family tents and jerrycans. Yunnan Province Red Cross, with support from RCSC Headquarters, is co-ordinating transportation over 600 km of rugged terrain to the affected area, as well as distribution.

The latest official figures are 245 dead, more than 4,000 seriously injured and thousands more slightly injured. Because of the many aftershocks -- more than 1,000 have been recorded -- people are afraid to go back into their homes, even those that appear structurally safe, and feel safer living outside, despite the bitter cold.

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