

JAPAN: EARTHQUAKE

6 October 2000

Information Bulletin N° 1

The Disaster

At approximately 13:30 local time today (6 October), Japan's western Honshu region (Chugoku region) was hit by an earthquake estimated at a magnitude of 7.3 on the Richter Scale. The epicentre of the quake was estimated to be in western Tottori Prefecture at a depth of 10 km. The worst hit areas are located in western Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Kagawa, Hiroshima, and Hyogo. The tremors were felt in Osaka, Yamaguchi, and other parts of Shikoku Island as well. No deaths have been reported, but 12 people have been injured as a result of the earthquake. There have been reports of landslides and damage to infrastructure such as ports, airports, roads and water pipelines, particularly in Tottori. Further assessments are underway. An aftershock of 4.1 was registered at approximately 16:00 local time, and warnings of possible further aftershocks have been announced by the government.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Government response •

The Governments' Fire Defence Agency has set up an Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters and dispatched 4 helicopters to the affected area. The Self-Defence Force of Japan has dispatched 16 helicopters and air planes to the affected area.

Red Cross response •

The Tottori and Okayama Red Cross Hospitals have each dispatched a team of doctors and nurses to the most affected areas of Tottori and Shimane. Each hospital has another team on standby. Red Cross Hospitals in Hiroshima and Kagawa have also made preparations to send their medical teams if needed. The Shimane Branch dispatched a team of three persons including a trained disaster response volunteer to assess the situation in the affected area in Shimane. Plans have been established for the distribution of blankets and packages of daily necessities.

Needs

As a result of the timely combined efforts of the Japanese Red Cross, the government, and other organisations, external assistance is not considered necessary at this moment. The Federation will keep National Societies informed of any further developments.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Hiroshi Higashiura
Director
Asia & Pacific Department

This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>