

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

TAIWAN: EARTHQUAKE

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This Bulletin is intended for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Since the strong earthquake of 6.8 on the Richter Scale lasting for more than one minute on March 31, a total of 657 aftershocks have occurred. The biggest aftershock of 5.2 on the Richter Scale rattled northern Taiwan at 2:48 p.m. (local time) on 3 April. The epicenter of this earthquake was almost the same as the previous one. No subsequent damage or injuries were reported. The greater Taipei areas were hit hardest because the city's basin-like topography causes an expanding effect of the tremor. The Taipei Authority is giving grants to earthquake victims depending on the level of damage. Life in the city returned to normal on 1 April as the city authority announced the reopening of schools, offices, local stock market and foreign exchange market as usual.

The Central Weather Bureau of Taiwan warned that a series of strong aftershocks, measuring up to 5.0 on the Richter Scale, could occur within the next two weeks.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Taiwan Red Cross Organization (TRCO):

The TRCO in Taipei is liaising closely with emergency authorities to monitor the situation. The TRCO volunteers and staff brought some emergency equipment from the Taipei Disaster Preparedness Center, which had just been completed as part of the Federation's 1999 earthquake rehabilitation programme. to help in search and rescue.

International Federation and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:

The Federation's programme manager (based in Taipei) in charge of the 1999 Taiwan Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme is now back to his normal work. He will work on the new disaster preparedness (DP) programmes and discuss with the TRCO strengthening their DP capacity both in terms of more DP centres and disaster management training.

For further details please contact: Satoshi Sugai, Desk Officer, Phone 41 22 7304 273; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email sugai@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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