

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

The Situation

At 11:46 a.m. a strong earthquake of 6.2 on the Richter Scale and more than 160 aftershocks - nine of which measured more than 4 - hit Taiwan yesterday (15 May 2002). The epicenter of the first earthquake was Su Au Town, Yilan County, offshore the island's east coast.

The central disaster-prevention centre said as of yet no casualties or damage has been reported. The center is closely monitoring the situations that might happen. Yesterday's earthquakes are aftershocks of a quake that measured 6.8 that struck on 31 March 2002. The severity of the latest quake was just one-eighth of the former that had more devastating consequences. Metro Taipei (the rapid-transit system) was shut down after the first quake to avoid danger to passengers and equipment. It was soon operational.

On 31 March, an earthquake killed five construction workers in Taipei and damaged hundreds of homes across the island.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Taiwan Red Cross Organization (TRCO):

The TRCO is liaising closely with emergency authorities to monitor the situation. The TRCO head office in Taipei has close contacts with its Chapters and Branches and is ready to deploy volunteers and staff to distribute relief supplies and equipment from disaster preparedness centres, as well as to help in search and rescue.

The TRCO anticipates that heavy rains will follow after several months' drought around the island and landslides are probable after the earthquake and the rain. The Federation's disaster preparedness (DP) programme manager based in Taipei is also liaising closely with TRCO and Geneva Secretariat.

For further details please contact :

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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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