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Information bulletin China: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 1
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11 September 2012

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

An earthquake, measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale, and multiple aftershocks struck an area straddling southwestern China's Yunnan and Guizhou provinces on Friday (7 September 2012). A total of 81 people have been confirmed dead as of Sunday (9 September 2012). The quake also left 821 persons injured and 201,000 evacuated. According to official figures, the disaster has so far resulted in CNY 3.5 billion (approximate CHF 522 million) in direct economic losses.



A Red Cross staff conducting impact assessment in quake-hitting areas.
Photo by Yunnan Red Cross.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) immediately activated its level III emergency response and began mobilizing relief supplies. The RCSC national emergency response team on mass sanitation as well as a rescue team were deployed. Provincial branches including Guangxi, Shandong, Qinghai, Chongqing, Guangdong, Sichuan and Yunnan itself as well as Hong Kong and Macao Red Cross have also delivered tents, quilts, jackets, family kits and emergency funds.

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

The situation

The 5.7 magnitude-earthquake hit the border area of Yiliang County of Yunnan province and Weining county of Guizhou province at 11:19 am on 7 September, (27.5 degrees north latitude and 104.0 degrees east longitude) with an epicentre depth of about 14 km. Just an hour later, another quake with a magnitude of 5.6 hit Yiliang County again.

The quakes have cut off electricity and triggered landslides that have blocked roads, creating complications for rescuers. Large rocks, some as tall as four meters, tumbled down mountain slopes, crushing houses and cars. These problems have been further aggravated by heavy rain since the disaster.

The quakes destroyed the homes of 7,138 families. More than 4,300 cattle in Yunnan have been killed. Over 153 hectares of farmlands were damaged or destroyed.

Two people were confirmed injured in Guizhou province and the lives of nearly 28,000 people were disrupted in Weining County. Eighteen houses toppled and more than 10,000 houses were damaged in the quakes.



A house badly damaged by rolling rocks caused by the earthquake.

As of 9 September, the quakes have left both provinces with 81 people dead, 821 others injured, and 201,000 people evacuated. More than 744,000 people were reported to be affected.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) headquarters immediately activated a level III national contingency plan, and an assessment team has been dispatched, with 2,000 quilts, 2,000 jackets and 550 tents mobilized to Yunnan province.

At the branch level, RCSC Yunnan branch initiated a level II provincial emergency response and dispatched a work team for an immediate impact assessment. As of now, 650 tents, 1,000 jackets, 1,000 quilts, some medicine and emergency funds of CNY 100,000 have been sent out by the Yunnan branch.

Further cash and in-kind donations from the RCSC headquarter and branches are as follows:



Yunnan ERT members are setting camp lights at evacuation points .
Photo by Yunnan Red Cross

Support (in-kind and cash) to Yunnan province by RCSC national headquarters (NHQ) and branches (11 September 2012)							
RCSC NHQ branches	Tents	Quilts	Jackets	Family kits	Medicine/ medical equipment in CNY value	Emergency funds for procuring relief items locally (CNY)	Other supplies in CNY value
NHQ	550	2,000	2,000	500	224,000		966,600
Chongqing					1,000,000		
Guangdong							400,000
Guangxi						100,000	
Hong Kong				1,516			

Shandong						100,000	
Shanghai	60	2,000		800		530,000	
Sichuan				1,000			510,000
Qinghai						200,000	
Yunnan	100	1,000	1,000				500,000
Total	710	5,000	3,000	3,816	1,224,000	930,000	1,010,000

Support (in-kind and cash) to Guizhou province by RCSC national headquarter (NHQ) and branches (11 September 2012)				
RCSC NHQ/ branches	Tents	Quilts	Jackets	Family kits
NHQ	200	2,000	4,000	500
Hong Kong				500
Total	200	2,000	4,000	1,000

**Hong Kong Red Cross, Macau Red Cross and Sichuan provincial Red Cross conducted a joint assessment on the ground immediately after the quake.*

Apart from distributing relief supplies, RCSC dispatched 10 members from Blue Sky Rescue Team to conduct impact assessments and rescue efforts. The team also set up a temporary medical point at their base camp for aiding injured people nearby.

The RCSC national mass sanitation emergency response team (ERT) from Yunnan consisting of 10 members travelled on 9 September to Yiliang County. They set up a camp at the Biaoyan evacuation centre in Huqiu Village, where around 600 villagers were relocated. After assessments, they concluded that sanitation and hygiene is of most eminent need (tents and other immediate accommodation were already provided by the government) as garbage was seen everywhere and people did not have sanitary toilet facilities. The ERT members were subsequently divided into three groups: one for building up sanitary latrines, one for promoting hygiene and one for conducting assessments. As of 10 September, a number of toilets were built and children were mobilized to collect garbage in the temporary settlement area. The RCSC Yunnan mass sanitation ERT provided guidance to them on hygiene practice to avoid disease outbreak. Alongside with major duties in mass sanitation, they also set up a generator for recharging cell phones and a camp light for illumination.



Yunnan ERT members setting up sanitary toilets.
Photo by Yunnan Red Cross

The RCSC national headquarters and IFRC regional delegation are monitoring the situation closely and are ready to mobilize more assistance if required.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC 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.

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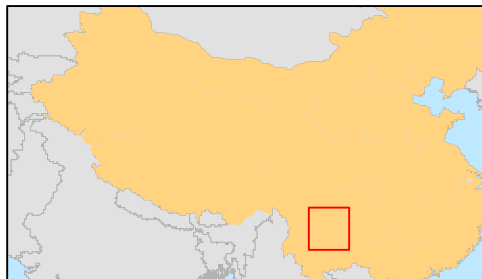
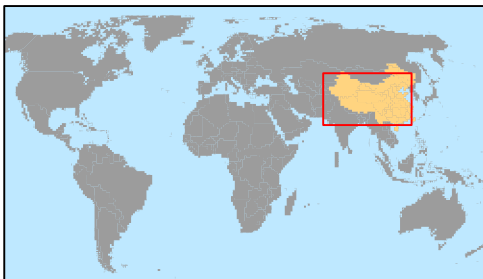
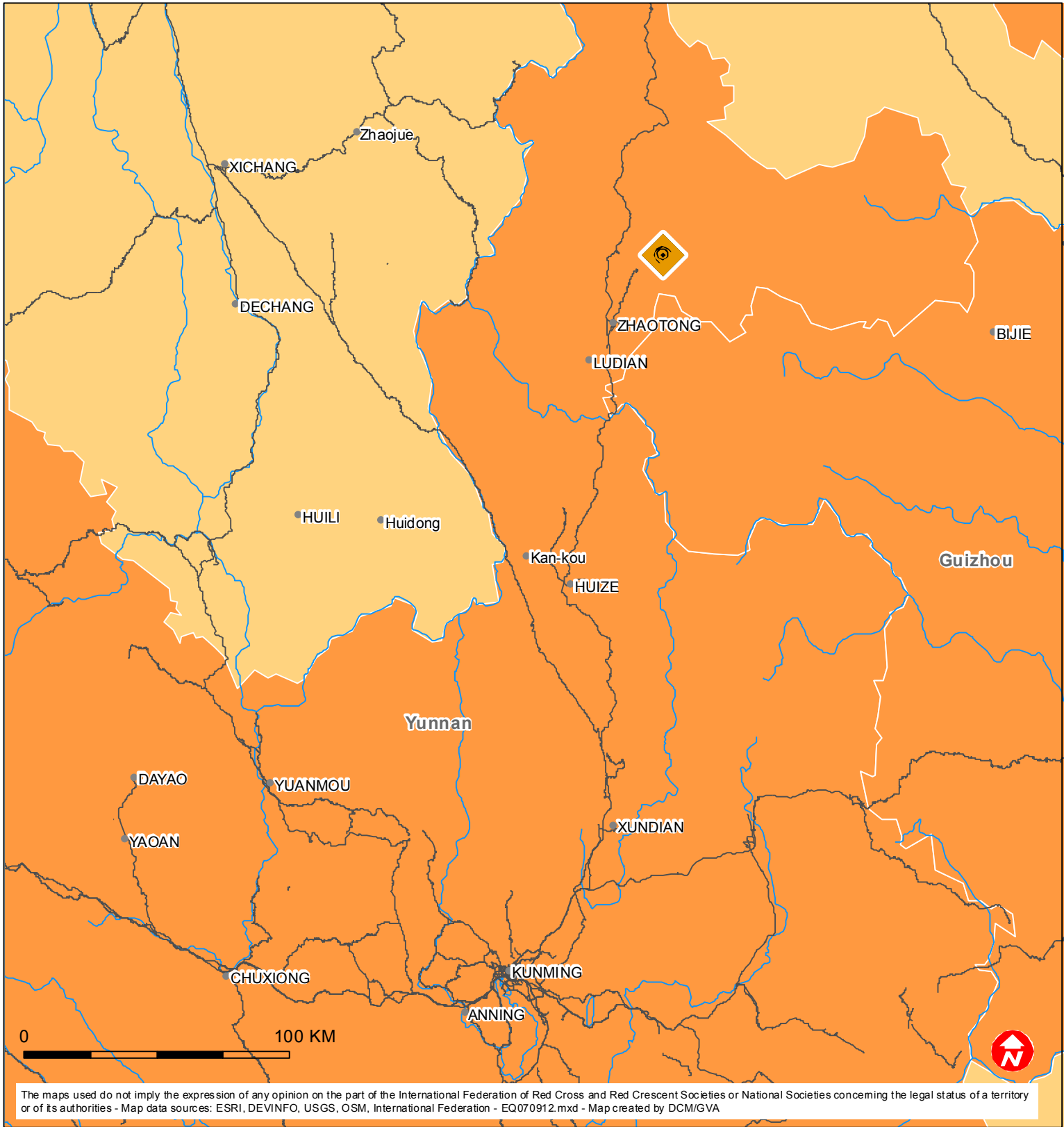






The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.
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China: Earthquake



-  5.7 earthquake
-  Main roads
-  Main cities
-  Affected provinces