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Information bulletin no. 2 Italy: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: 24 August 2016	Point of contact: Ruben Romero, DM coordinator IFRC Regional Office for Europe
Host National Society: Italian Red Cross	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.



Italian Red Cross search and rescue teams.
Photo: Italian Red Cross



Italian Red Cross kitchen providing meals to the affected people. *Photo: Italian Red Cross*

The situation

On 24 August 2016, a 6.2 magnitude earthquake struck central Italy, 76 kilometres (47 miles) southeast from the city of Perugia. The quake hit at 03:36 (01:36 GMT), at the very shallow depth of 10km (six miles). According to the Italian Red Cross, the number of people killed rose to 267 including (190 deaths in Rieti province and 57 deaths in Ascoli Piceno province¹). At least 2,000 people have been left homeless. The number of people missing remains unconfirmed. According to the Italian Seismological database, approximately 637 aftershocks with a magnitude of 2 and higher have hit the area around Amatrice and the nearby towns of Pescara del Tronto, Arquataa del Tronto and Accumoli. These are taking a toll on survivors and have also hampered search and rescue efforts.

The Civil Protection department in Rome indicated nearly 400 people were being treated for injuries in hospitals and local media reported some 40 of them were in critical condition. On 26 August, the government reported a state of emergency for the regions of Abruzzo, Lazio, Marche and Umbria for a period of 180 days.

Civil Protection stated there are approximately 4,370 men and women from various operational structures of the Civil Protection such as fire service, military, police, Italian Red Cross, national volunteer organizations and local

¹ Italian Civil Protection.

volunteers from Lazio, Marche and Umbria. Hundreds of emergency vehicles and more than 70 dog teams are involved in search and rescue activities. Local companies are providing essential services and relief items.

Some of the survivors are sleeping in tents set up by the emergency services while others are accommodated in reception centres. The Italian government has promised to rebuild the shattered houses. Most of the buildings in the area were built hundreds of years ago, long before any anti-seismic building norms were in place, helping to explain the widespread destruction. The government has allocated an initial 50 million Euros to cover relief efforts and immediate needs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Italian Red Cross has been present since the onset of the emergency with more than 500 volunteers on the ground. The National Society initially deployed **search and rescue teams with sniffer dogs**, volunteers specialized in **psychosocial support**, two mobile kitchens with a capacity to provide **10,000 meals per day**, **20 ambulances** and **medical staff**. A **medical post** has been set-up to treat survivors and the Italian Red Cross is also supporting the authorities in setting up and managing reception centres.



There are 21 regional branches in the country and **13 branches** have deployed emergency workers, vehicles, tents, camp beds, mats, blankets, generators and field toilets amongst others. Needs assessments are on-going in the affected areas.

Additionally, the Italian Red Cross has activated its **Restoring Family Links service (RFL)** to support people looking for missing loved ones. An RFL team from the National Society was deployed on 24 August to Amatrice to support the Civil Protection on RFL services. Currently, a census is being carried out and further information will be informed once reports are completed.

For Restoring Family Links (RFL) Information:

The civil protection hotline if the call comes from Italy:

- phone number: 800 840 840

If the call comes from abroad, they may contact the National Society's RFL Service:

- phone number: +39 02 33129335

- e-mail address: tracing@cri.it

A 24-hour emergency control centre is active in Rome; and a mobile operations centre is in place in the affected area. In Rome, the National Society has opened a collection for the most vital emergency supplies including water, food and personal hygiene items. It has also activated a bank account for cash donations. Please visit the website for more information: <https://www.cri.it/home>.

The IFRC Regional Office for Europe (ROE) has been in permanent contact with the Italian Red Cross to offer support as needed. The Partnerships and Resource Development unit in coordination with the Communications unit has set up a global online fundraiser in the IFRC's website. Please see the following link for more information: <https://www.ammado.com/nonprofit/ifrc>.

Several National Societies in Europe are actively supporting the Italian Red Cross through fundraising activities in their respective countries, including Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross. The American Red Cross is directing donors directly to the Italian Red Cross while the Japanese Red Cross is supporting with direct transfers. The Spanish Red Cross has contributed 500,000 euros thanks to the Spanish company Inditex to support the emergency relief activities. Additionally, several companies are channeling funds through the IFRC to support the emergency.

The IFRC communications team in Budapest is supporting the communications department of the Italian Red Cross with all media enquiries, web stories and news releases. There have been more than 700 pieces of press coverage on the emergency across Italian and international media highlighting the intensive work of the Italian Red Cross. The Italian Red Cross communication department has conducted several interviews for the international media. To read the interviews click on the following links:

- [New York Times](#) - *The Italian Red Cross was one of the first organizations to arrive in Amatrice. "Within two hours of the quake we were ready to move," said Ignazio Schintu, the organization's emergency manager. By Wednesday evening, the Red Cross — with about 400 workers and volunteers — had set up medical services, emergency kitchens, washroom facilities and tents.*
- [Time Magazine](#) - *The Italian Red Cross is also accepting donations to support those affected by the earthquake. Donate here, or, if you prefer to donate in English, you can give through a fund established by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.*
- [CNN International](#) - *Red Cross spokesman Tommaso della Longa said the fluctuating population during the vacation season made it hard to know exactly how many people might be trapped in the debris. (This quote has been relayed by several local US based wires).*
- [BBC News](#) - *The Italian Red Cross says residents' home networks can assist with communications during the search for survivors.*
- [Euronews](#) - *Waking up to no home: Italy's earthquake survivors describe their fear: The Civil Protection Agency estimates some 5,000 people have been displaced. Makeshift camps have been set up by public assistance agency Anpas, while the Red Cross has sent hundreds of volunteers and vehicles and has set up two field kitchens.*
- [International Business Times](#) - *Amatrice earthquake: Relatives queue in rubble outside makeshift morgues looking for loved ones: "Yesterday, unfortunately, we saw a long queue of families in front of the place where all the dead bodies were," Tommaso Della Longa, the communications director for the Italian Red Cross, told IBTimes UK. Della Longa explained that in the small mountain city, the queues of scores of people waiting to find their dead were very long. "Forty to fifty people for a whole city like that it is a big number," he said.*
- [NBC News](#) - *Italy Earthquake: Rescuers Dig for Survivors as Death Toll Climbs: The Italian Red Cross said it had 462 volunteers and had set up two field tents with kitchens.*
- [ABC Internacional](#) - *El gobierno italiano decreta el estado de emergencia: Entre ellas se encuentra la Cruz Roja, que ha enviado varios equipos de perros para que colaboren en las labores de búsqueda y salvamento. También han facilitado cocinas móviles para los campamentos provisionales.*
- [La Repubblica](#) - *Terremoto in centro Italia, partiti i primi soccorritori dalla Sicilia. Via alla gara di solidarietà: Il Comitato di Catania della Croce Rossa Italiana sta raccogliendo beni di prima necessita' e viveri per le popolazioni vittime del terremoto in Centro Italia. La Croce Rossa si occuperà di raccogliere.*
- [La Stampa](#): *Comune, dopo il caso "furbetti" rinforzi anche dalla Croce Rossa*

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
2. Click [here](#) to see the map of the affected areas.

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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



Croce Rossa Italiana



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

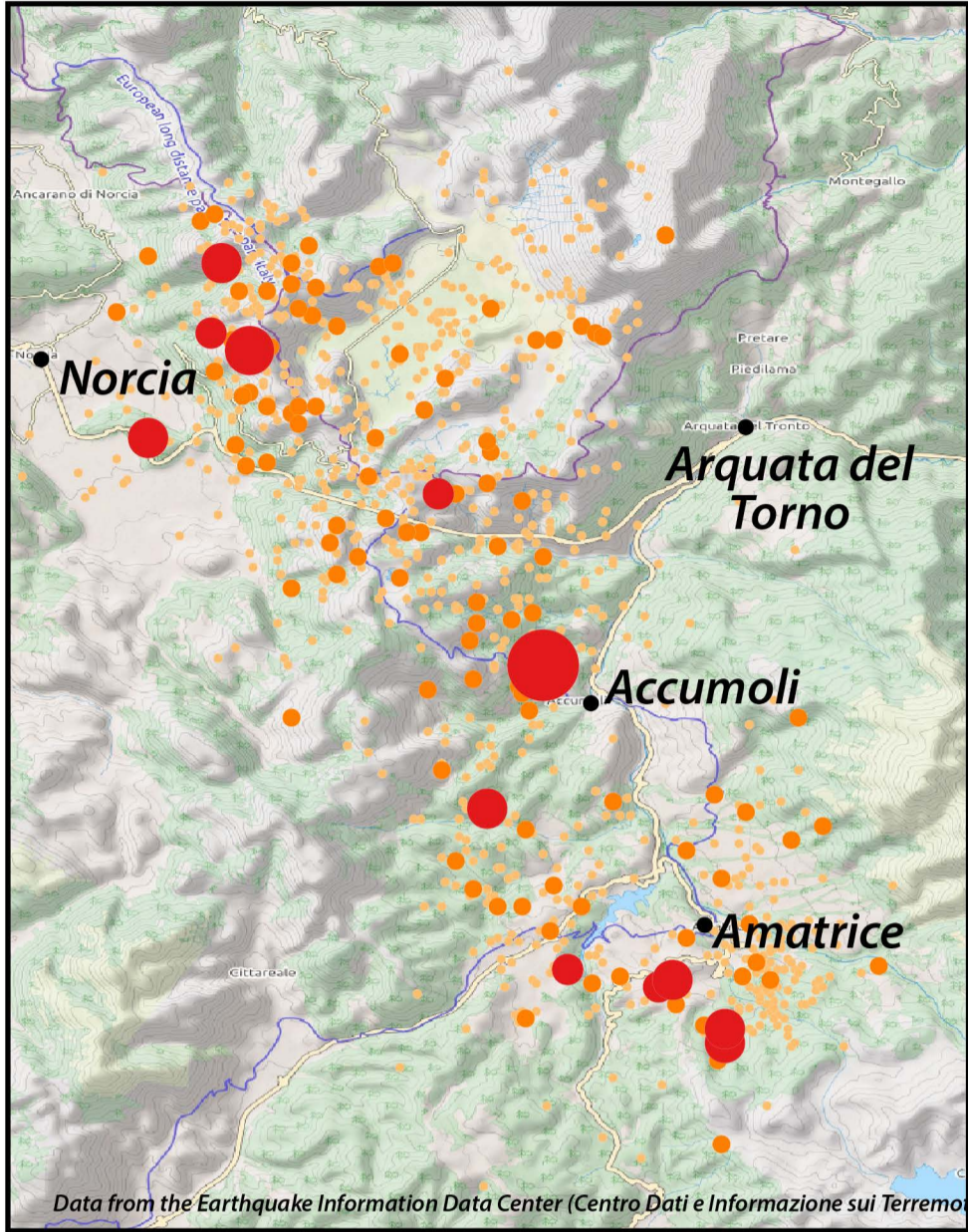
ITALY EARTHQUAKE

Seismological Activity

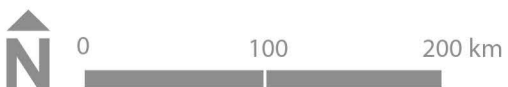
24 Aug. 3:30 AM - 26 Aug. 11:00 AM

Magnitude

- > 4.0 ●
- > 3.0 ●
- < 3.0 ●



Data from the Earthquake Information Data Center (Centro Dati e Informazione sui Terremoti)



Produced by SIMS supported by the American Red Cross and the British Red Cross

Sources: GADM, Natural Earth, IFRC

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.