

Information Bulletin n° 3
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24 April 2013

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) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are continuing to assess the needs in the affected areas. The RCSC is accepting funds directly towards their national appeal. Partner Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies may also be accepting contributions to support the RCSC's national appeal. Alternatively, funds may also be channelled through the IFRC's Long-Term Planning Framework for China.

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake that hit China's Sichuan province at 8.02 a.m. Beijing time on 20 April had its epicentre near Lushan county, Ya'an Prefecture at a depth of 13 km. 3,509 aftershocks have been reported with several of them being above magnitude 5.

At least 193 people were killed and 23 are missing. A total of 12,211 are reported to be injured. Nearly two million people have been affected across 19 prefectures and 115 counties of Sichuan province. A total of 233,191 persons have been displaced. It is reported that 139,500 houses have collapsed¹, and 3,920 kilometres of road and 450 bridges have been damaged. Further, 362 dams and 197 hydroelectric power stations have been damaged².

While response and rescue teams are gradually reaching the most affected areas, there are areas still difficult to access due to damaged or obstructed roadways. It is expected that the damage and loss figures and thereby needs will increase once more information is available.

The RCSC response team, comprising of 400 staff and volunteers from several of its branches including national headquarters, has arrived in Lushan County and are trying to enter the worst-hit areas. They have distributed food, drinking water, tents, quilts, umbrellas, etc. to affected populations. Red Cross volunteers are also



The Red Cross volunteer team from Guangdong province has rescued 25 old people from the damaged houses. Photo by RCSC

¹ Source by local government by the end of April 23

² Source by local government by the end of April 22

assisting with medical care, medicine and relief supplies distribution, rescue, setting up tents, providing psychological support and restoring family links.

Three IFRC staff members, including a disaster response operations coordinator from the IFRC's Asia Pacific zone office, are in Lushan County to assist RCSC teams in conducting needs assessments and planning the overall response.

The situation

An earthquake of 7.0 magnitude on the Richter scale struck Sichuan province of China, with its epicentre near Lushan County of Ya'an Prefecture, at 8:02 a.m. on 20 April 2013, at the depth of just 13 kilometres.

According to the latest update from the Sichuan government, at least 193 people were killed and 23 are missing. A total of 12,211 are reported to be injured. Nearly two million people have been affected across 19 prefectures and 115 counties of Sichuan province – with around 1 million reported to be from Ya'an prefecture. A total of 233,191 persons have been displaced. It is reported that 139,500 houses have collapsed, and 3,920 kilometres of road and 450 bridges have been damaged. Further, 362 dams and 197 hydroelectric power stations have been damaged.

It is expected that the damage and loss figures and thereby needs will increase once hard-to-access areas are reached and more information is available. At the same time, a large number of aftershocks (3,509 aftershocks as of 24 April) are being recorded, which pose further risk of secondary disasters such as landslides.

It is reported that local authorities have identified several dams and reservoirs in the affected areas that have developed cracks and are currently being checked to evaluate the risk. A particular concern is also about a 'barrier lake' that has formed due to debris blocking Yuxi river in Mingshan County. Buildings more vulnerable to collapse appear to be the older tile and timber homes that withstood the 2008 Sichuan quake.

A total of 22,123 response workers have been deployed to the affected area by the government including members from the People's Liberation Army (PLA), armed police, fire brigade, local police and mine relief teams. Utility providers have sent their technicians to restore both electricity and telecommunication networks. Most of the telecommunications, except for two townships, have been recovered. The Ministry of Civil Affairs has dispatched relief materials from its regional hubs. As of today, 50,000 tents, 100,000 quilts, and 10,000 foldable beds have been sent. The Central government has pledged CNY 1 billion (CHF 149 million) for emergency response, transitional shelters and subsidies for the displaced, medical services, as well as restoration of vital public services.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) is continuing its relief work in the affected areas that started immediately after the earthquake. RCSC, through its 25 response teams is supporting affected people by conducting search and rescue activities, setting up tents, distributing food, clearing debris, providing first aid and transporting injured people, and providing telecommunication facilities. The response teams, comprising of 400 staff and volunteers from various branches and 113 emergency vehicles, are also supporting by providing family kits, tents, quilts, jackets, cotton clothes, blankets, water, medicines and medical equipment.

As of April 22, RCSC had dispatched 10,650 family kits, 8,180 quilts, 7,000 jackets and clothing, 2,000 blankets, 2,584 tents, 2,300 bottles of water, 2,500 cartoons of instant food and 447 mattresses. RCSC volunteers have provided psychological support to 1,458 persons and several RCSC psychosocial support volunteers are attempting to enter the affected areas.

RCSC held a press conference on its earthquake relief operation on April 23 at 10:00 a.m. that was attended by around 100 representatives from embassies, United Nations organizations and media. Dr Zhao Baige, executive vice president of RCSC, emphasized collaboration with various partners, its focus on conducting its response in a systematic manner and addressing recovery needs through its operations. RCSC also invited feedback and suggestions from the media and general public to further enhance its accountability and transparency. Representatives from IFRC, ICRC and partner national societies also participated in the event and confirmed their support to RCSC's work.

The RCSC has constituted a Scrutiny Committee comprising of members of the general public to monitor the collection and management of donations, emergency response and recovery activities in this operation, as an accountability measure to the general public and donors.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, including partner national societies and the ICRC, are in touch with RCSC and IFRC regarding the latest response and needs. Three staff of the IFRC are on the ground near the most-affected areas, including a disaster response operations coordinator from its Asia Pacific zone office, to support the RCSC in performing needs assessments, operational planning, as well as coordination with other Movement partners. ICRC has started a Restoring Family Links website³ for this disaster, both in English and Chinese, on 23 April.

RCSC launched a national appeal to help those affected by the earthquake. As of 23 April, RCSC has received donations, both cash and in-kind, amounting to CNY 235 million (CHF 35.6 million) including support from Hong Kong and Macau branches and Taiwan Red Cross Organization. Hong Kong branch of RCSC has donated CNY 1 million for emergency relief and Macau branch has donated 1,000 family kits. These 1,000 family kits donated by Macau branch have been distributed in Longmen township on 23 April. The Taiwan Red Cross Organization has donated CNY 5 million to support the operation. A three-member assessment team of Taiwan Red Cross Organization arrived in Lushan county on 23 April. They also brought 12,000 disinfectant tablets to Lushan County. Relief items sent by various other provincial branches are also beginning to reach the most-affected communities.

³ The web-links are <http://familylinks.icrc.org/yaan-earthquake/en/Pages/Home.aspx> (English) and <http://familylinks.icrc.org/yaan-earthquake/zh/Pages/Home.aspx> (Chinese).

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Click here

1. [Return](#) to the title page
 2. [Go](#) to map
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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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Saving lives, changing minds.

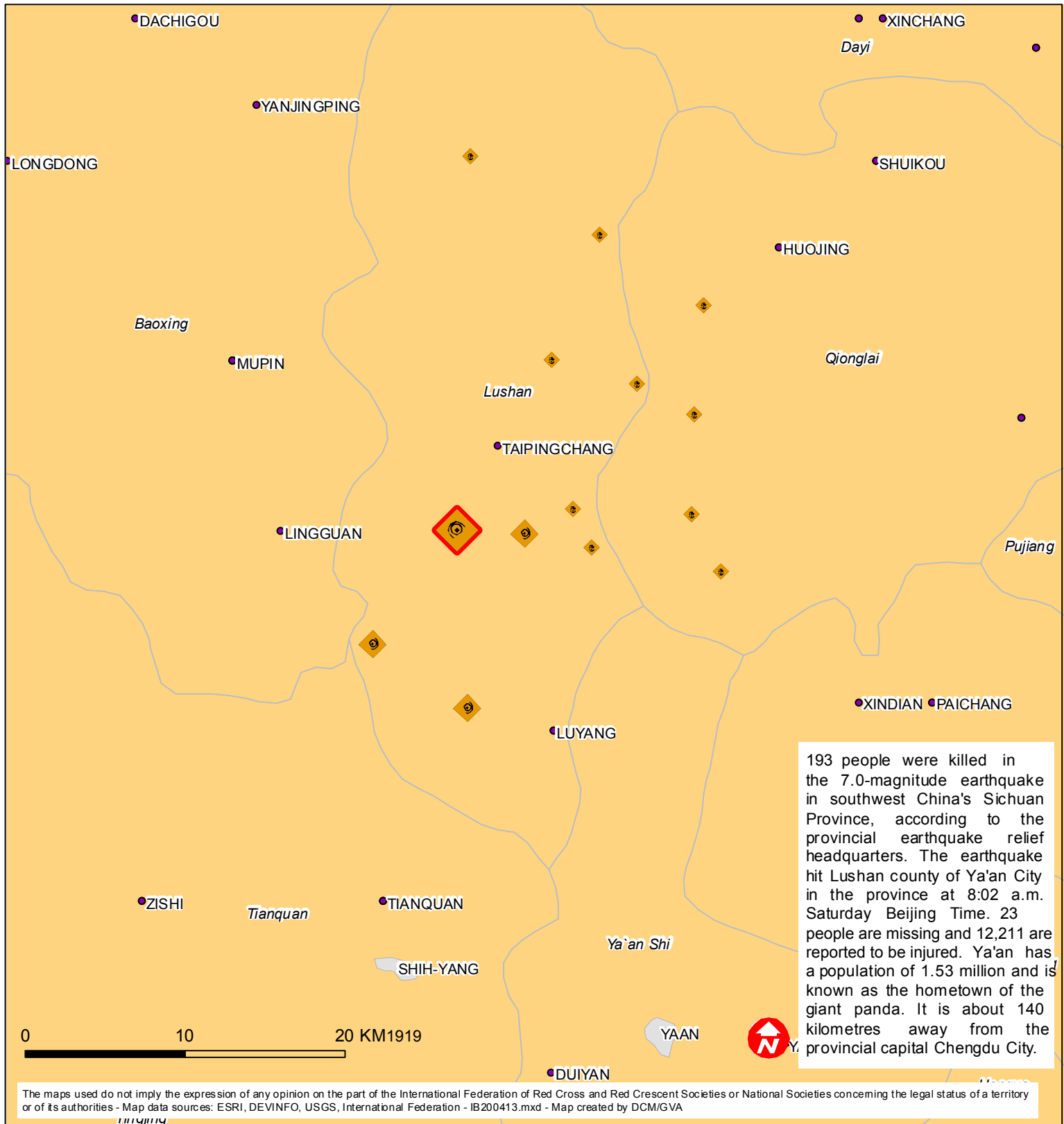






The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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



-  Main Earthquake
-  Magnitude 5
-  Magnitude 4
-  Counties