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Information bulletin

China: Ludian Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 1

GLIDE n° [EQ-2014-000102-CHN](#)
4 August 2014

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

A 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck Yunnan Province, southwest part of China at 4:30 pm on 3 August 2014, with the epicenter in Longtoushan Township, 23

km southwest of Ludian County of Zhaotong City. At least 398 people were reported dead with three still missing and another 1,801 injured in four counties/districts in Yunnan province. More than 22,550 houses collapsed and 39,200 houses were severely damaged.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) immediately responded to the disaster with assessment teams deployed and relief items distributed including family kits, tents, clothes and quilts from local disaster preparedness warehouses to help the vulnerable people in the affected areas. IFRC East Asia Regional Delegation (EARD) also deployed a disaster management (DM) officer to join the RCSC assessment team.



Collapsed houses in affected areas. Photo by media163.com.

The situation

A 6.5-magnitude earthquake jolted Ludian County of Zhaotong City in southwest China's Yunnan Province at 4:30 p.m. on 3 August. The earthquake damaged the infrastructures and resources in the affected area. The epicenter was monitored at 27.1 degrees north latitude and 103.3 degrees east longitude with a depth of 12 kilometers, according to the China Earthquake Networks Center. A total of 411 aftershocks were recorded by 8:00 am on 4 August.

As of 8:40 am on August 4, the Yunnan civil affair bureau reported that at least 398 people confirmed dead, three missing and another 1,801 injured in four counties/districts in Yunnan province (refer to below table for details). A total of more than 980,000 people (210,000 households) were affected which

includes 229,700 emergently displaced.¹ Local hospitals are overwhelmed with hundreds of injured people.

Prefecture	County/ District	Death	Missing	Injured
Zhaotong	Ludian	319	0	
	Qiaojia	66	0	
	Zhaoyang	1	0	
Qujing	Huize	12	3	
	Total	398	3	1,801

More than 22,550 houses collapsed and 39,200 houses severely damaged, and another 151,000 houses partly damaged by the impact of the earthquake. Impacts to transportation systems included roadbed collapsed, road subsidence, road surface cracks, slope collapsed, culvert cracks, and bridge damaged. Impacts to the power supply system included transmission pole collapsed, lines broken, and damage to transformers and meters. Damages also occurred to network and telecommunication facilities and broadcasting facilities. The water supply and waste water systems sustained cracked pipelines, and reaction tank walls and joint leakage are presently out of order. The breakdown of transportation and electricity systems are delaying the information flows on the extent of the damage and immediate needs of the victims.²

The National Disaster Reduction Commission and Ministry of Civil Affairs have operated Level I response immediately after the earthquake occurrence and the Yunnan provincial Disaster Reduction Commission and Civil Affairs Bureau started Level II response. Rapid working group from the central government has been deployed to Yunnan on the evening of 3 August. The Yunnan provincial earthquake administration has sent a 30-member working team to the epicenter to evaluate the situation as well. The civil affairs authorities are sending 4,000 tents, 1,200 tarpaulins, 4,000 folding beds, 5,000 cotton quilts and 5,000 down jackets to the affected areas.

Rescue workers have been struggling to reach the most affected areas. Many roads were cut off by mudslides resulting from the earthquake. The road management teams have been trying to recover access; however heavy rain in the affected area since early morning on 4 August is making it more difficult for on-going relief operation. More than 2,500 officers and soldiers have been dispatched to join the disaster relief operation.

A dam lake was formed in Huize County in Qujing prefecture by this earthquake and posed a concern for potential floods. Due to the heavy rain, the water level has been uprising and has submerged over 20 rural housings. The local government and military service are looking for the solution to control the increasing risk.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In responding to the disaster, RCSC Headquarters immediately started Level II emergency response, while the RCSC Yunnan Branch started Level I (the highest level) emergency response. Working teams were deployed from the RCSC to assess the disaster situation and transport and distribute relief items to the affected people. IFRC EARD also deployed a DM officer to join the field assessment.

The first Red Cross assessment team, comprising of four staff from both Headquarters and Yunnan Branch has arrived at the epicentre for needs assessment. IFRC EARD DM officer is currently on the way to the affected area with RCSC staff to do the disaster assessment.

¹ <http://yunnan.mca.gov.cn/article/mzyw/201408/20140800678719.shtml>

² <http://www.mca.gov.cn/article/zwgk/mzyw/201408/20140800678456.shtml>

The second RCSC working team departed from the Zhaotong warehouse with non-food relief items (NFRIs). These include 2,000 quilts, 2,000 jackets, 200 tents and 1,000 family kits were sent out in four trucks. The family kit contains daily necessities, including towel blanket, towel, clothes, mosquito net, plastic bucket, and dining utensils. The trucks arrived at Ludian County three hours after the earthquake hit and is making the way to the worst hit areas along with ambulances, digging machines and relief supplies trucks.

The third RCSC team is from the neighbouring Sichuan Branch. Two trucks departed from the disaster preparedness warehouse with 1,000 family kits (containing blankets, towels, slippers, flash lights, raincoats and bowls).



Relief Items from Sichuan RC Branch is ready to be deployed to the affected area in Yunnan. Photo by Sichuan RC Branch.

Besides that, the Guangdong Branch has mobilized health, psychosocial support and disaster response emergency teams as needed. The branch also allocated an emergency fund of CNY 500,000 (approx. CHF 73,366) to support the procurement of relief supplies such as safe drinking water, food, medicine and tent in Yunnan province.

The Macau Red Cross Branch has allocated an emergency fund of CNY 300,000 (approx. CHF 44,020) for emergency response.

The Blue Sky Rescue Team – RCSC's volunteering search & rescue emergency response teams – has departed from Kunming (six members) and Lijiang City (ten members) in the province and arrived at Ludian County on early morning of 4 August. Other local Blue Sky teams from Yunnan, Sichuan and Guizhou are also on the way respectively.

Contact information

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1. Map [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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 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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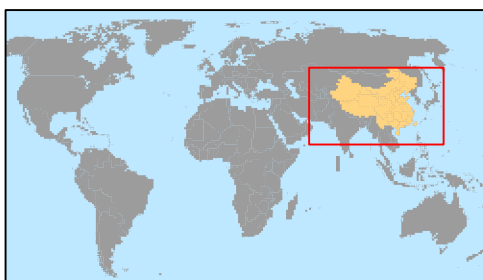
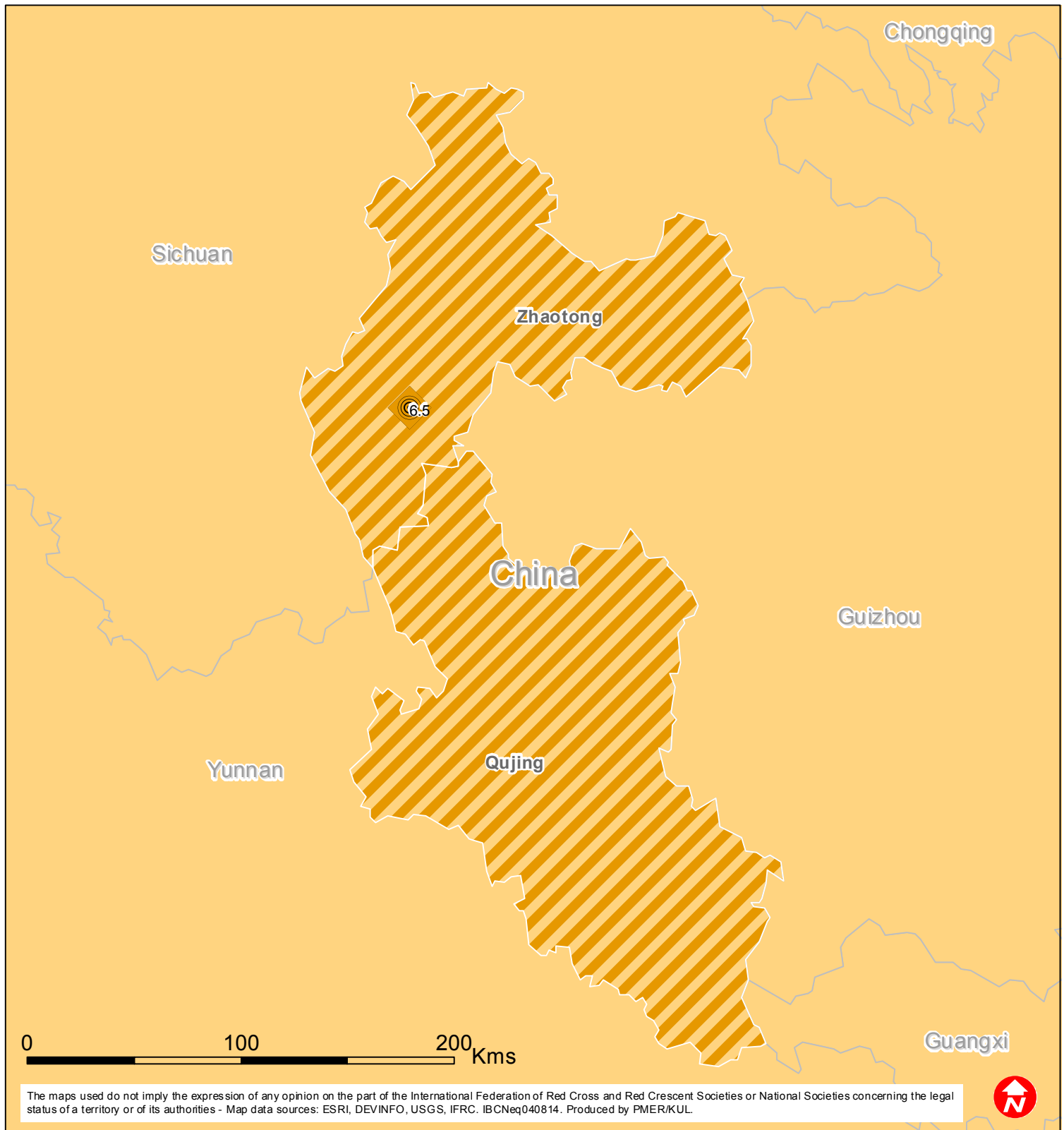


The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



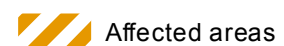
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6.5



Affected areas