

Information bulletin

China: Ludian Earthquake

Information bulletin n° 2

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8 August 2014

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) has launched a national appeal. With current assessment under way, the RCSC with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is considering a DREF request. However, RCSC will accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population. Voluntary contributions towards response/relief operation can also be channelled through the IFRC's Long-Term Planning Framework for China.

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.

According to the statistics by the Yunnan Provincial Civil Affairs Bureau, as of 09:20 am on 8 August, a total of 1.09 million people were affected and 229,700 people were displaced in Yunnan Province. More than 615 people were confirmed and 3,143 injured, and 25,800 houses collapsed and 40,600 houses were severely damaged. Besides Yunnan Province, minor impacts have spread to part of Guizhou and Sichuan Provinces, affected a total of 27,100 people.¹



The Blue Sky Search and Rescue ERT deployed to the affected area to rescue operation. Photo by Blue Sky Team.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has deployed assessment teams, emergency rescue teams, relief teams and Water and Mass Sanitation Relief Emergency Response Teams (ERTs), and dispatched relief items to the affected areas. A total of 13 RCSC National and Provincial ERTs are now in the affected area to support affected population. IFRC East Asia Regional Delegation (EARD) has also deployed a disaster management (DM) officer to join the RCSC assessment team, and allocated an emergency response fund of CNY 1 million (approx. CHF 147,467) to support the deployment of Chinese Red Cross (Yunnan) Mass Sanitation ERT and Yunnan Red Cross Relief and Water ERTs, and also the procurement of latrines for the affected people.

¹ <http://yunnan.mca.gov.cn/>

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.

More information on the extent of losses and damages are available since the first [Information bulletin](#). According to the statistics by the Yunnan Provincial Civil Affairs Bureau, as of 09:20 am on 8 August, over 1 million people were affected, 229,700 people were displaced, and 615 people were confirmed dead in the five counties/districts of Yunnan Province alone.

Table 1. Summary of losses and damages of the Ludian earthquake as of 8 August 2014

Province	Prefecture	County/ District	Death	Missing	Injured	Affected	Dis- placed	House damage		
								Collapsed	Severely damaged	Partly damaged
Yunnan	Zhaotong	Ludian	526	109	3,143	1,088,400	229,700	25,800	40,600	151,200
		Qiaojia	76	5						
		Zhaoyang	1	0						
		Yongshan	0	0						
	Qujing	Huize	12	0						
Guizhou	Bijie	Weining				15,500	7,200	12	700	2,800
Sichuan	Liangshan	Ningnan				11,600			100	400
		Jinyang								
		Total	615	114	3,143	1,115,500	236,900	25,812	41,400	154,400

Large scale rescue and relief operations have been initiated by the government, military and civil organizations. The poor road condition, blocked access by numerous mudslide points in this mountainous area, is the biggest challenge for relief and logistics mobilization. The main access route between Ludian County centre and Qiaojia County has been disrupted. This was largely caused by the collapse of the connecting bridge in Longtoushan Town (where the epicenter located). Huge trucks with relief items could not reach the affected area; however relief workers are delivering the relief goods on foot up the mountainous route. Although the bridge was fully repaired by midnight on 5 August, it was only opened to be used by the ambulances and hearse coaches. The bridge was finally opened for other usage in the early morning on 7 August.

Even with the access to Longtoushan Town being opened to other humanitarian purposes, rescue workers are struggling to reach the remote villages near the epicenter as the roads were still not cleared. However, the affected people who survived the earthquake but trapped within their villages were able to manage, through sharing their own food supplies and water extracted from the wells, until the relief goods arrived.

A large number of aftershocks continue to shake the affected area which has caused numerous mudslides and further damage to the lives and properties in the affected area. The mudslides also blocked many of the roads which were cleared and re-opened in the last few days. Elsewhere, a huge landslide happened in a village of Longtoushan Town on 6 August, with 8 people were confirmed dead, 47 are still buried under the rubbles, and 49 are missing.

The water level of a dam lake formed by the earthquake on a river in Huize County, Yunnan continues to rise to an alert level. A drainage operation to reduce the amount of water in the dam lake has been ongoing to prevent potential floods if the dam is to collapse.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In responding to the disaster, RCSC Headquarters and Branches immediately deployed field assessment teams, comprising of four staff from both Headquarters and Yunnan Red Cross Branch, to assess the needs of the affected area. RCSC has transported relief supplies, and dispatched the emergency rescue teams for search and rescue and the Water and Mass Sanitation ERTs to provide clean water and latrines for the affected people. A total of 13 RCSC National and Provincial ERTs are now in the affected area to support affected population. IFRC EARD has also deployed a DM officer to join the field assessment.

To date, RCSC has received a total of CNY 72.49 million (approx. CHF 10.6 mil) in cash and in kind (65 per cent is cash donation). While IFRC EARD has decided to allocate CNY 1 million (approx. CHF 147,467) from the Disaster Management (DM) budget for China to support the deployment of Chinese Red Cross (Yunnan) Mass Sanitation ERT and Yunnan Red Cross Relief and Water ERTs, and also the procurement of latrines for the affected people.

Emergency rescue teams

Around 130 members from the Sichuan Blue Sky and Qingdao Blue Sky Search and Rescue ERTs are working in the epicenter in Longtoushan Town for the emergency rescue. The rescue team members struggled to access Tianshengqiao Village and managed to rescue two badly injured elderly people, dig out three bodies and transfer 70 villagers to safe places.

Relief items

To date, RCSC Headquarters, Foundation and local branches (Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan Red Cross) have received CNY 25.56 million (approx. CHF 3.7 million) worth of relief items. Some relief items are being transported to the affected areas since the onset of the earthquake. These include tents, quilts, family kits, summer sleeping mats, blankets, hygiene kits, rice, instant noodles, and bottled waters.



The Blue Sky Search and Rescue ERT deployed to the affected area to rescue operation. Photo by Blue Sky Team.

A relief items transfer station was set up in Xiaozhai Town (10km from the epicenter) on 4 August. The Yunnan Red Cross Relief ERT is coordinating the delivery and distribution of relief items. Food, clean water and other logistics items are still in great need in the worst affected areas.

The transportation of food, tents, quilts and medicines to the affected areas was delayed due to blocked roads and frequent landslides. Besides, the Chinese Red Cross (Guangxi) Relief ERT departed to Yunnan on 6 August to reinforce the relief services. Furthermore, the Chinese Red Cross (Ningxia) Relief ERT and Shandong Red Cross Relief ERT were also deployed to help with impact assessment and relief distribution.



Water and Mass Sanitation ERT from Yunnan Red Cross is setting up water equipment in affected area. Picture by RCSC .

Water and Mass Sanitation ERT

A total of 20 members from the Chinese Red Cross (Yunnan) Mass Sanitation and Yunnan Red Cross Water ERTs were mobilized on 4 August. Upon granted access permit on 5 August and the teams arrived the next day in the epicenter. The team is setting up 200 latrines which will benefit 5,000-8,000 people. Due to the poor health condition of the people in the affected areas, hygiene promotion will also be initiated in the temporary settlements to minimize the risk of diseases. Besides latrines, the team is also setting up the water equipment which will produce 225,000 litres of safe drinking water per day, benefiting up to 15,000 affected people. The water and sanitation assessment has started since 4 August prior to the arrival of the ERT. Several sites for setting up water treatment equipment and the base camp for ERT members were selected.

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 (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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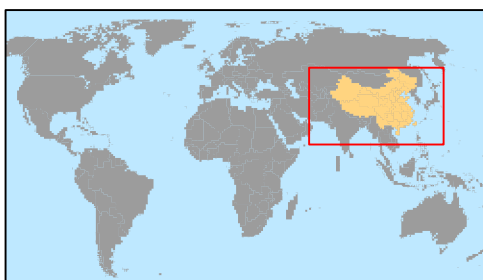
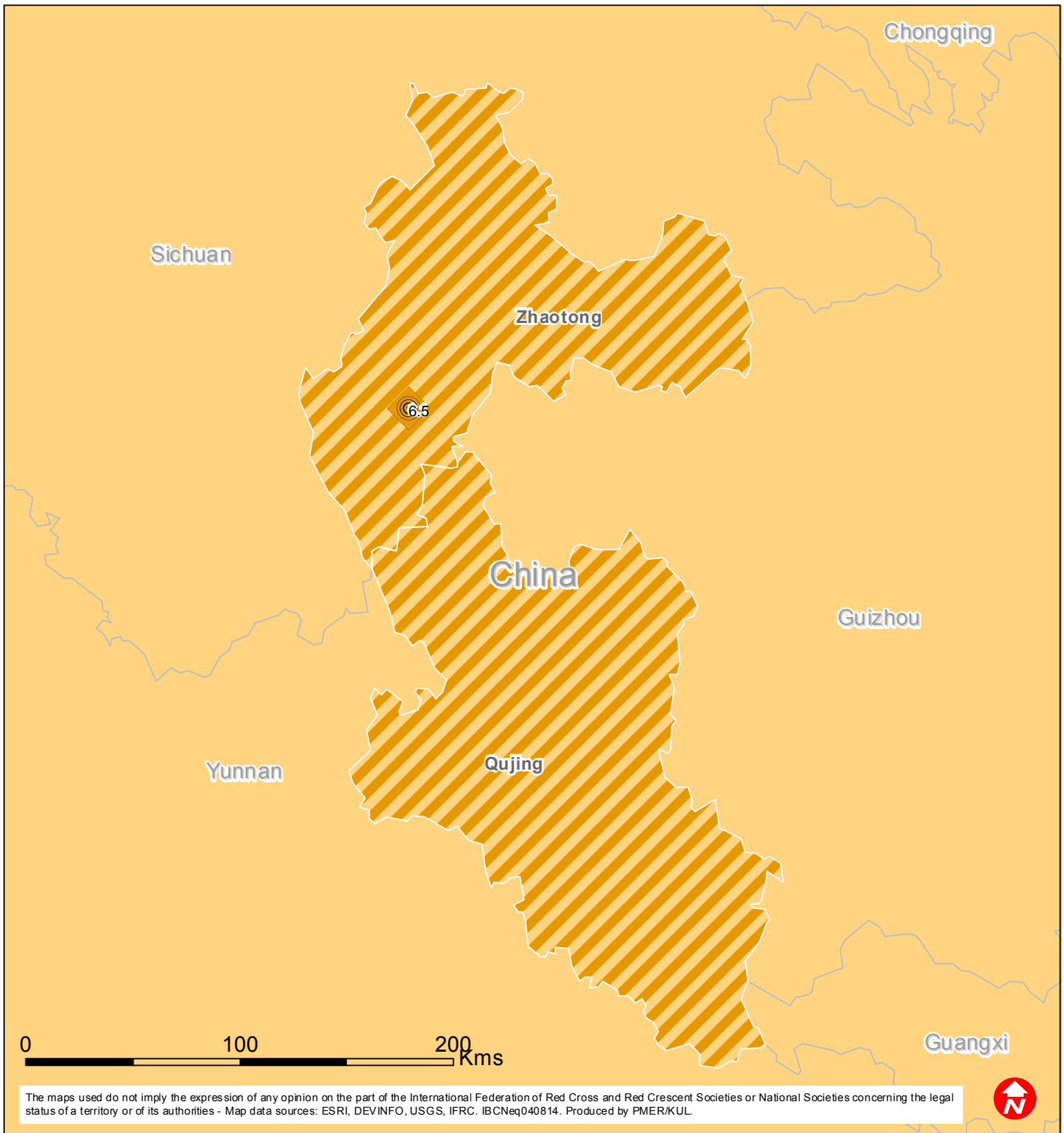


The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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