

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ITALY: EARTHQUAKE

1 November, 2002

Information Bulletin N° 1/2002

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: N/A

This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

An earthquake registering 5.9 on the Richter Scale occurred in southern Italy at 10:32 (local time) on 31 October 2002, located some 60 kilometres west north west of the city of Foggia, 100 kilometres south east of Pescara, and 115 kilometres north east of Naples. Latest reports indicate 27 people are dead -- nearly all of them children who had been enjoying a Halloween party located at a school. The quake caused severe structural damage in the immediate area (nearly three quarters of the village buildings collapsed). Some 34 people were rescued. Many people in San Giuliano are camping outside, afraid to go back into their homes, or unable to do so.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Italian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is working with the Government's Civil Protection Department, focusing on sanitation, erecting tents for accommodation, and soup kitchen service. The IRCS volunteers are providing material and psychological assistance to the earthquake affected persons. Various IRCS emergency units have been put in stand by to respond to any further need of a possible intervention. The IRCS has set up a camp at Vonefro where some 1,000 to 3,000 people from San Giuliano, Larino and other small villages around are expected to come for assistance in the form of shelter, food, hygiene articles, and first aid services. Special psychological support teams have also been mobilized.

The Italian Civil Protection has begun evaluating which houses are sound and which are not. Staff and equipment from the Campo Basso Red Cross branch swung into action immediately after news of the earthquake reached them. Eight ambulances and two search and rescue teams with "sniffing" dogs were sent to San Giuliano. Some 40 Italian Red Cross volunteers and staff are on standby to be sent into the earthquake zone from the regional office in Campo Basso, to relieve those who have been working non-stop since the quake hit. Damage to electricity lines and communications has been extensive, and the Italian Red Cross is sending a radio team into the area to enable rescuers and emergency workers to communicate through radio.

Other Red Cross volunteers are on their way from Lombardia, Friuli, Naples and Rome to the emergency operation set up in the earthquake zone. They bring with them electric generators, lights, hygiene articles and twelve field showers for the Vonefro camp.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

John Horekens
Director
Division of External Relations

Bekele Geleta
Head
Europe Department