

# 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

## MOROCCO: EARTHQUAKE

24 February, 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

### In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 75,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Emergency Appeal.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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

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

### The Situation

At approximately 02:30 on Tuesday, 24 February 2004 an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit northeastern Morocco. The epicentre was reportedly located in the Strait of Gibraltar, approximately 15 kilometres southwest of the Mediterranean port city of Al Hoceima (185 miles or 295 km east-northeast of the capital Rabat).

Initial reports indicate that:

- six villages are severely affected, including Ait Kamara, which was completely destroyed (most houses in this area are built with mud bricks).
- more than 300 persons are feared dead, and over 200



- injured.
- the population in the area is 300,000-400,000.

The area affected is mountainous, and access is limited in places. This is the most powerful earthquake to have affected this area since 1964 when a similar quake registering 6.0 occurred near Al Hoceima.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC) has mounted an immediate relief assistance and assessment operation, working in close coordination with the Protection Civile and the Moroccan royal army (for logistics support). The MRC has mobilized staff and volunteers; despatched relief items (2,000 blankets and 100 tents) from central and regional warehouses, has deployed ambulances to the disaster site, and has requested international assistance to respond to the needs. Preliminary indications are that the following basic relief items are urgently needed: blankets, tents, clothing, and jerry cans.

CHF 75,000 has been allocated from the Federation's DREF to start the relief and assessment operation. In coordination with the national society, a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) is being deployed, and Emergency Response Units (ERUs) for health and water/sanitation are under consideration pending further technical information and assessments from the affected area.

Pending the launch of an Emergency Appeal (preliminary), the Federation encourages donors to clearly mark items contributed (in-kind) to support the Moroccan Red Crescent in this operation

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