

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Italy: Earthquake

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6 April 2009

This bulletin is being issued for information only.

An earthquake of 6.3 on the Richter scale struck central Italy at 3:30am on Monday 6 April leaving at least 50 people dead and an estimated 50 thousand homeless. The Italian Red Cross set up its operations centre quickly, mobilizing resources to the affected areas to meet the needs of the people. Mobile kitchens are providing nourishment and teams of ambulances are evacuating people from damaged buildings, including an orphanage and hospitals.

Assessment of the most urgent needs is currently ongoing, and depending on its outcome a request for international assistance could be considered.



Rescue workers evacuating people from collapsed buildings.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

## The Situation

A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit central Italy shortly after 3:30 a.m. on Monday 6 April 2009. According to the Italian public authorities at least 50 people have been killed and 8 remain missing.

The quake was centered in the mountainous Abruzzo region east of Rome. Houses, churches and other buildings in the old city of L'Aquila, about 95 km east of Rome, and its surrounding villages have collapsed, leaving tens of thousands of people homeless. Part of a university residence collapsed in L'Aquila, but it was not clear if anyone was inside.

The quake is the strongest to have hit Italy in recent years, officials said. The government of Italy has declared an emergency.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Italian Red Cross has activated its national operations centre in Legnano, which is coordinating all the regional branches for the emergency response. The operations centres in Verona, Rome, Potenza and Palermo have also been activated and all branches put on alert.

Italian Civil Protection is the lead of the overall response, and cooperation with the Italian Red Cross is strong. The Red Cross Commissioner, together with the head of civil protection, has gone immediately to Aquila, close to the quake's epicentre.

In the hours immediately after the earthquake the Italian Red Cross sent:

- a mobile kitchen providing 10,000 meals per day with a team of 16 Red Cross humanitarian operators and 30 volunteers
- 2 soup kitchens providing 200-400 meals per day to respond to the needs of L'Aquila Hospital, that is being evacuated
- 36 ambulances to evacuate injured people from L'Aquila to the hospitals in Tagliacozzo, Pescara and Avezzano
- 2 primary emergency advanced units supported by a team of 15 Red Cross humanitarian operators
- 10,000 blankets
- 4 dog rescue units, plus an additional 12 dog rescue teams are now joining the field

The Red Cross is evacuating the orphanage in San Gregorio and will take care of all the children.

The National Society is preparing trucks with health and first-aid and logistics/relief provisions to be sent shortly.

Additional means and resources are ready to be sent, depending on needs assessment:

- 30 dog rescue units
- 5 psychological support teams
- 3 veterinary teams

A national appeal calling for solidarity with the people affected by the earthquake will be published on the Italian Red Cross's website shortly. An assessment of the most urgent needs is currently ongoing, and depending on its outcome a request for international assistance could also be considered. The International Federation through its zone office in Budapest is in close contact with the Italian Red Cross in this regard.

## How we work

*All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

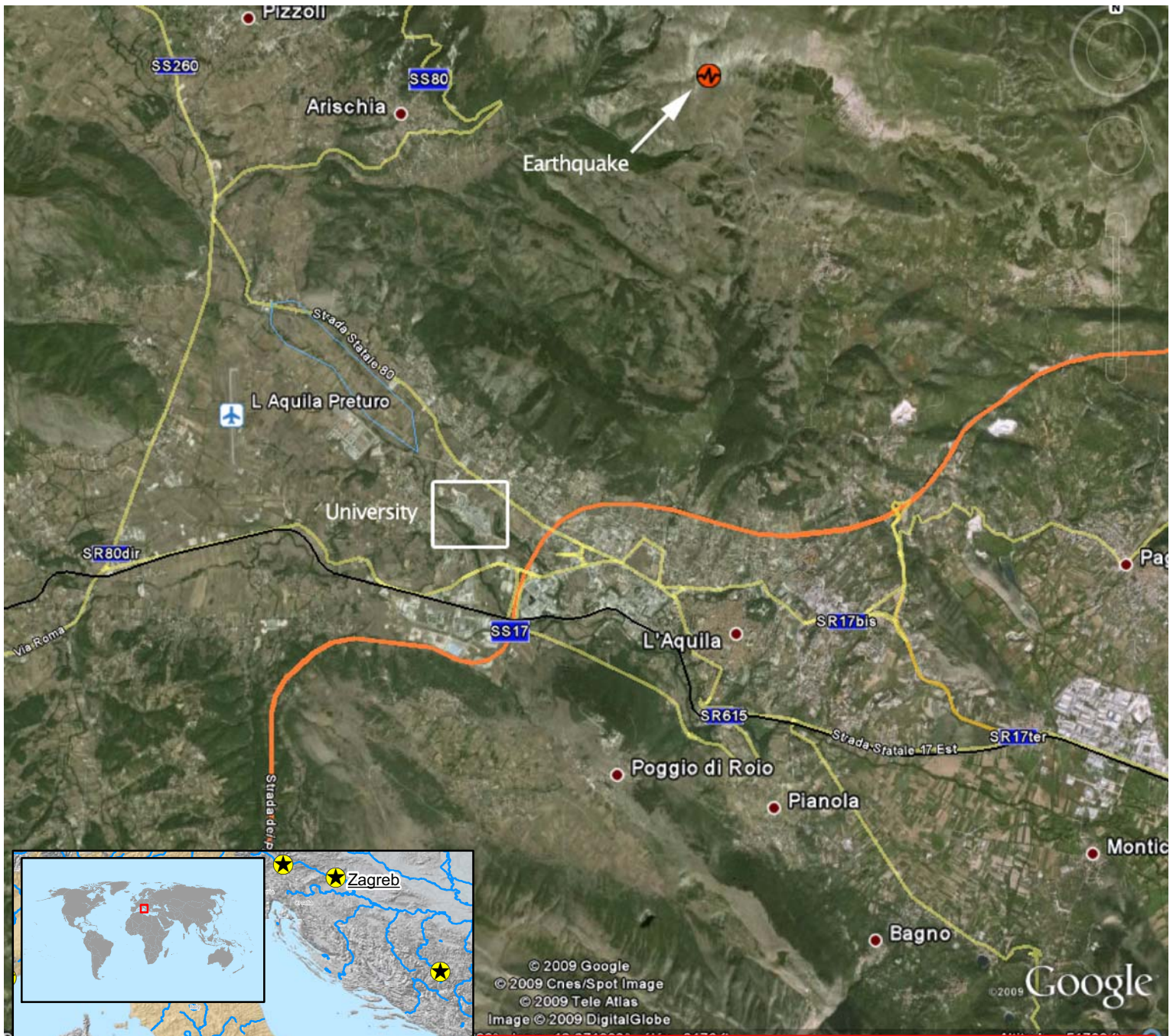
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In the Italian Red Cross:** Vittoria Maria Peri, Head of Relief and Development Office, phone: tel. +39 06 4759 399; email: [vittoria.peri@cri.it](mailto:vittoria.peri@cri.it)
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, phone: +36 709537704, fax: +36 1 336 1516, email: [slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org](mailto:slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org)
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



# Italy: Earthquake



A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit central Italy shortly after 3:30 a.m. on Monday 6 April 2009. According to the Italian Red Cross at least 27 people have been killed and eight remain missing.

The quake was centred in the mountainous Abruzzo region east of Rome. Houses, churches and other buildings in the old city of L'Aquila, about 95 km east of Rome, and its surrounding villages have collapsed, leaving tens of thousands of people homeless. Part of a university residence collapsed in L'Aquila, but it was not clear if anyone was inside.

The quake is the strongest to have hit Italy in recent years, officials said.