

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Earthquake

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16 April 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

Summary: The death toll has risen to 760 two days after the deadly earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale hit China's Qinghai Province. This number is expected to rise, along with the 11,000 injured. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), this is the strongest quake to have hit the remote mountainous area since 1976. Rescue and excavation efforts are still hindered due to the high altitude, poor weather conditions, complex terrain and limited logistic backup.

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



Children in Yushu staying on the street in the chilly nights while more tents and other relief materials are being rushed into the epicenter area. Photo: Xinhua News

The Situation

An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale has hit northwest China's Qinghai Province at 07:49 local time on 14 April 2010 (23:49 GMT on 13 April 2010). Its epicentre is calculated to be 33.1 north and 96.7 east, which is about 50 km away from the Jiegu Township, the government headquarters of the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yushu, and about 800 km away from Xining, the Qinghai provincial capital. Qinghai is located on the northeastern part of the Tibetan Plateau. Some 750 aftershocks have been recorded with the largest one registering a magnitude of 6.3, about an hour and 36 minutes after the earthquake.

According to updated official statements, 760 people have been reported dead while 11,477 people have been injured and more than 300 people are missing. The earthquake toppled 85 per cent of houses, leaving some 100,000 residents without a home. Many people are still buried under the debris. Electricity, water and communication are still cut off, road conditions are still very unfavourable for rescue action and transportation of relief materials.



As excavation equipment is still limited, military rescuers use bare hands to retrieve people buried in the debris. Photo: Xinhua News

At least 7,093 rescuers are carrying out search and rescue operation in the earthquake areas, while 562 medical staff are bringing medicine and medical equipment to the quake zone. Nationwide, a total of 18 teams with 491 quake-relief experts and another 52 teams with 1,352 medical staff are on call to offer assistance to the quake zone.

The Chinese government has clearly indicated that there is no need for international support for the earthquake response support as there are enough resources and capacity within China to be able to meet the needs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The first batch of emergency relief materials from the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has reached the worst-hit area in the morning on 16 April 2010. This includes 500 tents, 1,000 quilts and 1,000 winter clothes. The second batch of materials mobilized yesterday is expected to reach the area soon.

More support including relief materials and funds raised from the RCSC branches is reaching Qinghai. All assessment teams, and rescue and medical teams are on ground, working around the clock.

At this moment, RCSC has not sought an international appeal, but welcome cash contributions from partners to support its earthquake response.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) East Asia regional office is closely monitoring the situation together with RCSC and providing updated information as it becomes available. It has indicated readiness to support RCSC's relief operation however necessary.

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 \(NGOs\) 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.

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.

Contact information

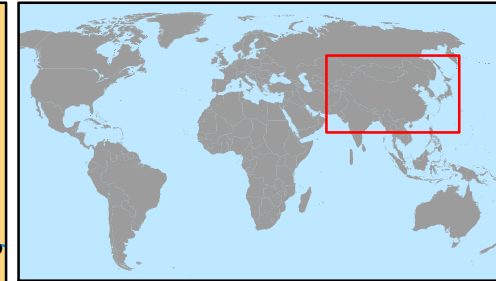
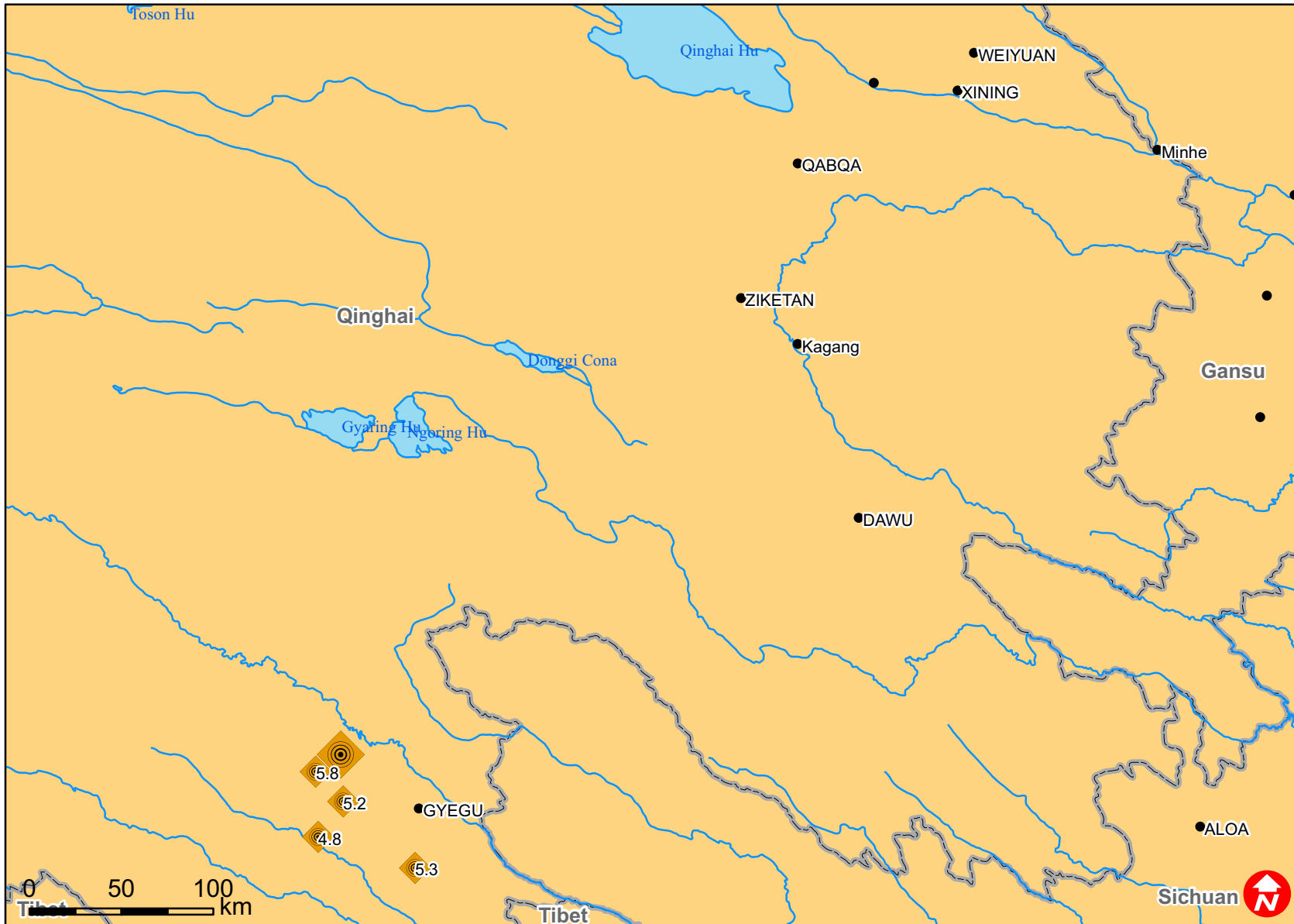
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:



- Red Cross Society of China: Mr. Yang Huixin, director of external relations department; email: rcsc@redcross.org.cn; phone: +86.10.6404.8366, fax +86.10.6402.9928.
- Federation East Asia regional office in China: Mr. Carl Naucler, head of regional office; email: carl.naucler@ifrc.org; phone: +86.10.6532.7162.
- Federation East Asia regional office in China: Mr. Qinghui Gu, disaster management delegate; email: qinghui.gu@ifrc.org; mobile: +86.13.9109.59834.
- Federation zone office in Kuala Lumpur: Elzat Mamutalieva (operations coordinator); email: elzat.mamutalieva@ifrc.org; phone: + 603.9207.5727; mobile: +6019.2744.960.
For media enquiries: Francis Markus (Chengdu), communications delegate; email : francis.markus@ifrc.org; mobile: +86.13.9100.96892 or Jason Smith (KL), zone communications manager; email: jason.smith@ifrc.org; mobile: +6012.387.0829.

[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



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-  Main earthquake
-  Aftershocks
-  Main cities
-  Provinces