

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Earthquake

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19 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 climbed up to 1,706 with reportedly 256 still missing. Rescuers continue to search for survivors 72 hours after the deadly earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale hit China's Qinghai province on 14 April 2010. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), this is the strongest quake to have hit the remote mountainous area since 1976. Additional rescue and relief support have reached the quake-hit area, with major roads including the road from the worst-hit Gyegu town to the only airport in Yushu prefecture cleared at time of reporting. Approximately 200 rescuers were forced to leave the quake zone after showing signs of altitude sickness.



The Red Cross Society of China emergency rescue and relief team reached Gyegu town on 15 April 2010 and have been distributing relief materials, helping in the excavation and assessing the situation for further needs. Photo: RCSC.

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

The situation

An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale 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 33.2 north and 96.6 east (revised official data on 17 April 2010), which is about 50km away from the Gyegu town (previous translated as Jiegu township), the government headquarters of the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yushu, and about 800km away from Xining, the Qinghai provincial capital. Qinghai is located on the northeastern part of the Tibetan Plateau. Some 1,150 aftershocks have been recorded as of 18 April 2010 with the largest one registering a magnitude of 6.3, about an hour and 36 minutes after the earthquake.

According to updated official statements, 1,706 people have been reported dead while some 12,128 people have been injured, with 1,424 in severe condition and about 256 people still missing. The earthquake toppled 85 per cent of the houses, leaving 100,000 residents homeless. At time of reporting, all major roads and bridges connecting to the quake zone has



Large excavation machineries reached the quake zone to speed up excavation. More roads and bridges linking Gyegu town with the local airport and other major prefectures were cleared of debris and access resumed, with emergency and relief items are coming fast for the victims. Photo: Xinhua News Agency.

resumed, allowing large excavation machineries and more relief materials to be rushed in. The cleared roads has also enabled the transfer of severely injured quake survivors to hospitals in nearby province such as Shaanxi, Gansu and Sichuan.

To date, the Chinese central government has allocated CNY 200 million (approximately CHF 31.32 million) for the earthquake, which will focus on rescue, medical services and relief supplies. A total of 35,000 tents were relocated immediately to the affected areas to meet the needs of 100,000 homeless people, with additional relief materials and donation rushed in from various departments, local organizations and companies. More food, blood supply, medicine and medical equipments such as oxygen generators and stretchers were reportedly sent in to meet current needs. The main power grid has also resumed operation on 17 April 2010, supporting the ongoing rescue mission.

At least 11,500 professional rescuers including medical workers are carrying out search and rescue as well medical operations in the earthquake areas, and are still struggling to find more survivors buried under the debris. While rescue work is becoming smoother with the large excavation machineries arriving at the quake zone, approximately 200 rescue workers suffered from serious high altitude sickness and were forced to leave for medical treatment.

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 Red Crescent action

The second batch of emergency relief materials from the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) reached the worst-hit area in the morning of 17 April 2010, while the first shipment was already distributed to survivors the day before. The total of relief materials issued to date add up to 1,000 tents, 5,000 quilts and 5,000 winter clothes. Another batch of relief materials, including 2,000 quilts, 2,000 winter clothes and 200 sanitizers were mobilized on 17 April to cope with the urgent needs in the neighbouring affected area in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan province. It is reported that 99 people died and up to 72,000 people were affected by the earthquake in this area.



In response to the earthquake, the Red Cross Society of China emergency medical unit set up a first-aid and surgery booth in Gyegu town to attend to those affected. RCSC.

At time of reporting, relief materials and emergency funds received by the Qinghai provincial branch of the RCSC is estimated to reach CNY 200 million (approximately CHF 31.32 million). A donation campaign is still ongoing nationwide.

The Taiwan Red Cross Organization's 20-member medical team arrived on 18 April with one metric tonne of medicines and medical equipment to assist in treating the injured. The medical team will be based at the Xining Hospital and will be providing assistance to other medical facilities where the seriously injured have been transported for medical care.

The water response team from the Hunan branch of the RCSC has also arrived in the earthquake zone, with an assessment on water sources and location on-going, to be followed shortly by the arrival of water equipment.

At this moment, RCSC has not sought an international appeal, but welcome direct cash contributions from partners to support RCSC's effort on the 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

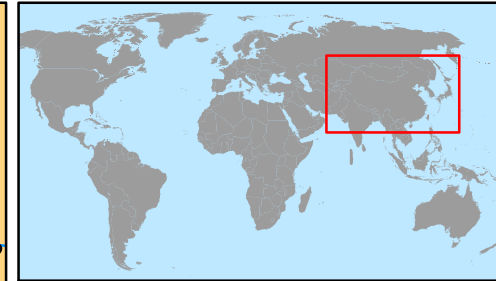
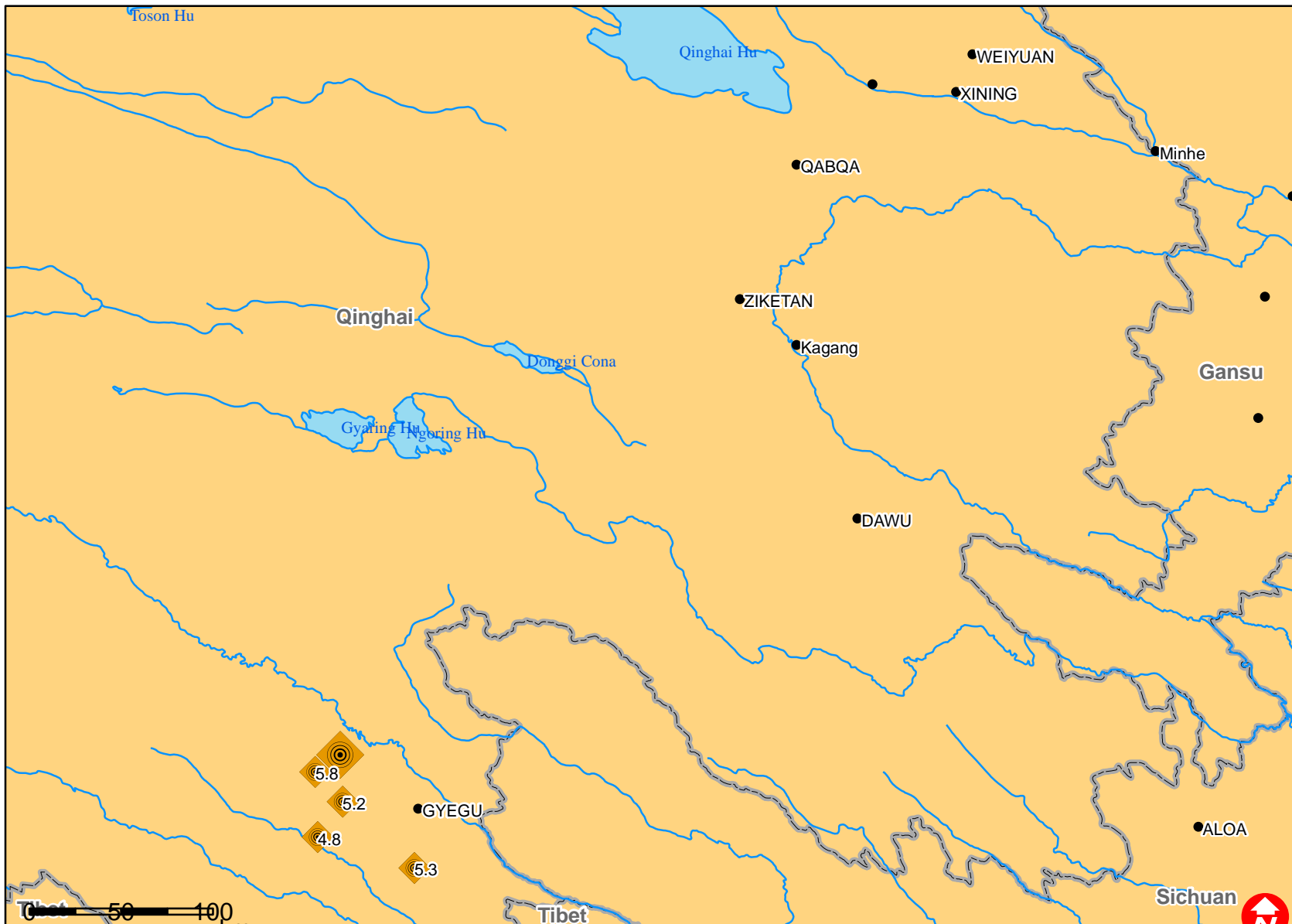
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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-  Main earthquake
-  Aftershocks
-  Main cities
-  Provinces