

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Earthquake

Information bulletin n° 5
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23 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 2,187 with reportedly 80 still missing after the deadly earthquake measuring on the 7.1 Richter scale hit Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai Province on 14 April 2010. More than 12,000 people are reported injured and an estimated 100,000 left homeless. Many more have been affected, in neighbouring areas, including the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province.

Rescuers are still searching for survivors with their main focus now shifting to towns surrounding the epicentre of Gyegu Town. Relief supplies continue flooding into the quake-hit area from all parts of China. Although all major roads have been opened, difficult weather has hindered timely transportation. Snow and rain continue to fall on the earthquake zone. In some parts, snow on the road has accumulated to 4cm in depth and in others, ice has formed on the surface, making it harder for vehicles to move.

The Red Cross Society of China has responded with the delivery of tents, quilts, warm clothing and other relief supplies to the earthquake area. Medical teams have been deployed and have provided ambulance service, first aid, and surgical support to the injured. Water and sanitation emergency response teams have now arrived in Yushu and a public health team has arrived in Ganzi, Sichuan.



The Red Cross Society of China delivered tents, quilts, warm clothing and other relief supplies those affected in the earthquake area. Photo: Red Cross Society of China

[<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 50 km away from the Gyegu town (previously translated as 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 in the northeastern part of the Tibetan Plateau. Some 1,404 aftershocks have been recorded as of 23 April 2010 with the largest one registering a magnitude of 6.3, about an hour and 36

minutes after the earthquake. The earthquake toppled 85 per cent of the houses, leaving 100,000 residents homeless.



Students resume classes in a makeshift classroom a few days after the deadly earthquake hit Yushu. The Chinese Government is carrying out a programme to transfer 6,200 local students to continue their study outside the quake-hit areas, aiming to have all students resume classes before 10 May. It is also reported that a total of CNY 186.5 million will be invested by the provincial education departments to build 22 transitional facilities for high schools, primary schools, vocational schools and other related facilities. (Photo: Xinhua News Agency)

According to official statements as of 22 April 2010, 2,187 people have been reported dead while some 12,135 people have been injured with 1,434 in severe condition. About 80 people are reported still missing. It is also reported that rescuers have been able to reach all the affected villages for the rescue operation. Officials have noted that those injured have been provided with basic medical treatment, with those seriously injured transferred outside the quake zone. Most of the survivors have been provided with emergency shelter at the time of this report.

The Chinese central government has allocated another CNY 300 million (CHF 47.3 million or USD 44 million) for the earthquake, adding up to a total of CNY 500 million (CHF 78.8 million or USD 73.4 million), which will focus on rescue,

medical services and relief supplies. Statistics as of 22 April 2010 show that a total of 53,728 tents, 164,700 winter clothes, 198,970 quilts, 100,000 food packs, 7,000 family coal-heaters and other relief materials ranging from instant noodles, drinking water, sanitizers, and school equipment have been mobilized, with much of these items already transported into the quake zone.

Relief operations have been challenged by the lack of access due to the remoteness of this region. A limited number of airplanes have been able to fly at high altitude to safely bring in supplies, as roads have been damaged. With the limited availability of transport routes, it has been difficult for authorities to get supplies in during the first few days. Relief teams have also been experiencing challenges with altitude sickness, which have also affected rescue dogs unused to working in such conditions.

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

Red Cross Red Crescent action

After the immediate response of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) in distributing relief supplies and dispatching medical teams, RCSC has swiftly deployed water and sanitation emergency response teams to the area. The teams have reached the quake zone with all the necessary equipment. Another emergency team for public health has arrived in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province which is about 500km away from Yushu. Ganzi itself was also hit hard by the earthquake with more than 72,000 affected.

The emergency water response team from RCSC's Hunan branch will provide 30,000 people with clean drinking water for the next three months. They have established their base at Sima Chang just 3km from Yushu where many of the displaced have been put up in temporary shelters. The team may also transport water to neighboring communities, based on needs. The emergency sanitation response team from RCSC's Yunnan branch will provide 100 latrines together with hygiene education materials.

The Taiwan Red Cross Organization's medical team has arrived at the Ge'rmu temporary resettlement site in the quake zone and has started treating injured survivors. All the team members are in good health with no sign of high altitude sickness.

One of the first medical teams dispatched by RCSC from the 999 Red Cross emergency centre in Beijing

has completed its mission and has returned. This team set up a field hospital at the Yushu airport to transport those seriously injured for treatment, and to prepare those to be transferred to major medical facilities via air. They also provided first aid at the epicentre and ambulance service to those injured.

The Beijing Red Cross Nantian branch rescue team was able to pull 11 people from the rubble and now continues to work at the epicenter, distributing relief materials.

The Guangxi branch of RCSC also deployed an emergency medical team to Yushu and set up a field hospital there where they treated some 500 injured and distributed an estimated CNY 30,000 (CHF 4,727 or USD 4,400) in medicines.

The Tibetan branch of RCSC also deployed an emergency medical team in Gyegu Town immediately after the earthquake and treated 1,000 survivors through 20 April.

As of today (23 April), the Qinghai Provincial Red Cross branch has organized nine volunteer teams to transport and distribute relief materials including quilts, tents, food, water and medicine to Yushu, valued at approximately CNY 10.8 million (CHF 1.7 million or USD 1.6 million). The RCSC and all branches of the Red Cross have received cash donations amounting to CNY 710.96 million (CHF 112 million or USD 104.3 million), and donations-in-kind valued at CNY 175.9 million (CHF 27.7 million or USD 25.8 million) for the earthquake relief operation.



Qinghai Red Cross volunteers distributed relief items, such as these instant noodles, to the affected population in Yushu Prefecture. (Photo: Red Cross Society of China)

At this moment, RCSC has not sought international aid through an appeal, but welcomes cash contributions from partners to support its effort in the earthquake response and recovery.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) East Asia regional office is closely monitoring the situation together with RCSC and helps provide updated information as it becomes available. It is ready 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

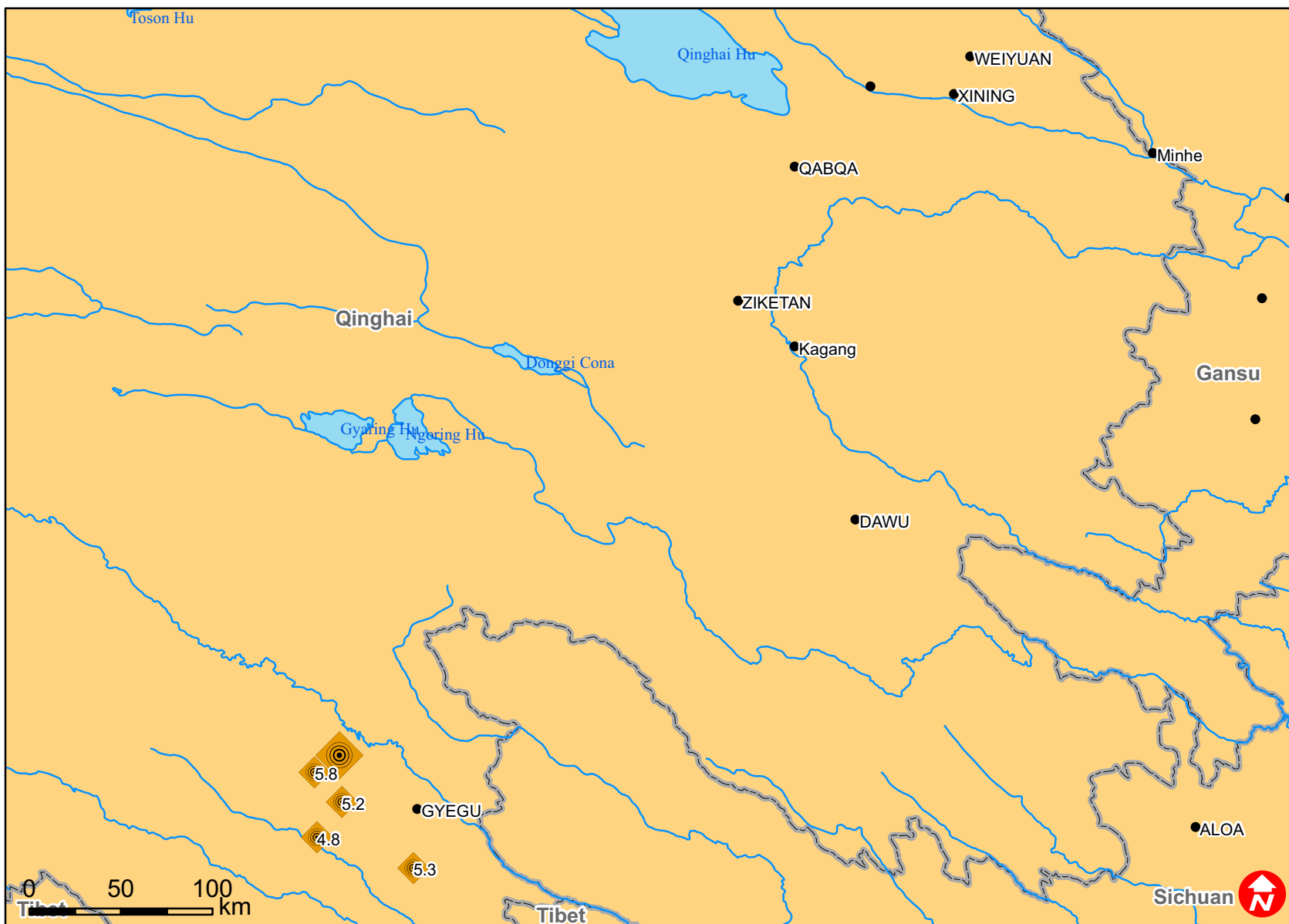
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



China: Earthquake



- Main earthquake
- Aftershocks
- Main cities
- Provinces