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## Information bulletin no. 2 Italy: Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Date of issue: 23 January 2017</b>	
<b>Date of disaster: 18 January 2017</b>	<b>Point of contact: Ruben Romero, DM Coordinator IFRC Regional Office for Europe</b>
<b>Host National Society: Italian Red Cross</b>	

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

### The situation

On 18 January 2017, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake struck the central regions of Italy. Around one hour after, a second and a third quake followed with a magnitude of 5 in the same area. A fourth quake of 5.1 magnitude hit the same region in the same afternoon. During the night from 18 to 19 January 2017, some 80 additional quakes hit the region, the two strongest having a magnitude of 3.5.

The most-affected towns are Campotosto, Monteraiale and Capitignano (L'Aquila). The first tremors came after some 36 hours of steady snowfall in mountainous areas around Amatrice and Norcia.

Due to the series of earthquakes, an avalanche hit the Hotel Rigopiano di Farindola situated in a ski resort in the town of Farindola, in central Abruzzo region. The force of the avalanche has partially brought down the hotel's roof and shifted the building ten metres off its foundations in addition to completely burying it under the snow. Up to now, ten people have been rescued, six people have been confirmed dead, including, tragically, one hotel staff member, who was an off-duty Italian Red Cross volunteer. Some 23 people are yet reported missing as a consequence of the avalanche.



Four-wheel drive vehicles and special ambulances are used by the Italian Red Cross to reach isolated areas in need of medical assistance.  
*Photo: Italian Red Cross*

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since 18 January, the **Italian Red Cross** has been working 24 hours-a-day to reach the villages and towns isolated by heavy snow and to rescue those who are reported missing. A special team of experts has been set up to support the coordination of local operations. Some 1,000 Italian Red Cross staff and volunteers have been mobilized, and a total of 165 vehicles deployed, including 70 specifically dispatched to areas affected by the extreme snow and weather conditions. Two of the ten volunteers with international protection status from the social integration programme of Settimo Torinese are also helping the distribution of food parcels to the most isolated villages. The Italian Red Cross continues to work closely with the Italian Civil Protection to assess damages and provide support to the affected population as required. A total of 6,875 civil protection staff and volunteers as well as 2,995 vehicles are being deployed to the emergency, including those of the Red Cross.

**The Italian Red Cross is seeking to expand its activities with additional specialized, off-road vehicles.**

## **Abruzzo Region**

The Italian Red Cross office in Penne has been designated as a Municipal Operative Centre. Regional mobile columns, helicopters and technicians are on stand-by to be deployed. Psychological support teams are also ready to assist as necessary. The local branch of the Italian Red Cross has delivered one water pump, 500 cots and blankets, 100 pairs of gloves, one electrical generator (provided by a company) and 80 snow shovels to affected populations.

The following villages remain isolated in Abruzzo region: Arsitia, Basciano, Campotosto, Capitignano, Castellalto, Farindola, Montebello, Montereale, Montorio al Vomano, Notaresco, Penne, Valle Castellana and Villa Celiera. The following villages cannot be contacted, nor physically, neither by phone: Pietracamela, Rocca Santa Maria, Castelli, Crognaleto and Bisenti. Currently, some 93,000 people are without light in the region of Abruzzo.



Food and non-food items, medicines, hygiene and other items of basic needs are delivered from the central warehouse of the Italian Red Cross.  
Photo: Italian Red Cross

**Hotel Rigopiano – Farindola (Pescara):** The hotel is the main focus of the special rescue activities going on 24-hours-a-day in extremely difficult conditions and temperatures below zero. At 4:22 local time (3:22 GMT) on 19 January, a caterpillar machine and 20 rescuers reached the hotel. Two alpine and caverescue teams, six ambulances and the police are also involved in the operation. To date, the Italian Red Cross has rescued a total of ten people, among them one child, who spent at least 40 hours buried under the snow and rubble. Those saved include, among others, a mother and son who have been taken to hospital and a man who has been hospitalized for hypothermia. Up to now, six people have been confirmed dead, including an Italian Red Cross volunteer, who was not in service during the event of the avalanche. Some 23 people continue to be missing. It is foreseen that the rescue team deployed to the hotel will be demobilized after 25 January.

**Avezzano (L'Aquila):** one cooking unit and other useful household equipment have been delivered. Twenty volunteers of Settimo Torinese have also arrived, among them the ten volunteers with international protection status from Settimo Torinese's social integration project.

**Montereale (L'Aquila):** the residential home for the elderly has been evacuated and its 57 residents have been placed in other institutions in Villa Dorotea and Fontecchio. Four of them have been transferred to the Hospital San Salvatore of L'Aquila.

**Ortolano di Campotosto (L'Aquila):** one person who was missing after the avalanche has been saved by the rescuer team.

**L'Aquila (L'Aquila):** Emergency long-term shelter kits have been prepared for 96 people. The warehouse of the Italian Red Cross is available to stock food and non-food items. There is a 4x4 Italian Red Cross ambulance on stand-by, as well as one 4x4 vehicle and one van which are also suitable for disabled people. The town hall and offices are being used as Emergency Operations Centres.

**Chieti (Chieti):** Emergency shelter has been provided for 20 people for the night. The Chieti branch of the Italian Red Cross has been partially recovered. The town hall and prefecture function as Emergency Operations Centres.

**Cepagatti (Pescara):** Relief operations and assistance to the population are ongoing. Food parcels, medical items and drugs, and non-food items are being delivered to isolated beneficiaries. The town hall has been established as an Emergency Operations Centre.

**Penne and Farindola (Pescara):** Search and rescue operations are ongoing and the Emergency Operations Centres are activated.

**Pescara (Pescara):** Food and non-food items are being distributed to the population. The town hall and prefecture function as Emergency Operations Centres.

**Roseto (Teramo):** Two Italian Red Cross 4x4 vehicles are deployed to provide social welfare services. The town hall has been established as an Emergency Operations Centre. Some locations are still isolated due to snowstorms.



Many villages are only accessible on foot or skis due to the heavy snowfalls.  
Photo: Italian Red Cross

**Atri (Teramo):** An emergency shelter has been set up for 60 people. A 4x4 ambulance, five emergency rescuers with a vehicle and driver are ready to deploy as required. Some areas are still affected by power cuts and traffic inconveniences.

**Cellino Attanasio (Teramo):** the special rescue team of Giulianova has reached the isolated village of Cellino Attanasio on foot.

### Marche Region

Three people who were missing earlier have been found alive. Some 14,000 people continue being without electricity. Lack of telecommunications is another main issue affecting the region. The villages of Acquasanta Terme and Arquata del Tronto are still isolated. Special rescue teams have been deployed in the region, including 25 vehicles and 97 Italian Red Cross staff and volunteers. The teams are delivering medical items and drugs to isolated beneficiaries and assist with transport to dialysis treatments.

### Umbria Region

A total of 40 people are being hosted in accommodation centres in Cascia and Preci towns in Perugia province.

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The IFRC Regional Office for Europe is in permanent contact with the Italian Red Cross to obtain information on the extent of damages, affected people and further steps. No international assistance has been required by the Italian Red Cross at this point.

## Contact information

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

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence and peace.**