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Information bulletin no. 3 Italy: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**Date of disaster:
18 January 2017**

**Point of contact: Ruben Romero, DM Coordinator
IFRC Regional Office for Europe**

Host National Society: Italian Red Cross

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, the central regions of Italy were struck by four earthquakes in a row with magnitudes ranging from 5 to 5.3. They were followed by a series of more than 80 additional quakes to date, of lower strength. The tremors came after some 36 hours of steady snowfall in the mountainous areas of Amatrice and Norcia. Heavy snowing and cold temperatures continued up to 25 January when weather conditions have started to improve with gradual melting of the snow. The frequency and intensity of new quakes has also decreased.

As a result of the earthquake, on 18 January 2017, an avalanche hit Hotel Rigopiano di Farindola, in Farindola town (central Abruzzo region) burying it completely under snow and causing it to collapse. A total of 29 people (15 women and 14 men) have fallen victim to the event, while 11 people have survived and been rescued. As no more people are reported missing, the search and rescue activities have now terminated.



Italian Red Cross teams reaching the home of an elderly lady in a remote location to deliver her basic items while she is cut off from her regular supplies.
Photo: Italian Red Cross

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Italian Red Cross special search and rescue teams as well as staff, volunteers and special experts have continued the search and rescue, relief item distribution and other activities since 23 January 2017. Together with the Italian Civil Protection, more than 9,300 people have been delivering assistance to local populations in need and 3,400 vehicles have been deployed over the past four days, including 293 staff and volunteers and 109 vehicles from the Red Cross.

With the improvement of the weather conditions and the decrease of risk of further earthquakes and avalanches, the **Italian Red Cross** special search and rescue teams as well as staff, volunteers and special experts have started to gradually demobilize. Ten remaining helicopters continue to monitor the situation on the mountains and the level of avalanche risk (being currently at level 3). Assessment teams remain in the areas affected by earthquakes to ensure continuous access to basic items and services. There is also ongoing support maintained for the farms and food distribution to the animals.

To date, the Italian Red Cross, in close collaboration with the Italian Civil Protection have assisted a total of 14,576 people throughout the earthquakes and extreme weather events. The Italian Red Cross and IFRC will continue to

follow and assess the weather situation in the remaining weeks of the winter to be prepared to provide further assistance in case of need.

Abruzzo Region

Hotel Rigopiano – Farindola (Pescara):

The Italian Red Cross search and rescue teams have by now found all missing people under the hotel's ruins. Eleven people could be rescued alive, while 29 people have deceased in the tragic event of the avalanche. The bodies of the victims have been transported to the morgue in Pescara or the Chieti legal medicine centre for autopsy. The end of the search and rescue activities have now been announced and the rescue team members are demobilizing and returning to the Emergency Operations Centre in Penne. Psychologists of the Italian Red Cross are continuing to provide ongoing psychosocial support to the relatives of the victims. The Italian Red Cross warehouse that has been set up in the area to distribute food parcels and drinks five times a day to the rescue teams and survivors is also being demobilized. To protect the search and rescue staff, the risk of further avalanches has so far been monitored by a group of Italian Red Cross experts including a special radar installed the siren of which could alarm them in case of danger.

Penne (Pescara): Two assessment teams, each of four members, have deployed to the area to estimate the number of families in need and assess their needs and level of access to basic services.

Ortolano di Campotosto (L'Aquila): A damage assessment has been carried out which has concluded that damages caused by the current earthquakes are worse than those caused by the one in 2009.

Valle Castellana and surrounding villages (Teramo): A total of 74 people has been evacuated on 23 January 2017 from Valle Castellana and seven nearby villages.

Marche Region

Arquata del Tronto (Ascoli Piceno): The city of Turin has offered a milling machine with turbine to support assistance, assessment, recovery and debris clearing activities.

Montemonaco (Ascoli Piceno): Sixty people have been given with shelter in containers and caravans in the garden of 'Casa Gioiosa'. Two volunteers are on the ground and food is being distributed, with a capacity of meals for up to 120 people a day.

Villa di Montalto (Macerata): Accommodation has been provided for some 40 people in need in pre-fabricated shelters.

Fermo (Fermo): Close to 1,000 beds are available in a local hotel and camping for people displaced from their homes. Every Saturday, psychological support is ensured to those in need by the local Italian Red Cross branch.

Montefortino (Fermo): Tents have been set up to accommodate some 80 people. Sixty service staff and two social and health volunteers are also on the ground providing assistance.

Senigallia (Ancona): Two hotels are hosting 85 people, among them elder people and children. The municipality have made an additional 1,871 places available in case of need.

Umbria Region

The Italian Red Cross is monitoring the river of Torbidone due to risk of flooding.

Lazio Region

Amatrice (Rieti): Debris clearing operations have commenced.

Calabria Region

Cutro (Crotone): Due to risk of flooding on the Tacina river, 20 families have been temporarily evacuated.



An Italian Red Cross volunteer is assisting with road clearance to help village residents reach key services and facilities even if only on foot.

Photo: Italian Red Cross

Communications and media

The IFRC Regional Office for Europe's communications team has been working closely with the Italian Red Cross and has produced the following material for use by all National Societies:

- Web story: [Refugees join battle to reach avalanche victims](#)

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:

Italian Red Cross:

- Barbara Contini, Operations Coordination
phone: +39 338 944 6875; email: barbara.contini@cri.it

IFRC Regional Office for Europe:

- Ruben Romero, DM Coordinator
phone: +36 1 888 45 00; email: ruben.romero@ifrc.org
- Nichola Jones, Communications Coordinator
phone: + 36 70 430 6506; email: nicholalyndsay.jones@ifrc.org



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How we work

All IFRC 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 the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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:



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**.