

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## CHINA: EARTHQUAKE

23 July 2003

Information Bulletin N° 01/2003

**Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: None**

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.*

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

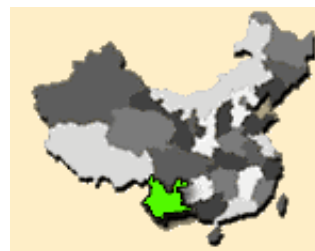
### In Brief

**This document is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

### The Situation

On Monday, 21 July an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale hit Southwest China's Yunnan Province. According to the state media, the earthquake injured over 600 people and left 16 dead. The tremor struck at 23:16, in Dayao County, 180 kilometres northwest of the provincial capital Kunming.

The provincial government sent teams of officials and experts to assess the situation and organise rescue work. The local department of the Ministry of Civil Affairs responded to the immediate needs of the affected population releasing 1,100 tents to be used as temporary shelter, 10 MT of grain, 5,000 quilts, medicine and clothing.



### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

An assessment team, headed by senior officials from the Yunnan branch of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), was sent out within 24 hours of the earthquake. The team arrived at the affected area on Tuesday 22 July, bringing 10 MT of rice, 40 tents and 200 pieces of clothing to help meet some of the immediate needs.

RCSC headquarters released funds to purchase 30 MT of rice. In addition, 50 tents from the RCSC's Chengdu Disaster Preparedness Centre are being dispatched to affected communities to be used as temporary shelter.

Earthquakes are common in this region of China. In November 1998, two quakes measuring 5.6 and 6.2 hit a rural area on the borders of the Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces affecting over 300,000 people. RCSC Headquarter and the Yunnan Red Cross branch immediately responded to the earthquake by distributing quilts, winter jackets and tents, while the International Federation released CHF 50,000 from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Society with these activities.

The RCSC is continuing to closely monitor the situation. The Society will keep the international community informed of any further developments and need for assistance.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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**China: Earthquake; Information Bulletin no. 01**

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal for China (Appeal 01.66/2003).