

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

NORTHEASTERN JAPAN: EARTHQUAKE

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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

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 Saturday 26 July, northeastern Japan was hit by a series of strong earthquakes followed by a succession of aftershocks. The first quake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale hit shortly after midnight. The area was hit again by a second earthquake measuring 6.2 seven hours later. Aftershocks jolted the area several times, including one on Saturday afternoon with a magnitude 5.4.

The Miyagi prefecture, about 300 km north of Tokyo, sustained the greatest amount of earthquake related damage. According to the local government, 5,801 houses were damaged, and 73 houses were completely destroyed. So far 2,800 people were evacuated, and there have been 569 reported injuries. Most of the injuries are not serious, and no deaths have been reported so far.

The earthquake triggered a landslide, and recent heavy rains could make the situation more dangerous. 600 members of the Japanese Self Defense Force have already been sent to the region.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Miyagi Chapter of the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS), in coordination with the JRCS National Head Office in Tokyo, responded immediately to the first earthquake on Saturday and began distributing relief items. By Sunday 27 July, the JRCS mobilised over 3,000 blankets, 1,200 daily relief kits, and 1,400 family kits (containing basic hygiene items and tinned food items) for distribution. Three medical teams from the local Red Cross Hospital were also deployed to evacuation centres.

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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.

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For a full description of the National Society profile, to 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.