

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 IN INNER MONGOLIA

25 March 2004

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 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

On Wednesday 24 March, an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale struck the central-eastern part of China's Inner Mongolia Region at 09h53. The affects of the quake were felt over an area of some 35,200 square kilometres affecting three of the area's regions. According to the latest report received on 25 March from the Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC's) Inner Mongolia branch, some 103,000 people are known to have been affected by the earthquake, with some 4,975 people reported to be homeless following the collapse of 14,700 "rooms" (avg. 1-3 rooms per house). There were no reported deaths and the branch is in the process of gathering information as to the number of people injured due to the earthquake. Inner Mongolia is home to a large herding community whose primary source of income is derived from raising livestock. This community has been particularly hard hit by the earthquake which has reportedly resulted in the death of or harm to thousands of animals.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The RCSC's Ximeng chapter immediately responded to the quake and organized a team to travel to some of the most severely affected areas. On 25 March, the team distributed 150 quilts to families who had lost their homes during the earthquake. These quilts were especially helpful as although spring weather conditions have arrived in some parts of China, temperatures in the affected area continue to remain at around minus ten centigrade. According to the RCSC's Ximeng chapter assessment team the immediate priority needs are for winter tents, food and medicine. The team is communicating on a regular basis with the RCSC's Inner Mongolia branch, the RCSC's national office in Beijing, and the International Federation's East Asia Regional Delegation.