

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Sichuan Earthquake

Emergency appeal n° MDRCN003
GLIDE n° **EQ-2008-000062-CHN**
Operations update n° 5
22 May 2008

Period covered by this Update: Seven days after the launch of the appeal

Appeal target (current): CHF 20,076,412 (USD 19.3 million or EUR 12.4 million);
<[click here to view the attached Revised Emergency Appeal Budget](#)>

Appeal coverage: There has been a very generous and quick response to this appeal, and in the seven days since it was launched. Many pledges of funding have been received, and the initial appeal target is already covered. The appeal will be revised early next week based on further assessments and to reflect the requests outlined in the mobilisation table and the additional human resources drafted in to support this operation. <[click here to link to a map of the affected areas; or here for contact details](#)>

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was launched on 15 May 2008 for CHF 20,076,412 (USD 19.3 million or EUR 12.4 million) for 12 months to assist 100,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 250,000 was allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the Red Cross Society of China's response to the earthquake.



A father scans the notice boards for missing persons at a reception centre for homeless earthquake survivors in Jiuzhou stadium, Mianyang, Sichuan, in the hope he will find his missing 13-year-old daughter, from whom he hasn't heard for a week since the disaster struck. *Sho Huang/International Federation*

Summary: The 8.0 magnitude earthquake on 12 May devastated eight provinces; Sichuan, (the most severely affected), Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shanxi, Guizhou and Hubei. In Sichuan, the total affected area measures 65,000 square kilometres, including Aba, Mianyang, Deyang, Chengdu, Guangyuan, Ya'an municipalities and prefectures. According to the State Council, the most severely damaged areas include 44 counties covering 1,061 townships. Over 10 million people are directly affected in Sichuan.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) headquarters, along with its Sichuan branch and many other provincial branches, have been providing non-stop assistance to those in the affected areas. By 21 May, RCSC headquarters had mobilized eight medical teams, two psycho-social teams, 23 relief vehicles, over 200 staff and 31 rescue and relief teams from other Red Cross branches to support the operation in Sichuan. The Sichuan Red Cross branch has dispatched 17 medical teams to Pengzhou, Beichuan, Dujiangyan, Anxian, Mianzhu, Shifang and Pingwu to treat over 2,000 seriously injured people. The branch also sent 43 Red Cross teams consisting of 400 staff to provide assistance to those affected by the disaster. Altogether over 35,000 Red Cross staff and volunteers are assisting in the relief effort.

As of 21 May, the RCSC headquarters and its branches have received more than CNY 2.9 billion (CHF 428.7 million) in donations, raised nationally and internationally in cash and in-kind. Some CNY 650 million (CHF 97.8 million) has so far been spent by the RCSC on emergency relief items in the disaster-affected areas. In Sichuan, over 800,000 survivors have received relief items from the Red Cross. Over 200 Red Cross trucks transport relief items on a daily basis and over 500 Red Cross volunteers are involved in providing logistics support and psycho-social counselling.

The International Federation's earthquake coordination office in Sichuan province will provide emergency support to the RCSC relief operations in Mianyang prefecture, one of the most affected prefectures. The International Federation is mobilizing 10,000 tents from Federation global resources to support needs in Mianyang prefecture and has today increased the mobilization table to 100,000 tents to support the RCSC in its overall response and in response to Government requests.

Many partner national societies have made contributions to the appeal: American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, New Zealand Red Cross/New Zealand government, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society, with other contributions in the pipeline, including those from Belgian Red Cross/Belgian government, German Red Cross/German government and Japanese Red Cross/Japanese government. The International Federation, on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China, would like to thank all partners for their very quick and generous response to this appeal.

The situation

As of 22 May, the death toll from the powerful earthquake which struck the southwest of China has risen to 41,353, with 274,683 injured, according to the information office of the state council. The highest number of casualties occurred in Sichuan province with a recorded 30,854 deaths, and 263,395 injured. The massive earthquake on 12 May levelled entire villages and according to the ministry of civil affairs, some five million people are now homeless. Some 15.7 rooms¹ have been damaged and six million rooms collapsed (respectively, approximately 5.2 million homes damaged and two million homes collapsed). [Click here for a table of the latest figures.](#)

Thousands of aftershocks have been recorded since 12 May and on 20 May, a 4.0 on the Richter scale aftershock was measured at 08:57 in Mianzhu. Another aftershock, measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale, was measured at 11:42 in Qingchuan. The possibility of more aftershocks of between six to seven on the Richter scale have been predicted in the Wenchuan earthquake area in Sichuan province by the Sichuan Seismological Bureau. By 21 May, 162 aftershocks above 4.0 on the Richter scale were recorded, including 26 aftershocks above 5.0, and four others above 6.0 on the Richter scale.

¹ In China, a household is calculated according to rooms with one house made up of 3-4 rooms. The government's compensation payments are based on the number of rooms. To date, exact figures have yet to be released by the government.

On 19 May, exactly a week after the earthquake, flags flew at half-mast, all public entertainment was cancelled and 1.3 billion people were asked to observe three minutes of silence as China began three days of mourning for those who died in the massive earthquake. The Olympic torch relay, a potent symbol of national pride in the countdown to August's much anticipated Beijing games, was also suspended during the mourning period. Trade on China's stock and commodities exchanges was suspended for the three-minute period of silence. China's National Grand Theatre has cancelled or postponed all performances throughout the three days. The mourning period ended yesterday (21 May) and as hope of finding more trapped survivors dwindles, sheltering and preventing hunger and disease among the millions displaced becomes more pressing.

According to the local news agency Xinhua, 5.2 million people have been re-located to different areas in Sichuan. Some 5,673 injured people have been transferred to cities including Chongqing, Xi'an and Guangzhou as of 21 May.

In Mianyang, around 200,000 displaced people are being sheltered in nearly 100 emergency camps. Out of this number, 50,000 people are in two big municipal sports centres in Jiuzhou and Nanhe. The other 150,000 people are located in emergency shelter camps in Anixan and Pingwu counties. The number of people in each camp greatly varies from ten inhabitants to 20,000 inhabitants per camp.



Covered by the Red Cross: Survivors of the earthquake sleep in a shelter under the comfort of Red Cross blankets. *Sho Huang/International Federation*

According to the state council earthquake rescue and relief headquarters, none of the reservoirs in the earthquake-affected area have collapsed. However, many reservoirs, hydropower stations, dams and water locks have been seriously damaged. As of 19 May, the dam in Bikou reservoir has shifted as much as 30 centimetres. This threatens Qingchuan county of Guangyuan prefecture located downstream of Bikou Reservoir. Many "quake lakes", caused by huge water bodies shoved from their bed by rock and mudslides as a result of the earthquake, could burst at any time. This could in turn cause floods which will threaten survivors, rescue workers and volunteers further downstream. So far, 33 quake lakes have been identified in nine counties in Sichuan. The ministry of water resources has sent 25 task forces to the affected area to assist local water authorities in inspecting damages and implementing contingency measures. The Wuyi, Fengshou, Yuanmen, Xiangjiagou and Hongqi reservoirs and other smaller reservoirs, embankments and drinking water projects in Shuifu and Suijiang counties have sustained some damage.

Mudslides caused by aftershocks are blocking rivers and the heavy rain has hampered the restoration of roads and rescue work in the quake zone. According to the ministry of agriculture, 33,300 hectares of farmland, including more than 10,000 hectares of wheat and rape, and more than 20,000 hectares of vegetables have been damaged in the 13 cities and counties worst hit.

Heavy rain increases the possibility of floods and landslides in earthquake-damaged areas. Disease control is also proving challenging with a lack of staff and equipment for environmental disinfection, especially in remote and rural areas.

As of 19 May, the government stated that it will provide each person affected by the disaster with CNY10 (CHF 1.5) and half-a-kilogramme of food per day for three months. The sheer numbers involved to sustain this is overwhelming. For example, the Deyang prefecture alone (with 800,000 people affected) will need 400,000 kilogrammes and CNY 8 million (CHF 1.2 million) per day. It is also providing each family with compensation of CNY 5,000 (CHF 753) for each person who has died as a result of the earthquake. Orphans, the elderly and the mentally and physically disabled who had lost their families will receive CNY 600 (CHF 90) per month for three months. So far, over 70 children have been confirmed as orphans and over 40 elderly people confirmed as being left without a living family and relatives. They are now being accommodated in the welfare centres of civil affair bureaux in Chongqing, Chengdu and other nearby provinces. This is a temporary arrangement and families are being encouraged to adopt orphans through proper adoption procedures and processes. The ministry of civil affairs will build more welfare centres for orphans should adoption not be viable. These centres will also include the elderly and disabled who are homeless.

The government has stated that it will build a DNA database for later identification of bodies. For those who are to be cremated or buried, but who have yet to be identified, medical staff will be keeping DNA samples for testing, to be managed by the police for future identification.

There have been reports of certain individuals and organizations collecting funds on behalf of RCSC. **The RCSC has not authorized any other person or organization to carry out fundraising on its behalf.**

Relief and shelters

According to the ministry of civil affairs, over five million people are estimated homeless as a result of the earthquake. A short-term option is to encourage those without a home to live with relatives and extended families until permanent housing is available. The government plans to reconstruct permanent housing to address this concern. Considering the large number of people needing shelter, public establishments such as stadiums and empty office buildings will be open for emergency displacement. Meanwhile, tents, awnings and portable cabins are greatly needed and factories in China have increased production to meet the demand. The RCSC is also looking at how it can support semi-permanent housing solutions in the mid-term as an interim solution until more permanent housing can be constructed.

According to the state council, by 21 May, a total of 392,340 tents, 865,384 winter quilts and 1,783,600 winter clothes have been allocated to earthquake-affected areas. The Sichuan provincial government estimates three million tents are needed along with sprinklers, sweepers and mobile toilets.

Basic health care, nutrition, psychosocial support, water and sanitation

Altogether 40,000 health personnel have been deployed to quake-affected areas to augment the local health service capacity. Some 360,159 people (including 66,649 people rescued from the rubble), sustained various levels of injuries and wounds and were treated by these health personnel. The government has welcomed foreign aid and has made contact with a few foreign governments regarding the mobilisation of their medical teams. To date, these include medical teams and field hospitals from Hong Kong (who arrived in Chengdu on 19 May), Russia and Japan (who arrived on 20 May), Italy (arriving 22 May), Taiwan Red Cross Organization, German Red Cross (arriving 23 May), and medical personnel from Medecins sans Frontières Belgium and France.

As of 21 May, 80 per cent of fatalities in Sichuan had been buried or cremated. There is a public fear of dead bodies causing an epidemic and the government and volunteer agencies have mobilized hundreds of personnel and volunteers to spray disinfectants around camps and rubble, and to cover dead bodies with lime. The WHO in China has provided information that dead bodies do not cause epidemics and there is no need to divert already stretched health resources.

The government has deployed water supply and waste removal units around the country to support infrastructure rebuilding efforts. Many private companies have come forward to volunteer their time and resources to contribute to this huge task.

The basic food needs of the affected population have been largely met. As of 20 May, a total of CNY 18 million (CHF 2.66 million) worth of food and drinking water had been allocated to the quake zones by the ministry of civil affairs. However, most of the food assistance provided consists of dry food (such as instant noodles and biscuits) and for days, many people have not had hot food and rice, the staple food for the Chinese. The next priority will be to provide the means for people to cook food such as kitchen sets and utensils.

The government made a nationwide request to help with the provision of psycho-social support to disaster victims and to date, 300 psychological health professionals have been deployed. These teams use a variety of intervention methods, ranging from clinical counselling to hypnosis to children's plays. Telephone hotlines have been set up around the country to provide support to migrant workers from Sichuan and other affected areas living around the country. This is the first time China has undertaken the task of providing psycho-social support on such a large scale and there is a need to ensure that practitioners build experience in community-based approaches.

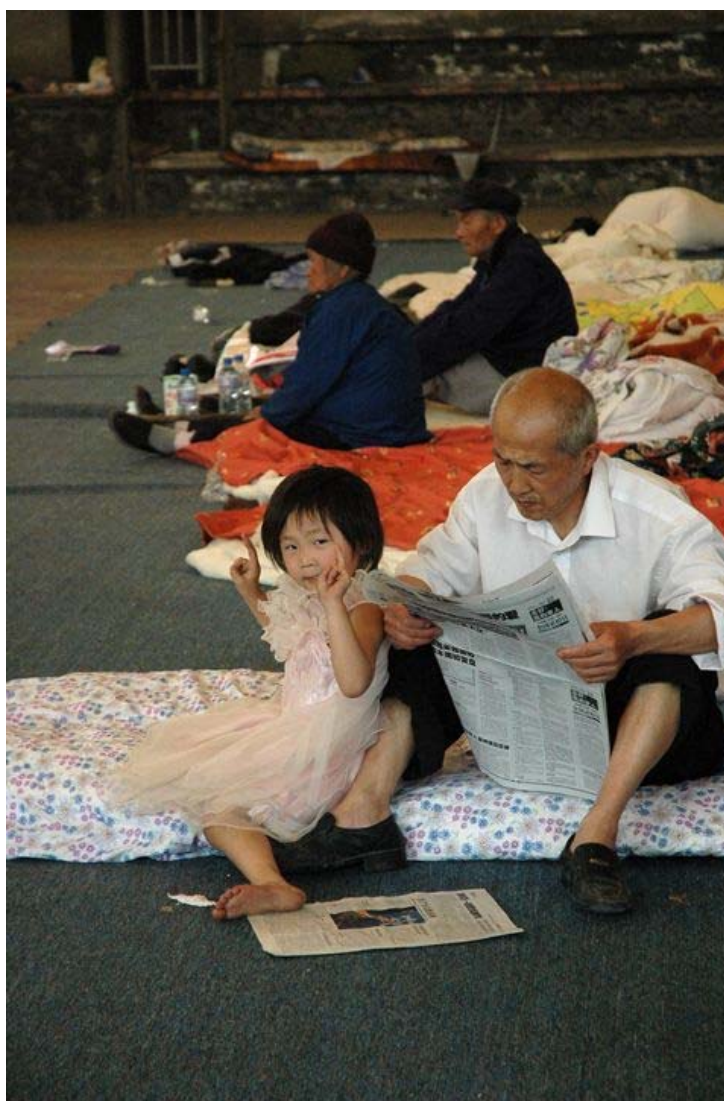
Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

On 18 May, RCSC transported milk, instant noodles, drinking water, quilts, torches, raincoats, tents and clothes from its Xi'an warehouse to Sichuan. Meanwhile, more relief items from warehouses in Shanghai, Guangdong, and Yunnan have been mobilized to affected areas in Sichuan, Chongqing, Gansu, Shaanxi, Yunnan and Guizhou provinces. The same day, a batch of in-kind relief items donated from the logistics centre of the Chinese army to RCSC was transported directly to Sichuan. This batch consisted of cooking units, medical equipment, tents, water purification equipment and generators worth CNY 15 million (CHF 2.3 million). On 19 May, the fourth batch of relief items from RCSC headquarters left Beijing for Chengdu. This batch included ten ambulances, 1,600 heavy duty gloves, 2,400 masks, winter clothes, tents, food and medicines. The items were scheduled to arrive on 21 May.

By 21 May, RCSC headquarters had allocated 18,510 tents (18 square metres by 30 square metres) valued at CNY 21.75 million (CHF 3.2 million) from its regional warehouses to eight affected provinces.

In addition, the RCSC has requested up to 100,000 tents from outside of China. Partner national societies, including the Belgian, Canadian, Finnish, Iranian, Japanese, Norwegian, and Turkish have expressed their intention to provide in-kind donations in tents to RCSC. In the meantime, 8,600 tents are being mobilised from existing stock for delivery as soon as possible. The regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur is working on mobilizing relief in close coordination and cooperation with the RCSC, the



A four-year-old and her father wait in a reception centre for earthquake survivors in Dujiangyan, Sichuan. The little girl's mother died in the disaster, but she is as yet unaware of it. *Sho Huang/International Federation*

International Federation office in-country and the many partner national societies who have responded to the request and all requests for the provision of relief supplies should be coordinated with the regional logistics unit for this operation. A logistics coordinator from the Pakistan country office is also on the way to China to provide support during the initial stages, and is due to arrive in Beijing on Friday 23 May.



Presidential aid: The president of the Red Cross Society of China takes part in distributing food to people affected by the earthquake. *Red Cross Society of China*

The RCSC headquarters have also requested six medical teams from Red Cross branches and Red Cross hospitals in other provinces. These teams have been working in Mianzhu, Shifang, Chaping, Anxian, Pingwu and Mianyang since 13 May. To date, over 5,300 patients have been treated by these six Red Cross medical teams. Epidemic control has become another major task besides treatment.

Taiwan Red Cross Organization sent relief items to Sichuan on 13 May. A 22-member rescue team has been working in Mianzhu and Hanwang counties. On 20 May, a 37-member medical team arrived in Chengdu with equipment to provide more support on medical treatment and epidemic control.

The RCSC, with the support of the ICRC, also seeks to restore family links and provide tracing services to the affected people. A team left Beijing on 19 May to the affected areas to conduct assessments and focus on sending news to family members.

RCSC has appealed within China for donations including tents, diesel generators, winter quilts and clothes. Feedback from Red Cross medical and first aid teams in the frontline suggests that injured and displaced survivors are likely to need warm clothes and quilts.

With the expected arrival of the German Red Cross field hospital on 25 May, the RCSC has been liaising with local government and health authorities for site selection and recruitment of local health personnel. Two German Red Cross staff arrived on 21 May and are conducting a survey on the availability of water sources and other logistical preparations in advance of the hospital's arrival.

On the request of the ministry of foreign affairs, the RCSC is facilitating the arrival of three relief and medical teams sent by the government of Russia, Japan and Italy in Chengdu. It will support these teams to liaise with local authorities in setting up operations. The Russia medical team arrived in Chengdu on 20 May, set up a field hospital in Pengzhou and has started treating injured survivors. The Japanese medical team arrived on 20 May and the Italian team, on 21 May. These two teams are assessing the location of field hospitals with the support from the ministry of health and RCSC.

As part of the ongoing cooperation between the Red Cross Society of China and the International Federation, the executive vice-president of the RCSC has requested the International Federation's support in coordinating the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's international response to the Sichuan earthquake relief efforts.

The International Federation's country office in Beijing will be further strengthened by three to four additional staff over the next couple of days, to address functions such as coordination, logistics, shelter, and recovery in support of the RCSC operation. Currently in Beijing to provide further support to the regional office are the head of Mongolia's country office, a planning monitoring, evaluation and reporting staff from the Asia Pacific zone, the logistics delegate from Pakistan and a Netherlands Red Cross bilateral in-country staff. The regional office's team is presently in the field.

While originally, plans were that all procurement was to be done locally, it seems clear now that some items, such as tents and possibly other items will require external assistance. As such, a mobilization table has been prepared and made available on DMIS. In order to avoid overwhelming the RCSC's capacity to respond and coordinate assistance on the ground, all international in-kind donations, support and assistance from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement will be coordinated by the International Federation through the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur.

Coordination and partnerships

The Chinese government, through its ministry of foreign affairs is taking the lead in the coordination of all international organizations in the disaster response to this earthquake. Regular consultations are being held between the government and the office of the UN resident coordinator in China.

The RCSC and the International Federation's team has been approached by numerous international organizations, diplomatic missions of foreign governments in China and individuals offering their support in kind, in cash, and in personnel, including specialized medical teams and volunteers. For the purpose of effective coordination and information sharing, the International Federation's team together with the RCSC has been in regular communications with these agencies through phone calls, e-mails and information sharing meetings.

To date, four international rescue teams sent by the governments of Russia, Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore are working in the field. These teams are working in Qingchuan, Mianzhu and Shifang at this moment, coordinated by the Chinese government. The rescue teams from Japan and Russia left Chengdu on 21 May.

The International Federation's team on the ground has been closely coordinating its activities with other organizations and exchanging their assessment findings and observations. Coordination is also carried out with the World Health Organization China and other UN organizations based in Beijing.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The International Federation's regional office in East Asia is working in partnership with the RCSC's media department to raise media attention and public awareness about the RCSC's response to the earthquake. Currently, a media specialist is working out of the regional office's earthquake operation office in Sichuan to provide timely and accurate information to the public and the media and carry out interviews with international media. Together with the German medical team, a media officer from the German Red Cross will arrive tomorrow to handle related media for one week. The latest updates, including stories, photos, and press releases, are being posted on www.ifrc.org daily.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Red Cross Society of China: Mr. Wang Xiaohua, director of external relations department; email: rcsc@chineseredcross.org; phone: +86.10.6404.8366, fax +86.10.6402.9928.
- East Asia regional office in China: Mr. Carl Naucler, (head of regional office), email: carl.naucler@ifrc.org; and Mr. Qinghui Gu (regional disaster management coordinator), email: qinghui.gu@ifrc.org; phone +86 1391 0959 834, fax+86-10-6532-7166.
- Federation zone office in Kuala Lumpur:
 - Alistair Henley, head of zone office, phone: +6012 203 8254, email: alistair.henley@ifrc.org,
 - Amy Gaver, acting head of disaster management unit, phone: + 60 3 9207 5700, fax: +60 3 2161 0670, mobile +60 12 220 1174, email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org

- For pledges of funding: Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and PMER coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5775, email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org
- Igor Dmitryuk, head of regional logistics unit, phone: +60 1 2212 2407, fax: +60 3 2168 8573, email: igor.dmitryuk@ifrc.org
- Federation secretariat in Geneva: Christine South, operations coordinator, Asia Pacific, phone: +41 22 730 4529; mobile: +41 79 308 9824; email: christine.south@ifrc.org

[<click here to return to the title page>](#)

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Annex 1

CHINA: SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE**MDRCN003****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	630,000
Construction Materials	5,000,000
Clothing & Textiles	4,000,000
Food	5,000,000
Water & Sanitation	285,000
Medical & First Aid	740,000
Utensils & Tools	825,000

Total Relief Needs **16,480,000****CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Vehicles Purchase	90,000
Computers & Telecom Equipment	30,000

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	-
Distribution & Monitoring	200,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	100,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	316,800
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	72,000
National Society Staff	48,000
Consultants/ information	108,000

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	50,000
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	180,000
Information & Public Relations	36,000
Office running costs	85,200
Communication Costs	78,600
Professional Fees	847,400
Financial Charges	3,000
Other General Expenses	46,445

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	1,304,967
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Total Operational Needs **3,596,412**

Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) **20,076,412**

Available Resources

Net Request **20,076,412**

China Earthquake Figures

Data reported by the State Council, posted on sina.com as at 09:14, 22 May 2008.

Province	Prefecture	County	No. of confirmed deaths	No. of injured	Remarks
Sichuan	Mianyang	Beichuan	8,605	9,693	
		Anxian	1,571	13,476	
		Pingwu	1,546	32,145	
		Jiangyou	359	9,483	
		Others	3,895	41,533	
	Sub-total		15,976	106,330	
	Deyang	Mianzhu	6,805	31,569	7,500 people trapped in rubble, 3,750 people missing.
		Shifang	3,546	31,978	
		Zhongjiang	19	420	
		Sub-total	10,341	63,967	
	Chengdu	Dujiangyan	3,069	3,202	
		Pengzhou	870	5,580	
		Others	217	9,020	
	Sub-total		4,179	21,703	
	Aba	Wenchuan	2562	24,000	1,006 missing
		Maoxian	618	7,365	
		Lixian	101	123	
		Others	1183		
	Sub-total		4,464	31,488	
	Guangyuan	Qingchuan	2,675	12,987	
		Others	1,813	11,113	
	Sub-total		4,488	24,100	
	Suining		27	402	
	Ya'an		28	1351	
	Nanchong		30	7632	
	Ziyang		20	633	
	Meishan		10	315	
	Ganzi		9	23	
	Bazhong		10	258	
	Leshan		8	534	
	Neijiang		5		
	Zigong		2	79	
	Guangan		1	37	
	Others		8	68	
Total in Sichuan alone			30,854	263,395	
Gansu			364	7,560	
Shanxi			114	3,017	
Chongqing			16		

Henan			2	7	
Yunnan			1	51	
Hubei			1	14	
Guizhou			1	15	
Hunan			1		
TOTAL in all provinces			41,353	274,683	32,666 missing
No. people homeless					Over 5 million, according to Ministry of Civil Affairs
No. people affected					20 million in Sichuan, according to Ministry of Civil Affairs

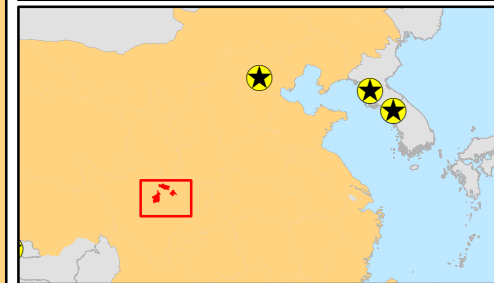
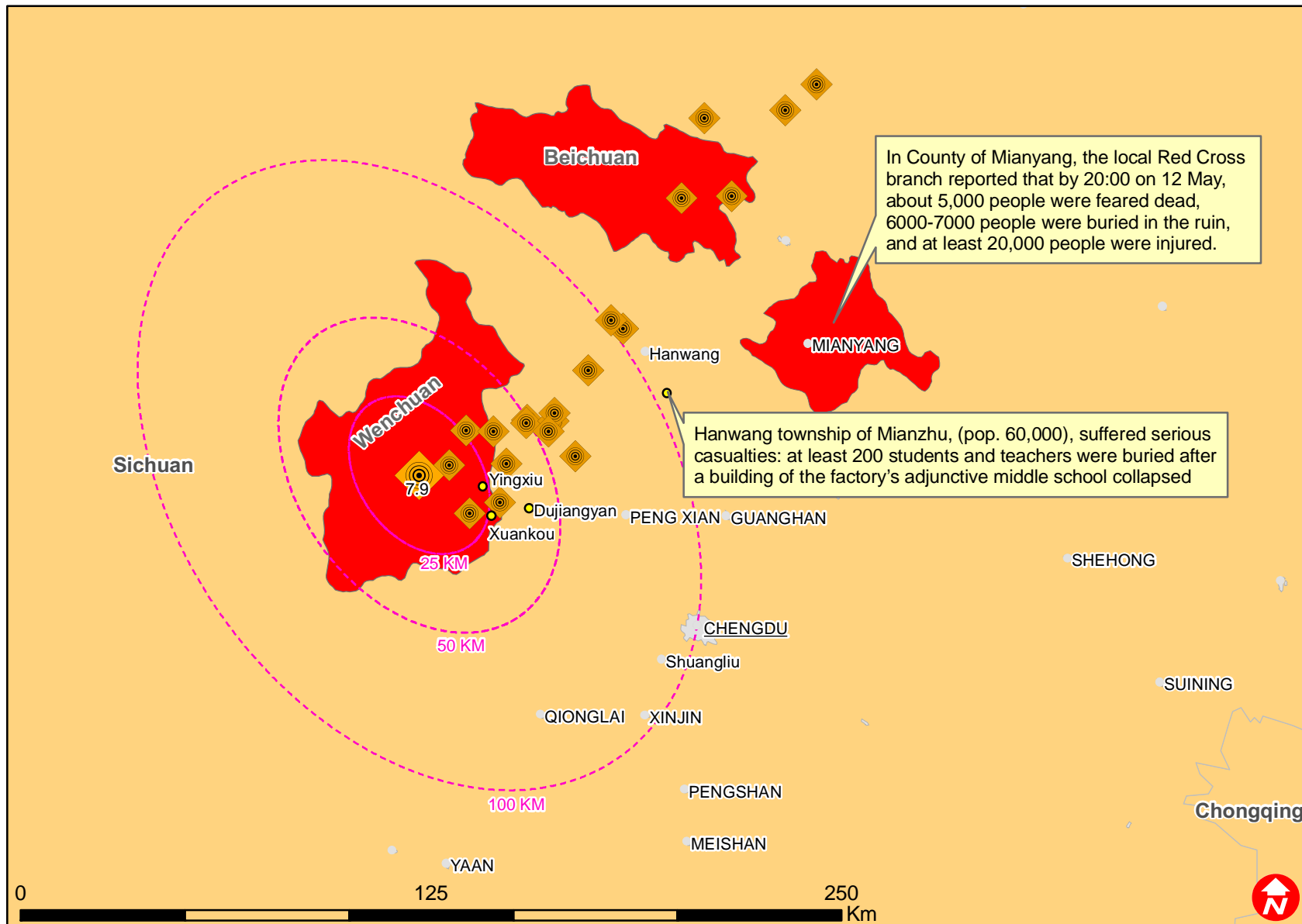







International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

DREF MDRCN003
13 May 2008
EQ-2008-000062-CHN

China: Earthquake



-  Main earthquake
-  Aftershocks
-  Most affected counties