

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Sichuan Earthquake

GLIDE n° **EQ-2008-00062-CHN**
12 May 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 250,000 (USD 236,580 or EUR 153,355) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society of China in delivering immediate assistance to those affected by the earthquake in Sichuan province. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

A major earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale jolted Wenchuan County, Aba Prefecture in southwest China's Sichuan Province at 14.28 Beijing time (0628 GMT) on Monday, 12 May. Several lower-scale earthquakes followed in the same area, according to State Seismological Bureau of China.

Latest figures released by the Sichuan provincial disaster relief headquarters indicated that approximately 8,000 people are feared dead after the major earthquake in Beichuan, a nearby county of Wenchuan, and about 20,000 people were injured.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) local branches have started to provide emergency relief assistance. The RCSC headquarters and the International Federation's regional office's joint emergency assessment team are preparing to leave Beijing first thing in the morning on 13 May to go to Wenchuan to conduct an emergency assessment.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months to support emergency relief, and will therefore be completed by August 2008. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 30 November 2008.

[<click here for contact details,](#)
[or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

A major earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale jolted Wenchuan County, Aba Prefecture in southwest China's Sichuan Province at 14.28 Beijing time (06.28 GMT) on Monday 12 May. According to the U.S Geological Survey, the quake struck at a depth of 29 km, with the epicentre of the quake located approximately 92 kilometres from Chengdu, Sichuan's provincial capital.

Minutes later, at 14.35 local time, an earthquake measuring 3.9 on the Richter scale jolted Tongzhou District in east Beijing. According to the State Seismological Bureau, the second quake's epicentre was 39.8 north latitude and 116.8 east longitude. Tremors were felt as far as Bangkok, some 3,300 kilometres away.

Latest reports as of 23.00 hours Beijing time indicate a death toll of approximately 8,000 and rising, with 20,000 injured. In Dujiangyan city, a middle school classroom building collapsed and over 50 students were reported dead.

According to the RCSC's provincial branch in Sichuan, information received from Beichuan County in the province of Sichuan indicated that approximately 80 per cent of the houses in the county have collapsed.

The earthquake damaged communication facilities in Wenchuan and nearby areas and are currently unreachable. Road transportation was also cut off in the Aba Prefecture. The Chengdu airport is currently closed, with domestic flights re-routed to land in Chongqing. Collapsed houses, landslides and other damage were reported in another seven counties in Aba Prefecture. So far, there are no signs that the earthquake has affected the Three Gorges dam.

It was reported by China Central Television that the earthquake was felt in Chongqing, Hunan, Hubei, Yunnan, Guizhou, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Ningxia, Shandong, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu provinces and the Shanghai municipality.

The National Disaster Contingency Plan has commenced. The Chinese Premier arrived in Chengdu Monday afternoon (12 May) by plane and was on the way to the quake-hit county of Wenchuan. The premier called the quake a "major geological disaster", and called for calm, confidence, efficiency, and strong leadership in the face of the disaster.

The State Seismological Bureau has sent out a 185-person emergency rescue team to Wenchuan. The Chinese Air Force has sent two helicopters to assist with relief work in the quake-stricken areas. According to military sources, the Chengdu Military Area Command has dispatched troops to help with disaster relief work in the earthquake-stricken area. In addition, the Ministry of Civil Affairs sent 5,000 tents to the disaster area.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

The RCSC allocated 557 relief tents and 2,500 quilts (worth approximately RMB 780,000) from its regional disaster preparedness centre in Xian to the affected areas in Sichuan Province. A joint emergency assessment team from the RCSC's headquarters and the International Federation's regional office in Beijing are ready to be dispatched and are waiting for the first available flight out to the affected province. Local Red Cross branches have sent their assessment teams to the affected areas and have started relief distributions.

The proposed operation

Initial activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs assessments.
- Distribute relief supplies including tents for 500 families, quilts for 5,000 people, 300 boxes of water purification materials as well as 600 boxes of food parcels.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Following assessments, an more detailed plan of action will be established to provide assistance to the disaster-affected population.

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 \(NGO's\) 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

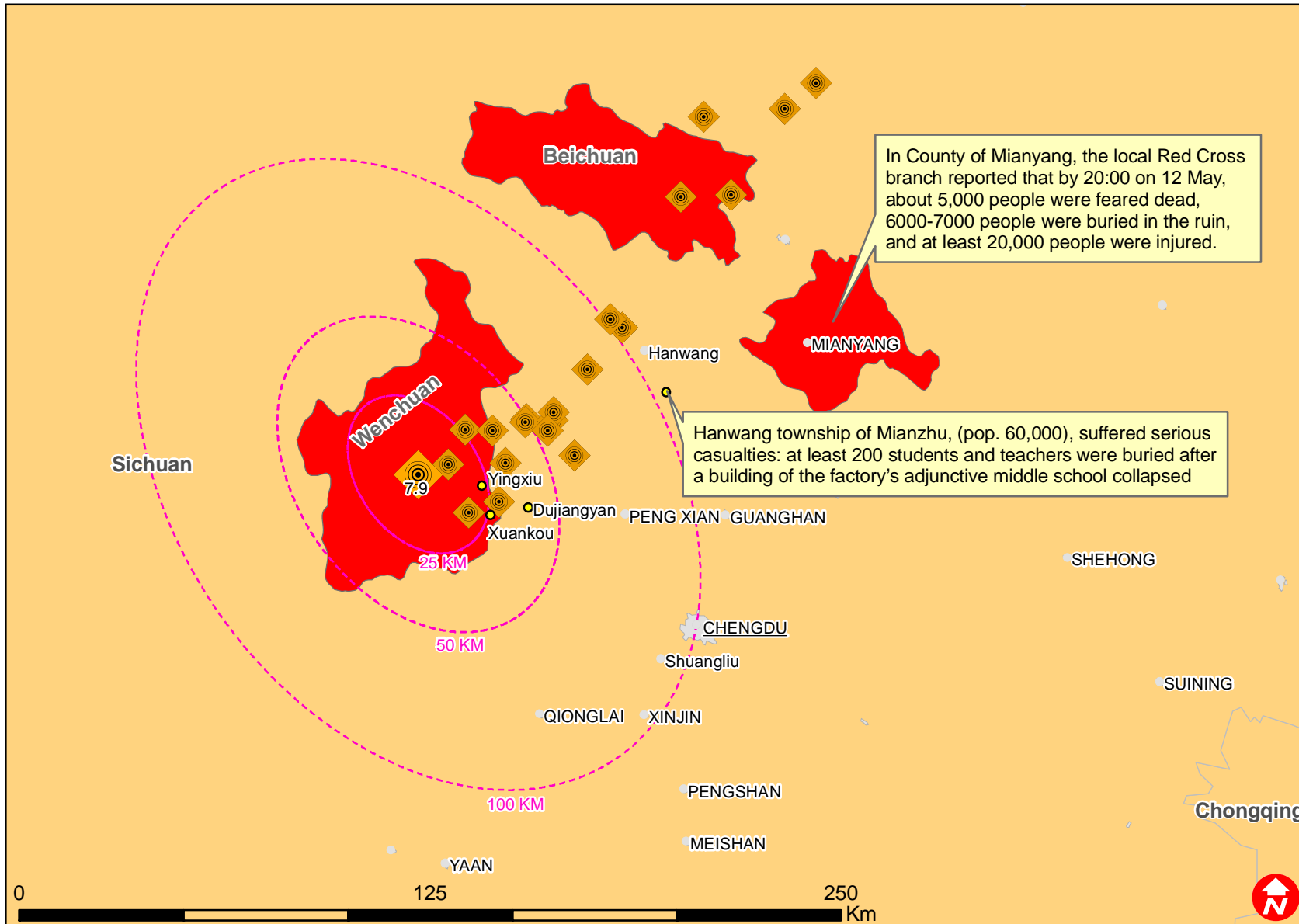
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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< [map of the affected areas below, please click here to return to the title page](#)>

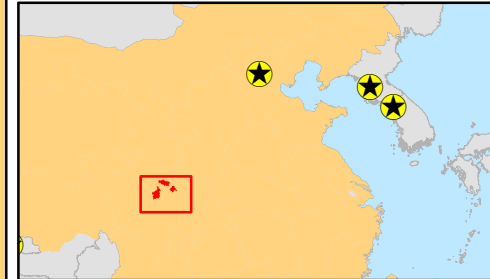





China: Earthquake



In County of Mianyang, the local Red Cross branch reported that by 20:00 on 12 May, about 5,000 people were feared dead, 6000-7000 people were buried in the ruin, and at least 20,000 people were injured.

Hanwang township of Mianzhu, (pop. 60,000), suffered serious casualties: at least 200 students and teachers were buried after a building of the factory's adjunctive middle school collapsed



-  Main earthquake
-  Aftershocks
-  Most affected counties