

# Emergency appeal



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## China: Sichuan Earthquake

Emergency appeal n° MDRCN003  
GLIDE n° [EQ-2008-00062-CHN](#)  
15 May 2008

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 20,076,412 (USD 19,304,242 and EUR 12,431,215) in cash to support the Red Cross Society of China to assist around 100,000 people affected by the earthquake for 12 months.

CHF 250,000 was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation.



Search and rescue teams have been working around the clock in clearing the rubble caused by the earthquake (Red Cross Society of China)

**Summary:** A 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked the south-western province of Sichuan in China, the worst to hit China in 30 years. As of 15 May, the ministry of civil affairs reports more than 16,000 people killed, more than 26,000 people injured, around 30,000 people buried and 10,000 people missing. It is feared that final casualty figures will be much higher. Current figures indicate that approximately four million homes have been destroyed or badly damaged in Sichuan, and seven other affected provinces and municipalities including Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shanxi, Guizhou and Hubei.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) immediately dispatched teams and relief items to the affected

areas. Tents, quilts and water purification tablets have been distributed where they are most needed. An assessment team has travelled to the epicentre and a detailed plan of action to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, both short- and long-term, will be drafted in the coming days.

The Red Cross Society of China has launched a national fundraising campaign, and it is anticipated that there will be a high level of response to the RCSC appeal. This International Federation appeal aims to complement support being raised within the country as an expression of international concern and solidarity with those affected by this massive disaster.

Based on the current situation, this Emergency Appeal focuses on providing support to RCSC to take an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief in the following sectors: food, water, shelter, warm clothes, quilts and medical assistance. Details of the plan of action and budget of this appeal will be adjusted as more information is gathered and the situation develops.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 12 months, and will therefore be completed by May 2009. A final report will be made available by 31 August 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget>](#)

[<click here to link to a map of the affected area>](#)

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

On 12 May at 14.28 Beijing time (06.28 GMT) in the southwest province of Sichuan, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake rattled China, with tremors felt in nearly every province of the country and as far away as Bangkok and Hanoi. In the first hours that followed the quake, little was known about the utter devastation it caused due to disrupted communication lines, obstructed roads and transportation routes. The epicentre, Wenchuan County, is located more than 100 km away from Sichuan's capital in a remote mountainous area populated mostly by Tibetan and Qiang minority people. With more than 70 percent of the roads destroyed and blocked, the county was completely cut off from the outside world for more than a day, with relief workers having to travel many kilometres on foot.



The RCSC has been actively involved in the response to the Sichuan earthquake disaster. (Red Cross Society of China).

As relief efforts got underway, information on the scope of the disaster in various areas has trickled in. As of 15 May, the official tally of deaths is more than 16,000, with expectations that it will rise steeply as relief teams clear the rubble. The ministry of civil affairs officially estimates at least 30,000 people are still buried with about 10,000 confirmed missing. Various media sources are quoting officials on the ground as saying many thousands more are still unaccounted for near the epicentre. At least 320 people have been reported dead in the neighbouring provinces of Gansu, Shaanxi and Chongqing.

First responders entering the most remote areas near the epicentre are finding few survivors. In Yingxiu township, Wenchuan County, relief workers found only 3,000 survivors thus far out of a population of 12,000. In Mianzhu city, 3,000 have been found dead, with 10,000 still buried.

Beichuan County, neighbouring Wenchuan County, was also badly hit. It is estimated that 8,000 may be dead in Mianyang township of Beichuan County, with another 18,645 still buried. A seven-storey middle school in Beichuan collapsed, burying 1,000 students and staff. It is still unknown how many have survived.

Another 900 students in Juyuan township in Dujiangyan were also trapped, with very few survivors being pulled from the rubble. Only 100 people out of 420 survived in another school in the same area.

Many of these remote areas do not have the heavy equipment needed to move the rubble in order to rapidly find survivors, so rescuers are even using their hands and makeshift levers to remove the rubble.

There are more than 26,000 injured survivors in Sichuan province, and medical supplies are urgently required. Many hospitals and clinics have collapsed and medical professionals have been treating patients in the streets or in tents with whatever supplies they have available.



Damaged roads in Wenchuan County have disrupted transportation routes. (Red Cross Society of China)

While the government has promised an all out effort in bringing emergency relief to the area, the disruption of transportation routes and broken water supplies has made survival for those affected most difficult. Water and food are both in short supply.

Ensuing rains in the region have caused further challenges in the relief efforts. Landslides are engulfing survivors and overflowing rivers are endangering safety and transportation routes. Air drops of relief supplies

have been halted due to the bad weather. Contact has also been lost with the initial rescue teams that went in on foot and by water into the affected areas.

Fears of aftershocks plague the communities and the rescue efforts. Sichuan seismologists reported 2,345 aftershocks in the province on Tuesday 13 May, of which 16 were 5.0 on the Richter scale or higher. People are sleeping outdoors, even in the rain, and there are worries of illnesses spreading as survivors are exposed to the elements. Initial estimates of property damage are reporting that approximately 4 million homes have been destroyed.

The government has dispatched 50,000 troops and made an initial pledge of CNY 860 million (CHF 130 million or USD 123 million) towards the relief efforts.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The RCSC Sichuan branch has dispatched two emergency relief teams to two of the most heavily damaged counties of Dujiangyan and Beichuan. A team arrived in Dujiangyan and started emergency relief distribution, including the set up of tents. The other team reached Beichuan and reported severe damage in the county.

So far, the RCSC has allocated relief items such as tents, quilts, and food items in total worth of CNY 4.3 million (CHF 650,000 or USD 615,000) to affected areas. Items were sent to disaster areas directly by donations or allocated from regional disaster preparedness centres. Relief stocks in Chengdu have already been depleted, thus supplies such as tents and clothing have been sent from other regional disaster preparedness centres in China.

Five RCSC medical teams were dispatched on 14 May. Each team is comprised of 10 - 20 staff including surgical doctors, nurses, ambulances, and cooking facilities. These five teams are from the General Hospital of the Armed Forces, the Beijing Red Cross emergency service centre, the Anhui Red Cross branch, the Hebei Red Cross branch, and Huashan Hospital.

A joint assessment team composed of staff from the RCSC headquarters, the International Federation's regional office in Beijing, and the Hong Kong and Macao branches of the RCSC travelled to Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan. The team was briefed by the Sichuan Red Cross branch before heading to the epicentre. Detailed information from the team is expected after their return, as communications to and from the severely affected areas is still disrupted.

In view of the huge disaster family tracing service activities may be considered soon.

The RCSC has already raised CNY 280 million (CHF 18 million or USD 17 million) towards the efforts through its national fundraising appeal, but much more is needed to ensure that the most vulnerable, especially those in remote and difficult to reach areas, are able to receive the needed assistance.

## The needs

**Beneficiary selection:** This appeal will provide funding for assistance to approximately 100,000 beneficiaries.

**Immediate needs:** Food, drinking water, tents, quilts, warm clothes, jerry cans, kitchen sets, illuminating equipment, and medical services, including disease control.

**Longer-term needs:** Rehabilitation, re-housing, and post disaster psychological support.

## The proposed operation

This appeal outlines the known situation at this time and some of the basic needs the local RCSC branches have been identified. The RCSC, with support of the International Federation, will assist the most vulnerable populations near the epicentre.



RCSC volunteers setting up tents for survivors (Red Cross Society of China)

The RCSC is working on a detailed plan of action. Through this appeal, funding will be provided for the initial relief phase, in addition to funding mobilized by the RCSC. This appeal will cover the provision of relief supplies for approximately 100,000 beneficiaries most in need and include the following:

- 3,000 tents;
- 100,000 quilts;
- 200,000 pieces of warm clothing;
- 100,000 food parcels;
- 2,000 boxes of water purification tablets;
- 33,000 jerry cans;
- 33,000 kitchen sets;

Additionally, funds will be provided for the RCSC to send ten medical and first aid teams to the affected areas.

In the second phase of the operation, the focus will be on recovery, and the reconstruction of houses; at this stage this appeal budget provides for reconstruction assistance to a minimum of 1,000 vulnerable households.

Once further assessments have taken place, and the RCSC has established its plan of action, this appeal will be revised and adjusted accordingly.

Currently all relief items mentioned above are for local procurement following International Federation standard procurement procedures, and no in-kind donations are currently being considered. International rescue teams are not required as this is being fully covered by the Chinese authorities and the RCSC teams.

### Capacity of the Red Cross Society of China

The Red Cross Society of China was founded in 1904, becoming one of the first members of the International Federation in 1919. The mission of the RCSC is reflected in its law, acknowledged by the central and provincial governments, and is reflective of the good working relationship with the government, particularly in the fields of relief and health activities. Today with over 21 million members, a headquarters in Beijing (217

staff) and established regional branches (5,959 staff) corresponding to state administrative units, the RCSC is well placed to act as a valuable auxiliary partner to the government in times of disaster.

In recent years, China has experienced many earthquakes, during which RCSC has conducted key relief activities. In addition, the RCSC has responded to massive disasters caused by typhoons, torrential rains and snow in the past few years. Through these experiences, the RCSC has developed well established response mechanisms to ensure delivery of assistance to affected individuals. When disaster strikes, RCSC branches at the provincial and local levels immediately launch local appeals for funding and gather items such as warm clothing to assist victims. Branches in the affected areas have already distributed tents, water purification tablets, and quilts.

The RCSC maintains a nationwide network of six regional disaster preparedness centres. These are essentially warehouses with stocks of relief supplies, but they also serve as focal points for training staff in disaster management, including logistics, report writing skills and first aid tailored to different kinds of disasters.

### **Capacity of the International Federation**

The Federation's East Asia regional office, in Beijing, is comprised of a head of office and specialist delegates in disaster management, health and care, reporting, and finance, backed by a committed team of staff in the International Federation's Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur, and relevant technical departments at the secretariat of the International Federation in Geneva.

The International Federation focal point for this operation will be the regional disaster management delegate and his team, whose key function will be to provide support as necessary to RCSC in successfully implementing the operation. It is the intention to keep the East Asia regional disaster management team at a three-person capacity throughout this operation.

The regional finance manager is also providing support to the RCSC headquarters and branches to help them meet financial reporting requirements. The planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) team in both the regional office and the Asia Pacific zone office will ensure timely reporting, and support from a communications specialist in the region will enable information dissemination to the media and the public.

### **Coordination and partnerships**

Coordination is a high priority to ensure the most effective use of available resources towards the needs of vulnerable people. Besides the central and local government authorities, RCSC is the only other organisation currently engaged in disaster response activities on a nationwide scale in China. The RCSC works to ensure a close coordination of its activities with the ministry of civil affairs and the ministry of health, particularly at local operational levels. The government authorities assume the major responsibility for both emergency disaster response and follow-up rehabilitation activities such as the restoration of damaged infrastructure, and rebuilding of roads and bridges. RCSC focuses on providing supplementary disaster response in the immediate aftermath of disasters and, as far as resources permit, on the continuing humanitarian needs. Coordination meetings will be held regularly between the RCSC and the International Federation, including operations planning in all sectors.

The International Federation's East Asia regional office in Beijing is supporting the RCSC in the earthquake relief operations, and there is very close coordination with RCSC's relief department. The East Asia regional disaster management team of the International Federation is currently composed of the regional disaster management delegate, the relief coordinator seconded by the Japanese Red Cross, and a disaster management officer. Additional support is provided by the International Federation's Asia Pacific Zone Office and by the Secretariat in Geneva.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to

promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. The communications activities outlined in this appeal are aimed at supporting the national society to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are closely coordinated with the communications department of the International Federation's secretariat in Geneva.

The Federation's regional office in East Asia will work 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 consultant has joined the regional office to provide timely and accurate information to the public and the media. The reporting delegate will further support these efforts through timely reporting and communications with donors and partners. Opportunities for advocacy for more solid structures in the reconstruction and support to the most vulnerable communities will also be pursued. Support is also provided by the media service at the International Federation's secretariat in Geneva.

## Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Thomas Gurtner  
Director  
Coordination and Programmes Division

Markku Niskala  
Secretary General

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:carl.naucler@ifrc.org); and Mr. Qinghui Gu (regional disaster management coordinator), email; [qinghui.gu@ifrc.org](mailto: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](mailto:alistair.henley@ifrc.org),
  - Amy Gaver, acting head of disaster management unit, phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, fax: +60 3 2161 1210, mobile +60 12 220 1174, email: [amy.gaver@ifrc.org](mailto:amy.gaver@ifrc.org)
  - For pledges of funding: Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and PMER coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5775, email: [penny.elghady@ifrc.org](mailto:penny.elghady@ifrc.org)
  - For mobilization of relief items: Jeremy Francis, regional logistics coordinator, phone: +60 12 298 9752, fax: +60 3 2168 8573, email: [jeremy.francis@ifrc.org](mailto:jeremy.francis@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](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org)

**< [Emergency Appeal budget and map below;](#)  
[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
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>16,480,000</b>

**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**

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

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**Available Resources**

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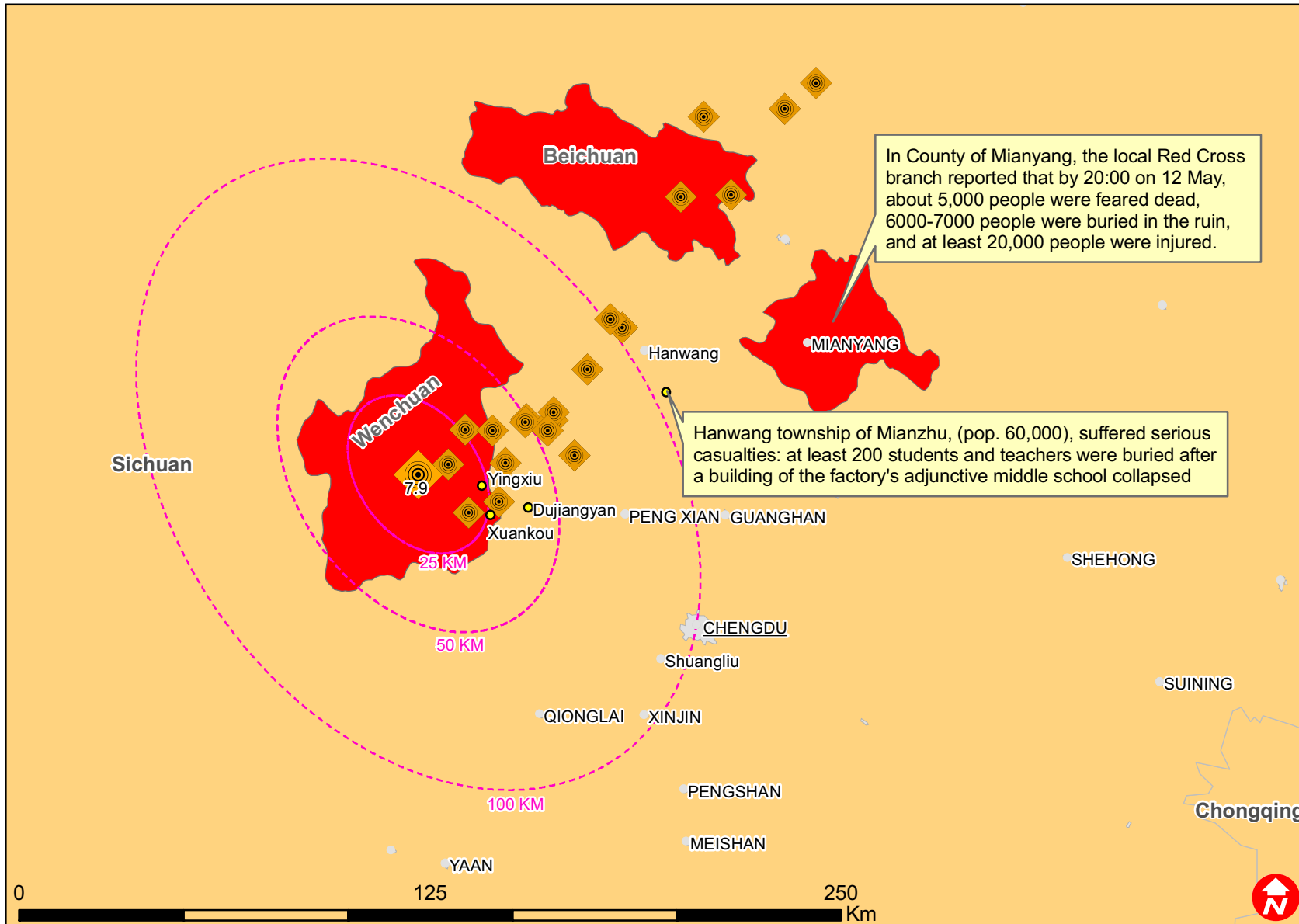
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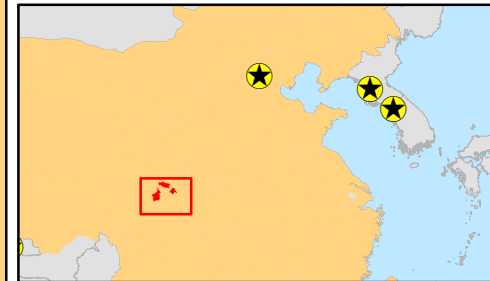


# China: Earthquake



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