

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° 3
19 May 2008

Period covered by this Update: 96 hours after the launch of appeal.

Appeal target (current): CHF 20,076,412 (USD 19,304,242 or EUR 12,431,215);

[<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 four 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, after further assessments have taken place and a plan of action for International Federation support to the Red Cross Society of China's operations is established.

[<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.



Survivors post information on missing family members on the shelter camp's information wall, Mianyang, 18 May (International Federation).

Summary: As of 18 May, the death toll from the massive earthquake which struck the south-western province of Sichuan has risen to a total of 32,476 and 220,109 injured, according to the emergency response office under the State Council. Of this figure, 32,173 deaths occurred in Sichuan alone with the rest in seven other provinces and municipalities - Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shanxi, Guizhou and Hubei. On 18 May, as many as 5,210 aftershocks were recorded in Sichuan. So far, 209,905 people have been injured in Sichuan, with an estimated 10,000 still buried under the rubble. Some 15.7 million rooms have been damaged and 312 million others have collapsed. The earthquake has left over 4.8 million people homeless.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) headquarters, along with its Sichuan branch and many other provincial branches of RCSC, have been providing non-stop assistance to those in the affected areas. By 18 May, RCSC headquarters had mobilized six medical teams, over 200 staff from other provinces and 31 rescue and relief teams from other Red Cross branches to 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 Sichuan Red Cross branch also sent 33 Red Cross first aid teams to provide assistance to over 7,500 people. Altogether over 35,000 Red Cross staff and volunteers are assisting in the relief effort.

As of 18 May, the RCSC headquarters and its branches have received more than USD500 million in donations, internationally and nationally fundraised, in cash and in-kind. Some CNY 400 million (CHF 60 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 psychosocial counselling.



RCSC medical teams and volunteers have been working round the clock treating the wounded (International Federation).

The International Federation set up an earthquake coordination office in Sichuan province on 18 May. The International Federation will provide emergency support to the RCSC relief operations in Mianyang prefecture, one of the most affected prefectures. Tents, quilts, winter clothing, kitchen sets and other relief items are being sent by the International Federation to Mianyang.

Many partner national societies have made contributions to the appeal: American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross / Canadian government, Netherlands Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, 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 18 May, the death toll from the powerful earthquake which hit southwest China's Sichuan province has risen to 32,173, with 209,905 injured in that province alone, according to the information office of the state council. The 7.8 Richter scale earthquake of 12 May has caused 4.8 million people to be displaced in eight affected provinces and municipalities including Sichuan (the province most severely affected), Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shanxi, Guizhou and Hubei, according to the emergency response office of the State Council.

Located in the north-west of Sichuan province, the Mianyang municipality is a traffic link, 90 kilometres from Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province. The total area of Mianyang municipality is 20,249 kilometres² with a population of 5,170,141 people. The distance between Wenchuan (the epicentre) and Mianyang seat is approximately 170 kilometres. Beichuan, Pingwu, Anxian and Jiangyou are the four most damaged counties in Mianyang, with Beichuan at 60 kilometres from Wenchuan. By 18 May, the confirmed death toll in Beichuan and Pingwu was 8,410 and 1,200 respectively. A total of 12,149 confirmed deaths and 68,100 injured have been reported in Mianyang.



Jiuzhou sport centre is providing shelter for over 20,000 people who have lost their homes, Mianyang, 18 May (International Federation).

Altogether 38 medical teams and 2,076 doctors, specializing in various fields such as disease control, are currently working in Mianyang. Apart from areas which are inaccessible, all four of the most affected counties have medical teams on the ground.

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

The World Health Organization warned the shortages of clean water and warmer humid weather in Sichuan province were ripe for epidemics. It urged officials not to be distracted by the false belief that corpses were a health threat. Experts say that while dead bodies left in the open after a disaster can cause distress, they pose little health risk because the micro-organisms responsible for decomposition cannot cause disease and other germs in the body die quickly.

On 19 May, 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. Officials asked that the horns of cars, trains, ships and air raid sirens be sounded as people fall silent at 14:28 (0628 GMT) exactly one week after the earthquake devastated thousands of buildings and killed an estimated 50,000 people. 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 will be suspended for the three-minute period of silence. China's National Grand Theatre will cancel or postpone all performances during the three days. The mourning period begins as hope of finding more trapped survivors dwindles and preventing hunger and disease among the millions displaced becomes more pressing.

Latest news reports that up to 200 relief workers engaged in the emergency relief in different counties have been buried as a result of mudslides. Information on the exact numbers in each location has yet to be received. Two construction machines and six vehicles were also buried in the mud.

Relief

According to a Mianyang relief official, there is enough food and bottled drinking water at this stage with in-kind donations from every source. Rice, wheat powder and oil are needed while the sheer number of displaced people means that tents, quilts, winter clothing (as the most affected areas are mainly located in the mountains where temperatures can vary greatly between day and night) and kitchen sets are in need. Medicines, materials and equipment for epidemic control are becoming more and more urgent. Water sanitation equipment and hygiene kits are also needed. Mianyang Airport is functioning properly now and can provide facilities for the relief efforts.

Essential medical services and first aid

Along with damaged and collapsed schools, the impact of the earthquake on the local health system has been devastating. In Beichuan, one of the most affected counties in Mianyang prefecture, not a single health facility survived the earthquake. At the same time, in addition to attending to the usual cases of chronic conditions, the health system has to now provide services to 209,905 injured people and 4.8 million displaced people. The various health risks are aggravated by poor sanitary conditions, poor nutrition, the drop in night temperature and the lack of shelter and clothing.

In response to this situation, the government has taken active measures in filling these gaps. It is reported that over 100 medical teams, staffed by 34,000 doctors, nurses and disease prevention staff are operating in these areas. These teams are supporting the few relatively functioning and overstretched hospitals and/or are setting up on-site health and first aid posts. The government is also arranging the transportation of patients to higher-level health facilities in other neighbouring provinces. Some 485 ambulances have been deployed for this purpose alone. In Mianyang prefecture, 2,000 patients are in need of transportation to Chongqing (300 kilometres from the earthquake's epicentre). Attending to the health needs is monumental. Due to difficulties in accessing some areas, it is unclear at this stage what the total available health service capacity is at for now. Some gaps remain especially at secondary-level of care.

Water and sanitation

Those working in the affected areas face a huge task in providing safe water and sanitation for the large number of displaced people. Those displaced have access to donated bottled water, but based on limited field observations, there seems to be limited access to water and sanitation facilities. In a camp of over 30,000 people in Mianyang prefecture, only 150 toilets are available, resulting in long queues of up to 20 minutes. No shower facilities were available. Under these conditions, the threat of an



A temporary latrine set up in an emergency camp near Juizhou, Mianyang, 18 May (International Federation).

outbreak of diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections remains high. The government is in the process of building mass pit latrines and water points in temporary camps and the situation is likely to improve soon. It also has started spraying chlorinated lime to improve the environmental hygiene.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) headquarters, along with its Sichuan branch and many other provincial branches of RCSC, have been providing non-stop assistance to those in the affected areas. By 18 May, RCSC headquarters had mobilized six medical teams, over 200 staff from other provinces and 31 rescue and relief teams from other Red Cross branches to Sichuan. Sichuan Red Cross branch has dispatched 17 medical teams to Pengzhou, Beichuan, Dujiangyan, Anxian, Mianzhu, Shifang and Pingwu and to treat over 2,000 seriously injured people. Sichuan Red Cross branch also sent 33 Red Cross first aid teams to provide assistance to over 7,500 people.

The Hong Kong Red Cross branch sent medical teams to Beichuan and donated CNY 139 million (CHF20.9 million) in in-kind donations. The Taiwan Red Cross Organization sent rescue teams to Mianyang and also donated USD 426,900 (CHF 447,460) in in-kind donations.

Other bilateral support from within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement directly to RCSC includes contributions from Cambodian Red Cross, Republic of Korea Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Thai Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent.



Volunteers playing with children in a temporary camp. Many people have lost members of their family, making the provision of comfort and other psychosocial support vital in alleviating the trauma of personal loss. Mianyang, 18 May (International Federation).

With over 4.8 million people displaced, there is also the critical need for tents. The Chinese government donated 190,000 tents to Myanmar after cyclone Nargis hit, therefore depleting stocks in China. The International Federation plans to mobilize tents from stocks held within the Asia Pacific zone.

The International Federation is currently in discussions with the RCSC with regard to possible future international assistance, in particular in response to health needs. German Red Cross in coordination with the RCSC is sending resources to support medical activities.

The International Federation's regional office in Beijing has been strengthened, with the International Federation representative in Mongolia and a member of the Asia Pacific Zone planning monitoring evaluation and reporting unit both joining the team in Beijing. A logistics delegate from the International Federation's Pakistan country office is also being deployed to China.



Children have been writing their thoughts on a wall at the Juizhou sports centre. These stories are helping children to cope with their grief, Mianyang (International Federation).

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

Coordination and partnerships

The Chinese government, through its ministry of foreign affairs is taking the lead in coordination of all international organizations responding 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, embassies of foreign governments in China and individuals offering their support in kind, in cash, of personnel, 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.

On 17 May, the International Federation's earthquake coordination office took part in an information sharing meeting in Chengdu with other international non-governmental organizations currently involved in the earthquake relief in Sichuan. Action Aid China is working on a ten-day relief operation, focusing on local communities. It plans to provide psychosocial support to local communities in Mianzhu, in Deyang and Pingwu, and in Mianyang, with a focus on the needs of children and women in emergency relief. Mediciens Sans Frontières conducted an assessment of a damaged hospital in Deyang, and will send medical support through its national and international medical staff within the next two weeks. The local Red Cross is a partner of Mediciens Sans Frontières.

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 has joined 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. Two local consultants have been hired to assist with camera and photography in documenting relief activities to support fundraising and public awareness campaigns for three days. 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
 - Jeremy Francis, regional logistics coordinator, phone: +60 12 298 9752, fax: +60 3 2168 8573, email: 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

[<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 |
|----------------------|--------|

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 |
|-------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Operational Needs | 3,596,412 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|

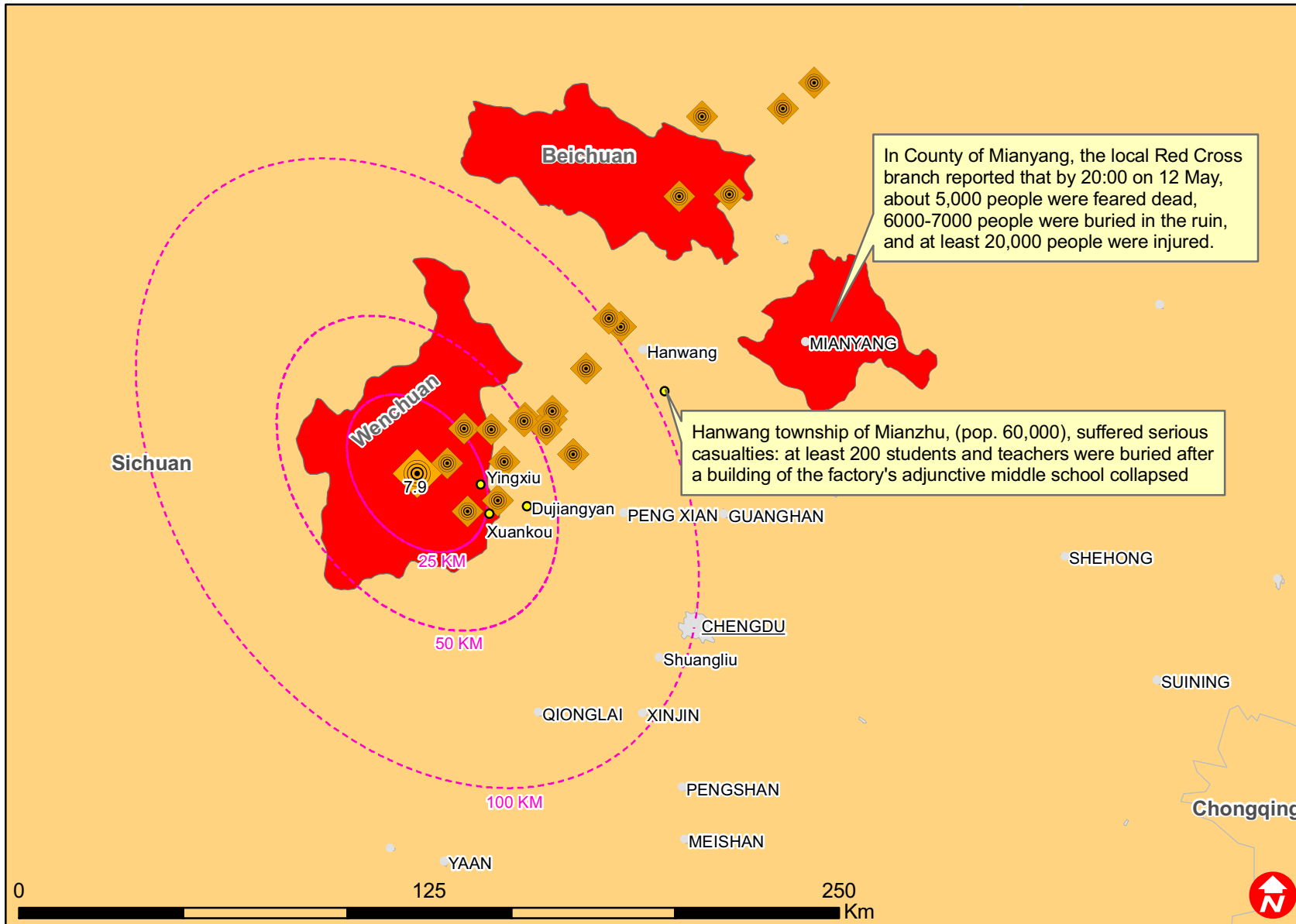
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|--|-------------------|
| Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) | 20,076,412 |
|--|-------------------|

Available Resources

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Net Request | 20,076,412 |
|--------------------|-------------------|

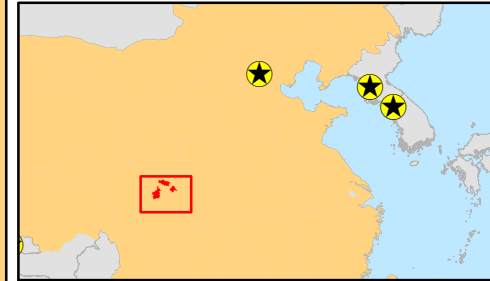


China: Earthquake



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