

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° 8
28 May 2008

Period covered by this Update: Thirteen 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: [<click here for the donor response list>](#)

There has been a very generous and quick response to this appeal. Many pledges of funding have been received, and the initial appeal target is already covered. The appeal will be revised later this week to reflect the increased support of the International Federation to the Red Cross Society of China's response to the massive humanitarian needs of this disaster.

[<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.

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. According to the state council, the most severely damaged areas include 44 counties covering 1,061 townships.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) continues to provide non-stop assistance to those in the affected areas, mobilizing medical teams, psychosocial teams, relief vehicles, hundreds of staff and rescue and relief teams have responded extraordinarily in treating thousands of seriously injured people.

As of 28 May, the RCSC headquarters and its branches have received more than CNY 9.83 billion (CHF 1,454 million) in donations, raised nationally and internationally in cash and kind. Some CNY 1.86 billion (CHF 275 million) has so far been spent by the RCSC on emergency relief items in the disaster-affected areas and more than CNY 300 million (CHF 44.4 million) is being allocated for reconstruction.

The International Federation's operations support team has confirmed the deployment of two water and sanitation emergency response units. The joint international Federation and RCSC team is identifying sites for these units. The team in-country is also looking into the possibility of further emergency response unit deployments.

The RCSC has requested up to 100,000 tents from outside of China through Red Cross Red Crescent sister societies. So far, 33,318 tents have been mobilized and further stocks from other partner national societies will be confirmed to cover the full amount.

The president of the International Federation will visit Beijing and the disaster-affected areas on 4-5 June to show support to the dedicated RCSC staff and volunteers who have worked around the clock to provide assistance during this huge humanitarian relief effort.

Many partner national societies have made contributions to the appeal: American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Croatian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross/Danish government, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross/Japanese government, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, New Zealand Red Cross/New Zealand government, Norwegian Red Cross, Sri Lanka Red Cross, and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society, as well as contributions from American and Italian governments, OPEC and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

The Red Cross Society of China has also received bi-lateral contributions from Cambodian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Republic of Korea Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent and Vietnam Red Cross.

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

By 27 May, the Sichuan earthquake and aftershocks have left 67,183 dead, 361,822 injured, 20,790 missing, and 15 million displaced of which five million are homeless, according to ministry of civil affairs. [<click here for details>](#) The final death toll is expected to climb to above 80,000. The highest number of casualties occurred in Sichuan province with a recorded 66,674 deaths. In Sichuan alone, 1.5 million houses were totally destroyed. Rescue efforts are still continuing but winding down as the focus on clean-up, reconstruction and recovery begin. According to the authorities, relief and recovery efforts including providing food, tents and clothing, and reconstruction of housing and infrastructure for the 15 million displaced is expected to take three years.

Aftershocks continue to heighten the anxiety of those who survived the quake 14 days after the 12 May earthquake, with nearly 8,000 aftershocks recorded thus far. The largest aftershock measuring 6.4 on the Richter occurred on 25 May, causing eight deaths, injuring 927, causing 71,300 houses to collapse and over 200,000 others damage. Yesterday (27 May), two aftershocks occurred; one 5.4 Richter scale aftershock struck at 16:03 at Qingchuan in Sichuan, and another 5.7 Richter scale aftershock struck at 16:37 at Ningqiang in Shaanxi. These two latest aftershocks injured more than 60 people and caused the collapse of 420,000 houses in Qingchuan. Continuous aftershocks are disrupting power, telecommunications systems and roads in some areas, many of them repaired and cleared from the earlier quake.

The most critical situation currently is the risk of torrential floods in the event of quake lakes bursting. The massive earthquake caused the creation of 34 'quake' lakes (formed by rivers blocked by landslides) in nine counties in Sichuan with the three biggest lakes in Beichuan, Anxian and Qingchua. Water levels in the Tangjiashan quake lake in Beichuan county have been rising steadily by up to two metres a day. The barrier is now close to bursting. The risk of flooding has been compounded by ensuing rains and forecasted thunderstorms. Authorities have taken steps to reduce the risks of these lakes overflowing and threatening nearly 1.3 million people living downstream and in the adjacent areas. These 1.3 million people from 33 townships of Mianyang county are being relocated should the lake barrier eventually collapse. As of 27 May, nearly 158,000 people living downstream of the quake lake in Beichuan have been evacuated with thousands more still to be evacuated. To prevent this catastrophe, about 2,000 soldiers and 600 engineers have been working continuously to ease the pressure on the lakes by blasting and digging sluices to create other channels to drain the water. Earth-moving equipment such as bulldozers and excavators have also been airlifted into this lake area to facilitate this effort. Authorities continue to closely monitor the situation, while formulating and implementing contingency measures.

Heavy rain is also aggravating conditions in the 69 reservoirs in danger of collapse in Sichuan, with hundreds more at risk. The ministry of water resources is monitoring the situation in the dams and reservoirs affected by the earthquake, and measures such as draining the reservoirs are being taken. Some 803 hydropower stations were damaged by the quake, including 481 in Sichuan alone.

Relief and shelter

According to the ministry of civil affairs, over five million people are estimated homeless as a result of the earthquake. The government plans to reconstruct permanent housing. However, considering the large

number of people needing shelter, public establishments such as stadiums and empty office buildings will be open for emergency displacement.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government has already started to produce temporary houses and relief teams have started working on setting these up. Tents, awnings and transitional shelters are greatly needed and factories in China are running at full gear to increase production to meet the demand.

As of 27 May, 566,400 tents, 3,5 million quilts, 8.3 million pieces of clothing, 450,000 tonnes of fuel and 940,000 tonnes of coal have been allocated to the affected areas, according to the ministry of civil affairs.

According to the ministry of housing and rural-urban development on 26 May, 1,600 sets of transitional houses have been set up in Sichuan, 4,000 sets are being installed and 7,200 sets will be installed. Some 144,000 sets of transitional houses have been shipped to Sichuan and 26,000 sets are ready to be transported.

The ministry of civil affairs has signed contracts with 75 tent suppliers as of 26 May for 900,000 tents. It is estimated that from 30 May, 30,000 tents will be delivered daily to Sichuan by road and railway. The ministry of civil affairs estimate that around 3.3 million tents and temporary shelters are needed. The exact number of damaged and collapsed houses will need to be further assessed.



A government relocation camp hosting 1,500 people. Each unit houses three people. The camp has a medical point, temporary school, latrines and shower facilities. Dujiangyang, Sichuan. (27 May. International Federation)

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

According to the ministry of health, as of 27 May, 84,810 people have received hospital treatment; 54,374 discharged, 16,288 remain in hospitals and 6,363 referred to hospitals in Chongqing, Hubei, Guangdong, Hunan, Shandong and 18 other provinces.

China's health authority stated on 27 May that emergency inoculation for people vulnerable to infectious diseases in the quake zone would be completed by 15 June. The emergency inoculation will help prevent such diseases as hepatitis A and encephalitis B. By mid-June, the ministry will also have in store 100,000 vaccines for the prevention of cholera, 20,000 for rabies and 30,000 for measles. Latest statistics show that nearly 140,000 medical staff across the country have participated in quake relief work, 91,298 of whom are working in Sichuan province alone.

Currently, about 10,000 epidemic prevention professionals, including 4,939 personnel from 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across the country, are working in the quake-affected areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

As of 28 May, the RCSC headquarters and its branches have received more than CNY 9.83 billion (CHF 1,454 million) in donations, raised nationally and internationally in cash and kind. Some CNY 1.86 billion (CHF 275

million) has so far been spent by the RCSC on emergency relief items in the disaster-affected areas. RCSC has assured that all funds will be used for earthquake relief and recovery, including relief, temporary and permanent housing, rebuilding schools and clinics, recruiting and maintaining Red Cross teams for relief, medical support, psychosocial support and volunteers. RCSC plans to spend more than CNY 300 million (CHF 44.4 million) on setting up transitional shelters for those displaced by the earthquake.

The RCSC headquarters will purchase 1.7 million mosquito nets and 6,500 tonnes of grain/rice for earthquake survivors in Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces. These 6,500 tonnes of grain/rice will support 400,000 people for one month.

The RCSC has requested up to 100,000 tents from outside of China through Red Cross Red Crescent sister societies as stocks within China are depleted. Partner national societies, including the Canadian, Danish, Finnish, German, Iranian, Japanese, Netherlands and Norwegian national societies (and numerous others) have confirmed their in-kind donations in tents to RCSC, or hard pledges to cover procurement of tents. In the meantime, 33,318 tents are being mobilized from existing stock and production for delivery as soon as possible and further stocks are being mobilized from other partner national societies to cover the full amount. More quantities are under negotiation. The first batch of 1,900 tents from Netherlands Red Cross will arrive today (28 May) in Chengdu to support the Mianyang Red Cross branch, with many others in the pipeline for arrival next week.

The International Federation's operations support team has confirmed the deployment of two water and sanitation emergency response units, each capable of providing safe water for up to 15,000 people and has confirmed the deployment of one mass sanitation unit from British Red Cross. The joint international Federation and RCSC team is identifying sites for these units which are expected to arrive in the coming days. The team in-country is also looking into the possibility of further emergency response unit deployments.

The Hong Kong Red Cross branch is providing 55,000 quilts and distribution, to date, has been carried out in Shifang and Mianzhu (8,000 quilts), Gansu and Sichuan (20,000 quilts). The Hong Kong Red Cross branch has also distributed instant food, medical supplies, and 2,000 tents in Gansu and Sichuan provinces. Some 1,500 tents and 15,000 quilts are expected to arrive in Sichuan with more tents presently being sourced locally. It has also completed assessments with RCSC national headquarters in Shaanxi province.

The German Red Cross field hospital arrived on 23 May and was set up in Dujiangyan, Sichuan. It is now fully operational as of 26 May. In the first two days of its operation, the hospital provided services to a total 484 patients. The hospital is staffed by 150 medical personnel, one-third from the National Hospital in Shanghai and the remaining from the severely damaged People's Hospital in Dujiangyang. Prior to the earthquake, Dujiangyang had four hospitals, all of which have either been totally or partially destroyed. The medical team from these destroyed hospitals are currently operating out of tents. None of these makeshift hospitals has any inpatient beds, and limited observational beds; therefore, all inpatient cases have been referred to Chengdu, located 54 kilometres from the city. As news of the field hospital spreads, many patients can now receive care closer to their families and homes.

The hospital is also located next to a camp with some 30,000 displaced people, thus significantly improving their access to health care. The hospital's health information system is being adapted to the local health authority requirements. Once established and tested, this system can be instituted across all health and first aid posts operated by the RCSC in the affected areas.

RCSC psychosocial support teams have been helping people affected by the disaster in Mianyang prefecture. Many Red Cross staff and volunteers have been working long hours under immensely difficult conditions in makeshift offices during the day, and sleeping in cars and tents at night. Some of them have lost family members and witnessed the grief and loss of thousands of others in their communities. Psychosocial support for Red Cross staff and volunteers is urgently needed and with the support from the International Federation's regional health delegate, the RCSC is exploring opportunities to provide psychosocial support and managing stress of all RCSC personnel in the field.

The International Federation's East Asia regional office in Beijing has been further strengthened by additional staff to address functions such as coordination, logistics, shelter, recovery, reporting and operations support. To

date, a total of eight additional staff have arrived, four of whom are now in Chengdu. A delegate from Netherlands Red Cross has also arrived to support the European Commission (ECHO) funded tent provision.



People registering for treatment at the German Red Cross field hospital in Dujiangyan. (27 May. International Federation.)

Coordination and partnerships

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 made with the WHO and other UN organizations based in Beijing. Thanks to regular contacts with the China Data Centre, the collaborative project with Tulane University, the International Federation's operations centre obtained pre-earthquake population and health service information for Sichuan from different administrative levels and shared that data with other international organizations and medical aid teams working in Sichuan. The China Data Centre, in collaboration with the Sichuan University is planning to conduct an assessment of the extent of damage of health facilities following the earthquake, in the near future.

Daily meetings among the regional office, RCSC headquarters and the field have also strengthened communication and coordination at all levels.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The International Federation's regional office in Beijing is working in partnership with the RCSC's media department to raise attention and public awareness about our response to the earthquake. Updated press releases, stories, and photos are available online at www.ifrc.org and www.flickr.com/ifrc.

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 Naucner, (head of regional office), email: carl.naucner@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:
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[<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

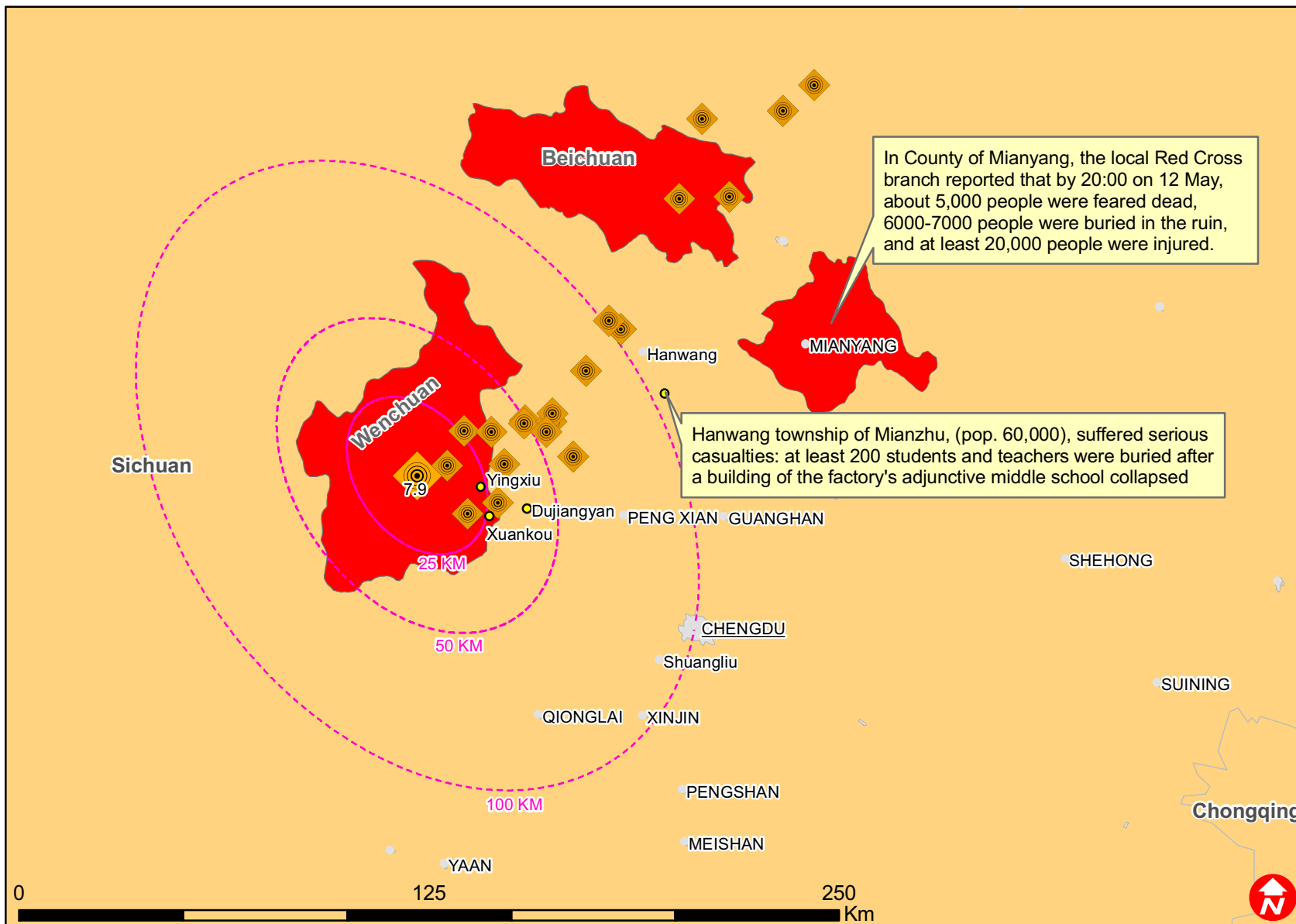
Data reported by State Council, posted on sina.com, 11:36 a.m. May 28 update.

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	394	9,483		
		Others	3,895	41,533		
	Sub-total			21,935	166,733	7,666 missing
	Deyang	Mianzhu	11,098	31,569	298 missing; 36,468 injured; 8,600 rescued from rubble; 460,450 relocated; 36,468 hospitalized	
		Shifang	5,891	31,978	251 missing; 31,990 injured; 33 buried under rubble; 3,724 rescued from rubble; 340,000 relocated; 10,547 hospitalized	
		Zhongjiang	19	420		
	Sub-total			17,076	63,967	12,477 rescued from rubble; 72,249 injured; 602 missing; 1,307,416 relocated; 56,909 hospitalized;
	Chengdu	Dujiangyan	3,069	3,202	429 missing	
		Pengzhou	870	5,580	676 missing	
		Others	217	9,020		
	Sub-total			4,276	26,413	2,904,000 affected; 1,271 missing; 490,000 houses, 54 reservoirs and 36 water and electricity stations collapsed; direct loss of CNY 9.58 million.
	Aba	Wenchuan	15,938	34,583	8,243 missing	
		Maoxian	3,122	8,183	2,223 missing	
		Lixian	171	1,612	25 missing	
		Others	1,183	265		
	Sub-total			19,334	44,643	18,343 cremated; 793 buried under rubble; 10,581 missing; 39,094 rescued from rubble; 44,623 relocated
	Guangyuan	Qingchuan	4,663	15,390	162 missing, 4,663 cremated	
		Others	1,813	11,113		
	Sub-total			4,780	28,165	Over 3.2 million affected; 168 missing, 4,780 cremated
		Suining		27	402	
	Ya'an		28	1,351		
	Nanchong		30	7,632		
	Ziyang		20	633		
	Meishan		10	315		
	Ganzi		9	23		
	Bazhong		10	258		
	Leshan		8	534		
	Neijiang		7	225		
	Zigong		2	87		

	Guangan		1	44	
	Others		8	68	
Total in Sichuan alone			66,674	350,133	83,988 rescued from rubble; 6,757,226 displaced
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			67,183	361,822	20,790 missing
No. of people displaced					Over 14.4 million, according to Ministry of Civil Affairs
No. of people homeless					Over 5 million, according to Ministry of Civil Affairs
No. of people affected					Over 45.5 million in Sichuan, according to Ministry of Civil Affairs

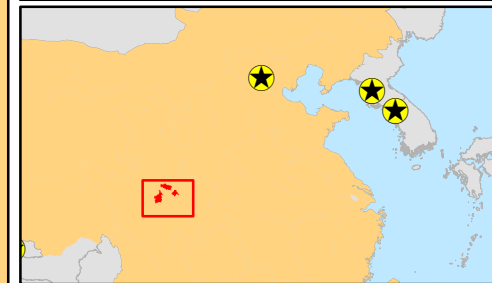


China: Earthquake



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