

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Earthquake in Sichuan and Yunnan

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A 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck the juncture of Renhe district in Panzhihua and Huili County in Liangshan prefecture at 4:30 pm local time on 30 Aug 2008. According to the China Earthquake Administration, the epicentre was about 50 km southeast of downtown Panzhihua, at 26.2 degrees north-latitude and 101.9 degrees east-longitude and at a depth of 10 km.

The earthquake jolted Huili and Panzhihua, both in Sichuan, and autonomous prefectures of Chuxiong, Dali, Lijiang and Zhaotong cities, all in Yunnan Province. Kunming, including the capital of Yunnan.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs announced 01 September that the quake affected 941,000 people, killed 40 and injured 675 people in two provinces. More than 392,000 houses collapsed or were destroyed and approximately 181,000 people were evacuated.

More than 15,120 tents, 20,000 quilts and 15 million Yuan (about 2.2 million U.S. dollars) in aid have been allocated to the quake areas in Sichuan. According to the ministry, the Yunnan provincial government will allocate 30 million Yuan for quake relief apart from tents and quilts.

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A house in Renhe district of Panzhihua city, damaged in the earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter (Photo: Xinhua)

The Situation

Most of the fatalities were in Huili, Chuxiong and Panzhihua, which sits on the southern end of the same fault line which was involved in the massive earthquake of 12 May 2008 that left more than 69,000 people dead and nearly 18,000 missing.

On 30 August, China Earthquake Administration, ministry of civil affairs and its departments in Panzhihua and Yunnan launched emergency responses by sending various assessment teams to the earthquake affected areas. Panzhihua government officials rushed to the quake zone to direct relief efforts. Relief materials, including water, food and 300 tents, as well as emergency financial aid of five million Yuan, were sent to the quake-affected areas. More than 2,000 people in Huili were mobilized to join the relief operation that was hampered due to heavy rain late on 30 and 31 August.

Ministry of Civil Affairs' assessment team arrived in Panzhihua of Sichuan and Yuan Mou of Yunnan on 01 September. A total of 10,000 tents were allocated to Yunnan to support the local displacement.

In total, more than 15,120 tents, 20,000 quilts and 15 million Yuan (approximately USD 2.2 million) in aid have been allocated to the quake areas in Sichuan. The Yunnan provincial government will allocate 30 million Yuan for quake relief apart from tents and quilts.

The Jet Li One Foundation, initiated by Chinese film star Jet Li, earmarked 2.5 million Yuan and donated materials worth 250,000 Yuan on 31 August to the affected areas in the two provinces.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and provincial Red Cross branches responded to the disaster immediately by sending relief items including 5,000 blankets, 1,000 family kits and 4,000 clothes, 3,500 mosquito nets, 400 boxes of water purifications to the affected areas, most for Yunnan. RCSC headquarters has sent assessment team to the affected province to support the relief effort.

Yunnan provincial Red Cross branch allocated 1,000 quilts and 200 tents to Yuan Mou County. Yunnan provincial Red Cross branch also sent its assessment team to affected area in Yunnan. On 01 September, Yunnan Red Cross branch announced a bank account for public donation to the earthquake.

Beijing Red Cross branch allocated relief items worth 500,000 Yuan to both Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.

For more updated information about the RCSC's relief efforts, including photos from around the country, visit <http://www.redcross.org.cn/> or <http://www.redcross.org.cn/english/index.htm> for English website.



Residents gather on a tractor to shelter from the earthquake in Bailagu village, Pingdi town, Renhe district of Panzhihua city, south-west China's Sichuan Province, (Photo: Xinhua)



A doctor tries to salvage usable items from his seriously damaged house at a hospital in Lixi Township, Huili County, south-west China's Sichuan Province. (Photo: Xinhua).

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

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