

Information bulletin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China: Earthquake

Information bulletin n° 01
GLIDE No. [EQ-2010-000073-CHN](#)
14 April 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Red Cross Society of China is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

Summary: A 7.1-magnitude earthquake in China's Qinghai Province has killed at least 400 people and injured a further 10,000 people. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), this is the strongest quake to have hit the remote mountainous area since 1976.

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



Many buildings near the epicentre were wrecked and access to basic utilities remain cut off in the aftermath of Wednesday morning's earthquake in Qinghai Province. Photo: Xinhua News

The Situation

An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale has hit northwest China's Qinghai Province at 07:49 local time on 14 April 2010 (23:49 GMT on 13 April 2010). Its epicentre is calculated to be 33.1 north and 96.7 east, which is about 50 km away from the Jiegu Township, the government seat of the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yushu, and about 800 km away from Xining, the Qinghai provincial capital. Eighteen aftershocks were recorded with the largest one registering a magnitude of 6.3, about an hour and 36 minutes after the earthquake.

Latest official statements are that 400 people were reported dead while some 10,000 were injured but these figures are expected to rise. Many remain buried under the debris and at least one school collapsed, causing the deaths of five school children. Electricity, water and communication are completely cut off, although air transportation has been established from Xining.

An official of the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yushu has told Xinhua news that more than 85 per cent of the houses in Jiegu Township have collapsed. Many houses are built with wood and earthen walls, which are more likely to collapse in a strong tremor. Jiegu has a population of about 100,000 with both permanent residents and migrant workers. While much of the area is sparsely populated, it is estimated

that the quake will have heavy casualties as the epicentre was so close to Jiegu and it hit in the early morning when many were inside their homes.

The Chinese government has immediately sent an assessment team while relief teams from Qinghai province and the neighbouring Tibet Autonomous Region were deployed to the affected area. The excavation process is hindered by limited equipment in the area and difficult road conditions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has immediately released relief supplies from their regional warehouse, including 500 winter tents, 1,000 winter clothes, 1,000 quilts and CNY 100,000 (CHF 15,460) for procurement of food and non-food items locally in Qinghai. Based on initial assessments of the immediate needs, the National Society has launched a national appeal and is sending an assessment team to the affected area, led by its vice-president, to join the Qinghai provincial Red Cross assessment team already heading to the affected area.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) East Asia regional office is closely monitoring the situation together with RCSC and providing updated information as it becomes available. It has indicated readiness to support RCSC's relief operation however necessary.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

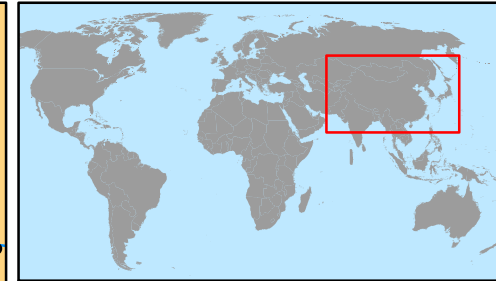
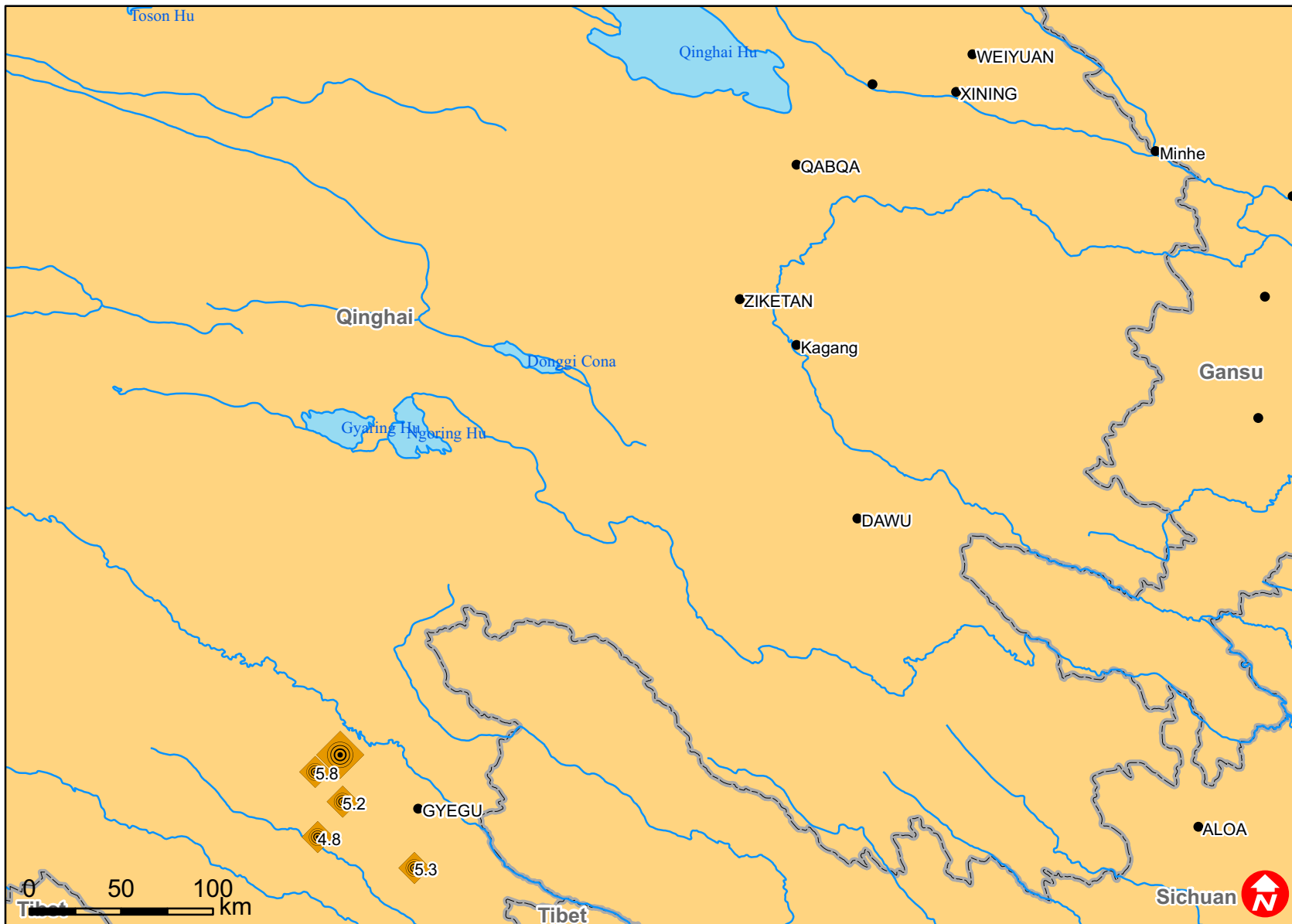
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



China: Earthquake



-  Main earthquake
-  Aftershocks
-  Main cities
-  Provinces