



Canadian Red Cross  
Croix-Rouge canadienne

## China Earthquake

**Your help can't wait.**

May 20, 2008



*Photo courtesy AlertNet*

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### The Need

A major earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale jolted Wenchuan County, Aba Prefecture in southwest China's Sichuan Province on May 12. Minutes later, an earthquake measuring 3.9 on the Richter scale jolted Tangzhou District in east Beijing. The destruction has been staggering.

Latest official figures indicate that over 34,100 people are feared dead and over 245,100 are injured, buried or missing. Over 4.8 million people have been displaced by this disaster.

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### How Red Cross is Helping

Red Cross support to those affected by the earthquake in China has been immediate.

The Red Cross Society of China began providing emergency relief assistance immediately following the quake and hundreds of Red Cross volunteers continue to help with rescue and first aid while distributing relief supplies and providing shelter to thousands of people left homeless.

Canadian Red Cross is appealing to the public to generously support the relief activities that are already underway, as well as the longer term recovery and reconstruction needs.

The Canadian Red Cross has been an important partner for the Chinese Red Cross in areas of disaster relief and disaster preparedness in China for the last 15 years. The Canadian Red Cross has responded more than 20 times and contributed approximately \$8 million to support emergency activities during earthquakes, typhoon, and floods in China.

Supported by Canadian public, the Canadian Red Cross also funded the establishment of four Chinese Red Cross Regional Disaster Preparedness Centres in Liaoning, Anhui, Jiangsu and Sichuan provinces. Working together with provincial Red Cross branches, the Canadian Red Cross has also been supporting health projects in Xinjiang, Gansu, Qinghai, Inner Mongolia and Sichuan since 1999. These projects include assistance to rural hospitals, eyesight recovery project for cataract patients and HIV/AIDS prevention programs targeting youth and high risk groups.

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## How You Can Help

The response of Canadians to humanitarian disasters around the world has always been swift and generous.

Canadians wishing to support the enormous humanitarian relief and recovery efforts in the affected regions are encouraged to make a financial donation. Donations to the Canadian Red Cross **China Earthquake** fund will help provide the survivors of this disaster with urgently needed food, shelter, water, basic health care, medical supplies, as well as recovery support, such as housing reconstruction and livelihoods support.

The Canadian Red Cross collects funds to meet the immediate relief and long-term recovery needs of disaster survivors. Should donations supporting the China Earthquake relief and recovery effort meet the amount required, the Canadian Red Cross will cease collecting donations for the response and will communicate this information immediately to the public.

**Please give generously. Your financial support** will rapidly be turned into help for the most vulnerable people affected by this disaster.

### **Make your donation to the China Earthquake appeal:**

- Online at [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)
- Toll-free at 1-800-418-1111
- In person at any Red Cross office
- By mailing a cheque or money order to Canadian Red Cross, 3400 Lake City Way, Burnaby, BC, V5A 4Y2. Earmark your donation "**China Earthquake**".

Donation of \$10 or more to the Canadian Red Cross will receive a charitable tax receipt.

**Note:** Donations of food, clothing and other items are well-intentioned. However, the tremendous processing and transportation costs involved in shipping these items makes them impractical and therefore donated goods are NOT accepted. Financial donations remain the best way to get the most appropriate help to the region quickly.

### **Want to help in other ways? Contact your local Red Cross office to learn about:**

- Organizing an event to raise funds in your community.
- Setting up an employee giving campaign at your workplace.
- Becoming a Red Cross international delegate.
- Becoming a Red Cross volunteer.