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**OCHA Situation Report No. 10**  
**Sichuan Province, China– Earthquake**  
**30 May 2008**

**NOTE:** *This report is based on information received from the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the media, as well as other partners.*

**Key Summary**

- **More than 3.3 million tents are urgently needed** and have been requested by the Government of China to the international community.
- **Tent Requirements/Sizes: 30 sq. m (6x5 m), 16 m sq.m (4x4m) or 15 sq.m (5x3m)**  
(Footnote: *it is not necessary that the tents be winterized.*)
- Donors are encouraged to report their contributions, including in-kind contributions, to OCHA's **Financial Tracking System (FTS)**, <http://ocha.unog.ch/fts2/>.

**Situation**

1. On 12 May 2008 a major earthquake measuring 8.0 (original 7.9 RS was raised to 8.0 by Chinese authorities) on the Richter scale struck Wenchuan County, Aba Prefecture some 92km northwest of Chengdu City, the capital of Sichuan Province. The earthquake took place at 14.48 Beijing-time and tremors were felt as far as Wuhan, Shanghai and Beijing.
2. As of 28 May, 219 aftershocks measuring 3.9 RS or higher have been recorded, including an aftershock on 25 May measuring 5.4 RS in Qingchuan country. This aftershock resulted in the deaths of 8 people; 927 people injured; and 400,000 homes were destroyed.
3. According to official statistics the death toll is 68,858 people with an additional 366,596 people injured and 18,618 people missing. At least 9,000 of the dead or missing are school children and teachers according to State media reports. A total of 45.61 million people have been affected, including 15 million people evacuated from their homes; of these, 5 million are living in temporary shelters. The Ministry of Commerce has announced that up to 10 million additional people are now living below the poverty line as a result of the earthquake.
4. No major outbreaks of disease have been reported so far. The Ministry of Health stated that a large supply of vaccines was sent to the earthquake disaster zone to prevent possible epidemics. Health authorities plan to complete hepatitis A and encephalitis B vaccinations for high risk groups by the middle of next month, and to stock vaccines against cholera, rabies, measles, mumps and rubella.

**Environmental Situation**

5. Chinese environmental authorities have identified some 5,000 tons of hazardous chemicals located in buildings downstream from numerous quake lakes (i.e. lakes which have formed due to the earthquake and aftershocks). Efforts are underway to transport these materials to safer locations.
6. Chinese authorities also reported that gas from a stockpile of bleach powder, which was used to disinfect quake ruins, caught on fire in the town of Leigu, Beichuan County. Two rescue soldiers and

two medical workers were treated for inhalation and released, while more than 800 residents had to be evacuated away from a dense cloud of chlorine gas caused by the blaze.

7. 28 of the 34 earthquake caused lakes are threatening to burst and flood downstream areas according to the Relief Headquarters of the Ministry of Water Resources. The most urgent case is the recently formed quake lake near Tangjiashan. Some 160,000 people have been evacuated as a precautionary measure. Premier Wen Jiabao stated that handling the danger from the swelling lakes was the "most pressing task" in the immediate disaster recovery effort. A plan to evacuate up to 1 million people is in place. The Central Government has recently increased allocation to deal with the swelling quake lakes to US\$ 28.6 million.

8. China's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) has designated environmental monitoring as one of four priority areas of post-earthquake cooperation. They noted that "the dangers of pollution and potential secondary disasters should be avoided to ensure the long-term safety and health of the population in affected areas." Activities will include the evaluation and monitoring of soil and water that may have been polluted and surveillance of chemical industries and nuclear facilities. Disposal of hazardous waste, as well as technical research and capacity building with regard to environmental monitoring, will also be emphasized. MEP has requested the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning to prepare a master plan for environmental rehabilitation in the quake-affected area. The planning is due to be completed by June 2008.

### **Needs**

9. The Government of China is accepting international medical teams and is requesting supplies and medical equipment from the international community (*please refer to OCHA Situation Report #6 for a detailed list*). All medicines, medical equipment and disinfection products, procured either in China or abroad, should be officially registered in China or other countries; detailed information on registration and accreditation requirements will be provided by the Disaster Relief Headquarters of the People's Government of Sichuan Province.

10. The Government of China has stated that 3.3 million tents are needed and welcomed through the end of July. As of 30 May, 664,500 tents have been delivered to affected areas and around 1.5 million temporary houses have been mandated by the Government to be built. As of 29 May, 2,500 temporary houses have been built up in Sichuan Province with an additional 4,600 temporary houses under construction.

### **National Response**

11. The Government of China has delivered 10.4 million sets of clothes; 560,000 tons of fuel; 1.15 million tons of coal, and 664,500 tents to the earthquake-affected area. The Earthquake Relief Headquarters of the State Council reported that rehabilitation is expected to take a long time as a number of destroyed towns and villages will be reconstructed in new locations.

12. The Ministry of Health reported that hospitals have taken in 88,617 injured people since the earthquake of which 58,356 have been discharged. MoH also reported that much of the earthquake-affected region's health infrastructure has been damaged; 12 field hospitals have been established to assist medical capacities. Around 178,000 thousand armed forces and as many as 50,000 medical personnel have been mobilized in relief efforts.

13. The Ministry of Commerce announced that a three-year overall plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction will be designed by the National Development and Reform Commission over the next three months.

14. The Population and Family Planning Commission announced that families which have lost an only child will be permitted to have a second child. The new regulation also pledges an annual allowance of US\$ 85 dollars to parents over 50 years of age whose only child was killed or seriously

disabled by the earthquake.

15. Heritage experts are assessing damages to cultural relics in the disaster region, including many world and national heritage sites. One of the world's oldest flood-control and irrigation systems, the Dujiangyan waterworks, suffered significant damage from the earthquake. It is one of 79 heritages sites in Sichuan to have been hit hard by the quake, amounting to more than 60 percent of the national heritage sites in the province.

16. As of 30 May, the Government relief fund for the earthquake-stricken areas reached US\$ 3.2 billion. Domestic and foreign donations have reached US\$ 5.7 billion.

### **International Response**

17. With the CERF rapid response grant of US\$ 8 million, a total of 9,000 tents; 62,000 blankets; and 162 tons of food have been delivered with additional tents, medicines, water purification tablets, and emergency lights on the way. The UN RC has stated that nearly all of the relief supplies will be delivered to the victims by early June.

18. International medical teams from Russia, Japan, Italy and Germany have treated 2,410 patients in earthquake-affected areas since 20 May.

19. A third UNCT meeting (since the earthquake struck) was held on 27 May and followed by a UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) meeting on 29 May. The UNDMT led a delegation of UN agencies to a donor briefing by the Ministry of Commerce on 29 May and the Office of the Resident Coordinator held the second coordination meeting with the international community on 30 May.

20. The UNCT in China will be working over the next week to further identify immediate relief activities targeted for the next three months in the current phase of support to temporary settlements and will also draft a plan to address mid-long term plan rehabilitation and reconstruction needs.

21. According to OCHA's Financial Tracking System (FTS), a total of US \$175 million in funding (contributions and commitments) have been made, in addition to US \$9 million in pledges from more than 45 donors. Most of these commitments and pledges are cash or in-kind contributions.

### **Coordination**

22. Contact information for the delivery of disaster assistance in China:

**Mr. Jianjun RAN or Mr. Xingcai ZHANG**

Civil Affairs Department of the People's Government of Sichuan Province, China

Mobile: (+86) 159 0288 8401, 135 4127 9877

Fax: (+86) 28 85205881

**Mr. Chengyuan WU**

Disaster Relief Material Department

Disaster Relief Headquarters of the People's Government of Sichuan Province, China

Tel:(+86) 28 86139526, or 28

23. UN support to the Government is coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator and assisted by UN partners and the UN Disaster Management Team. OCHA's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Bangkok is liaising closely with the UNDMT and the China Earthquake Administration.

### **Contacts**

**Mr. Khalid Malik**, UN Resident Coordinator

Email: [khalid.malik@undp.org](mailto:khalid.malik@undp.org) , Tel:+86-10-85-320-700, Fax: +86-10-85-320-900

**Ms. Yin Yin Nwe**, UNICEF Representative and Chair, UNDMT-China  
E-mail: [ynwe@unicef.org](mailto:ynwe@unicef.org) , Tel: +86-10-65-323-131, Mobile: +86-13-801-009-447

**Mr. Terje Skavdal**, Head, OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)  
E-mail: [skavdal@un.org](mailto:skavdal@un.org), Tel: + 66 2288 2425, Mobile: +66 81 916 1276

**Mr. Rajan Gengaje**, Regional Disaster Response Advisor, OCHA ROAP  
E-mail: [gengaje@un.org](mailto:gengaje@un.org), Tel: + 66 2288 2572, Mobile: +66 81 916 1271

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Telephone: +41-22-917 12 34 In case of emergency only:	Fax: +41-22-917 00 23 Tel. +41-22-917 20 10
Desk Officers:	(New York) Ms. Agnes Asekenye-Oonyu, Chief, Asia and the Pacific Section Tel: +1 212 963 1773 Mobile: +1 917 476 6164 E-mail: <a href="mailto:asekenye-oonyu@un.org">asekenye-oonyu@un.org</a>  Ms. Ah-Young Kim Desk Officer, Asia and the Pacific Section Tel: +1 212 963 5131 Mobile: +1 917 349 5109 E-mail: <a href="mailto:kima@un.org">kima@un.org</a>  (Geneva) Mr. Jean Verheyden Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Geographical Coordination and Monitoring Section Tel: +41 22 917 1381 Mobile: +41 79 509 8116 E-mail: <a href="mailto:verheyden@un.org">verheyden@un.org</a>
<b>Press contact: (Geneva)</b>  <b>(New York)</b>	Ms. Elizabeth Byrs Tel. +41 22 917 2653 E-mail: <a href="mailto:byrs@un.org">byrs@un.org</a>  Ms. Stephanie Bunker Tel. +1 917 367 5126 E-mail: <a href="mailto:bunker@un.org">bunker@un.org</a>