

BACKGROUND

On May 12, 2008 a massive earthquake struck the Sichuan region of China. The magnitude 7.9 quake could be felt as far away as Vietnam and is the deadliest quake to strike the country since 1976 when 242,000 people were killed in Tangshan. Chinese media reports that over 12,000 are dead in the wake of this disaster with many thousands more trapped beneath the rubble of collapsed buildings. Local search and rescue operations have started to recover buried survivors including over 900 students trapped beneath their fallen school building.

Many homes were destroyed by the devastating quake, leaving thousands without shelter or food. Tents and relief supplies such as rice, clean water, quilts, clothes, and medicines are desperately needed.

While the response of the Chinese government has been hailed as “swift and efficient,” the magnitude of this disaster demands outside assistance to provide relief to the many injured and homeless. Chinese officials have publicly stated that they will accept offers of help from the international community in the wake of this crisis.

LWR AND PARTNERS RESPOND TO THE CRISIS

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) will respond to this disaster through our international partners in the global alliance Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, a worldwide coalition of churches and faith-based aid agencies. ACT has a member with a presence in China. Our ACT partner has deployed staff to Chengdu, 98 miles away from the quake epicenter to begin coordinating relief efforts. More information will be provided as details become available.

You can help by making a contribution to China Earthquake

LWR accepts gifts by phone at 1-800-LWR-LWR-2, online at lwr.org, or by mailing a check or money order to:
Lutheran World Relief—China Earthquake,
P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832.

Your gift will be used for the China Earthquake relief efforts until needs there are met. After that, further gifts will be used to help LWR respond where the need is greatest. Please also consider making an unrestricted donation which will enable LWR to respond quickly to the next emergency.

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy and social responsibility. LWR is a member of Action by Churches Together.



A man and a child sit in the rain amidst the rubble of a collapsed structure after an earthquake in Dujiangyan City. REUTERS/Claro Cortes IV, courtesy www.alertnet.org



Residents carry their belongings as they evacuate their homes after an earthquake in Dujiangyan City. REUTERS/Claro Cortes IV, courtesy www.alertnet.org