

A family stand in front of temporary shelter

in the aftermath of the Belice earthquake in Sicily 1968

Date

1968-1968

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

The 1968 Belice earthquake sequence took place in Sicily between 14 and 15 January. The largest shock measured 5.5 on the moment magnitude scale, with five others of magnitude 5+. The maximum perceived intensity was X (Intense) on the Mercalli intensity scale. The earthquake sequence, centred between the towns of Gibellina, Salaparuta and Poggioreale, killed at least 231 people, possibly more than 400, with between 632 and about 1000 injured and left 100,000 homeless. It is known in Italy as Terremoto del Belice. The immediate relief effort was hampered by a lack of disaster relief planning at both local and provincial levels, excessive bureaucracy, a lack of supplies close to the affected areas and a tendency of refugees to treat outsiders with suspicion.[4]:59 One year after the earthquakes, many hundreds of people were still living in tents and many of the prefabricated housing units had yet to appear, despite having been paid for; no work had begun on providing permanent housing. Two-thirds of refugee families had still not received their government grant.[4]:52 Nine years after the earthquake, none of the refugees had been placed in new housing, leaving 60,000 still living in temporary accommodation

Dimensions

Overall: 20.4 x 30.4 cm (8 x 12 in.)

