Uprooting more than a million people

By building the world's largest dam across the world's third-longest river, China will force nearly 1.2 million people to move from fertile farmlands along the Yangtze and will affect the lives of roughly 400 million people who live along its

► Relocation by county

KEY

Nearly 1.2 million people – about the equivalent of the population of Detroit - will be moved from the banks of the Yangtze in the largest dam-forced human migration in history. Much of the land these refugees are being moved to is either too steep or too poor to farm.

WUXI COUNTY KAIJIANG 2,681 WUSHAN BADONG XINGSHAN COUNTY COUNTY COUNTY COUNTY YUNYANG 164,738 28,397 COUNTY 35,897 84.306 128,842 WuShan • Yangtze river Xiling Gorge

Yunyang Qutang Gorge ... Wuxia Gorge **FENGJIE** ZIGUI COUNTY COUNTY 100,708 98,498

1.3 miles

Yichang **Site of Three Gorges Dam**

500 miles

CHINA

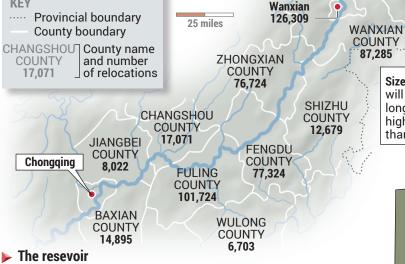
Map area

YICHANG

COUNTY

12,144

Yangtze river



The dam will create a reservoir, called Three Gorges Lake, from Chongging to the site of the dam — a distance of about 360 miles, 50 miles longer than Lake Michigan. The lake will submerge 140 towns and 326 villages under 418 square miles of water.

Size: The 1.3-mile dam will be the world's longest and, at 610 feet high, is 65 feet taller than the Washington

87.285

Energy production: The dam will produce 17.7 million kilowatts of electricity, the equivalent of 10 nuclear power

Environmental effect

Endangered species:

The river supports numerous endangered species, including the Yangtze dolphin, Chinese sturgeon, finless porpoise, giant panda and the Siberian white crane.

Landmarks:

The three gorges for which the dam is named will be flooded, and ancient

Yangtze river

Farmland:

Direction of river flow

The area that will be flooded provides fertile farmland for 40 percent of China's grain and 70

Sources: International Rivers Network, Probe International, World Almanac

Chicago Tribune/ Steve Layton and Celeste Bernard