

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

INDONESIA: NABIRE EARTHQUAKE

26 November 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time ahead of an assessment and coordination team mission to the disaster zone over the coming weekend.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

A massive earthquake measuring a 7.2 on the Richter Scale (as reported by the United States Geological Survey) and locally recorded at 6.4 (by the Indonesian Geophysics Meteorology Agency or BMG), occurred today, Friday 26 November 2004 at 11h25 local time; in the central area of Indonesia's West Papua Province. The epicenter was located 3.6340S 132.01E; 17 km south of Nabire. The tremors were also felt in Sorong, Manokwari, Biak and Timika.

According to initial reports, 24 people have been killed and 65 injured, with 150 houses and other buildings collapsed, damaged, or burned. All communication systems are down in Nabire. The nearby airport and seaport are reported damaged, with the possibility of extensive destruction elsewhere. In February of this year, a series of powerful earthquakes measuring up to 6.9 on the Richter scale (recorded locally) rocked the same location, resulting in 31 people killed, 217 injured, and damage to more than 2,000 houses, roads, bridges, schools, health centres and other infrastructure.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

At the field level: staff and volunteers of the Indonesia Red Cross – Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) – nearest branches in Sorong and Manokwari have already been mobilized and are working to establish communication with

Nabire, in close coordination with the local SATLAK PB (district coordinating unit for the management of disaster and internally displaced persons/refugees). Ten SATGANA (PMI field action team) members from Sorong and Manokwari (five from each location) have moved this afternoon with emergency response gear to provide basic first aid, rescue support, evacuation, and field kitchen services. The team is scheduled to arrive in Nabire town tomorrow morning, 27 November 2004.

At the national level: PMI national head quarters are keeping in close contact with BAKORNAS PB (national coordinating unit for the management of disaster and internally displaced persons/refugees) and the Papua SATKORLAK PB (provincial coordinating unit for the management of disaster and internally displaced persons/refugees).

A four member assessment and coordination team (including the head of the disaster management division of PMI, supported by the Federation's delegation disaster management delegate) is scheduled to leave Jakarta tomorrow morning (Saturday) with provisions of fresh blood, urgent medicine, emergency shelter, family kits (comprising household and hygiene items), and mosquito nets for an initial 100 families. The team will also conduct an aerial assessment by helicopter with the support of a local company.

A second team is also being prepared to provide, as necessary, up to 1,000 families with emergency shelter, family kits, blankets, mosquito nets, baby food and fresh blood – based on immediate assessment results and magnitude of emergency needs. Accordingly, suppliers for emergency items and air transport companies have been alerted and remain on standby. Any request for any external or international assistance will be based on immediate assessment and the extent of needs.

Regular updates will be posted on the International Federation's DMIS (disaster management information system) website: <https://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis/index.htm>. Further information bulletins will follow as the situation requires.

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