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Information bulletin

Indonesia: Aceh Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: 7 December 2016	Point of contact: see contact information
Operation start date: 7 December 2016	
Host National Society: Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia)	
Number of people affected: Up to 151,472 (i.e. the population of Pidie Jaya)	

This bulletin is issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Indonesian Red Cross – Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) – has analyzed, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), that available information points toward significant humanitarian needs. A scaled-up response which will require financial support from the IFRC international disaster response mechanism is envisioned.

The situation

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake has struck off Pidie Jaya District, province of Aceh in Sumatra Island, Indonesia, around 05:00h local time, on Wednesday 7 December 2016, killing at least 90 people and damaging more than 200 houses. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the quake was centred 17 kilometres northeast of Pidie Jaya – around 121 km southeast of Banda Aceh – and had a depth of 10 km. Indonesia's agency for meteorology climatology and geophysics (BMKG) indicated that there was no risk of a tsunami.



The situation in the downtown of Pidie Jaya District, Aceh Province, early morning after the earthquake. (Photo: PMI, Pidie Jaya District)

The national disaster management agency's (BNPB) and the regional disaster management agency (BPBD) are coordinating the response and collating information on the earthquake's impact. Initial reports indicate that hundreds of buildings have collapsed, including houses, public facilities such as the Pidie Jaya Hospital and schools. There has also been damage to main roads, resulting in constraints to accessing some of the affected areas, as well as to electric facilities and towers causing power outages.

The number of casualties is expected to increase as some more people are feared trapped in rubble of collapsed buildings. Some residents in the most affected districts of Pidie and Pidie Jaya are still reluctant to go back indoors for fear of aftershocks. BMKG has reported more than five aftershocks, including a 4.8 magnitude aftershock.

Search, rescue and retrieval efforts are underway, with hundreds of villagers and multi-agency teams, including personnel from Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS), BNPB, BPBD, Indonesian National Police (POLRI), Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and local government agencies involved. Assessments as well as delivery of immediate assistance which includes first aid and basic medical services are also being undertaken alongside search, rescue and retrieval efforts.

In the meantime, PMI and the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Jakarta are coordinating with BNPB and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) to obtain more information on the humanitarian impact caused by the earthquake. Based on initial information from secondary sources as well as from PMI teams on the ground, immediate needs include heavy equipment for excavation and debris clearance, management of injuries, safe water, medical and health services, food and non-food items and emergency shelter.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PMI has been on the ground from the onset, with its base units mobilizing volunteers – many of whom are members of the affected communities – to support search, rescue and retrieval efforts, delivery of immediate assistance and undertake rapid assessments. Those mobilized include 21 members of PMI's emergency response team (ERT).

The national headquarters of PMI is deploying a team of four – a member of the Governing Board, the head of disaster management department, a staff of the disaster management department and a communications officer – to support the response in Pidie Jaya. Additional volunteers and trained emergency responders are also being deployed to the affected areas from neighbouring provinces and districts.

To enable its base unit in Pidie Jaya to deliver immediate assistance to the affected people, PMI is preparing to dispatch 400 body bags and relief supplies (blankets, family kits, hygiene kits and tarpaulins) for 1,000 families from its warehouses in Aceh, Banten and Padang. The National Society is also mobilizing two ambulances (with medical crew), as well as one double cabin vehicle and two operational vehicles (for evacuation) from its base units in Bireun and Lhoksumawe. To address immediate water needs, PMI is mobilizing two 5,000-litre water tanks and water purification equipment to the affected area.

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Jakarta is providing technical and coordination support to PMI and is deploying two personnel alongside the PMI headquarter team; one to work closely with PMI on needs assessment and the other to support communications and media relations needs. The CCST is also set to provide financial support to enable the mobilization of personnel and supplies by PMI. In this regard, discussions have been held with the Australian Embassy in Jakarta to access emergency response funds – from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) – based on an existing in-country agreement. If required, additional financial resources will be sought via the relevant IFRC international disaster response mechanism.



A Movement coordination meeting was held earlier today.
(Photo: Paulus Enggal Sulaksono/IFRC)

The CCST is supporting PMI in Movement coordination. A meeting with Movement partners who have presence in Indonesia, including the ICRC, was held earlier to discuss the response and how to support the National Society's response in a coordinated manner. It is important to note that in August 2016, the CCST organized a Movement readiness planning meeting during which all Movement partners with presence in Indonesia explored overall preparedness for three disaster categories as portrayed in the Indonesia Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) 2016 emergency response preparedness report.

Furthermore, the CCST is sharing information on the PMI response with the HCT. The CCST is also engaging with MOSA, which is the lead of national shelter cluster, to determine whether support is required for cluster coordination.

The situation is evolving as more information on the extent of damage and needs continues to emerge. A detailed plan of action for the PMI response will be developed over the coming days based on rapid assessments and analysis of secondary data. The CCST in Jakarta, with back-up of the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO), will continue to provide technical and coordination support to PMI, with personnel placed on standby in Kuala Lumpur for immediate deployment should there be a need to augment in-country capacity. In addition, IFRC may mobilize regional surge tools upon request from the National Society.

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**