

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 : FLOODS

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This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time

The Situation

Floodwaters are receding in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta and almost 200,000 people have returned to their homes after the worst flooding in nearly a decade. However, 113,000 people are still displaced. The flooding, which started in late January, affected 400,000 residents in the city (population 8 million), forcing them to shelter in schools, mosques, with relatives or in streets that remained dry. During the height of the floods, more than 20% of the city was under water, in some places up to 2.5 metres deep. Rain continues, but the sea level has gone down and the situation has stabilised. Up to 60 people lost their lives in Jakarta during the floods, and in East Java another 75 lives were lost.

The government's health agency said that almost 7,000 flood victims in the Tangerang area of the city are suffering from illness, mainly diarrhoea, skin and respiratory infections. News reports say that over 50,000 people in the city have flood related health problems.

The Indonesian Red Cross Society's (PMI) provincial chapter in East Java has reported at least 10 people died in the province, while eight are still missing. 33 districts have been hit by flash floods and landslides have destroyed 214 homes. The situation remains dangerous.

Floods continue to cause increasingly serious damage and disruption. Flash floods cause the highest number of casualties; coastal and slow-onset floods have not caused major emergencies so far. Jakarta suffered greatly six years ago, but this time the torrential rains hit a deteriorated infrastructure. Large numbers of vulnerable people were inhabiting the river and canal banks most at risk. The city is particularly vulnerable as it is situated below sea level. Poor waste management has slowed the flow in canals and rivers. Environmentalists quoted in local media say the disaster has resulted from uncontrolled development as well as poor drainage.

In Bogor, north of Jakarta, flash floods and landslides have destroyed nearly 100 homes, affecting almost 1,000 people. The big dam in Bogor broke last week, resulting in more devastation downstream in Jakarta. In East and Central Java and Bali, rain continues and more casualties are likely. The Association of Indonesian Insurance Companies has forecast that insurance claims related to the floods could go higher than USD 200 million.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

PMI has continued its assistance through five branches to the 20,000 most vulnerable people in Jakarta with relief kits of clothes, biscuits, bottle of water and purification tablets (8,000). More tablets have been made available for PMI (up to 150,000) from the central warehouse in Surabaya. Food distribution has continued in terms of field kitchens and providing noodles and rice.

The PMI Jakarta Chapter and local branches have also started the rehabilitation phase assisting the population by providing cleaning equipment.

In Bogor, East and Central Java and Bali, PMI has distributed clothes, noodles and rice from local donors and used their five Mobile Emergency Units as a means of distribution and field kitchen. In addition to the total of almost 3,000 family kits, 1,800 hygiene kits and supplementary food parcels have been - or are being - distributed to the most affected families. Elsewhere local SATLAKs (disaster management committees) are working together with PMI. The central Government has assisted victims in terms of food and cash.

In Jakarta, future problems are likely be more social and socio-economic than humanitarian. The authorities have to find a solution for the big number of squatters, who have built their homes on the banks of canals and rivers open to all disasters, and who will not be allowed to rebuild.

PMI chapters and branches are well on board and will participate the rehabilitation phase. They will also start preparedness work as soon as possible as future challenges have been recognised.

The relief operations will continue for some time. The PMI does not request external assistance at this time.

For a full description of the National Society profile, *see www.ifrc.org*

For further details please contact :

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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