

# 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/PAPUA: EARTHQUAKE

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: N/A

*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 180 countries.*

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**This document is being issued**

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

### The Situation

An earthquake measuring 6.921 on the Richter scale struck three districts in central West Papua province in Indonesia early morning on Friday 6 February 2004, killing 31 people and injuring over 230. More than 30 aftershocks were recorded over the next two to three weeks. Damage to buildings and infrastructure in the area was extensive.

The greatest material damage is in the town of Nabire, while outlying areas were also severely affected, as seen by the Federation's disaster management delegate and others assessing the situation.

Twelve patients were evacuated to the Papuan capital of Jayapura, and to Makassar in Sulawesi; some of those were later evacuated further to Jakarta as their injuries were deemed to be extensive for the regional hospitals' capacity.

The local parliament building in Nabire sustained considerable damage, as well as the local prison. Thirty homes collapsed, 33 burned, 23 were badly damaged, and 78 slightly damaged. Fourteen school buildings were badly damaged and eight mosques, four churches and two temples. Ten roads cracked

open, and eight bridges collapsed. Damage was also recorded on power and communications lines, water lines, oil storage facilities, the local government food warehouse and water pipes. Original estimates of the damage were several hundred Indonesian Rupiah (or US\$40,000-50,000), but this was later revised considerably upwards.

Today the situation is slowly returning to normal. Most of the affected people have already moved back to their own houses. No reconstruction has yet taken place while people wait for government donations. A number of people are still traumatized, especially those who lost loved ones in the quake.



*A young girl in Nabire who lost her home*

The water situation is under control and the affected communities have enough drinking water, provided by the National Water Company (PDAM). The Health Department in Jakarta is coordinating the health service to the affected areas.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Federation's disaster management delegate in Indonesia and the Indonesia Red Cross/Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) senior response officer visited the area early on and conducted an assessment of damage and needs in cooperation with local and central authorities, the Indonesian military (TNI), the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF, Medicin Sans Frontiers and others. The disaster management delegate returned to Jakarta after five days in the area while his counterpart continued the assessment for another week. He was supported by ten trained disaster managers from nearby PMI chapters and a highly trained national response officer from Jakarta. The PMI was present in the area for nearly two weeks helping the victims from the earthquake.

The first PMI team from Jakarta brought in much needed blood supplies, body bags, tarpaulins and some 100 family kits. All these have been distributed and put to use.

The PMI branch in nearby Manokwari arrived with five trucks of food items and used clothes. Together with PMI's 'Tim Khusus' (national rapid response team), they made food parcels for distribution among the most vulnerable.

*For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

*For further details please contact:*

- *The Indonesian Red Cross Society in Jakarta; Phone +62-21-799-2325; Fax +62-21-799-5188; Mr. Johnny Mamoedie, head, DM Division, mobile: +62-811-956-377, email [dmdivision@pmi.or.id](mailto:dmdivision@pmi.or.id), Ms. Aswi Nugroho, head of Communications Division, mobile: +62-811-918-034, e-mail: [reksaningtyas@hotmail.com](mailto:reksaningtyas@hotmail.com)*
- *Indonesia delegation, Ole J. Hauge HoD, Jakarta; Phone phone number +62-811-824-859; Fax number +62-21-7918-0905; email [ifrcid07@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcid07@ifrc.org); Federation DM delegate, Mr. Latifur Rahman, mobile +62-811-826-614, e-mail: [ifrcid05@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcid05@ifrc.org)*
- *In Geneva: Charles Eldred-Evans/Sandra Rosner; Phone +41 22 730 4320/4456, Fax: +41 22 733 03 95; email: [Charles.Evans@ifrc.org](mailto:Charles.Evans@ifrc.org) or [Sandra.Rosner@ifrc.org](mailto:Sandra.Rosner@ifrc.org)*

*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.



*Papuan children in front of their destroyed home*

The second Red Cross emergency operation has been completed. PMI and the Federation have distributed 2,000 jerry cans, 2,000 impregnated mosquito nets and 5,000 water catchment containers. The emergency items were brought in by air from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's main logistics base in Surabaya to the town of Biak on the island of the same name off the Papuan north coast, and then sent by boat to Nabire. Distribution was concentrated on the four main affected areas in line with the PMI's plan of action.

USAid contributed US\$50,000 to the PMI to address the emergency needs and AUSAid has indicated willingness to support PMI should the assessment show that there is need for further Red Cross intervention in the area.