

# DREF 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  
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## MALAYSIA: FLOODS

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 185 countries.

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 50,000 (USD 41,425 or EUR 31,426) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Malaysia Red Crescent's initial assessment and relief effort in response to the country's worst flooding in years. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

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### The Situation

Malaysia's worst floods in 37 years have displaced nearly 100,000 people amid food shortages. Six people, all in the worst-hit state of Johor, have died in the floods, which the government described as the worst since 1969. There have been reports of looting in the towns of Kota Tinggi and Segamat. Local officials said the region's rice paddies were damaged and cattle killed by the rising waters. The Malaysian Government has opened 65 emergency shelters to accommodate many of those affected.

Weather forecasters warn the floods, which hit the southern states of Malaysia, could spread to the central and north eastern parts of the country if the unusually heavy monsoon rains persisted.

The rains over the Malaysian states of Johor, Negeri Sembilan, Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang were expected to continue.

The floods, which followed this week's heaviest rainfall in a century, submerged buildings and cut off roads in Kota Tinggi and several other towns in Johor, which borders Singapore.

Heavy rain in neighbouring Indonesia - exacerbated by deforestation - also killed at least six people and drove tens of thousands from their homes.

Some of those affected by the flooding have complained of lack of food, clothing, blankets and running water at many relief shelters.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Malaysia Red Crescent (MRCS) assessment teams report that the general area of Segamat town, which is divided into the old and new town area, is under water. Kampung Pagoh 2 has been cut off by floods and has not received food for the past four days. To date 2,000 out of a total of 11,000 people have been unable to return home. MRCS identify that these returning families will need assistance as they start to rebuild their lives after the disaster.

In response to the situation MRCS has released boats and emergency food and other relief to assist the ongoing operations in Segamat, and Kg. Pagoh 2 districts. In addition MRCS staff and volunteers have undertaken:

- a. Relief work and establishment of evacuation centres for displaced people
- b. Mass scale cooking for those affected
- c. Boat rescues
- d. Assessment of the affected area through a regional disaster response team (RDRT)

Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM) has also approached MRCS Mobile Control Unit in Segamat and offer to provide assistance (food) for the Kampung Pagoh people headed by District Officer

The MRCS operation is in support of government efforts which are providing basic humanitarian aid, including canned food, blankets, mats, clothing (track suit bottoms and t-shirt) and water through daily tanker delivery.

MRCS has been quick to respond with the deployment of three emergency response teams (20 members each) on 19 December to provide search, rescue, first-aid, evacuation, assessment and food distribution through a wet kitchen service, together relevant government units.

MRCS launched a domestic appeal on 20 December to support its response. As the floods begin to recede and people prepare to return home MRCS assessment teams have identified the need to provide a week's food ration and essential hygiene items. An action plan has been drafted to cover the most vulnerable 3,000 people (about 600 households) affected by the flood. With the release of CHF 50,000 from the International Federation's DREF fund, MRCS will be able to assist those affected as planned.

The focus of MRCS response is towards the more isolated families until the government assistance starts reaching them in their communities. MRCS has already provided these beneficiaries food support via its mass cooking emergency response unit.

Although the volume of assistance looks small, MRCS considers that it is within their realistic operational capacity as it is logistically difficult to reach this group, which are scattered in many isolated villages.

*This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to 'improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity'.*

### *Global Agenda Goals:*

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

*All International Federation 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 is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*