

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE



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: SUMATRA FLOODS

Request For Assistance
no. MDRID002
12 January 2007

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 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE SEEKS CHF 3,356,120 (USD 2,752,045 OR EUR 2,087,788) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 100,000 BENEFICIARIES (20,000 FAMILIES) FOR THREE MONTHS

[*<click here to link directly to the attached budget>*](#)

Summary:

The harsh rains along the coasts of Sumatra have displaced or affected more than 618,000 people across the provinces of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, North Sumatra and Riau (please refer to the [attached map](#)). Although Aceh has the highest number of affected communities, Riau and North Sumatra are the provinces in most dire need of assistance because of lack of attention by donors and relief agencies. The Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) is one of the few agencies working holistically across all three flooded provinces. Its volunteers and staff have been active in evacuations and assessments, offering cooked food, health services, relief items, temporary shelter and water sanitation services to camp inhabitants.



An Indonesian woman signs up for relief supplies.

To date, the PMI has completed a services delivery plan targeting 20,000 families for three months. The operation is committed towards providing emergency relief, health and water and sanitation services to survivors across all three provinces. In the meantime, the Federation and partner national societies already present in the operational areas have been assisting the PMI in its lead role with logistics, coordination and technical support. Movement funds and resources were temporarily diverted from the tsunami operation to the floods response; however, these have to be replenished.

Other than the Request For Assistance (MDRID002) or partner national society contributions, no alternative source of funding is available to the PMI to implement their service plan. Considering the plight of tens of thousands who remain homeless and urgently need help, donors are encouraged to respond generously to the Request For Assistance.

The situation

The rainy season has been harsh on the Sumatran coast of Indonesia, with Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau provinces hit by waves of flash floods since 22 December 2006. Rivers overflowed and submerged homes, cut off villages and washed away roads, bridges and other infrastructure. Statistics from the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) show that more than 618,000 people are affected in Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau. The Red Cross is one of the few humanitarian agencies working holistically across all three flooded provinces.

Table: People and families in North Sumatra, Aceh and Riau that are affected by floods

North Sumatra province			Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province			Riau province		
District	Family	People	District	Family	People	District	Family	People
Langkat	n/a	33,762	North Aceh	33,511	143,988	Kampar	10,533	40,132
Mandailing Natal	1,328	6,318	Aceh Tamiang	44,556	203,722	Rokan Hulu	2,096	10,480
			Gayo Lues	1,315	6,577	Rokan Hilir	5,364	21,456
			East Aceh	7,214	32,272	Pekanbaru	11,815	47,260
			Lhokseumawe	1,991	5,379	Kuantan Singingi	2,165	5,620
			Bireuen	1,757	6,492	Pelalawan	630	3,351
			Bener Meriah	346	1,485	Indragiri Hulu	7,802	50,100
						Indragiri Hilir	23	92
Total	n/a	40,080	Total	90,690	399,915	Total	40,428	178,491
Total number of affected across all three provinces: 618,486 people								



Many families will face months of hardship and will require Red Cross assistance.

authorities in public services have been making efforts to repair roads and bridges that have washed away or are covered in soil. Information from the Indonesian meteorological department predicts that heavy rains may continue into February 2007.

The floods have been attributed to increasing rainfall as result of climate change. It has also been related to illegal logging in Sumatran forests that reduce forest cover, creating bigger risks during floods such as landslides and erosion.

In terms of people displaced, Aceh Tamiang has suffered the most in Aceh province – 95 per cent of the district was inundated and 82 per cent of the total district population in 126 villages has been affected. However, Riau and North Sumatra provinces are receiving the least attention and assistance from donors and relief agencies.

The flooding has caused widespread damage to crops, plantations, fish ponds and livestock, creating concerns over the long-term impact on the livelihoods and income of flood survivors. Many living in the flooded areas were already below the poverty line before the disaster (up to 50 per cent of the population in Aceh, for example), and the floods have only served to worsen their situation. However, assessments indicate that land has not been damaged and it is possible for farming and agriculture to continue once families are restored to their land.

Although the water has begun to recede, some areas are still isolated and inaccessible by the main road. Local

Red Cross Red Crescent action so far

Until today, PMI has been working to provide relief assistance to the affected people by close coordination with local government and other stakeholders. Reports of distributions from PMI branches are being hampered by poor communications, but it is clear PMI chapters and branches have responded well from stockpiles, local donations and supplies delivered by PMI and Federation warehouses.

The PMI is responding robustly to the floods, having conducted evacuations, assessments and food assistance through field kitchens in all three affected provinces. The national society has provided health services and temporary shelter in Riau and North Sumatra. Volunteers are also distributing relief in Aceh and Riau, and providing water and sanitation services in Riau.

Riau has been badly hit, but the PMI chapter and related branches are doing much to serve the flood survivors. At the onset of the floods, PMI evacuated survivors to safer areas, transporting people by both motorized and traditional boats. Infants, senior citizens, medical patients and people with disabilities were prioritized for immediate evacuation. The national society has also assisted some in establishing temporary shelter and begun food distributions. It has mobilized field kitchens to provide cooked food to targeted IDP groups. Field kitchens usually run for five days as according to local custom, communities prefer to prepare their own meals.



PMI volunteer conducts 'tent to tent' relief distribution under heavy rain to reach out to families displaced by floods

As people began to fall ill in Riau with diarrhea, skin diseases, influenza, malaria, cough and fever, as is typical during floods, PMI was on hand to deliver health services, mobilizing personnel, medical teams and medical stock from the chapter and headquarters. In Riau, communities in Pekanbaru, Kuantan Singingi and Kampar are already receiving health services. The PMI has also provided for some water sanitation needs through chlorine distribution so communities can purify contaminated water sources. Further assessments are still needed in this area.

The needs

Findings are derived from PMI assessments and an Aceh interagency flood assessment report (dated 8 January). In some areas, the relief operation has been challenged by access, infrastructure and logistics, such as damaged roads, bridges and electricity, as well as fuel costs that have now doubled. In some of the more isolated areas like Kampar in Riau, local police helicopters have been mobilized to provide relief. The assessments have revealed the following:

Food: There is sufficient supply of emergency food from different agencies for the time being. There are some concerns for long-term food security however because of the substantial loss in livelihoods and income sources.

Non-food: With many houses have been totally destroyed, severely damaged, shifted or caked in mud, rebuilding needs are substantial. There are no public buildings in some of the worst affected areas to serve as temporary shelter. Other needs include mosquito nets, blankets, bed-linen and clothes. Tool kits are also required to enable those who have lost all their belongings to clean up and quickly restore their houses.

Health: Local health facilities have suffered substantial damage and disrupted electricity and water supplies. Local health authorities have deployed mobile health units at some of the IDP camps, but are met with a lack of necessary drugs and equipment. In Aceh for example, 90 per cent of existing medical stock have been

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damaged/contaminated by water. The authorities are facing particular challenges in distributing supplies to local health centres (*puskesmas*, *pustu* and *polindes*).

There has been a reported increase of respiratory diseases, skin problems diarrhea. There are concerns that the affected community may be vulnerable to vector borne diseases such as malaria and dengue, although there have been no outbreaks as yet.

Most of the survivors assessed seem to be satisfied with current public health services provided; however, there has been little public health promotion, especially in sanitation and safe water practices. Clean water, sanitation, well treatment and hygiene kits have also been listed as critical needs for the affected communities. Nevertheless, it has to be taken into consideration that the ratio of population without proper access to water and sanitation facilities were already high before the disaster (in Gayo Lues of Aceh province for example, 60 per cent of the population have been living without basic sanitation facilities).

Livelihoods and agriculture: The flash floods have inundated thousands of hectares of farm land and livestock. The agricultural sector faced a serious setback when the floods submerged 50 per cent of rice fields in some areas, resulting in 100 per cent crop loss. Most of the livestock lost were poultry, and fishing boats and fish culture land has suffered some damage. With many residents in the flood areas living below the poverty line (50 per cent in Aceh alone for example), the floods would have definite repercussions on their long-term resilience.

Coordination

The Federation is assisting the PMI to coordinate with partner national societies offering assistance to the affected areas. In the meantime, PMI works closely with the government and other agencies in areas such as water and sanitation to reduce duplication and optimize limited resources.

Through Bakornas, the national government has established a command post in the affected provinces, mobilizing relief assistance and heavy equipment to clear excess mud and water from the flooded areas. The military has further played a role in evacuation and SAR, camp shelters, and air transport.

A numbers of international organizations and the United Nations (UN) have been providing humanitarian services as well, such as relief distribution, fleet transportation and coordination. A preliminary report on an interagency rapid assessment has been circulated for comments. The World Food Programme is targeting to deliver food assistance in Aceh to 296,000 people, of which 177,000 people have received fortified noodles and biscuits. In the meantime, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is providing for the needs of school children, and is conducting some water and sanitation services in Aceh. Other organizations active in Aceh include Church World Service, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), German Agro Action (GAA) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Several partner national societies have also contributed bilaterally to PMI's operation, with Spanish Red Cross assisting with 3,000 family kits and American Red Cross purchasing 7,000 food kits through the national society. German Red Cross in the meantime is procuring medicines, equipment and supporting the operational costs of five medical action teams (MAT). Australian Red Cross has also pledged AUD 200,000 to the North Sumatra floods through the Federation. Meanwhile, the ICRC and Spanish Red Cross are assisting PMI in water and sanitation services in Aceh and North Sumatra respectively.

The proposed operation

Overall goal: About 20,000 flood-affected families (100,000 people) in the provinces of Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau have received timely and coordinated humanitarian assistance from PMI.

To date, the PMI has completed a services delivery plan targeting 20,000 families for three months:

- 10,000 families in Aceh province
- 5,000 families in Riau province
- 5,000 families in North Sumatra province

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The main components of the operation are the provision of food packets, family kits, baby kits, field kitchens and meeting water, sanitation and medical needs. Toolkits for cleaning and repairing houses will also be provided. Any long-term recovery needs can be indirectly addressed through components of the tsunami operation.

The PMI is taking the lead on the flood operation, with the Federation and partner national societies assisting and supporting the PMI. To date, the Federation has played a critical role in providing logistics support in the form of its M6 trucks, diverting relief supplies from the tsunami operation out of Medan and Lhokseumawe, and helping PMI coordinate with partner national societies and other agencies.

For this operation, assistance is prioritized for Riau and Sumatra, as Aceh has been receiving substantial donor attention because of its historical relation to the 2004 tsunami. Needs are high in these two provinces, particularly Riau, but the PMI chapters seriously lacks resources and support, despite the dedication of its staff and volunteers. No alternative source of funding is available to the national society to implement their service plan, other than through the Request For Assistance or partner national society contributions.

Excluding the replenishment of stock that can take up to three months, the PMI has laid out a provisionary work plan:

- Health services – one month
- Water and sanitation – one to three months
- Relief distribution – ten days (depending on the availability of relief stock)
- Continuous assessment for the next two weeks

Objectives and activities planned

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Needs in different communities vary according to their specific vulnerabilities. Based on field assessment statistics, the PMI has categorized and prioritized the affected areas in a matrix that ensures communities particularly vulnerable in a certain area receive the most appropriate relief items.

Beneficiaries are selected and prioritized as such:

- Family kits: to families that have lost furniture, cooking sets and are in the low income group
- Tool kits: to families whose houses are damages but not permanently destroyed
- Baby kits: to families with children under five

Objective 1: Flood-affected families receive food and non-food relief assistance across Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Select beneficiaries based on agreed criteria and that services are directed to the most vulnerable.
- Distribute food and non-food items (food packages, baby kits, family kits and tool kits) to 20,000 families.
- Provide nourishment to 1,000 people through daily field kitchens set up across North Sumatra and Riau.
- Ensure distributions have adequate logistics (transport and vehicles) support.
- Replenish relief stocks and resources that were temporarily directed from the tsunami operation.
- Conduct continuous assessments to stay up-to-date on the needs and situation.
- Deploy regular monitoring and evaluation teams from PMI headquarters to ensure implementation quality and accountability.

Emergency health

Objective 2: People most affected by floods in Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau have access to health services and medicines.

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Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Mobilize health teams and medical action teams to the branches of the affected areas.
- Provide health services to the most affected areas with an estimate of 1,000 patients per branch, prioritizing areas that are remote or isolated from external assistance.
- Distribute emergency medicine to 1,000 people, channelled through 17 PMI branches across the three provinces.
- Conduct continuous assessments to stay up-to-date on the needs and situation.
- Deploy regular monitoring and evaluation teams from PMI headquarters to ensure implementation quality and accountability.

Water and sanitation

Objective 3: Affected people in selected areas of Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau benefit from a supply of clean water and hygiene promotion.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Provide clean water to most-affected communities through water tankering (one month) and well cleaning services (three months).
- Build basic sanitation facilities or latrines based on needs.
- SATGANA teams disseminate hygiene promotion/education to affected communities in conjunction with either relief distribution or health service provision.
- Coordinate closely with the public water authorities (PDAM), partner national societies and other agencies (e.g. UNICEF) in the provision of services.
- Conduct continuous assessments to stay up-to-date on the needs and situation.
- Deploy regular monitoring and evaluation teams from PMI headquarters to ensure implementation quality and accountability.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. As this is a small operation, communication efforts will be facilitated either from in country resources or from Geneva. Quality and accountability issues will generally be addressed through appropriate monitoring work.

Capacity of the National Society

The PMI has a strong and well-established capacity in emergency preparedness and response, considering the widespread and frequent occurrence of natural disasters throughout the world's largest archipelago. The PMI works closely with the government in disaster relief, and is bound by government policy in other areas. As a direct result of the build-up in human and resource capacities following the December 2004 tsunami in Aceh province of northern Sumatra, PMI has built up a robust inter-dependence amongst its branches.

Although the PMI is quick to mobilize staff and volunteers to the flood areas, they are facing acute limitations in financial, logistics and technical resources. Without the support of the Federation, partner national societies and their back donors, the PMI would face great difficulty in delivering its full service plan to the communities made vulnerable by the floods.

Capacity of the Federation

The rapid response to the floods by the Federation delegation is a direct result of its significantly increased presence in the country following the 26 December 2004 tsunami and the subsequent earthquake under Nias Island on 28 March 2005. This Federation capacity is further strengthened by the build-up of partner Red Cross and Red Crescent national society (PNS) participation in the tsunami and Nias earthquake operations; being achieved within the Movement Coordination Framework established to support PMI for this specific purpose.

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The Federation and partner national societies already present in the operational areas have been assisting the PMI in its lead role with logistics, coordination and technical support. Movement funds and resources were temporarily diverted from the tsunami operation to the floods response; however, these have to be replenished as the tsunami operation itself is facing financial restrictions.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be part of this emergency operation for greater quality, accountability, and transparency, and as part of wider improvements to programme management. Finance staff will be present in Riau and North Sumatra province to monitor operations in the field. PMI national headquarters will deploy monitoring and evaluation teams and technical personnel based on field needs to assist in implementation. The team will collect information and report appropriately to PMI and its stakeholders.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

How we work

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.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Budget and map below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

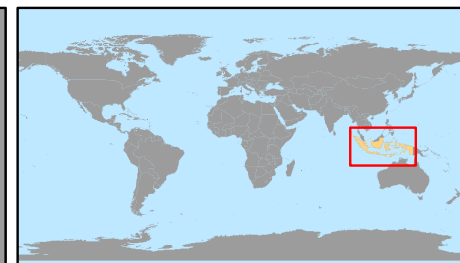
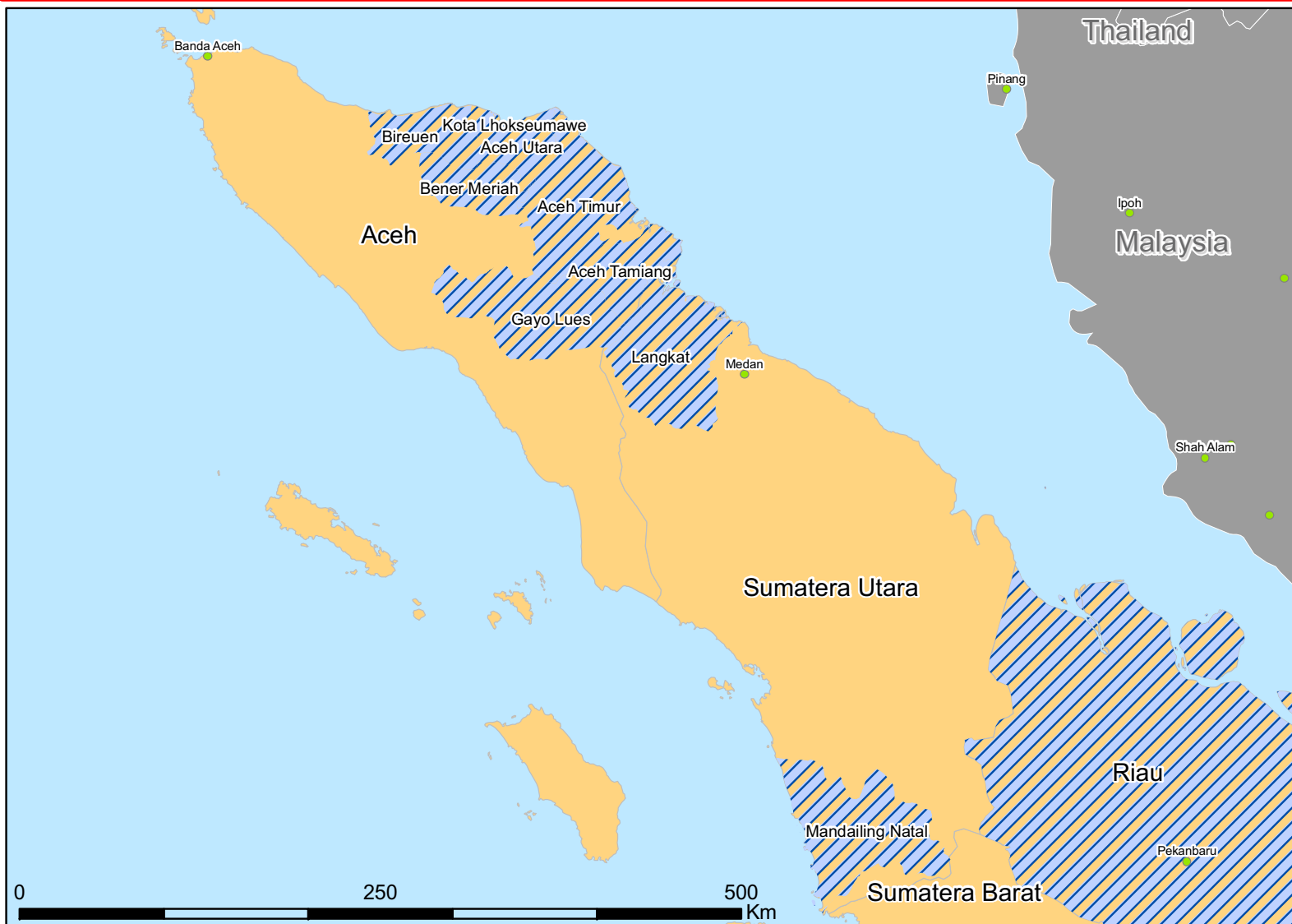
BUDGET SUMMARY

INDONESIA: SUMATRA FLASH FLOODS

TYPE	VALUE IN CHF
	TOTAL CHF
RELIEF NEEDS	
Shelter & Construction	68,250
Clothing & Textile	39,540
Food & Seed	325,400
Water & Sanitation	37,800
Medical & First Aid	166,770
Utensils & Tools	565,550
Other Relief Supplies	1,540,060
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	2,743,370
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	5,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	5,000
Other Equipment	5,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme Support (6.5% of total)	218,148
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COST</u>	
Warehouse & Storage	27,434
Distribution & Monitoring	109,735
Transport & Vehicle Cost	27,434
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
International Staff	40,000
National Staff	20,000
National Society Staff	100,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	15,000
Information expenses	10,000
Communication expenses	15,000
Administrative & General expenses	15,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	612,750
TOTAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE	3,356,120



Indonesia: Sumatra floods



The rainy season has been harsh on the Sumatran coast of Indonesia, with Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau provinces hit by waves of flash floods since 22 December 2006. Rivers overflowed and submerged homes, cut off villages and washed away roads, bridges and other infrastructure. Statistics from the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) show that more than 618,000 people are affected in Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau. The Red Cross is one of the few humanitarian agencies working holistically across all three flooded provinces.

 Flooded area

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, GIST, Federation