

## ***INDONESIA: LANDSLIDES***

6 November 2000

### ***Information Bulletin N° 2***

#### ***The Disaster***

As torrential rain continues in Central Java, landslides and floods struck new areas in Purworejo, Purbalingga, and Kebumen, 400 km south-east of Jakarta, in the early hours of Sunday, 5 November, claiming at least 51 lives and damaging scores of houses. The death toll is likely to climb as rescuers continue to comb the area searching for bodies. The landslide covered dozens of houses and destroyed crops, while floods engulfed three districts in Purbalingga. One-meter high flood waters inundated six villages in Kemangkong district, forcing residents to move to higher locations. Floods and a landslide struck seven districts in Kebumen where Adimulyo district was the hardest hit with 1.7 metres of floodwaters inundating its 23 villages, forcing residents to abandon their houses.

This was the second series of landslides in a week to hit the province. In the districts of Cilacap and Banyumas, where at least 40 people are thought to have died, the situation is worsening as rains continued until 3 November, extending the affected areas and burying hundreds of houses and rice-fields under 2 metres of mud. According to Satkorlak (the co-ordinating body at district level), in Cilacap, 49 villages in 11 sub-districts were affected by floods and 7 villages with 600 houses remain isolated. In total, 10,817 houses have been flooded, 141 were totally destroyed, 3,333 hectares of rice field or crops have been damaged, 522 animals buried under mud and 2,125 people have been displaced. The displaced are now accommodated at the station, in sport centres, government buildings and on higher ground. In Banyumas, floods affected 30 villages in 7 sub-districts and a village with a population of 1,982 people has been isolated since 2 November. The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) branch in Banyumas visited 5 villages and found that 31 houses were completely destroyed, 7 people were dead and 3 severely injured.

#### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

To support the PMI branch in Cilacap, the headquarters sent 200 pieces of plastic sheeting and 2 sets of kitchen utensils (1 set is for 500 people) on 4 November. The headquarters' staff visited the affected areas to assess the situation with Bakornas (co-ordination body at national level).

The PMI chapter in Cilacap has been utilising its emergency mobile unit vehicle (EMUV) equipped with field kitchen set. Jointly with Satkorlak, volunteers from the PMI branch distributed relief materials provided by the government to the disaster victims.

The PMI branch in Banyumas organised PMI volunteers to distribute relief goods. The branch provided 315 kg of rice, 26 bottles of soya beans, 20 kg of dried fish, 269 boxes of instant noodles, 9 kg of cooking oil and 520 pieces of used clothes. This assistance was provided to 30 displaced families from three of the most affected villages. The branch also organised a field kitchen in Nusadaki village to assist 149 affected families.

The liaison delegate from the Federation Delegation in Jakarta will assess newly affected areas with the head of relief and disaster preparedness of the Indonesian Red Cross Society as of 7 November.

## *Needs*

The PMI is providing emergency assistance to the victims of the landslides. Based on the reports from PMI staff and volunteers, the immediate needs are shelter, sleeping mats, clean water supplies, household items and health services. The Federation will support the PMI to make an initial provision of non-food items (family kits) to 1,500 families in Cilacap, Banyumas, and Purworjo. The kits, which are similar to those used during the recent earthquake in Sumatra, are made up of 2 blankets (or sarungs), 2 sleeping mats, 1 10 litre jerry can and 5 glasses, spoons, forks and plates.

The cost of this initial relief response is budgeted at CHF 70,000 (CHF 49 per kit including plastic sheeting). While the Federation will release CHF 40,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency (DREF) fund, donors are encouraged to replace this funding and to cover the balance. Once further information has been obtained through assessments, it may be necessary for the PMI to request further assistance. Further information bulletins will be issued to provide details on the progress of the operation.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head  
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Hiroshi Higashiura  
Head  
Asia & Pacific Department

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