

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

TANZANIA: TRAIN CRASH

25 June 2002

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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

On 24 June 2002, at around 09h00 hours, a passenger train collided with a freight train on Tanzania's central railway line between the central Tanzanian towns of Dodoma and Singida. In what is being reported as one of the worst rail disasters in the country's history, the passenger train transporting over 1,000 passengers was travelling from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza. The passenger train unable to negotiate a steep slope slid backwards for about twenty minutes before crashing into a freight train at a nearby station

Reports of some 200 people dead and many more injured were quickly disseminated via electronic media and the press.

The government was the first to receive the news about the train accident, and responded immediately mobilising local medical teams. Official communications with external agencies and to operating agencies were conveyed later that afternoon. The country's President, members of Parliament and other senior government officials visited the area later the same day.

By evening, the bodies of the reported 200 dead were recovered and more than 230 injured persons received medical assistance. Rescue teams are concentrating on rescuing trapped persons, recovering bodies and providing emergency medical assistance to injured persons. That evening, volunteers from the Tanzania Red Cross Society's (TRCS) Dodoma branch were mobilized to assist government and civil teams with rescue efforts.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

On 25 June, a joint TRCS/American Red Cross (AmCross) assessment team comprising four staff and ten TRCS volunteers left Dar es Salaam for Dodoma to deliver medical and relief items. The items were purchased locally with funds provided by the Federation and Amcross. The team will evaluate the needs and further involvement of TRCS in the emergency.

The team will provide first aid service, and transportation of the injured to the district hospital. In addition, the team will provide psychological support. TRCS volunteers will be on hand to receive and help train wreck survivors, and provide tracing services for families looking for their loved ones.

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

For further details please contact :

- *The Tanzania Red Cross Society in Dar es Salaam Phone 255 215 0881; Fax 255 22 215 0147 email logistics@raha.com*
- *Martin Fisher, Phone 41 22 730 4440; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email Fisher@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.

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