

# ***INDONESIA: EARTHQUAKE***

*25 August 2000*

*appeal no. 15/2000*

*situation report no. 5*

*period covered: 17 July to 14 August 2000*

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*Relief distributions in Bengkulu are going on as planned and the operation is expected to be concluded by the end of August.*

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## ***The context***

An earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale hit the province of Bengkulu on the island of Sumatra on Sunday, 4 June, at 23:30 hours, local time. Eleven minutes later, it was followed by an aftershock of 6.7 on the Richter scale. The epicentre of the quake was in the ocean, approximately 112 km south-west of the provincial capital of Bengkulu. The province of Bengkulu, which covers an area of almost 2 million hectares, has a total population of 1,557,000 (1999 statistics). The province stretches along the shoreline and becomes more mountainous further inland. The lowlands include the towns of Bengkulu and Manna. The mountainous areas rise to 1000-2000m above sea level.

On 6 June, the Federation issued a preliminary appeal for CHF 5,353,933 in response to a request for assistance from the Indonesian Red Cross Society or Pelang Merah Indonesia (PMI). A Federation relief team arrived in Indonesia the same day to conduct an initial assessment of the situation. Despite the high Richter scale rating, the earthquake was not deadly as it mainly struck rural areas with only one storey high buildings.

With the support of the Federation's Regional Finance Unit in Kuala Lumpur, a revised Appeal for CHF 4,872,921 was launched on 14 June 2000.

## ***Latest events***

The government reconstruction is now well underway in Bengkulu. Individual repairs and reconstruction have also started.

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## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Federation/Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI) •**

The remaining 9,000 family kits are being shipped from Jakarta at a pace of 3,000 family kits per week. So far, a total of 105 villages have received 2,700 family kits and 5,400 plastic sheets. The co-operation between the local village chiefs, PMI and the Federation is good. Regular monitoring indicates that distribution points are well organised and record keeping is thorough. Distribution will be completed by late August as planned.

It was planned to send some cement to the Enganno island. However, the Federation delegation has been informed by the local administration that there is no need for any further assistance since the local government has provided 15 tonnes of the material. Procurement of optional construction material (such as nails) is under consideration, at the moment.

One thousand impregnated mosquito nets have been purchased for the Enganno island and are expected to arrive at Bengkulu on 25 August. Distribution will start immediately.

### **ERU - field hospital •**

The repair work on the Bengkulu hospital is expected to be completed by end of December. Thirty seven patients are presently hospitalised in the Bengkulu hospital annex. There are currently 102 patients hospitalised at the ERU hospital. The ERU hospital processes around 100 cases a day.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Presently, the coverage of this appeal is 94,6%.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

A joint press conference was held with the Chairman of the Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI) on 24 July. The conference was followed by an article in a daily newspaper on the Federation/PMI operations in Bengkulu.

A reception was organised on 31 July at the PMI headquarters for the diplomatic community and government officials in order to express their gratitude to the international community for their support to this operation. This was complimented by the preparation of a 'Bulletin from the Field' (available on request from the Secretariat).

Regular meetings are held and close co-operation maintained with ICRC.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

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