



ASIA: EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS

Fact sheet No. 9 – updated 8 April 2005

Highlights of overall Red Cross and Red Crescent operations

- Country- and regional-level plans of action are being finalized for the emergency and recovery activities through to the end of 2005 with indicative plans for 2006-2010. The compiled document and revised budget for 2005 will be issued in mid-April.
- The frequency of detailed operational updates has been reduced. The next update, no. 52, will be issued next week and present a consolidated overview of the first three months of the Red Cross/Red Crescent's operation in the tsunami-affected countries.
- As no operational update was issued this week, there has been no revision to the estimated number of 800,000 people assisted by the International Federation since the beginning of the operation.

INDONESIA

- The 28 March earthquake, measuring 8.7 on the Richter scale, off the western coast of Northern Sumatra caused significant damage and destruction on the islands of Simuelue, Nias and the Banyak island group. Loss of life is currently documented at less than 1,000 bodies recovered, however extensive searching continues under the rubble in Nias' port capital of Gunung Sitoli.
- The Federation's response to the 28 March quake, in support of Indonesian Red Cross ([Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI](#)) included provision of food parcels, tents, tarpaulins, kitchen and hygiene kits, insecticide-treated nets and air and ship transportation, including a French Red Cross helicopter.
- Delegates deployed to the disaster zone together with a regional disaster response team assisting in assessment and coordinating relief distributions. Until recent arrival of American and Australian medical ships off Nias Island, Federation aircraft returning to mainland Sumatra transported the injured to hospitals in Medan.
- The Federation established logistic hubs at Sibolga on Sumatra across the strait from Gunung Sitoli, a second on the outskirts of Gunung Sitoli and a third at Telukdalam on southern Nias. The Danish Red Cross already supplied Rubb Halls and technical personnel for their assembly for the ongoing pre-positioning of emergency relief supplies at all three locations.
- In the overall tsunami operation, support for water and sanitation needs continues to expand. The emergency response units (ERUs) of the Spanish, German, Austrian/Malaysian/Macedonian and French Red Cross Societies are currently producing a combined 922,500 litres of clean water each day for 105,000 beneficiaries.
- PMI capacity in water and sanitation has also increased, especially in areas of procuring, treating and distributing safe and clean water during an emergency phase.
- To date, the tsunami relief programme in Aceh Province has assisted 52,588 families or 262,940 beneficiaries with food and non-food items.
- Between 21 March and 3 April, the PMI/Federation relief programme distributed an additional 208 tents, 3,063 tarpaulins, 766 kitchen sets, 4,667 hygiene kits, 9,906 blankets, 1,760 jerry cans, 701 family kits, 124 stoves, 10,453 mosquito nets, and 4,847 food parcels throughout Aceh Province.
- PMI is currently distributing complementary food parcels (containing two-month supplies) along the western coast of Aceh, from Lam No to Nagan Raya district (south of Meulaboh). Including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the host family populations, complementary food distribution recipients are estimated at approximately 50,000 families, or about a quarter million people.
- From 10 January the German RC has treated 5,892 patients in their basic health care unit (BHCU) in Teunom.
- The third meeting of the technical working groups of partner national societies (PNS) operating in Indonesia will be held in Medan on 11-13 April. PMI/Federation will be coordinating the sub-working groups, and project plans will be discussed for all six programme sectors: health, disaster management, organizational development, livelihood, reconstruction and water/sanitation.

SRI LANKA

- The relief operation is now entering the transition phase. Second round distributions of non-food relief by the American Red Cross' relief ERU, in cooperation with [Sri Lanka Red Cross Society](#) (SLRCS), are nearly completed.

¹ In Indonesia and India only, the number of dead includes those listed as missing though this will only be official in Indonesia one year after the disaster's date.



- The Federation expanded its relief distributions to cover ICRC-mandated territories in the north of Ampara district and the next phase will see distribution of mosquito nets, baby care kits and hygiene kits to over 8,000 families. The possibility of purchasing hygiene items locally is being assessed.
- At the urgent request of the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, the Federation will purchase and distribute treated mosquito nets for 22,500 people in Ampara district.
- On 30 March, six workers were trained in operation of two mobile septic tank cleaners (so-called “gully bowzers”) in Pottuvil and the cleaning of tanks has already begun.
- The ERU of German Red Cross is producing 120,000 litres of clean water daily in Pottuvil, and 130,000 litres in Tirrukkovil.
- On 6 April SLRCS, the Federation, ICRC, World Vision and Oxfam Australia had a high-level meeting with the Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation (TAFREN) to discuss reconstruction plans. It was decided that beneficiary lists for reconstruction programmes will be drawn up locally and approved in Colombo to prevent possible duplication of land/house allocation.
- TAFREN has signed agreements with construction companies, fixing prices for building materials to be used in tsunami recovery projects to prevent over-inflation and ensuring sufficient quantity of materials are available. Those materials not available in Sri Lanka will be imported.
- The construction coordinator has joined the Federation’s office and is assisting SLRCS to develop a construction plan. The initial phase will be implementation of a small-scale pilot scheme. Experience gained from this phase will form the basis of future larger scale building schemes.
- A tsunami response review and organizational development workshop is being held 7-8 April with participation of all 26 SLRCS branches and representatives from the society’s headquarters, the Federation’s delegation, ICRC and PNS. The workshop will assess present capacity to cope with the post-tsunami operation and the organizational development plan designed to strengthen the national society will be presented and discussed.

MALDIVES

- 38 out of 85 temporary housing blocks are now completed, plus six extra rooms have been added to houses where host families are taking care of IDPs.
- As present accommodation is overcrowded, it was agreed that additional temporary housing blocks will be built to accommodate over 9,000 IDPs in accordance with SPHERE standards.
- The government is completing a household survey of all people who may be relocated to new houses on islands other than their own to ensure that movements are voluntary and in accordance with stated preferences.
- The Federation committed to provide a water tank, guttering and down pipes to each house on the 70 tsunami-affected islands to reinstate and enhance domestic water harvesting that is so necessary for drinking water.

MYANMAR

- Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) is preparing a survey of the number of fishing boats and other equipment needed to restore livelihoods for those seasonal fishing communities affected. All this equipment will be manufactured locally.

THAILAND

- Following the two PNS coordination meetings, significant progress was made to bring forward the Red Cross/Red Crescent recovery plans in Thailand. A partnership framework proposal for the recovery of the tsunami-affected communities in southern Thailand was presented to senior management of the [Thai Red Cross Society](#). These proposals, including livelihood and ecosystem, health, water and sanitation, community and children care initiatives, along with the principle modalities of joint coordination have been agreed upon.

EAST AFRICA

- The national societies of Eritrea, Seychelles and Somalia adopted the Movement coordination framework (developed in South and Southeast Asia) to help ensure that tsunami recovery efforts are well-coordinated and led by the host societies with good cooperation among all Movement partners.

For more details and news stories, photos and all operational updates related to the tsunami:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/response/tsunamis/index.asp>