

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

Appeal No. MDRID002

4 March 2007

[FL-2006-000192-IDN](#)

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 01; Period covered: 30 December 2006 to 28 February 2007; Appeal target: CHF 3.36 million (USD 2.75 million or EUR 2.09 million); Appeal coverage: 17.7%¹; Outstanding needs: CHF 2.76 million ([Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 12 January 2007 to assist 100,000 beneficiaries for three months.

Operational Summary: While the floods in Sumatra have largely subsided, with some continuing pockets of rain in North Sumatra and Riau province, the impact on the lives, livelihoods and land of local communities remains. Agricultural land in Aceh alone has suffered 80 percent in damages, while PMI volunteers in North Sumatra report that farmers in the province do not have the adequate resources to replant seeds because of severe economic losses as a result of the floods.

The Federation continues to support the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) operation that covers three areas – relief, health services and water and sanitation. Indeed, the PMI has been incremental in delivering much needed relief (food, hygiene and clean up kits), services channeled through district health offices, and water tankering in partnership with other agencies to flood-affected families. Cash or in-kind contributions routed through the Federation secretariat and/or direct to the PMI have been instrumental in the national society's service delivery and donors are encouraged to continue their valuable support.

Background

Heavy flooding across the provinces of Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau that began triggering flash floods as of 22 December 2006 have largely subsided, although there are pockets of continuing medium to heavy rainfall and residual flooding in some areas. At the height of the emergency, the floods had affected the lives and livelihoods more than 500,000 people.

Specifically, Sigli sub-district of Aceh province retained flood depths of one to 1.5 meters after a second heavy downpour that began on 7 February. Sporadic showers continue across North Sumatra province, and recurring heavy rains over Riau province re-flooded some areas; however flood levels have largely subsided in Riau. Clean-up of mud and debris continues where flood waters have receded sufficiently.

There are general estimates of some 80 percent damage to agricultural lands in Aceh, with concentration of damage in the most-flooded district of Aceh Tamiang. Specific figures have been tallied of water damage to crop lands in North Sumatra and Riau. In North Sumatra, 14,379 hectares of rice paddies and 11,000 hectares of plantation were inundated. In Riau, the figures are 79,085 and 143,546 respectively. It is noted by PMI volunteers

¹ This coverage has yet to take into account several in-kind contributions made directly to PMI.

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conducting post-flood assessments that farmers in North Sumatra are reporting an inability to replant seeds because of severe economic loss as a direct consequence of the floods.

Overall crop loss has been extensive, and the prospective failure of the hoped-for first crop following the December 2004 tsunami will have a severe impact on family livelihoods and local economic recovery in the affected areas.

The overall focus of concern amongst responding agencies has shifted from emergency operations to a determination of outstanding needs, restoration and early stage recovery, and ensuring that those still displaced continue to receive needed relief assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

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.

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

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

Federation support of the emergency relief operation was both direct, involving PMI volunteers in traditional relief goods distribution, and indirect, with the provision of heavy and light vehicles for transportation by other agencies of relief supplies and drinking water.

The last distribution by PMI of relief goods in flood-affected areas of Aceh and North Sumatra took place during the week of 12 February. In Aceh, 30,000 food parcels donated by Japanese Red Cross were delivered to beneficiaries in Lhokseumawe district. In Langkat district of North Sumatra, 7,342 families received food parcels, hygiene kits and clean-up kits donated by the Singapore Red Cross. In parts of Riau, still flooded at date of this report, PMI volunteers continue to distribute bottled water, noodles, biscuits and tinned fish drawn from the Riau chapter disaster preparedness stocks.

At the height of the emergency period, PMI was operating field kitchens in three Aceh districts: Gayo Lues, Aceh Timur and Bener Meriah. Those operations have since been wound down. At date of this report, one field kitchen continues to be operational in Sekoci, Langkat district, feeding about 100 people per day. PMI field kitchens were not deployed in Riau.

A total of 24 M6 trucks from the Federation's tsunami recovery fleet were deployed from 25 December to 31 January to assist other agencies relief activities. The use of six of these trucks was extended until 12 February for Office of the United Nations Recovery Coordinator (UNORC) to complete the transportation of rice to Tenggulang, Bandar Pusaka, Tamiang Hulu and Sekerak sub-districts of Aceh Tamiang.

Emergency health

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

The delivery of health services by the district health offices in Aceh and North Sumatra was sustained during the emergency phase. In Riau province, PMI continues to provide basic health services at Kampuar, Indragiri Hulu and Pekanbaru. Branch-level assessments at the local level continue to monitor local health conditions, with reports still being received of flood-related illnesses such as diarrhea, respiratory infections and skin rashes.

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.

The Federation M6 fleet was an important resource in the tankering of water by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) during the flood emergency phase.

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The Federation is in the advanced planning stage to support the deployment of two teams of PMI volunteers across the most affected district of Aceh Tamiang to carry out an extensive well-cleaning programme. The schedule calls for the cleaning of two wells per day over three months for a total of 180 wells cleaned. The process involves: emptying wells of flood silt by pump or by hand buckets; chlorine shock treatment, and; natural well recharging. It is noted that, prior to the flood, well water in the affected areas was always boiled before usage and this traditional method is expected to continue.

Water and sanitation assessments continue and further interventions will be considered once residual conditions are better known.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Coordination

Red Cross and Red Crescent coordination, cooperation and assistance for the Sumatra floods proved similar to the Movement response immediately following the 27 May 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake. At that time, PMI's Movement partners present in Indonesia as part of the tsunami recovery were able to benefit from their effective working relationships with each other and with the host national society, and from local knowledge gained by living in the country, to respond quickly and effectively to meet urgent needs.

A list of multilateral contributions to the Sumatra flood operation is available in the [attached contributions list](#). The table below only depicts bilateral contributions that are not captured fully in the contributions list:

Partner national society	In-kind contribution	Cash contribution	Value in CHF
American Red Cross	7,000 food parcels		
German Red Cross	Purchase of medicines, cost of five medical action teams	EUR 50,000	CHF 81,000
Singapore Red Cross	5,000 food parcels		
Swiss Red Cross	300 family kits, 200 baby kits, 500 food parcels		
Spanish Red Cross	3,000 family kits		

Note: All multilateral and bilateral cash and in-kind contributions are included towards the appeal target.

Working with Government, UN Agencies and other actors

Communication and coordination with other humanitarian actors in disaster response is standard operating procedure for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is noted that the Sumatra flood operation was coordinated by the UN upon request of the government of Indonesia. Several well-established agencies took part in the response, including UNORC, World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam), Consortium for Assistance to Refugees and Displaced in Indonesia (CARDI), German Agro Action (GAA) and others. UNORC and the provincial disaster management agency (SATLAK) jointly hosted the coordination meetings.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Communications: PMI reporting structures were hampered by a breakdown in telephone communications during the peak emergency period. The Federation telecom department based in Banda Aceh assisted a PMI radio installer – trained by the Federation as part of the early warning system deployment across branches in Aceh – to install a VHF repeater tower and radio in Langsa. Systems have since been restored and flood response activity reports continue to be received from the operational branches.

Advocacy and public information: PMI and Federation information and disaster management staff in Banda Aceh and in Jakarta continued their established collaboration for reporting and media demands created by the Sumatra floods. The PMI disaster management team updated stakeholders on conditions and Red Cross actions through postings to the Federation's Disaster Management Information Service (DMIS) intranet. Three information bulletins and a Request for Assistance were published on the Federation website: www.ifrc.org.

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It is noted that the Indonesia country delegation's short staffing during the holiday period was alleviated by support from the Federation's regional reporting unit in Kuala Lumpur; again exercising the regional interdependency of the Movement's resilient organizational structure.

Monitoring and evaluation

A PMI/Federation/Canadian Red Cross team conducted a post-flood monitoring mission 8-14 January to perform a general assessment in the most flood affected districts, evaluate branch-level performance and response coping capacities, and monitor distribution effectiveness of relief materials allocated from Federation stocks.

It is noted that renewed heavy rains during the scheduled assessment period constrained thoroughness of the mission.

A detailed report describing the team's findings is available upon request to Movement stakeholders. General conclusions point to intense PMI volunteer activity at the local level, with volunteers involved in rescue operations, food and non-food distributions of procured relief stocks, field kitchen labour and dissemination of hygiene awareness information integral to all activities.

Constraints were the usual problems incurred in these kinds of situations, including:

- communication difficulties from telephone and radio outages
 - travel delays because of landslides and flooded roads
 - lack of computerized equipment in outlying areas, requiring a slower paper-based reporting process
 - lack of basic gear such as raincoats and rubber boots for the volunteer cadres in some branch locations
- A number of the branches in the most severely flooded areas also lost equipment and supplies in the flood waters, while water damage to vehicles made them unusable for the operational response.

These constraints experienced during the disaster response mobilization highlighted the need for better contingency planning and more disaster management training for more PMI volunteers across the flood-affected areas.

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:

- Indonesian Red Cross (PMI): Mr. Arifin M. Hadi, Head of DM division; mobile: +62.811.943952; phone: +62.21.799.2325 ext. 222; email: arifinmhd_dm_pmi@yahoo.com, Ms. Aswi Nugroho, head of communication department, mobile: +62.816.166.7227; phone: +62.21.799.2325 ext. 201; fax: +62.21.799.5188.
- Federation country delegation in Indonesia: Mr. Bob McKerrow (head of delegation); email: bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org; mobile: +62.811.824.859, phone: +62.21.7919.1841 ext. 107;

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- Federation secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific department): Josse Gillijns (regional officer); email: josse.gillijns@ifrc.org ; phone: +44.22.730.4224, fax: +41.22.733.0395.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

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ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRID002

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/02/2007

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,356,120		17.7%
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		200,000	AUD	193,000	15.01.07	OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES
CHINA - HONG KONG RC BRANCH		200,000	HKD	31,220	02.01.07	FOOD & NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE
AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID		100,000	USD	121,950	27.12.06	
JAPANESE - RC		137,600	USD	167,803	24.01.07	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				513,973	CHF	15.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GERMAN - RC		50,000	EUR	80,500	28.02.07	DIRECT ASSISTANCE , 5 MEDICAL ACTION TEAMS MEDICINES,
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				80,500	CHF	2.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	