

INDONESIA: EARTHQUAKES

27 October 2000

Information Bulletin N° 1

The Disaster

An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale was felt in the western regions of Indonesia and in northern Australia in the morning of 27 October, local time. According to the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (AGSO), the earthquake occurred on 26 October at 22.44 GMT and was centred 6.4 degrees south and 129 degrees east in the Banda Sea.

While there are no immediate reports of damage or injury, this earthquake follows a more powerful one that hit western Java on Wednesday, 25 October. This latter earthquake measured 6.5 on the Richter scale and was felt in Jakarta. According to information received by the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), three districts: Pandenglang, Lebak and Serang were affected. There are no immediate reports of casualties although information coming from 12 sub-districts indicate that up to 1,100 houses, 33 mosques and 18 schools have been seriously damaged.

The Pandenglang branch of PMI, supported by the PMI disaster division in Jakarta, is working with local government services in providing some initial assistance and further assessment. The government's department of public works and Satkorlak, the sub-provincial body of the Indonesian disaster management co-ordinating board, Bakornas PB, is expected to provide shelter assistance whilst PMI will provide some initial food relief.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Indonesian Red Cross, which has an office in Pandenglang, is providing 2 tonnes of rice and 315 boxes of instant noodles to those people who may be displaced from their homes. It will also assist the local authorities in a more thorough damage and needs assessment. The PMI headquarters is to send a staff member from its Jakarta headquarters to help in the assessment.

The Federation, which has an office in Jakarta, is continuing to gather information and has put regional resources on standby.

Needs

The needs are currently being identified and if necessary, a further Information Bulletin will be launched in the coming days.

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