

## ***INDONESIA: LANDSLIDES***

*14 November 2000*

### ***Information Bulletin N° 3***

#### ***The Disaster***

Continued torrential rains in Purworejo, Central Java (400 km. south east of Jakarta) have caused several new major landslides and flash floods in many parts of the district, which hit homes and have claimed at least 52 lives. 60% of the 494 villages in 60 sub-districts of Purworejo are located either at the foot of or in the middle of steep hill slopes. This is the second wave of landslides and flash floods to hit the area.

In Pacekelam, one of the worst affected areas, four people remain missing. Search and rescue operations are being carried out by government co-ordinated teams, in cooperation with Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) volunteers and a number of university students who offered their services spontaneously.

As the relentless downpour continues and the slopes become constantly muddier and more fragile, more attention is being directed to the possibility of further, secondary disasters. As an example of the volatility of the situation, there was still another landslide in this part of this district while PMI headquarters staff and the Federation's liaison officer visited the area. Villagers from Plipir, Somongarj and Kemamakati, all considered potential disaster zones, have been evacuated to the Crisis Management Centre called Posko.

In the sub districts of Cilacap and Banyumas, where at least 40 more people are thought to have died, the 1-2 metre floodwaters have receded and those evacuated began moving back to their homes on 7 November. Satlak (the district-level disaster management co-ordination body) and army units have been providing the victims with cash, medicines, clothing and food, including rice, instant noodles, dried fish sugar and tea.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

Supporting the PMI branches in the affected areas: Purworejo, Cilacap, Banyumas, Purbalingga, Banjarnegara, Kebmen, and Purwokerto, the PMI national headquarters is providing 1,500 family kits containing two blankets, two sleeping mats, one 10 litre jerry can and 5 glasses, spoons, forks and plates and tarpaulins for shelter. The relief items are being secured in co-operation with the Federation and the ICRC and transported as of 12 November from the ICRC logistics base in Surabaya in Eastern Indonesia to the branches; an officer from the headquarters in Jakarta will monitor the distribution.

The Cilacap branch received 200 pieces of plastic sheeting and two sets of kitchen utensils from the headquarters on 4 November. Earlier, PMI branch volunteers in Cilacap and Banyumas gathered locally and distributed a number of food parcels composed of rice, packs of instant noodles, dried fish, soy beans, and cooking oil.

The PMI branch in Cilacap has set up a health post in Sidareja to provide health services and medicines on the spot until 10 November. The chairman of the Cilacap branch, also head of the local public health centre, has organised outreach health teams to provide assistance to people in remote affected areas.

The liaison officer from the Federation delegation in Jakarta, accompanied by the head of relief and disaster preparedness of the PMI arrived in Jakarta on 10 November after an extended visit to the affected areas to look into the possibility of further assistance.

## ***Needs***

The immediate needs are shelter, household items, sleeping mats, and clean water supplies. The provision of housing materials and food (due to extensive damage to the economically essential rice paddies) make up the mid-term and long-term needs.

It is becoming more and more likely that a series of floods and landslides could hit many more parts of the country by the time the rainy season ends in February. The PMI/Federation team will closely monitor the situation, and are working on contingency plans in preparation for anticipated needs.

The PMI operation is budgeted at CHF 100,000. So far the Federation has released CHF 40,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and has received a positive response from the Australian Government with a pledge of 50,000 (AuD) for the initial provision of relief materials. Donors are encouraged to provide funds to reimburse the DREF allocation and to cover additional needs. Further information bulletins will be issued to provide details on the progress of the operation.

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**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**