

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: FLOODS**

31 January 2002

*Information Bulletin N° 01/02*

*This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

### ***The Situation***

Eighteen people have died in flood-related incidents in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta since Saturday 26 January. Jakarta's flood control agency says that 15 to 20 percent of the city is now under water, in some places up to two-metres deep. Meteorologists expect rainfall to continue over Java until the end of February.

The International Federation in Indonesia said 43 suburbs of Jakarta (out of 250) were submerged, forcing more than 45,000 people to leave their homes for higher ground.

The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) has carried out an assessment of relief needs in the flooded areas and has started relief operations in the city's worst affected areas.

The International Federation's disaster manager for Indonesia Pepe Salmela said the flooding in Jakarta now had affected more people and caused more damage than at any time in the last six years. Jakarta last experienced severe flooding in 1996, but damage was less serious then due to lower sea level and rivers and canals being cleaner allowing more rapid down flow of excess waters into the sea. Sea levels, which normally are approximately 0.40 meters above city ground levels during the monsoon season, are even higher now. Exacerbating the situation is the constantly growing population of Jakarta and poor waste management, which slows down the flow of rainwater into rivers and canals.

The PMI's provincial chapter in East Java has reported severe flooding 80 to 200 km south of Surabaya and on the nearby island of Madura. It is reported that at least 10 people have died in the floods in the province. Further flooding is also reported in Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo, with several districts affected, as is common during the monsoon season.

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

PMI volunteers have rescued and fed thousands of people forced to abandon their homes in Jakarta. Three hundred volunteers from five PMI branches in Jakarta have run food distributions from five mobile emergency units, which have been turned into field kitchens feeding over 10,000 flood victims. Chicken, vegetables and 850 packs of rice from the branches' own stocks and three tons of rice and 3,500 packs of noodles from the chapters' stocks have been used to cook food for the people displaced by the floods.

PMI staff and volunteers are also using two inflatable rubber boats to distribute relief items and rescue flood survivors in Jakarta, but more and larger boats are needed.

The International Federation's disaster manager for Indonesia said the PMI, supported by the Federation, is preparing relief kits of 4,000 packs of biscuits, 10,000 sarongs and shirts, 6,000 litres of bottled water and 8,000 purification tablets. This relief, he said, would be distributed to the 2,000 most vulnerable families by the five branches by the end of this week.

In East Java more than 1,000 families have been affected. Seven branches with over 200 volunteers have assisted local authorities in their rescue efforts. The branches have started distribution of noodles and family kits to 321 most vulnerable and affected families.

The PMI has appealed to Jakarta's business community to help it respond to the needs of the most vulnerable. No assistance from donors outside Indonesia is needed at this time.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

*For further details please contact :*

- *The Indonesian Red Cross Society (Palang Merah Indonesia) in Jakarta ; Phone +62-21-799-2325; Fax +62-21-799-5188; email [intrelation@palangmerah.org](mailto:intrelation@palangmerah.org)*
- *International Federation's Delegation in Indonesia, tel. +62-21-7919-1841, fax +62-21-7918-0905, e-mail [ifrcid01@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcid01@ifrc.org)*
- *Sandra Rosner, Phone 41 22 7304456; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email [rosner@ifrc.org](mailto:rosner@ifrc.org)*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal Appeal (01.33/2002)*

John Horekens  
Head  
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashiura  
Head  
Asia-Pacific Department