

# 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 جمعيات الصليب الأحمر والقمر الأحمر

## INDONESIA: EARTHQUAKE 6 February, 2004

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: NA

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### ***In Brief***

*This document is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. However as further updates and assessment reports become available or should the situation deteriorate the Federation may consider international support through an Appeal.*

### **The Situation**

An earthquake measuring 6.91 on the Richter scale struck three districts in central West Papua province in Indonesia at 06:05 local time this morning, killing 23 people and injuring over 600. Physical damage is reported extensive with homes, a mosque, public buildings, roads and bridges damaged, including the district hospital in Nabire, the worst hit town (population approximately 86,000). Patients have been moved into tents on the hospital ground. Landslides appear to have followed in the region, which is mountainous. Communications links with the affected area are down, so more detailed reports are sketchy. The Nabire airport sustained structural damage and is closed.

A seismologist with the Indonesian Meteorological and Geophysics Agency in the provincial capital of Jayapura, said that he had unconfirmed reports from villagers in the nearby Cendrawasih Bay had reported a tsunami following the quake. This has not been confirmed during the day.

The earthquake's epicentre was approximately 7 km east of the district capital of Nabire, estimated at 80 km depth. A series of aftershocks followed the quake which struck as people were waking up. The neighbouring district capital of Manokwari (pop approx 200,000) was the epicentre of an earthquake which hit in October 2002, causing extensive damage to local infrastructure. In addition to Nabire and Manokwari, the third district capital of Enarotali is also reportedly badly damaged after today's quake.

The stricken area is about 3,000 km (1,900 miles) east of Jakarta.

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

This morning, ten Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) volunteers left the town of Sorong (on the westernmost tip of Papua) by boat. This is the nearest base where PMI has trained disaster response volunteers. They are expected to reach the affected area on Saturday morning. While their main task is to assess the situation,

they are carrying basic rescue equipment and First Aid kits. These are all trained disaster response volunteers from PMI's Satgana (rapid response) team in Sorong.

Two Red Cross staff from the National Office in Jakarta - the International Federation's disaster management delegate and the PMI's senior response officer - will arrive in Timika, on West Papua's southern coast, tomorrow morning and fly by helicopter to Nabire, some 230 km to the north, with the support of the PT Freeport mining company, which operates the nearby Grasberg copper and gold mine.

They will carry up to one ton of relief goods, including tents, body bags, blood and mosquito nets, from the joint Federation/PMI central stock in Jakarta. Following their assessment, a decision will be made on the extent of PMI's involvement in the expected relief operation.

PMI's national Disaster Management team is closely monitoring the situation and collecting information from neighbouring Red Cross chapters and branches. Supported by the Federation's delegation in Indonesia, PMI is keeping open a direct communications link with the national disaster management authorities.

The Federation's delegation in Jakarta has alerted its partners and potential donors to the situation.

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

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*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.