

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/PAPUA: EARTHQUAKE

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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 over 180 countries. For more information: 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

Powerful earthquakes have continued to rock three districts in West Papua province in Indonesia (see map on page 3) over the week end, bringing the total death toll to 31. The severest earthquake, measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale, struck on Friday morning, followed by a number of powerful aftershocks on Saturday (6.2 on Richter) and Sunday (5.3), according to information provided by the National Seismic Centre. In all, more than 30 aftershocks have been recorded. Damage to buildings and infrastructure in the area is extensive, but it appears now that the number of injured is considerably less than the 600 originally estimated. Six people lost their lives in the quake on Saturday.

The greatest material damage is in the town of Nabire, while outlying areas are also severely affected, as seen by Federation disaster management (DM) delegate and others assessing the situation over the week end. .

The local disaster management authority, SATLAK, reported on Sunday that over 220 people had been injured, half of them seriously. Twelve patients had been evacuated to the Papuan capital of Jayapura and Makassar in Sulawesi; some of those might be evacuated further to Jakarta if their injuries were deemed life-threatening.

The local parliament building sustained considerable damage, as well as the local prison. 30 homes had collapsed, 33 burned, 23 were badly damaged, 78 slightly damaged. Fourteen school buildings were badly damaged and eight mosques, four churches and two temples. Ten roads had cracked open, eight bridges were down. Damage has also been recorded to power and communications lines, water lines, oil storage facilities, the local government food warehouse and water pipes. The local mayor (bupati) in Nabire estimates that the damage to local infrastructure is worth at least IDR 350 million (US\$42,000). Local water and power departments are hard at work to restore essential links, and expect to have at least 50% of these services running within two days in Nabire.

The district hospital in Nabire was damaged in Friday's quake and patients are being treated in tents in the hospital grounds. Only one water tap is functioning in the hospital and no running-water latrines. The hospital waste-disposal system, not great before the quake, is dysfunctional. Some hospital staff, including doctors and nurses, are traumatized and afraid to go into the building. The district hospital has ten doctors (five of whom cover health

posts in the outlying areas) and 36 nurses and paramedics. Not all doctors and nurses have reported for work since the quake, as their families have also been affected. The hospital reports lack of antibiotics, light surgical instruments, a generator and at least ten paramedics. Seven doctors (including two surgeons and an obstetrician) arrived from Makassar and Jayapura on Sunday to work alongside local doctors.

Papua provincial police spokesman claimed the destruction was so severe that it was likely that a return to normality would take time especially in rebuilding the damaged facilities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Federation's DM delegate in Indonesia and Indonesia Red Cross's (PMI) senior response officer have been in the area since Saturday morning and are conducting an assessment of damage and needs, in cooperation with local and central authorities, the Indonesian military (TNI), the UN EU's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF, MSF and others. They expect to know by this evening what the needs are and which role, if any, there would be for the Red Cross. Helimission Indonesia has made its helicopters available to the assessment teams.

The DM delegate will return to Jakarta on Tuesday, while his counterpart will continue the assessment supported by 10 trained disaster managers from nearby PMI chapters and a highly trained National response officer from Jakarta.

The PMI team on Saturday brought in much needed blood supplies, body bags, tarpaulins and some 100 family kits. All these have been distributed and put to use.

Indonesia's social welfare minister and the governor of Papua visited the area on Saturday and promised to provide a total of IDR 1.5 billion (\$178,000) for the relief and reconstruction work, in addition to medicines and tents to provide for immediate needs. Regional authorities brought in tents for the hospital and some of the homeless families. The local government are providing food to the affected population, and according to preliminary findings, local food stocks will last for 2-4 weeks. Food has also been provided by the PT Freeport mining company, which operates the nearby Grasberg copper and gold mine, and Freeport is working on securing the needed generator and medical supplies.

USAid has donated US\$50,000 to the PMI to address the emergency needs and AUSAid has indicated willingness to support PMI should the assessment show that there is need for Red Cross intervention in the area.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

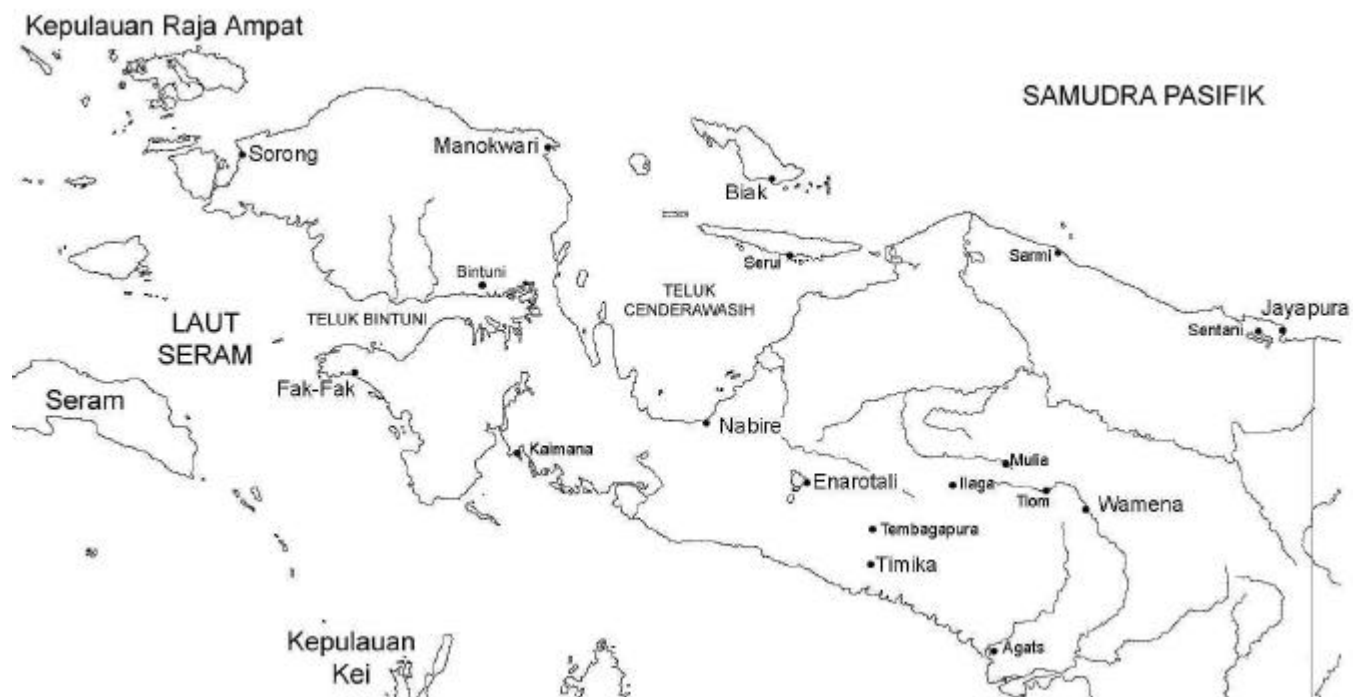
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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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.



Map of West Papua province. Manokwari is the largest town in this area and the scene of a major earthquake in late 2002.