

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

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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.

The Situation

An earthquake rocked Indonesia's holiday islands of Bali and Lombok on Friday (2 January), according to reports killing an elderly man and injuring up to 40 people, including at least three children. More than 250 buildings, including a hospital, are reported to have been damaged on both islands. Information from the earthquake-monitoring centre in Jakarta, indicates that the epicentre of the quake, measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale, was in the Lombok Strait, which separates the two islands.

Officials on Lombok have reported that homes were badly damaged in the Sekotong and Selagalas areas of Mataram. In neighbouring Bali, the quake hit buildings in Karangasem province and Arpurel City, including two shrines and a district office. All reports from the earthquake zone confirm that this is very much a localised occurrence and the authorities have the situation well under control, with limited external assistance requested from within Indonesia.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Indonesian Red Cross – Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) – has a strong local network in the area, particularly on Bali where support from the Australian Red Cross (following the terrorist attack of October 2002) is significantly enhancing the chapter's disaster response and preparedness skills and resources, notably through the provision of ambulances, a programme for equipping and training the island's Red Cross rapid response team (S Satgas), and extended leadership and assessment training initiatives.

Red Cross staff and volunteers moved swiftly into action immediately after the earthquake struck, administering first aid as necessary and carrying out early assessments of damage and needs. An emergency post was established and Satgas and volunteer colleagues undertook cleaning, repair and reinforcement work for the affected population. Red Cross volunteers also helped to transport patients from the damaged hospital to a nearby facility and distributed tarpaulins and tents to the homeless.

At the request of the Lombok chapter, the International Federation is organising the urgent delivery of a consignment of tarpaulins from stocks held in the Surabaya warehouse. The Bali chapter leadership has also visited the quake-hit zones and concluded that the situation remains within local capabilities. Both chapters are remaining in close contact with PMI headquarters in Jakarta.

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

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is 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 programmes or 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.