

# 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

## NIAS: EARTHQUAKE

28 March 2005

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 181 countries.

### In Brief

**This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

**For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:**

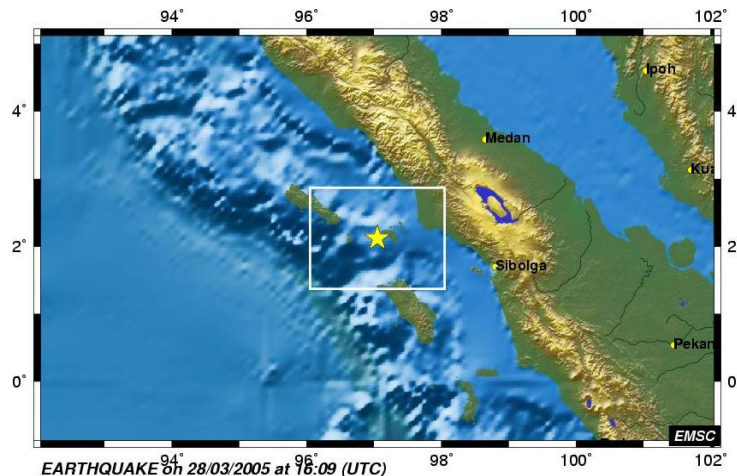
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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### The Situation

An earthquake of magnitude 8.7 on the Richter scale struck Northern Sumatra in Indonesia at 16:09 on 28 March 2005. The epicentre was located at 2.09N 97.02E, which is 205 kilometres west-north-west of Sibolga. The earthquake lasted for up to three minutes and was felt as far away as Malaysia. While there have been no

confirmed reports of deaths or damage, there have been power outages in Banda Aceh.



An earthquake of 8.7 generates a rupture length of between 200 to 400 kilometres and a displacement of several meters. The epicentre was 30km under the sea and there is a risk of a tsunami in the Indian Ocean, but this is as yet unconfirmed. There have been no reports of a tsunami, but further reports are awaited.

The preliminary magnitude, however, indicates that the energy released is about 30 times lower than the earthquake of 26 December, and if a tsunami has been generated then it should be smaller than the

one experienced in December 2004. Authorities near the epicentre have been alerted to the risk of tsunami and the need to respond accordingly.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

A Red Cross helicopter will be departing at first light, focusing on the islands in the Nias archipelago. A Red Cross Cessna will also be departing Medan tomorrow to check the coastline. The Indonesian Red Cross is confident that it has enough relief items in Banda Aceh, Meulaboh and Medan should they be needed. There will be a government coordination meeting tomorrow at 07:30 in Jakarta, which the Federation's Head of Delegation will be attending.

All Sri Lankan ambulances and Red Cross volunteers have already been deployed along the coastline. Red Cross stocks and personnel are ready for deployment in Sri Lanka.

News of the earthquake was flashed to the Geneva Secretariat from Meulaboh within ten minutes of the occurrence, and a strong team was assembled rapidly in Geneva to handle the emergency, including first contact with the member societies.

Currently, there are no reports of any injuries to Red Cross Red Crescent personnel in Indonesia – confirmation of this is expected in the morning.

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*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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