

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: Eastern Aceh Flash Floods

24 December 2006

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (No. 01/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. 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:

- *In Indonesia: Indonesian Red Cross (PMI): Mr. Arifin M. Hadi, Head of DM Division;; mobile: (+62 811 943952); phone: (+62 21 799 2325 ext. 222); email: arifinmhd_dm_pmi@yahoo.com, Ms. Aswi Nugroho, Head of Communication Department, mobile: (+62 816 1667227); phone: (+62 21 799 2325 ext. 201); fax: (+62 21 799 5188)*
- *Federation country delegation in Indonesia: Mr. Bob McKerrow (Head of Delegation); email: bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org; mobile: (+62 811 824 859) phone: (+62 21 7919 1841 ext. 107); fax: (+62 21 791 0905), Mr. Harun Al Rashid, DM Delegate, Banda Aceh, mobile: (+62 812 100 4071), Mr. Fachry Noviar Singka, DM senior program officer; mobile: (+62 811 913 262); phone: (+62 21 791 91 841);*
- *Federation Secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific department): Gert Venghaus (Regional Officer); email: gert.venghaus@ifrc.org; phone: (+41 22 730 4258); fax: (+41 22 733 0395)*

The Situation

Heavy rains over the past three days have caused extensive flooding on the eastern coast of Sumatra, displacing upwards of 80,000 people in several districts in Aceh province, according to incoming reports from the Indonesian Red Cross's (Palang Merah Indonesia – PMI) personnel in the area. Unconfirmed figures received thus far are indicating 29 possible deaths and 32 missing. The affected areas in Aceh are reported to be the districts of Aceh Utara, Aceh Tamiang, Gayo Lues, Bireuen, Aceh Timur and Bener Meriah. Close to 90% of Aceh Tamiang is flooded, including both the district government's offices and PMI's branch and 112 houses were completely destroyed. Water levels are reported to be two metres high in some areas.

The flooding has caused widespread damage to crops, plantations and fish pond as well as to roads and bridges. The infrastructural damage is hindering the assessment of death, injury and damage as well as the ongoing relief operations.

In the sub-district of Lhokseumawe, the water level is reported to be receding and many people are now returning to the area; however the Indonesian meteorological department (BMG) is predicting additional heavy rains in the next days, which could exacerbate the situation.

The displaced are gathering on higher ground, by roadsides and in village schools as local governments are coordinating the set-up of evacuation camps in the affected districts. Bakornas, the national coordinating agency

for natural disasters and refugee relief, is sending a Hercules cargo plane to the affected area with equipment required for assessment and relief including rubber boats.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia – PMI) responded by dispatching two SATGANA disaster response teams to the affected region yesterday that continue to assess the humanitarian needs as well as to provide initial relief supplies.

PMI volunteers have thus far distributed 500 tarpaulins, 1,000 blankets, 100 jerry cans and 20 kitchen sets and are in close communication with the PMI Aceh chapter disaster operations centre in Banda Aceh in order to determine the potential requirements for large-scale shipments of relief supplies.

Today, Sunday, PMI is carrying out a joint assessment by UN helicopter with the UN together with BRR, the Indonesian government agency for reconstruction in Aceh and with Satkorkor, the provincial-level disaster coordination body. The aerial survey will assist in assessing the affected areas, much of which is cut off by the flooding.

PMI volunteers from six branches in the affected area are assisting the district governments in evacuating the affected populations, setting up relief camps, coordinating emergency feeding stations, and distributing relief supplies. The most urgent needs are reported to be food, water and medicines.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is working in close cooperation with the Indonesian Red Cross to provide support as needs are identified.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>