

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: SUMATRA FLASH FLOODS

Information Bulletin
no. 3/2006
29 December 2006
[FL-2006-000192-IDN](#)

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 185 countries.

In Brief

At this stage, the Indonesian Red Cross Society (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) is not able to launch an international appeal. Currently, added operational support resulting from the massive flooding in Aceh, Northern Sumatra and Riau is provided by releasing stocks from the PMI warehouses and advancing considerable funds for transportation, trucking, etc. from the tsunami operation ([click here](#) for tsunami two-year progress reports). Additional needs have been identified and revealed in this Information Bulletin. The Federation is therefore seeking funding or other assistance from donors to support this operation.



These two children, who lost their father during the floods, stand near their house in the village of Kuala Simpang in the district of Aceh Tamiang in Aceh province (REUTERS/Tarmizy Harva/courtesy of www.alertnet.org).

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The Situation



Children collect their clothes after a flood in Besitang village in the district of Langkat, north Sumatra. (REUTERS/ Danang Dirgantara/ courtesy of www.alertnet.org)

The torrential rains and ensuing floods that have deluged the eastern coast of Sumatra since 22 December have caused wide spread devastation in the provinces of Aceh, North Sumatra and Riau, affecting more than 530,000 people. Four days earlier, an earthquakes and severe aftershocks affected Mandailing Natal district of Northern Sumatra on 18 December, killing 17 people and causing substantial damage through landslides.

As communications improve slowly, the enormous scale of damage and destruction is only gradually coming to light. The estimates of relief needs are being scaled up accordingly to meet the needs of the growing number of affected people.

Some of the areas have been difficult to access, such as the affected population at Desa Batu Bedullah on the border of Aceh Tamiang and Aceh Timur, which has not received medical assistance. Desa Batu Bedallah is situated at the upper course of Tamiang river and the only means of access is by boat.

Riau is a priority area for assistance as ten of thousands of houses have been affected by the flood in eight districts and the municipality. The worst affected areas are on the river banks of Sungai Siak, Kampar, Rokan, Indra Giri dan, Sungai Kuantan. Kampar district is the worst affected with 11 sub-districts: 12,000 houses are covered by water and 70 villages

are now isolated. Other similarly affected districts are listed below:

Districts in Riau	No. of houses submerged
Kampar	12,000
Rokan	7,000
Rokan Hulu	7,000
Pelawan	5,000
Kuantan Singingi	3,000
Siak	2,000
Pekan Baru City	800
Total	36,800

The flooding has caused widespread damage to crops, plantations, fish ponds, roads and bridges and telecommunications. Poor communications and infrastructural damage is hindering the assessment of death, injury and damage as well as getting clear information on the full scope of ongoing relief operations. 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.

Livelihoods and public infrastructure continue to be inundated throughout flooded areas in Aceh with several bridges washed away, cutting off dependable transportation lines with some of the worst-affected areas. Although water levels have begun to recede, additional information from the Indonesian meteorological department have forecasted heavy rains until the end of December.

Table: People and families in North Sumatra, Aceh and Riau that are affected by floods

North Sumatra province: Langkat district			Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province			Riau province		
Sub district	Family	People	District	Family	People	District	Family	People
Besitang		9,628	North Aceh	33,511	143,988	Kampar		1,955
Gebang		132	Aceh Tamiang	44,556	203,722	Rokan Hulu	1,500	6,320
Sei Lapan		3,470	Gayo Lues	1,315	6,577	Rokan Hilir	5,364	21,456
Pangkalan Susu		1,324	East Aceh	7,214	32,272	Pekanbaru	8,247	24,741
Sawit Sebrang	710	2,950	Lhokseumawe	1,991	5,379	Kuantan Singingi	1,405	5,620
Padang Tualang		4,241	Bireuen	1,757	6,492	Pelalawan	2'165	8,660
Sei Wampu		3,955	Bener Meriah	346	1,485	Indragiri Hulu	7,802	50,100
Stabat		62				Indragiri Hilir	23	92
Batang Serangan		805						
Babalan		7,195						
Total	n/a	33,762	Total	90,690	399,915	Total	26,506	94,213
Mendaling Natal district								
Sub district	Family	People						
Panyambungan	222	1,110						
Nopan City	602	3,007						
Rao (West Sumatra)	209	1,049						
Muara Sipongi	295	1,152						
Total	1,303	6,318						

National troops have joined the relief effort with the government, shipping in tonnes of food, clothes, rubber boats and other supplies using a Hercules transport aircraft. Helicopters are air dropping relief supplies to remote areas, ships and rubber boats have been mobilized, and camps are set up as necessary. In Aceh, the government is coordinating relief efforts with other agencies through an operations centre established in the SATKORLAK office. The PMI is part of this operations centre, together with representatives from the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR), SATKORLAK and the governor’s office.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

To date, **the PMI has completed a services delivery plan** targeting 20,000 families (100,000 people):

- 10,000 families in Aceh province
- 5,000 families in Riau province
- 5,000 families in North Sumatra province

The main components are the provision of food packets, family kits, baby kits, field kitchens and meeting water, sanitation and medical needs. Toolkits for cleaning and repairing houses will also be provided.

The total cost of the PMI operational budget is CHF 2.74 million Swiss francs for one month. With Federation operational support cost built in, the total budget amounts to CHF 3.36 million. Please refer to the attached budget for more information.

Until today, PMI has been working to provide relief assistance to the affected people by close coordination with local government and other stakeholders. Reports of distributions from PMI branches are being hampered by poor communications, but it is clear PMI chapters and branches have responded well from stockpiles, local donations and supplies delivered by PMI and Federation warehouses. The PMI activities are:

Type of activity	Provinces		
	Aceh	Riau	North Sumatra
Assessment	✓	✓	✓
Evacuation	✓	✓	✓
Field kitchen services	✓		✓
Health services		✓	✓
Relief distribution of food and non food items	✓	✓	

Assessments

The PMI is continually updating their assessment listings **and due to the partial inaccessibility of some areas, these assessments continue**. The latest figures collected show 106,842 families or nearly 534,208 people displaced from their homes with numbers likely to rise further. In the North, many have been able to return to their homes where they are faced with the massive job of cleaning out the thick mud and repairing their communities. Others, isolated for days on small islands of high ground and unable to reach their homes, now group together in temporary camps, many of several thousand people. Still more, tell of homes washed away or crushed by huge cut logs from illegal logging operations in the hill country upstream, and are left with just the clothes they wear.

Assessment teams have already started to identify needs for the early recovery phase, and others, including the PMI, will follow this week looking particularly at emerging health issues. Rehabilitation of wells, heavy-duty equipment to assist in the clean up, stoves and medicines to combat the inevitable water-related diseases will be amongst the expected needs.

Due to the need for more accurate information, the PMI is sending an integrated DM, health and watsan assessment team on 30 December to North Sumatra, Riau and later Aceh. The team will comprise specialists from the PMI and a Federation doctor from the Malaysian Red Crescent currently working in Yogyakarta, as well as a water and sanitation specialist from the Spanish Red Cross.

Relief, response and temporary shelter

The Federation's M6 trucks, part of a convoy of 30 trucks from different international agencies, have been able to take in much-needed emergency food aid to the most badly affected regions of Indonesia's Aceh province, where it is distributed by the PMI. However, poor weather prevented helicopter drops on 28 December and dark clouds threatened to bring yet more flooding to the region, which was already devastated by the swift-flowing muddy water. In the neighbouring province of North Sumatra, communities in Mandailing Natal, already crippled by landslides following the earthquake of 18 December, have now had their narrow, steep-sided valleys flooded. Many of these communities remain isolated.



Volunteers from the PMI help to mobilize goods for the flood response.

The distinctive M6 trucks have already made one journey through the waters along narrow single track roads, to link up with waiting groups of PMI volunteers at distribution points in villages on the coast. On 29 December, another convoy of 19 M6 trucks will, again, take food and water purification kits to Tamiang and other badly affected districts. The Federation remains committed to this essential response for as long as these hard-working trucks are the only vehicles to be able to access villages otherwise cut off by standing water. At the same time, UN and army helicopters plan food drops to the most isolated and vulnerable groups along the coast and in the mountainous hinterland.

Non food items like tents, tarpaulins, blankets, family kits, hygiene kits, stoves, lamp hurricane, mosquito nets, jerry cans etc. also have been allocated from Federation DP stock to the PMI.

The PMI, Federation and ICRC continue to work closely together. The ICRC has donated non-food items from their warehouse in Lhokseumawe and are making water sanitation equipment available to PMI.

Health and care

As the floods have now lasted for more than a week, there are increasing concerns about the availability of clean water. Many latrines are flooded and normal water sources are destroyed. Distribution of hygiene kits and water purification equipment is not covering all the needs at the moment. One district, Langkat in North Sumatra, reported 50 cases of diarrhoea among children less than 5 years treated in the health clinics as per December 28. Increased numbers of skin infections is another indicator of exposure to polluted water. In the make shift shelters in temporary locations for displaced people respiratory infections are also increasing.

The PMI has a number of medical action teams ready to be deployed to areas that are in special need. Previous assessments are now being revised by the water and sanitation, health and relief specialists, and it is expected that a more accurate picture of the situation is available within a few days, when the more isolated areas are becoming more accessible.

The medical action teams' need for medicines and equipment are being covered by a donation from the German Red Cross, and the Federation is offering hygiene kits and medicines to be deployed from its warehouse in Medan if the assessment team finds it necessary.

The PMI is not requesting international assistance in the form of an international appeal at this time as it awaits the outcome of the assessment team leaving on 30 December. However, in the meantime the PMI will not turn down support for replenishment of stocks and assistance to continue the operation. Partners are also invited to assist the Federation with funds to continue their emergency flood relief work in support of the PMI.

A budget summary for this flood relief support is attached.

Donations received in Indonesia

Donor	Foreign currency value	CHF value	Remarks
USAID	USD 100,000	CHF 122,388	
AUSAID	AUD 200,000	CHF 92,683	From funds pre-positioned with the Federation
Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Jakarta	IDR 270 million	CHF 36,547	
Singapore Red Cross	IDR 151 million	CHF 20,436	

[Budget summary below; click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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>

BUDGET SUMMARY

Indonesia: Floods - Aceh & North Sumatra

TYPE	VALUE IN CHF		
	From Stocks	Needs	Total
RELIEF NEEDS			
Shelter & Construction	68.250	-	68.250
Clothing & Textile	39.540	-	39.540
Food & Seed	6.140	319.260	325.400
Water & Sanitation	-	37.800	37.800
Medical & First Aid	-	166.770	166.770
Utensils & Tools	35.000	530.550	565.550
Other Relief Supplies	51.860	1.488.200	1.540.060
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS			2.743.370
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Computer & Telecom Equipment		5.000	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		5.000	
Other Equipment		5.000	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support (6.5% of total)		218.148	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COST</u>			
Warehouse & Storage		27.434	
Distribution & Monitoring		109.735	
Transport & Vehicle Cost		27.434	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International Staff		40.000	
National Staff		20.000	
National Society Staff		100.000	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses		15.000	
Information expenses		10.000	
Communication expenses		15.000	
Administrative & General expenses		15.000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS			612.750
TOTAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE			3.356.120