

# 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: WESTERN JAVA EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

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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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

*This Bulletin 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.*

**Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI) branches and chapters in the affected areas are responding to humanitarian needs created by the earthquake and tsunami which struck West and Central Java coast lines Pangandaran in southwest Java on Monday 17 July. Some 28,400 people have been displaced by the powerful wave which left at least 256 dead. PMI has worked tirelessly to provide the urgently needed medical assistance and cooked food in the affected areas.**

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***A woman cries as she sits in front of the ruins of her house in Pangandaran.***

Reuters/Crack Palinggi, courtesy  
[www.alertnet.org](http://www.alertnet.org)

### The Situation

The latest report from the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) indicates that some 256 people have died following Monday 17 July's earthquake of 7.7 magnitude (US Geological Survey) and the subsequent tsunami which struck the south coast of Indonesia's Java island. The initial earthquake which struck at 15h19 (local time), 10 kilometres deep beneath the Indian Ocean and 157 kilometres southwest of Java's western coast, triggered waves reaching up to 1.5 metres. Pangandaran, a beach resort near Indonesia's Ciamis town, around 270 km southeast of Jakarta, was the hardest hit. Some 28,400 people in the area have been displaced following the destruction of poorly constructed buildings by the wave. PMI is also reporting 127 missing and 200 injured.

Java lies on the "Pacific Ring of Fire" zone where continental plates meet and seismic activity is regular. It has been less than two months since a powerful earthquake rattled Java in Yogyakarta, leaving 5,300 people dead and destroying over 300,000 homes.

The impact of the initial earthquake was felt as far away as Jakarta, and was followed by five powerful aftershocks. The tsunami which followed took the beach community and foreign tourists by surprise forcing people to flee inland and for higher ground. Unable to flee the beach in time several elderly were amongst the reported dead.

Rescue teams were joined by the Indonesian military in the effort to locate the missing, while residents from the affected area have been advised by the country's President to evacuate from coastal areas. Many of the town's homes, hotels and restaurants have been destroyed. At the same time 650 boats, critical to sustaining the livelihoods of local fisherman in the village have been thrown into hotels. In what is becoming an all too familiar scene in the country national radio broadcasts were filled with eyewitness accounts of local residents, as families began making their plans to move else where. At the same time, livelihoods in a town dependant on tourism have been lost as the waves washed away wooden cottages and kiosks lining the shoreline facing the Indian Ocean.

The Indonesian government has sent relief items such as body bag and tarpaulins to the affected areas, while local meteorological and geophysics agencies are closely monitoring the situation. The local government has evacuated people from the tsunami affected area, and are currently assessing the humanitarian needs. Local hospitals are providing emergency medical care, and a special health crisis team is on the way to visit the affected sites.

A UN rapid response team (OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) will visit the affected sites today. WHO is in close contact with the Ministry of Health. The UN RC/HC Office in Jakarta will continue to maintain close contact and coordination with government and non-government institutions to monitor the situation.

Countries such Australia and India have also issued tsunami alert to their coastal and island territories located near the earthquake epicentre immediately after the earthquake. Only small swells have so far been reported.

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

Within hours of the disaster, the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) disaster crisis centre in Jakarta sent rescue teams to Pangadaran. PMI has also functioned as a primary source of information on the disaster situation feeding regular updates over the past 12 hours to local and international media and aid agencies. An assessment team comprised of PMI members, the Federation's relief emergency response unit (ERU) and an information delegate left for Pangadaran on Monday evening. The Federation delegation in Jakarta has been responding to numerous press inquiries including live interviews on BBC television.

Action taken by PMI branches so far includes:

- The Ciamis branch deployed 15 SATGANA (PMI field action team) volunteers for evacuation and assessment in Pangadaran and Parigi; with two ambulances, and one operational vehicle.
- The Cilacap branch deployed one medical team with one ambulance for Tegal Asri, Pamulyan and Cilacap village.
- The Cianjur deployed 30 SATGANA volunteers for evacuation and assessment in Cidaun.



***A tsunami triggered by a strong undersea earthquake off the coast of Indonesia's Java island on Monday killed over 250 people, swept away buildings and damaged hundreds of fishing boats, officials and witnesses said.***

Reuters/Crack Palinggi, courtesy [www.alertnet.org](http://www.alertnet.org)

- The Kebumen branch deployed 30 SATGANA volunteers for evacuation and assessment in Puring and Karang Bolong sub-districts.
- The Banyumas branch established field kitchen and deployed 30 SATGANA volunteers to attend to displaced persons from Cilacap.
- The Bandung branch mobilized one field kitchen with 30 SATGANA volunteers, and four mobile medical teams with ambulance to support Pangandaran emergency situation.
- The Bogor branch deployed 15 SATGANA volunteers to carry out an assessment in Pangandaran.
- The Central and West Java provincial chapters mobilized senior board members in the field to ensure action and close coordination with the government and other stakeholders.

Two first aid posts and a field hospital have been set up by the PMI as the local health facilities have been damaged. More details will be available on the next update.

The Federation has dispatched a team from Yogyakarta to Central Java to join the UN assessment team together with other INGO and to strengthen coordination between different stakeholders.

Since the onset of the disaster, PMI national headquarters has been on top of coordinating disaster response activities and information sharing between PMI branches in the affected areas, the Central and West Java chapters and the Federation.

The PMI/Federation joint logistics hubs in Yogyakarta and Central Java are on alert to address priority emergency needs. If needed urgently needed items such as: body bags (over 500); emergency shelter (tarpaulins and family tents) for 2,000 families; hygiene kits (5,000); and, “ready food packs” (5,000) are available; and can be immediately dispatched today (18 July), based on the rapid damage and needs assessment. The assessment team has already reviewed the coastal areas and will be moving into Pangandaran this morning.

Regular updates will be available on the Federation public website and on the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS).

Since December 2004 tsunami, PMI has worked non stop addressing large-scale humanitarian challenges as the country has been overwhelmed by natural disasters. Over the past two months in Java alone, PMI has responded to threats of a volcanic eruption and continues to carry out regular distributions of relief items in Yogyakarta.

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*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>*