

# 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

*Information Bulletin*  
**no. 02/2006**  
**20 July 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 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.**

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### The Situation



**Houses along the coastline were swept away by the tsunami**

Three days after an earthquake of 7.7 magnitude and subsequent mass tsunami wrecked the shores south of Java island, people along the coast of southwestern and central Java remain fearful of further tsunamis. Tens of thousands have left their homes in West Java, Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces and are living in makeshift tents, community halls, schools and mosques. Others have set up their own emergency shelters along streets and in farms. Statistics from the National Coordinating Board for the Management of Disaster (BAKORNAS PB) claim that as of 19 July, 525 are dead, 383 are injured, 273 are missing and close to 50,800 people are said to be displaced<sup>1</sup>. Local PMI volunteers report that most of those who still living in camps are distressed and traumatized by the tsunami experience. They also face wide-scale property losses, with about 40 per

<sup>1</sup> Extracted from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Situation Report No. 5

cent of buildings damaged along the south-western coastline of Java.

Local communities are staying vigilant, remaining awake throughout the night to keep each other alert to possibilities of further tsunamis and maintaining local security, in what can be termed as a localized community warning system. In the hardest-hit district of Ciamis, where the scenic Pangandaran beach was pounded by the tsunami (320 have died in Ciamis alone), the local military and the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) field action team known as SATGANA are working alongside the affected communities, clearing up debris and searching for missing persons. In Cilapan, where fishing boats essential to livelihoods lie broken far in shore, there is a need for specialized equipment to transport the wreckage back to the beach.

Some of the evacuated have begun returning home, and most of the displaced are expected to return in the next three days, in accordance to the government's plan to avoid establishing evacuation sites. The PMI reports that all affected areas are accessible and electricity and communication are functional.

The vice-president of Indonesia has declared a one month emergency response phase, and the local government continues to identify material loss and update statistics regularly. While local meteorological and geophysics agencies are closely monitoring the situation, the government of Indonesia has sent relief items such as body bag and tarpaulins to the affected areas. The ministry of social welfare has provided financial assistance to local government bodies of Ciamis, Cilacap and Tasikmalaya districts, as local PDAM and the military truck water to camps housing the internally displaced three times a day. Local authorities are also making provisions for meals and shelter. According to the ministry of health, 100 doctors have been deployed from Bandung, Yogyakarta and neighbouring areas. Other agencies like OXFAM and World Food Programme (WFP) are also providing assistance to the affected in the form of water and food.

### **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 Pangandaran. PMI volunteers from local branches and SATGANA teams tirelessly continue with rescue and relief, providing the affected with food, temporary shelter, water and medical support since the disaster's onset. The PMI is also active in tracing and family restoration.

PMI local branches (Ciamis, Sukabumi, Kebumen, Bayumas and Cianjur) have established three platoon tents for the displaced and operate field kitchens to provide food to camps inhabitants. Red Cross services extend over a wide area, covering sub-districts in Ciamis, Tasikmalaya and Garut districts of West Java province, as well as Cilacap and Kebumen of Central Java province. Affected districts in Yogyakarta continue to be serviced by ongoing Red Cross operations related to another massive earthquake occurring barely two months ago, which left 5,300 dead and 300,000 houses destroyed.



**Local residents in the disaster areas receive medicines and health care at PMI first aid posts and a field hospital.**

To meet the emergency needs of affected communities, PMI has prepared relief items for immediate despatch to PMI chapter in Bandung, PMI branch Kebumen and PMI branch Cilacap: 3,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 baby kits, 400 family kits, 3,000 pieces of tarpaulins, 1,000 jerry cans from Yogyakarta warehouse and 3,000 food parcels from Magelang warehouse. The PMI is providing psycho-social support to the traumatized and those living in fear of further tsunami.

PMI headquarters also continues its assessment and support to the most affected areas, with the joint PMI/Federation delegation assessment team despatched on 18 July currently focusing on Pangandaran. The national society is also formulating further in-depth assessments to determine relief plans. At PMI national

headquarters, 24-hours close coordination and information sharing is ongoing between PMI affected branches, Central and West Java chapter and the Federation secretariat.

The national society continues to update progress on the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS), a Federation disaster information sharing resource, and work with partners in and outside the Movement. USAID has donated USD 50,000 for the emergency operation through the Federation.

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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>*