

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: MT. MERAPI VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

21 April 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 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (01/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at present. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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As Mt. Merapi continues to spew sulphurous smoke, the Indonesian government and other actors on the ground, including the Indonesian Red Cross, scrambles to prepare populations at risk for a possible volcanic eruption. Source: AFP

The Situation

Indonesia stands on alert once more as Mt. Merapi, one of the country's most active volcanoes, stirs with volcanic activity. The Directorate of Vulcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation on 12 April raised the level of alertness from II to III, indicating a high probability of an eruption; and warned that if it were to occur, would affect adversely the area around Mt. Merapi in Central Java and Yogyakarta. Technical follow-up results of the Research and Technology Development Agency for Vulcanology (BPPTK) Yogyakarta on 19 April documented 113 multi-phase tremors, 13 streams of lava, 8 volcanic tremors, with white and thick sulphurous smoke of 400 m height from its crater. Following the report, BPPTK confirmed on the same day that based on the scientific data, another eruption of Mt. Merapi was imminent.

The governor of Yogyakarta and Central Java strongly advised families at risk to vacate their houses immediately to allow time to bring with them their cattle and other valuables. BPPTK Yogyakarta has also cautioned communities against conducting any activities in the river flowing down from Mt. Merapi. A scientific agency network in Yogyakarta has also developed four scenarios, from the least-case to the worst-case, based on the direction of the lava in the event of an eruption. The Indonesian government is

conducting preparation at different levels including at the field, based on the third case scenario, one level below the worst-case scenario, which anticipates the disaster to displace approximately 80,000 people. A map illustrating the districts at risk is attached as [Annex 1](#).

Table 1: Districts at risks and population located on the slopes of Mt. Merapi

Districts	Population at risk	Situation as of 20 April
Boyolali	6,399 (out of total population: 59,851)	Local government still monitoring the situation.
Magelang	33,548 (out of total population: 111,461)	Official evacuation will commence from tomorrow morning.
Klaten	1,050 (Total population: 126,831)	Local government still monitoring the situation.
Sleman	18,967 (Total population: 56,215)	Official evacuation will commence from tomorrow morning.

Source: District Executing Unit for the Management of Disaster (SATLAK PB) of Boyolali, Magelang, Klaten and Sleman

With the support of SATKORLAK PB offices of Central Java and Yogyakarta, the districts governments have been stepping up preparedness of resources. At field level (according to SATLAK PB of Boyolali, Magelang, Klaten and Sleman), the district governments have already identified and prepared evacuation sites and routes for the communities. Logistically they are well prepared: 130 trucks provided by the provincial administration of Central Java have been mobilized, while the military command of Central Java has deployed over 200 trucks and buses, and the district administration of Magelang prepared 84 trucks.

District and villages operational posts have been established in Boyolali and the health administration there has allocated IDR 1 billion (approximately CHF 28,380,000) for medicines. In Magelang, the local government has mobilized 36 tonnes of rice, 30 packages of medicine, 30 units of kitchen utensils, 300 flashlights with batteries, 300 rain coats, 30,000 masks, 90 emergency lamps, 900 plastic sheets, 600 buckets, 300 units of plasticware to store clean water, and 300 emergency latrines. According to the local SATLAK report, 30 platoon tents, 30 generators and 81 Handy Talkie (HT) communication devices are still needed and placed in an outstanding requirement list. In Sleman, the government and private parties have identified bunkers for use in case of an eruption. In terms of human resource, in Sleman, the military command of Yogyakarta has deployed three platoons (300 soldiers) plus a medical team of 9 medical doctors, 2 ambulances, 12 company tents, 8 field stoves, 100 folding beds and a generator set. The provincial government of Yogyakarta has mobilized 272 buses and trucks and 69 ambulances.

From national level, the department of social affairs has allocated IDR 400 million (approximately CHF 11,350,000) for three months and also mobilized 100 tonnes of rice for two months, 1,000 boxes of instant noodles, 20 tents including 15 platoon tents, 50 folding beds and a truckload of operational post equipment (including communication tools, public kitchen, latrine and tent). While the department of health is mobilizing 160 body bags, medicines, ambulances and stand-by medical doctors and staff from Semarang, Solo and Yogyakarta.

With the objective to evaluate the state of preparedness within the government, the National Coordinating Board for the Management of Disaster (BAKORNAS PB), organized a coordination meeting on 18 April in Jakarta chaired by the coordinating minister for people's welfare and attended by BASARNAS (National Search and Rescue Agency), minister of social affairs, commander-in-chief of the military, vice governors of Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces, heads of districts of the affected areas, and the chairman of the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI). The same day, BAKORNAS PB deployed a team to assess the situation on the ground and review coordination mechanisms. According to the central and local government, the situation is presently under control and no immediate international assistance is required. In worst-case scenario (major eruption situation), however, there is a possibility that the government capacities will be overwhelmed and international assistance will be required.

The UN RC/HC Office in Jakarta is closely monitoring the situation and has direct contact with pertinent government and non-government institutions, including the Red Cross. Under USAID support, a US Geological vulcanologist team is present in Indonesia to support the Directorate of Vulcanology and Geological Hazard

Mitigation, and BPPTK Yogyakarta to carry out in-depth monitoring on Mt. Merapi's volcanic activity. A meeting was held on 18 April, organized by the UN technical working group on disaster risk reduction together with the Indonesian Red Cross and the Federation. The meeting ended with an agreement that a terms of reference for a small inter-agency team would be developed that could be mobilized and deployed rapidly to carry out a joint assessment and explore possibilities to complement each other and on resource sharing.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PMI, in collaboration with the Federation, is mobilizing relief items and personnel. It has sent 8 platoon tents, 20,000 masks and prepared 2-day food packages for 20,000 people. A total of 100 volunteers are ready in each of the affected districts with ambulances. In cooperation with the local government, PMI is planning to establish 14-field kitchen. In the worst case scenario, it is ready to mobilize relief supplies and personnel from its 32 branches in surrounding provinces and elsewhere in the country.

At field level, PMI's SATGANA (Field Action Team) and youth volunteers of the most likely affected four districts have been put on alert and standby. Many have been actively participating in emergency response preparations under the coordination of the respective SATLAK PB units. All the ambulance teams of the four districts plus PMI chapters of Central Java and Jogyakarta have been put on standby on the front line sites.

PMI branches from the four districts have prepared 100 volunteers each, emergency response tents and field kitchen services for the affected people. In relation to the government-coordinated relief preparations, PMI is set to be an active actor in field kitchen, medical service, evacuation and relief distribution based on needs.

At national level, to strengthen emergency services – with the support of the Federation, PMI national headquarters has released platoon tents, stretchers, maskers and medicine to support approximately 4,000 patients, while a considerable quantity of rice and instant noodles has been mobilized to back-up all field kitchen services in the field. A special committee is working to mobilize 5,000 ready-food packs for an initial two-days immediate distribution among 5,000 most vulnerable households. There is an ongoing distribution of 20,000 dust masks among most vulnerable families in four districts.

The PMI disaster response coordinator was deployed on 19 April to the field to provide additional support to the preparation phase, strengthen coordination with local SATKORLAK and SATLAK and explore immediate needs. Two members of a water and sanitation team is also in the field to carryout specific assessment in all temporary shelters facilities. Under Federation support, a PMI national response team (TIM KHUSUS) with other two wings of medical action, and water and sanitation teams are on standby mode, waiting for mobilization orders. The closest logistics hubs of Jakarta, Surabaya and Padang have already been alerted and await with full capacity in terms of family tents, tarpaulin, family kits, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, and other necessary immediate assistance.

Coordination

In all four districts coordination is ongoing with local government and other stakeholders, as well as detailed assessment to determine further needs (such as short- and long-term requirements in terms of food, shelter, health, water and sanitation and livelihood). The branches in all four districts continue their standard coordination and communication with their chapter offices and with the PMI national office.

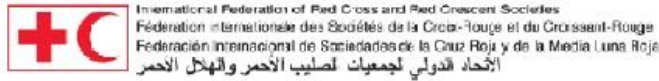
A headquarters-level emergency operation room has been set up where constant coordination and information sharing is established with BAKORNAS, SATKORLAK and SATLAK at different levels and this network includes the Federation, UN, NGOs, diplomatic missions and other donors.

There is ongoing information sharing and coordination is also ongoing between PMI, the Federation country delegation, the Federation regional delegation and Secretariat in Geneva, and all are on a stage of alert.

The Australian government through AusAID and the US government through USAID continue to express their strong desire to support the preparation phase of Red Cross activities including volunteer mobilization, evacuation, health and ambulance service, field kitchens, volunteering, communication, and ready-food packs.

[Map below, click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)

Annex 1



Information bulletin 01/2006
 Issued 21 April 2006
 VO-2006-000048-IDN

Indonesia: Mt. Merapi, volcanic activity



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 Map data sources: ESRI, UNOSAT, OCHA, IFRC