

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

24 April 2006

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In Brief

This Bulletin (02/2006) 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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The Situation

On 12 April 2006, the Indonesian government's Directorate of Vulcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation detected increased volcanic activity at Mt. Merapi in Central Java, and raised the level of alertness to the second highest possible, indicating a high probability of an eruption. Technical data from the Research and Technology Development Agency for Vulcanology (BPPTK) in Yogyakarta further confirmed the high level of alert. By 23 April, the agency had recorded numerous multi-phase and volcanic tremors, streams of lava and rockslides, with thick sulphurous smoke at 350 m height from the mountain's crater, but believes that the indications are not yet strong enough to warrant moving up the alert status to the highest level.

From national to district level, the Indonesian government has been mobilizing effectively to prepare for the possible disaster. It is logistically well prepared, having identified access and exit routes, with transportation on standby. The government has been quick to release emergency funds for immediate use and has mobilized large quantities of food and non-food relief items for distribution.



Indonesian Red Cross volunteers are actively participating in evacuation activities, registering internally displaced people at the affected districts.

Local authorities in Yogyakarta and Central Java have taken steps to prepare the populations at risk, warning nearby families to be vigilant and encouraging vulnerable groups of people to move to safer areas. At the present situation, the Indonesian government anticipates that up to 80,000 people could be displaced should Mt. Merapi erupt.

The District Executing Unit for the Management and Coordination (Satlak PB) for Klaten and Magelang districts has identified the districts and populations at risk on the slopes of the mountain, and local authorities have been evacuating people since 21 April. As of 23 April at 18:00 local time (11:00 GMT), 898 people from Klaten, 871 people from Magelang and 8 people from Boyolali have been evacuated, while Sleman authorities will begin the evacuations today. A constraint being faced by evacuation efforts is the reluctance of the local communities – especially in Boyolali and Sleman – to leave their homes before the alert level is at its highest (thereby triggering a compulsory evacuation within 24 hours). Many others also fear losing their livestock and belongings during their absence.

A map detailing the location of 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
Boyolali	6,399 (out of total population: 59,851)
Magelang	33,548 (out of total population: 111,461)
Klaten	1,050 (Total population: 126,831)
Sleman	18,967 (Total population: 56,215)

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

The National Coordinating Board for the Management of Disaster (BAKORNAS PB) reported that based on the coordination meeting of 18 April, heads of the affected districts (Boyolali, Magelang, Klaten and Sleman) have been granted the authority to coordinate the resources available in their districts for emergency response once an eruption occurs. The minister of social affairs visited these districts on 19 April to monitor the preparedness of district operational posts and the community.

The department of health has deployed 320 medical personnel and provided 40,000 masks, 10 tonnes of biscuits, 65 vest and hats, one ambulance, one tent, one generator, one emergency kit, and a total of 220 body bags. A joint World Health Organization, ministry of health and University of Gajah Mada team traveled to the affected area on 20 April to undertake a rapid preparatory assessment.

The Provincial Disaster Management Coordination Unit (SATKORLAK), in coordination with district-level units, is working closely to consolidate preparedness measures. Quick repair was made on evacuation routes badly damaged by rain. In Sleman, for instance, district government allocated IDR 3.3 billion to repair 12 km of roads. Similar repair is being done on a few village roads in Magelang essential for evacuation. Essential means of transportation has also been allocated to the districts at risk: 150 trucks for Magelang, 20 trucks and 20 pick-ups for Boyolali, 3 trucks for Klaten, and 272 buses and trucks for Sleman. These are in addition to vehicles contributed by the military and police, and other agencies, including the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI), and the private sector. In an update to the last information bulletin, the provincial police command has deployed a further 1,000 personnel to assist evacuation and later to maintain security in evacuated villages. This deployment includes three units of 18 of health officers.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PMI deployed two staff members to the field for water and sanitation assessment on 20 April. Its field action teams (SATGANAs) and youth volunteers in the districts at risk remain on alert and standby. PMI reported that as of 21 April, 20,000 masks have been distributed to the communities in Sleman, Magelang, Boyolali, Klaten, and Yogyakarta. Its warehouses are on standby with logistic supplies including water bladders, water tanks, and water and sanitation kits.

In all four districts at risk, PMI has established disaster response coordination posts (POSKO), and ensured uninterrupted service. It is actively involved in the evacuation process in all four districts and its volunteers are engaged in community risk awareness. Internally displaced people are now being registered by the national society to maintain a beneficiary list for the field kitchen service which it is providing. Currently, there are 14 field kitchens mobilized. Local PMI medical action teams are also providing primary health care service in PMI-supported IDP shelters.

The national headquarters operation centre is now fully operational. Constant coordination, including technical advice when necessary, is being maintained between headquarters, Central and Yogyakarta PMI chapter offices, and four branches. After receiving assessment results today, 24 April, from the water and sanitation, and medical action teams, two water facilities are being mobilized for Magelang and Sleman to support PMI field kitchen services, while two additional ambulance with mobile medical teams and clinic facilities will be deployed to Magelang and Sleman to meet the needs there.

In the event of the worst case scenario, PMI is ready to mobilize their supplies and personnel from all the neighbouring branches in Central Java and Yogyakarta. The PMI branch in Solo, for instance, has deployed 30 volunteers including a medical doctor and paramedics to the affected districts. Other branches outside the two provinces have also offered their assistance.

Coordination

On 21 April, the vice governor of Yogyakarta led a coordination meeting participated by the ministry of health, the World Health Organization, the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam) and a team from the University of Gajah Mada.

Constant coordination and review of the action plan is ongoing with PMI and the Federation in the field. Regular information sharing is also maintained with BAKORNAS, UN, local and international NGOs, donors and diplomatic missions. PMI's overall operation and services in the field is well supported by the Federation, AusAID and USAID.

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

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



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 Map data sources: ESRI, UNOSAT, OCHA, IFRC