

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: NORTH SUMATRA EARTHQUAKE

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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.

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The Situation

At least eight people have died and hundreds wounded as a result of an earthquake that hit the district of Mandailing Natal, sub-district of Muara Sipongi, northern region of Sumatra Island, Indonesia. The earthquake struck at 4.39 am local time (2139 GMT Sunday) on 18 December 2006 with a magnitude of 5.6¹ on the Richter scale at a depth of 30 km. The sub-district of Muara Sipongi is 343 km from the provincial capital Medan, 1,100 km northwest from Jakarta and is surrounded by mountains and valleys. No tsunami warning was issued.

More than 600 houses and buildings are reported to have been destroyed as thousands of people have fled their homes as aftershocks continue to occur following the earthquakes which were felt in the northern and southern part of the island. In addition to the earthquakes, heavy rain has triggered landslides, blocking several roads and hampering rescue efforts. One road connecting two villagers in Muara Sipongi remain impassable for as long as 25 km. Villagers are reported to be cut off and relief workers are struggling to reach these remote areas to distribute urgently needed relief.

¹ 5.8 on the US Geological Survey

According to the local government, it is estimated that some 3,000 people are living in temporary shelters, with many seeking shelter on soccer fields, local government and police buildings and the local governor's office. Government sources also report damage to about 647 houses and community buildings (schools, prayer halls, government offices) in Muara Sipongi. The most affected villages in this area are: Koto Rajo, Bukit Godang, Bandar Panjang Tuo, Desa Tanjung Alai, Kelurahan Pasar Muara Sipongi, Bandar Panjang, Tanjung Medan, Koto Tinggi, Kota Baru, Kota Beringin and Simapang Mandepo.

The Indonesian meteorology and geophysics department continue to update local communities and governments with information. Local and provincial governments have provided emergency food, about 25 tonnes of rice, tents and shelter materials in addition to setting up a public kitchen. Command posts have also been set up to collect and report data in remote areas. The monitoring of the situation by various government agencies is ongoing.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) branch in Mandailing Natal has deployed a rapid response team (SATGANA) to assess the situation in the affected areas. They will also assist local governments with rescue operations, provide of temporary shelters and assistance in the public kitchens. PMI continues to monitor the situation alongside the provincial disaster management and coordination committee (SATKORLAK). The North Sumatra PMI chapter has been mobilized to the affected area to support the branch with medicines and clothes. The West Sumatra chapter has also deployed a team to assess the areas bordering West and North Sumatra.

PMI national headquarters are monitoring the situation in close coordination with the North Sumatera PMI chapter and other agencies. Coordination has been established with the PMI/IFRC regional warehouse in Padang and relief items for 1,000- 2,000 families such as blankets and tarpaulins are being prepared for further action. These pre-positioned stocks will be replaced and increased through the PMI/IFRC's ongoing disaster management programmes in Indonesia.

Further updates on the situation can be found in DMIS².

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)



² The Federation Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) is accessible to Federation Movement members.

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>



Indonesia: North Sumatra earthquake

