

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

ASIA: RESPONSE TO THE BENGKULU 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.

Summary: Over the past 24 hours, multiple earthquakes and aftershocks – the largest measuring 8.4 on the Richter scale – rocked the southern coast of Sumatera Indonesia. At 11:24 GMT, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre issued its first tsunami alert or warning to governments across the Indian Ocean region.

Investments in long-term disaster preparedness and capacity building work in the Asia Pacific region has paid off, evidenced by the Red Cross Red Crescent's quick response to the Bengkulu earthquake and subsequent tsunami alerts. The preparedness and response measures that Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka have taken are outlined in this bulletin. Other countries in South Asia and South East Asia also have activated disaster response mechanisms; the Federation network in the Asia Pacific is collectively monitoring the situation.

The Situation

Over the past 24 hours, multiple earthquakes and aftershocks – the largest measuring 8.4 on the Richter scale – rocked the southern coast of Sumatera Indonesia. The epicentre of the largest quake was located 130 kilometres southwest of the province's capital Bengkulu (Source: United States Geological Survey).

Four provinces in Indonesia have been hit hard: Jambi, Riau, Bengkulu and West Sumatra. To date, two deaths and eleven injuries have been reported, with a yet unknown number of affected people. Many remote areas are still cut off from communication. The population of Bengkulu however is estimated at 1.2 million (refer to [Indonesia: Bengkulu Earthquake Information Bulletin no.1](#) for more information).



The Indonesia Red Cross is providing health services outside M.Yunus provincial public hospital to people affected by the earthquake

[Indonesia: Bengkulu Earthquake Information Bulletin no.1](#) for more information).

Tremors have been felt as far as Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia¹. At 11:24 GMT, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/>) issued its first tsunami alert or warning to governments across the Indian Ocean region for the 8.4 magnitude earthquake.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Investments in long-term disaster preparedness and capacity building work in the Asia Pacific region has paid off, evidenced by the Red Cross Red Crescent's quick response to the Bengkulu earthquake and subsequent tsunami alerts. This is in line with Federation Global Agenda goal 1 to reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. The Federation's strength lies in its extensive network of national society volunteers and staff that can mobilize in a moment's notice to carry out needed interventions. The Federation secretariat is also present in many countries, providing human resource and technical support to the in-country national society.

Red Cross Red Crescent action across Asia taken in response to the earthquake and tsunami alert includes:

- mobilizing volunteers and communities
- evacuating at risk residents
- providing guidance to safe evacuation routes, Red Cross Red Crescent safe shelters
- activating early warning systems
- preparing and activating contingency planning, assessments
- alerting logistics networks and ensuring pre-positioned stock is on standby (please [click here](#) for a summary of disaster preparedness stock in the Asia region)
- putting in place communication and coordination mechanism with local governments and other partners
- monitoring, information sharing/management within the Movement through DMIS

The preparedness and response measures that Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka have taken are outlined below. Other countries in South Asia and South East Asia also have activated disaster response mechanisms; the Federation network in the Asia Pacific is collectively monitoring the situation.

Indonesia:

**Volunteer network: 1.05 million youth volunteers
27,951 volunteer corps
16,602 skilled volunteers (potential Satgana disaster response teams)**

The Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI) staff and volunteers based in the field are actively responding to the disaster; preliminary assessments have also begun. Additionally, the PMI headquarters and the Federation secretariat are sending a two-person team to carry out a more thorough assessment. (For more information on action taken, please refer to [Indonesia: Bengkulu Earthquake Information Bulletin no.1](#)).

Bangladesh

Volunteer network available: 42,675 trained volunteers under the cyclone preparedness programme

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) volunteers worked closely with the Bangladesh government following a local tsunami alert last night (12 September). The early warning system was activated, which is a project that has long been supported by the BDRCS as part of its cyclone preparedness programme (CPP). Under this programme, the national society has more than 42,600 volunteers working in the coastal areas all year round.

The mechanism was put into place according to these steps (for more information, please refer to the [Bangladesh: Response to the Bengkulu Earthquake Tsunami Alert: Information Bulletin no.1](#))

- Government issued an evacuation order, circulated by radio, television and other media.

¹ Source: United States Geological Survey: http://pasadena.wr.usgs.gov/shake/ous/STORE/X2007hear/ciim_display.html

- Based on information received from the meteorological department, the BDRCS alerted all district and sub district branches, as well as its CPP field stations, using a network of HF and VHF radio and phones.
- These alerts swung 70 per cent of the 42,600 volunteers into action, who disseminated the warnings among the community² using mikes, megaphones and drum beating. Announcements were also made from the mosques.
- Working together with the government, the BDRCS helped evacuate scores of people to 1,528 safe shelters. It is estimated that 1.5 million people evacuated to safe areas.
- Volunteers manage and organize the population in the Red Crescent shelters until the danger period is over and people return home.

Sri Lanka:

Volunteer network: 5,200 volunteers
350 disaster trained volunteers
115 disaster trained staff

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) immediately contacted branch offices in the at-risk areas upon receiving the first tsunami alert as a result of the Bengkulu earthquake. In some of the areas, such as Ampara and Galle, volunteers actively disseminated early warnings and assisted the government in evacuating communities to safe areas.

In Ampara in particular, 20 members of a branch disaster response team (BDRT), worked side-by-side with the government to evacuate people following the tsunami sirens near the town of Kalmunai. These members were recently trained under a partner national society project.

In Batticaloa, 25 volunteers and two Red Cross Red Crescent ambulance were on standby. The SLRCS branch also sent two teams to assess the situation at the schools, churches and host families that received the evacuated residents.

Over the past year, Red Cross Red Crescent partners have been training BDRT teams at the district level, and have gone a long way in improving the capacity of SLRCS branches. Furthermore, disaster management systems that have been in place way before the tsunami alert was issued, such as the early warning tower in Ampara and community-based disaster management projects in the southern and western provinces, have contributed to the SLRCS response.

India:

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) national headquarters issued alerts across its branches. Interventions were reported in Tamil Nadu:

- After receiving the tsunami warning, the state branch contacted the highly tsunami-prone districts of Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Kanyakumari.
- These districts alerted their volunteers in the costal districts, who in turn spread the warning in the costal areas.
- The volunteers evacuated people living along the costal areas and requested the community to remain in safe areas until the government called off the tsunami warning.
- The IRCS district secretaries set up an office with the district collector until the warning was called off in order to run the operation and receive information from volunteers.

How we work

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

² Communities don't automatically know what to do when disaster strikes, or when an alert is issued. These alerts have to be backed up by long-term disaster preparedness activities to raise community awareness, such as on safe evacuation routes to RCRC shelters and other safe areas (buildings, mountain/hill areas).

assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Federation Southeast Asia regional delegation in Thailand: Alan Bradbury (acting regional representative); email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org; phone: +66.2.661.8201 ext 100.
- Federation South Asia regional representation in India: Al Panico (head of regional representation), email: al.panico@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128
- Asia Pacific Zone in Kuala Lumpur: Amy Gaver and Latifur Rahman (disaster management unit), phone: +60 3 2161 0892, fax: +60 3 2161 1210, mobile +60 12 220 1174, email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org and latifur.rahman@ifrc.org.
- Federation Secretariat in Geneva: Linda A. Stops (operations coordinator); email: linda.stops@ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4300; fax: +41 22 733 0395.

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ANNEX 1: REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS STOCK ACROSS SELECTED COUNTRIES IN ASIA

	RLU - Malaysia	Afghanistan	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Indonesia (Tsunami)	DPRK	Philippines
Family Tents	1,520	1,788	8,793	219	689	8	58
Blankets	43,500	43,602	9,940	140	37,002	3,400	-
Tarpaulins, pcs	5,194	15,916	4,926	36	1,537	850	
Tarpaulins, rolls		3,479	-	628	-	56	
Jerry Cans	8,100	20,990	1,574	10,300	146	850	
Buckets	7,200		10,829	8,000	-	-	
Kitchen Sets	8,700	9,595	305	2,348	21	2,850	
Body Bags		-	-	12,164	1200		
Rope		-		6,907	591		
Sleeping Bags		-	2,813	-	-		
Sleeping Mats			36	9,801	14,837		-
Bed Sheets			-	1,947	2,994		
Quilts			18,377	-	-	10,674	
Stoves/Heaters		1,337	3,055	-	4,119		
Lamps Hurricane		-	16,990	7,217	1050		
Cooking Set		1,096		-	-		
Pressure Cooker		2,970		-	-		
Mosquito Net	37,800	-		253	700		7,228
NEHK		5		-	-		8

Cholera Kit		8	-	-	-	85	1
Hygiene Kit	3,700	-	3,602	3,028	2,553		-
Baby Kit		-		2,279	194		
Repair/Recovery Kit		-	-	-	-		
Dressing Kit		-		-	171	500	
CGI		-	9	-	-		3,091
Aluminum wire		-		-	-		
Axe		-		9,999	-		
Bladder tank		-	9	2	-	15	
T70 liner kit		-	8	-	-		
Cholera Medical Unit a (24-54)		-		-	-		
Winterisation Kit	1,500						
IEHK				-			2

Padang, Indonesia warehouse stock that is ready mobilization to affected areas:

- 2000 Hygiene Kits
- 1000 Blankets
- 200 Mosquito Nets
- 200 Tarpaulins
- 200 Water Containers
- 470 Family Kits

Family Kit Content:

- 1 cooking pot
- 1 Jerry cans
- 1 shampoo
- 2 sleeping mats
- 5 towels
- 5 tooth paste + 5 tooth brush
- 5 body soap

- 5 laundry soap
- 5 spoon
- 5 plates
- 5 plastic cups
- 3 box candles
- 10 box of matches
- 5 pcs of sarongs