

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: FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

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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 186 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.

Now as Indonesia experiences the rainy season, there are numerous reports of hydrological disasters. Torrential rains have caused landslides and floods in many locations, especially in Central and East Java, and West Sumatra, claiming many lives and causing economic losses. Preventive dykes and fences have collapsed due to heavy rain. There have also been concerns of increasing river water levels. In addition, several coastal areas in Jakarta and Maluku have experienced unusually high tides.

Heavy rains have also been reported in Bali, Gorontalo, Jambi and North Sumatra. The chapters and branches of the Indonesian Red Cross Society (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) have responded appropriately through the deployment of trained emergency response teams (SATGANAs) and volunteers for assessment, evacuation, relief distribution, monitoring and reporting.

On 27 December, *The Jakarta Post*, a prominent local newspaper, quoted the head of the maritime meteorology observation station in Surabaya saying that this extreme weather will continue through 30 December with heavy rain and high waves.

While no external assistance has been requested to date, the Federation country delegation is working closely with PMI, and will continue to monitor the situation. The delegation is in contact with the Southeast Asia regional delegation in Bangkok and the Asia Pacific disaster management unit (APDMU) in Kuala Lumpur as well as some partner national societies; in particular, Australian Red Cross, the Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China and German Red Cross. The delegation is also communicating with external partners in Indonesia such as AusAID, USAID, ECHO and UN agencies.

FLOODS and LANDSLIDES in CENTRAL JAVA

The Situation

Heavy rains during the third weekend of December 2007 caused massive flooding in the province of Central Java. Since 25 December, there have been many reports of flooding in five districts – Wonogiri, Surakarta, Karang Anyar, Purwodadi and Sukoharjo. Particularly in the district of Wonogiri, it has been reported that more than 190 houses were damaged and eight bridges collapsed. Up to 11 people have lost their lives while five others are missing.

The early morning of 26 December in the district of Karang Anyar witnessed a landslide that killed 65 people.



Red Cross volunteers join other rescuers in the search for survivors of the landslide in Karang Anyar

According to local media reports, several other landslides have occurred and claimed more lives. Approximately 300 houses have been lightly damaged, and main roads cut off due to landslides and floods. Farms and rice fields are presently submerged under water.

The western part of Solo was also flooded on 27 December, cutting off the electrical supply in the area. An estimated 26,000 people have been evacuated from Solo and surrounding communities to 12 different temporary shelters, one of which is a main stadium. It is reported that some 4,000 people are being accommodated in the stadium.

Red Cross action

The PMI chapter and branches in Central Java immediately deployed SATGANA members and volunteers to assess the situations and evacuate people to safer ground. They

established field kitchens in seven locations, serving thousands of people every day. They also set up health posts in several locations, while mobile medical teams are also providing services.

Some 1,100 hygiene kits have already been distributed along with 25 family tents, five rolls of tarpaulins and several family kits. The headquarters is mobilizing more hygiene kits and tarpaulins from one of the PMI warehouses in Yogyakarta, and has dispatched one ambulance and three rubber boats from Jakarta.

Neighbouring branches from the province of Yogyakarta have voluntarily provided logistical support to Central Java by lending rubber boats and 4x4 vehicles.

FLOODS IN EAST JAVA

The Situation

Heavy rains also affected the province of East Java, causing damage to 62 houses and rendering more than 44,000 people homeless in ten districts. Many of them are being placed temporarily in government shelters. There has been a report of 26 people dead in the district of Magetan, while one person is missing in the Malang district.

Red Cross action

East Java chapter has mobilized 172 volunteers, and set up three field kitchens with local donations of food items like rice and instant noodles. In addition, 1,500 hygiene kits and 1,500 tarpaulins have been deployed from the PMI central warehouse in Surabaya. The PMI headquarters also dispatched three rubber boats to East Java.

FLOODS IN WEST SUMATRA

The Situation

The two districts of Kota Padang and Pesisir Selatan in West Sumatra were affected by the heavy rains and floods. Approximately 200 people have been displaced, while three others are missing. In Pesisir Selatan, it is reported that evacuation activities are still underway.

Red Cross action

The PMI field kitchen, with support from volunteers, has already provided hot meals to about 120 families. Up to 200 blankets have been sent to Padang from Jakarta on 26 December along with emergency medicines for 1,000 people.



PMI volunteers providing medical services during evacuation and rescue operations.

FLOODS AND TIDAL WAVE IN NORTH JAKARTA

The Situation

The heavy rains in Jakarta on 20-23 December caused floods in many local areas of Jakarta. The coastal sub-district of Muara Baru was flooded due to the tidal wave overflowing into the community residential areas. It was said that approximately 2-5 metres of high waves hit the areas. Due to lessons learnt from the floods in early 2007, however, local government officials had preparedness measures in place prior to the beginning of the rainy season.

Although the overall situation is getting better, strong winds caused sea water to inundate the affected areas, creating flash floods. On 26 December, some health concerns were reported such as skin diseases, dehydration, acute upper respiratory difficulties and stomach problems.

Red Cross action

The PMI Jakarta chapter mobilized 36 SATGANA members to operate one field kitchen that provided 250 packed meals. They distributed 500 hygiene kits and 500 sleeping mats, and also helped to evacuate about 30 people to safer ground.

Between 22 December and 27 December, the PMI health posts have provided services to over 600 patients. Earlier PMI water sanitation teams provided clean drinking water to the affected population.

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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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering 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

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