

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: WEST SUMATRA EARTHQUAKES

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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.

Just days after the floods in East Nusa Tenggara province that left 28 dead, Indonesia was struck by two successive quakes on 6 March, in West Sumatra province. The larger of the quake measured 6.4 on the Richter Scale and was felt as far as Malaysia and Singapore. To date, 70 people are reported dead, with at least 148 injured. The full extent of the quake's impact is still not known as much of the affected areas are in the rural countryside. The PMI has mobilized its extensive network of staff/volunteers to assess damage and deliver aid to the quake-hit communities, in close cooperation with the Federation secretariat, Red Cross partners and other agencies. Fifteen PMI field action team (SATGANA) volunteers are already on the ground equipped with relief goods and some logistics support. More teams from PMI headquarters and Movement partners are en route to West Sumatra.



A resident salvages items from the wreckage of a house in Sumani, Solok, West Sumatra province (REUTERS/Dadang Tri, courtesy of www.alertnet.org).

The Situation

Two earthquakes struck Indonesia's West Sumatra province on 6 March, Tuesday. The first occurred on at 10:46hrs local time, measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale¹, with the epicenter located approximately 16 km southwest of Batusangkar in Tanah Datar district. As communities in the surrounding districts reeled from the shock of the first quake, a second one hit hours later at 12:49hrs local time, with the epicenter 11km southwest of Batusangkar. Tremors were felt in Riau and Jambi provinces, and as far as Malaysia and Singapore.

Across the seven affected districts of Tanah Datar, Solok, Solok Kota, Padang Pariaman, Padang Panjang, Payakumbuh and Bukittinggi, the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) reports that 70 people are dead. With 38 deaths and at least 148 injuries in the district alone, Solok² remains the most affected district. Local residents have evacuated to a local hall or a platoon tent set up near the hall, afraid that their homes would collapse from the quakes' aftershocks.

¹ source: USGS Geological Survey, National Earthquake Information Centre, <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/>

² Solok district is located 96 km northeast of Padang, the capital city of West Sumatra.

Hundreds of houses have been wrecked in Gunung Rajo, Tanah Datar district, where people have also moved to temporary shelters. Access roads from the Padang to Gunung Rajo and Padang Panjang have been cut off by the quake and ensuing landslides, exacerbating the situation for disaster survivors and relief workers.

As the affected areas are in the rural countryside where housing exists in small clusters, assessment teams have wide areas to cover and information flow is restricted. Communication access is reportedly disrupted, although a local telecommunication company claims its network has not been damaged. The number of deaths and injury are expected to rise as the real extent of the quake is revealed and better assessment results come in.

Table: Earthquake casualties (source: PMI)

| Location | Deaths |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Bukit Tinggi | 8 |
| Padang Panjang | 10 |
| Padang Pariaman | 1 |
| Payamkumbuh | 1 |
| Solok district | 19 |
| Solok city | 15 |
| Tanah Datar | 16 |
| Total | 70 |

Aircraft facilities are still intact, with the Tabin air force airport and Minangkabau commercial airport able to land medium-sized aircrafts like Boeing 737 and Hercules C-130. Sea transportation has been restricted by the government however because of bad weather forecasted for the entire country till mid-March. Indeed, the country and the PMI were still battling a series of floods since December 2006 when the West Sumatra quakes struck. It was only a few days ago that torrential rains resulted in floods and landslides in East Nusa Tenggara province, killing 28 people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The PMI has mobilized its extensive network of branches and volunteers to assess damage and deliver aid, in close cooperation with the Federation secretariat and partner national societies in Indonesia. Some Red Cross branches are already actively distributing tents and food to quake-hit villages. A team of 15 PMI field action team (SATGANA) volunteers are currently in the field conducting rapid damage and needs assessment, while bringing relief items to affected families. They have to date distributed 20 tarpaulins, 100 blankets and two platoon tents. Other items dispatched to the quake areas are two field kitchens, 30 body bags and one generator. Two ambulances, a truck and an automobile have been mobilized for rescue and logistics support.

In the meantime, volunteers and staff are preparing emergency relief packages from the regional warehouse in Padang: 1,000 family kits, 2,000 blankets and 2,000 tarpaulins. The PMI headquarters in Jakarta is further dispatching medicines for 2,000 people and 17,700 water purification tablets from its central warehouse.

Effective coordination and pooling of resources with Red Cross partners and other agencies is also taking place. To support the emergency operation, a three-member support team is on its way to Padang while an additional four-member assessment team is en route to the affected areas as of 7 March. The teams, which are made of staff from the PMI and the Federation, will liaise with a UN interagency joint assessment team on the ground. Meanwhile, the PMI will formulate a service delivery plan that takes into account critical needs and resources available within the next 48 hrs.

The Federation secretariat remains in close communication with the PMI, and the regional delegation is on hand to provide support and deploy regional disaster response teams (RDRT) if necessary. One of its representatives is already part of the assessment team. The PMI will continue to manage information by updating partners through the Federation's disaster management information system (DMIS) as the situation changes.

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 assistance to the most vulnerable.

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| <p>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".</p> | <p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
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Contact information

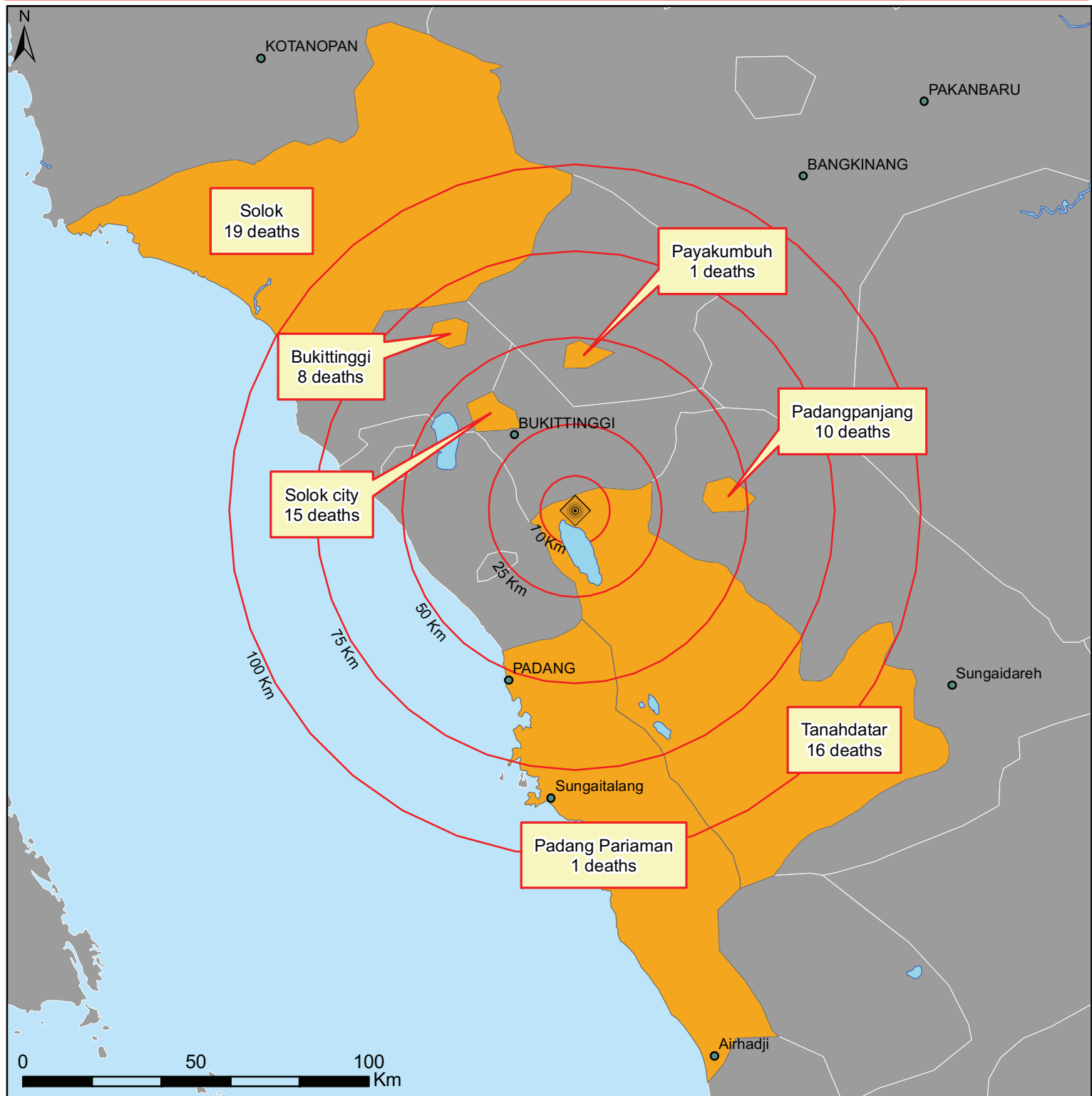
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[Infographic map below, click here to return to the title page.](#)



Indonesia: West Sumatra Earthquakes



-  6.4 earthquake
-  Most affected districts
-  Other districts