

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.

Since the West Sumatra earthquakes struck on 6 March 2007, 72 people are dead, 632 are injured and over 4,000 homes are completely destroyed. People are living in makeshift tents outside their homes, not just to safeguard property but also their lives, fearful of bad aftershocks. Close to 60 Indonesian Red Cross volunteers are actively distributing relief and health services, while joint national society and Federation teams have just completed the first of the assessments. Following this, the PMI chapter has drawn up an initial relief plan to distribute items to 1,250 families in Tanah Datar, Solok and Bukit Tinggi district over one month.



This boy's gaze lingers on what's left of his destroyed school in Gunung Rajo village.

The Situation

It has been three days since Indonesia's West Sumatra province was struck by two successive tectonic quakes that measured 6.3 to 6.4 on the Richter Scale (refer to [Information Bulletin no.1](#) for an infographic map). The death toll stands at 72 and 632 people are injured, according to the provincial disaster management coordination unit's (Satorlak PB) statistics. More than 4,000 houses across the affected areas are totally destroyed, while 53 schools suffered severe damages. The districts of Agam, Padang Pariaman, Solok and Tanah Datar are hit the worst.

Table 1: Impact of the West Sumatra earthquakes

District	Casualties		Damages (Community houses)		
	Dead	Injured	Totally	Partially	Lightly
Solok	16	223	594		
Tanah Datar	10	42	66	147	306
Padang Pariaman	3	5	555		1,778
Agam	14	138	2,472	1,560	1,579
Other districts (15)	29	224	398	76	186
Total	72	632	4,085	1,783	3,849

(Source: Satorlak PBP West Sumatra, dated 8 March 2007)

Many local residents are living in makeshift tents outside their homes to keep their property secure. However, that is not the only reason. When interviewed by Red Cross assessment teams, families admit that they are reluctant to move back into their homes, even if structural damage is light, as they are fearful of the impact of aftershocks. To worsen the situation, these makeshift shelters are often packed, with up to ten people living in each tent without adequate floor material, mattresses or blankets. Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) and Federation teams have concluded that such cramped conditions may pose potential health risks if families live like this for more than a week.

Disparities in the health situation of the affected communities remain. While reports from the provincial health office indicate that many of the injured are being treated or discharged at local health facilities, PMI assessments reveal that some remote villages are cut off from health services as they are difficult to access by road. In the village of Pandai Sike in Batipuh, which can only be reached by four-wheel drive vehicles, motorbikes or on horseback, many people suffering from fractures have yet to receive appropriate treatment.

Fortunately, the food and water situation is stable. Indonesia's national logistics agency is distributing 100MT of rice for affected families across West Sumatra province, while district authorities have allocated 20MT of rice as reserve stock. In the meantime, the local public water utility authorities (PDAM) confirm that water springs are not contaminated and that it can supply water to the quake areas. Other agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are also involved in water and sanitation related relief. However, Red Cross assessment teams have found that supplementary food, kerosene and baby food are needed at the moment as most local shops are still closed.



Two children, who lost their home in the quakes, peer out of their makeshift tent.



A resident at Batipuh village, Tanah Datar district, stands in front of her collapsed house.

Based on Red Cross and Red Crescent assessments and interviews with quake survivors, the immediate needs are identified:

- mobile health services to all affected areas
- Non-food items (cooking set, household kits, sleeping material and hygienic items)
- Tarpaulins
- Mosquito nets (especially for under-five infants)
- School tents, to continue school activities and examinations that would start end of May
- Supplies for public field kitchens (especially supplementary food)
- Psychological support services

Coordination

The government of Indonesia (GOI) is coordinating the relief operation and regular meetings are being held by the national coordinating board for the management of disaster (BAKORNAS PB) with relevant ministries, UN agencies and international and local organizations. It should be specified that the GOI is welcoming but not calling for international assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Indonesian Red Cross and Federation-wide teams of staff and volunteers are actively conducting assessments, disaster relief and providing health services to communities displaced by the West Sumatra earthquakes. A total of 58 field action team (Satgana) volunteers are providing critical services to vulnerable families. The core assessment team has been on site since 7 March 2007 and has made field visits to selected sites in Tanah Datar and Agam districts, as well as liaised with the Satkorlak PB, UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders. Much of the information in this report was fed through their assessment findings.

Parallel to assessment activities, the PMI West Sumatra chapter has taken the initiative to establish operation teams to support affected PMI branches that do not have trained field action team (Satgana) volunteers. These teams have established operation centres covering four locations: Kota Solok, Sumani/Solok, Batipuh/Tanah Datar, and Gunung Rajo/Tanah Datar.

National society medical teams have also been running field health posts and clinics since 7 March in Batipuh and Gunung Rajo (Tanah Datar district). As of 8 March, the medical teams have provided treatment to 150 patients.

In the meantime, the first distributions took place in Gunung Rajo on 8 March, where 54 families received family kits, blankets, mosquito nets and tarpaulins. Distributions will continue the following day at three distribution points: Sumani (271 families), Gunung Rajo (171 families) and Batipuh (133 families). Affected residents will also receive pamphlets on techniques for building a good house in the local language, initially printed for Yogyakarta earthquake operation but also applicable here.



PMI volunteers load relief goods for families displaced by the quakes in West Sumatra

Table: Relief stocks mobilized

Items	No. of unit	Remarks
Family kits	1,350 unit	from the PMI regional warehouse
	500 units	from the PMI chapter warehouse/DP stock
Hygiene kits	1,500 units	from the PMI regional warehouse
Tarpaulins	2,500 pieces	
Family tents	800 units	
Mosquito nets	1,300 pieces	from the PMI chapter warehouse/DP stock
Water basins	500 units	

Table 3: Logistics and equipment mobilized

Radio communication	1 PCB unit
	3 handy talkies
Ambulance	2 unit
Operational vehicles	1 unit
Motorbike (CBDP projects)	2 unit
Genset	1 unit

PMI Plan of Action

The PMI West Sumatra chapter has not proposed a specific programme. Rather, the national society will continue the distribution of relief items. The number of target beneficiaries has been adjusted in accordance to the relief items available at PMI warehouses and relief support committed by other agencies. Capacity of the affected PMI branches themselves is also taken into account, as some of them lack trained volunteers, while others such as Solok and Tanah Datar has only recently inaugurated their new board.

The current relief delivery plan is outlined as follows:

- Target group: 1,250 affected families in Tanah Datar, Solok and Bukit Tinggi
- Timeframe: one month
- Relief items: family kits, hygiene kit, tarpaulins for all targeted families, family tents, mosquito nets and optional items distributed based on needs.

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.

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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