

Information bulletin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Indonesia: West Papua Flash Floods

Information bulletin n° 1
GLIDE no. [FF-2010-000198-IDN](#)
8 October 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Indonesian Red Cross, better known as *Palang Merah Indonesia* (PMI) in the native Bahasa Indonesia, will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)



Indonesian Red Cross (*Palang Merah Indonesia*/PMI) volunteers loading relief items for distribution in response to the flash floods in West Papua, 4 October 2010. (Halibab Halim/PMI)

The city of Wasior in Teluk Wondana district of West Papua province was hit by three-metre high flash floods caused by heavy rains on Monday, 4 October 2010, killing many and displacing families. Access to the affected locations is difficult due to the rugged terrain, and debris and mud on roads and the local airfield; entry is possible only via helicopter and small aircraft, and sea transportation. The PMI has been working together with the local government to respond the disaster by conducting evacuation and emergency assistance. To date, PMI West Papua chapter continues to conduct evacuation and medical services for the displaced people in the affected areas, and is monitoring the situation for developments.

The Situation

Unusually heavy rains on 4 October in Teluk Wondama district of West Papua province triggered flash flood and mudslides at around 07:30 local time (16:30 GMT). Flash floods as high as three metres hit the city of Wasior, flattening houses, and killing and displacing residents. Electricity has been cut off as a result, while mud deposits have damages infrastructure, including health facilities. The floods have also severed road links, and 1-metre high mud deposits at the local airport means that only helicopters can now enter the city. Access has so far been possible via sea routes.

So far, more than 100 deaths have been reported, with up to 4,000 people initially displaced. PMI along with the local authorities are undertaking a more detailed assessment which will help to clarify impact and displaced data.

Based on PMI's observation, at least 60 per cent of houses in the city were inundated by water. Transportation and access has always been a challenge in West Papua. For the time being, sea and air transportation are available. Nevertheless, a boat ride would take eight hours to reach Teluk Wondama from Manokwari (capital city of West Papua). The quickest access is 45 minutes by helicopter, and there are infrequent commercial flights from Manokwari to Teluk Wondama.

In conducting the emergency response, aid workers have identified needs which include mask rubber glove, chainsaw, vehicle, medicine, and disinfectant. In the mean time, the basic needs of survivors include water and food, shelter, and health services.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

There are ten PMI volunteers on the ground, helping the local government to conduct evacuation. So far, they have identified five temporary posts where the displaced are staying. PMI has also sent medical assistance in the form of five doctors and an ambulance team from Manokwari to assist the survivors. The medical personnel are referring people with serious injuries to Manokwari Hospital and Manokwari Naval Hospital.

To date, PMI has distributed relief items including 200 family kits, 100 baby kits, 100 hygiene kits, and 50 family tents. In addition, PMI national headquarters aims to dispatch a further 500 hygiene kits, 500 family kits, 500 blankets, 500 mats, and 500 tarpaulins.

For the immediate needs, PMI will continue to support affected people with emergency health services, and assist the survivors in reconnecting with their families and relatives through restoring family links (RFL) activities, provide psychosocial support, operate a field kitchen that will provide meals twice daily for 1,500 people for the coming 14 days, and distribute more relief items such as family kits, hygiene kits, blankets, baby kits, tarpaulins, and family tents.

The National Society is also conducting more detailed assessments to identify further needs, and is closely monitoring the situation for developments and potential action.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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