

Information bulletin



Indonesia: Mt. Merapi Volcanic Eruption

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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 language, will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

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One of the most active and well known volcanos in central Indonesia, Mount Merapi, erupted on Monday, 25 October 2010, shooting clouds of smoke and flames into the night sky. On the following day, it erupted again and has since affected many communities surrounding it. To date, official figures report 25 deaths, 14 severely injured and 20 people missing. Some 2,900 people were evacuated and relocated at five planned camps including Jumoyo sports field, Dompol, Samiran village, Tlogolele village and Gedangan village. PMI has mobilized its staff and emergency response team to the affected areas.



At least 2,900 people have been displaced, and are staying in camps such as the camp at Jumoyo field at Magelang district set up by PMI in response to Mount Merapi eruption. (Muhammad Nashir/PMI)

Its main activities include the evacuation of affected people and delivering first aid services to the injured. In between the evacuation process, PMI has also distributed masks, sleeping mats, and blankets to the affected people in the camps.

The Situation

Mount Merapi has seen increased volcanic activity in recent days. The government's volcanology department has raised the alert level for the 9,737-foot (2,968-metre) high mountain to its highest. The pressure building beneath a lava dome in the mouth of Indonesia's most volatile volcano threatens to trigger one of its deadliest blasts in years as residents living along the slopes are moved to temporary camps.

Rocks spilled down Merapi's trembling slopes before dawn on Tuesday, 26 October, and gusts of hot ash shot as high as 150 feet (50 metres) into the air as the mountain groaned and rumbled. The local government of Sleman district has warned some 11,400 villagers living on the mountain's southern slope to prepare for urgent evacuation. So far, 25 deaths, 14 severely injured wounded people and 20 people missing have been

confirmed by officials. Some 2,900 people have already been relocated to makeshift camps set up at government buildings and sports fields more than 10 km from the mountain's base; most of them the elderly, women and children.

Merapi last erupted in 2006, when it sent an avalanche of blistering gases and rock fragments racing down the mountain, killing two people. A similar eruption in 1994 killed 60 people, while 1,300 people died in an eruption in 1930.

There are more than 129 active volcanoes monitored in Indonesia, spread across 17,500 islands. The country is prone to eruptions and earthquakes because of its location within the so-called "Ring of Fire" - a series of fault lines stretching from the Western Hemisphere through Japan and Southeast Asia.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

They are 108 volunteers and *Satgana* (emergency response teams) members deployed to respond to the eruption of Mount Merapi. The effects of Merapi have reached surrounding districts, including Klaten, Sleman, Magelang and Boyolali. Two PMI chapters, Central Java and Yogyakarta, are providing regular reports on the situation to the headquarters, while communicating and coordinating mobilized branches to the affected areas. In addition, PMI Yogyakarta chapter has sent 1,000 sleeping mats, 1,000 blankets and 600 face masks to PMI Sleman branch.



A PMI volunteer distributes mineral water to the displaced staying at Purwobinangun camp which currently accommodates more than 2,000 people. (Talchah Hamid/Indonesian Red Cross).

The main focus of PMI activities at the moment is the evacuation of potentially affected communities, supported by ambulances and other vehicles. PMI Magelang branch has mobilized 50 *Satgana* team members with ambulances and trucks to assist in evacuation of affected communities. It has also distributed 6,000 face masks in the camps set up for internally displaced people. Meanwhile, PMI Klaten branch, with the assistance of neighbouring branches, has evacuated communities. In Boyolali district, PMI has also mobilized *Satgana* to evacuate communities in Tlogolele area. PMI Sleman branch has completed the evacuation of villagers living on the slope of the volcano.

PMI volunteers have delivered first aid services to the injured people, many of whom sustained injuries from traffic accidents during the chaotic evacuation process. In this response, PMI Sleman branch has mobilized 50 *Satgana* personnel and sent 7 ambulances to assist the communities. To support the internally displaced people, PMI has established a field kitchen at Jumoyo sports field, providing meals for more than 900 people.

The National Society, as the auxiliary of the government, is working closely with the regional disaster management agency and assisting it in managing the people displaced by the volcano.

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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