

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Indonesia: Mentawai Earthquake and Tsunami

Information bulletin n° 2
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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, is better known as *Palang Merah Indonesia* (PMI) in the native Bahasa Indonesia language.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

To date, rescuers from the government and PMI continue the search for bodies around the islands. Some areas are still unreachable. The affected areas are scattered as Mentawai is an archipelago of more than 7,000 small islands. At this point, the Government of Indonesia has announced a two-week emergency phase for the Mentawai operation.



After sailing overnight from Sumatra Island, PMI volunteers and local search and rescue agencies arrived at Muntei, South Pagai on the Mentawai Islands on 27 October 2010. Affected areas are going through initial assessment and people affected by the earthquake and the tsunami on the Mentawai islands were being evacuated.
Photo credit: Palang Merah Indonesia

The Situation

There were 449 deaths since 31 October 2010, according to the national disaster management agency (BNPB). A further 96 people are missing; 270 people were seriously injured; 142 people were slightly injured; and 14,983 people were internally displaced. Most fatalities, 176 people, were from the Batumonga village, a sub-district of North Pagai.

Two villages that suffered the most from the disasters were: Muntei sub-village and Sabeugunggung sub-village, located in the village of Batumonga of the North Pagai district.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

By 31 October 2010, PMI's West Sumatra chapter mobilized 24 staff members to Mentawai Islands: where staff members were deployed in three phases. The last departure saw PMI staff and volunteers carry 300

blankets, 150 tents, 300 tarpaulins, and 50 pairs of crutches (sticks). PMI are focusing on: evacuating bodies; distributions; field assessments and running a mobile clinic service for the affected communities.

The PMI headquarters is still in coordination with its West Sumatra chapter. The operational cost of IDR 500 million (CHF 55,000) has been transferred to the chapter.

The plan of activities to be undertaken include: restoring family links; relief distribution; health services psychosocial support; and water and sanitation.

PMI is distributing aid to survivors by boat. This enables PMI to reach isolated areas along the coast. At the moment, PMI staff members and volunteers are currently concentrated in Sikakap Island. Here, staff and volunteers have begun to establish camps in the Malakopa area.

As the operation base has shifted from Padang to Muko-Muko, Bengkulu certain necessities for air transport is being prepared by PMI. Necessities prepared include: an air strip, a heli pad and ground handling facilities.

To address the transportation constraints, four PMI helicopters are now on stand by in Muko-Muko, to transport personnel and distribute relief items to the most remote areas. Also, if required, the same helicopters are able to take on a medical evacuation or refer heavily injured patients to proper hospitals on the main land.

In terms of communication constraints between the field and the operation base in Muko-Muko or in the PMI headquarters; PMI, with support from the Movement will also set up radio communication networking. PMI also plans to set up internet connection in the field, in order to ease the reporting system and information access to deployed personnel and volunteers. However, available electricity supply is still a challenge; and it appears difficult to support this activity. Therefore, until now, telecommunications is still weak. This is one of the main reasons that PMI's headquarters still has problems coordinating with its team on the ground; and also the same reason why PMI finds it difficult to compile field reports.

Other non-governmental organizations, private companies, and even private radio stations have provided donations in-kind such as clothes, biscuits, instant noodles, and basic medicines through PMI for those who are affected.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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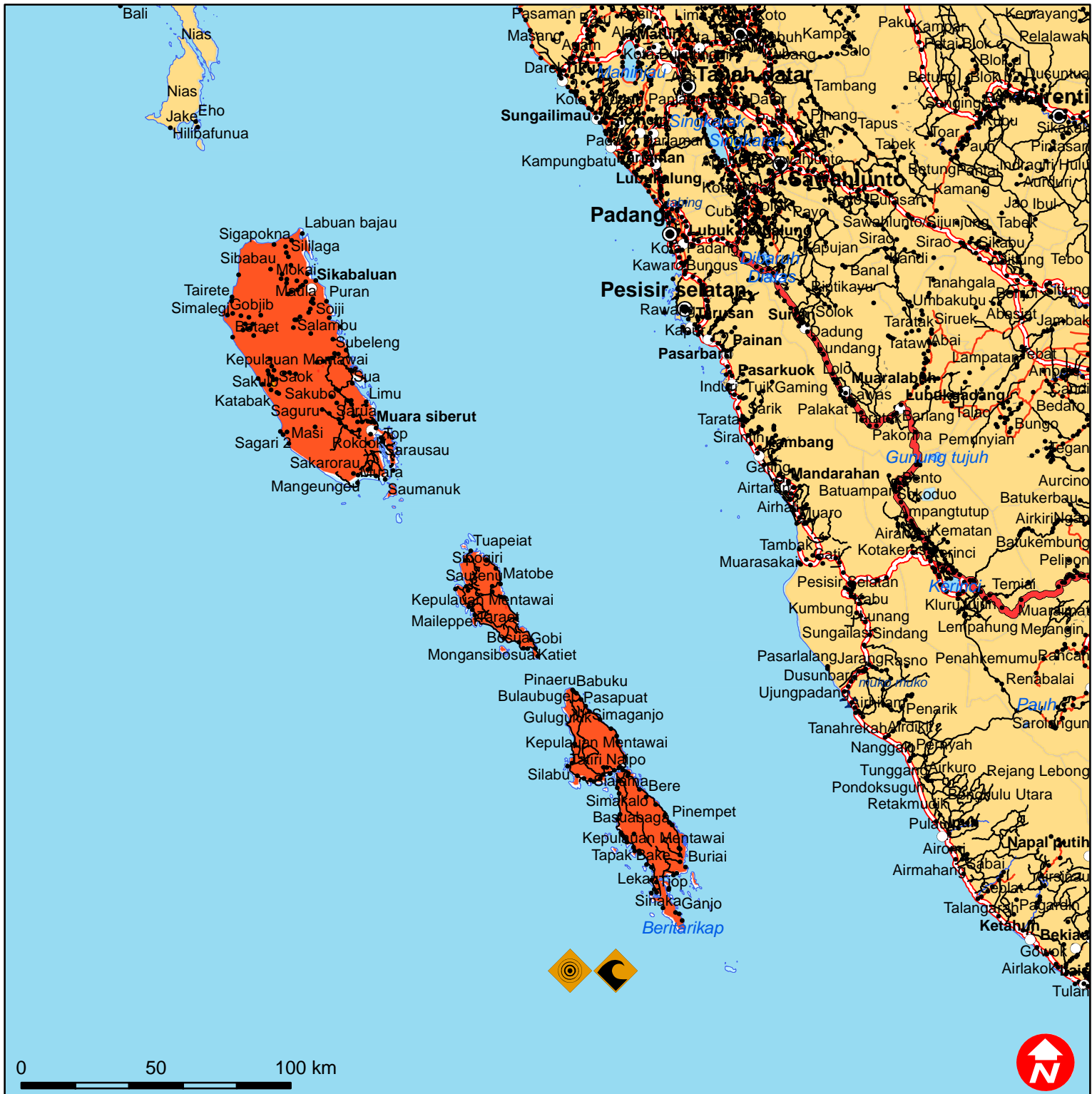
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



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 Mentawai islands