

# ***INDONESIA: FIRE DESTROYS CENTRAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE***

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## ***The Disaster***

Indonesia's blood programme, already badly affected by the country's socio-economic crisis, was dealt another blow on 5 January when a midnight fire destroyed three floors of the Jakarta-based Central Blood Transfusion Centre. The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), which operates the centre, will set up a temporary referral centre at its headquarters. The cause of the fire is not immediately known, but an investigation has been initiated. The fire destroyed 500 units of blood and screening equipment, reagents, and computers. Storage and some training facilities were also gutted. Losses have initially been estimated at US\$ 3 million; however, the building itself is completely destroyed and is unlikely to be salvaged. The damage has serious implications for blood transfusion operations and services in the country.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The PMI met with Health Ministry and other government officials to discuss remedial and emergency measures. A temporary referral centre will be set up at the PMI headquarters, and a second one at its Jakarta office. More discussions with government and donor agencies have been planned., and the PMI have requested the Federation's representative to participate in these meetings.

## ***Needs***

The immediate needs are being assessed, and discussions are underway with the Government of Indonesia and established donors on appropriate emergency response and rehabilitation measures. Given the critical role of the PMI Blood Centre as well as the current socio/economic situation in the country, it is likely that the Federation will, in the coming days, seek financial and technical assistance in order to maintain the level of current services and to help reconstruct the Centre.

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