

INDONESIA: EARTHQUAKE

23 December 1999

Information Bulletin N° 1

The Disaster

On the evening of December 21 a powerful earthquake shook the main Indonesian island of Java, killing at least four people and leaving 200 injured. The magnitude of the quake measured 6.4 on the Richter scale, and according to early reports from CNN hundreds of houses in several villages in West Java province were damaged.

Indonesia's Geophysics Agency traced the epicentre to the Sunda Strait, about 230 kilometres (145 miles) southwest of Jakarta. Most of West Java experienced the earthquake. Although there are no reports of damage in Jakarta, the tremors were quite strong, with considerable damage closer to the epicentre in Pandeglang district. Frightened residents have hesitated to return to their homes for fear of another earthquake. Karyasari was one of the worst-hit communities, with about 100 houses collapsed or severely damaged in the hamlet of about 4,000 people.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) West-Java chapter is currently providing shelter and a field kitchen for those effected by the quake. The chapter has reported at least 4 deaths, 1,263 houses seriously damaged, 1,739 houses with light damage, as well as 90 public buildings damaged.

Needs

Further information is being collected though at this stage it is unlikely that international assistance will be required.

Peter Rees-Gildea
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