

INDONESIA: Earthquake

13 June 2000

appeal no. 15/2000

situation report no. 2

period covered: 10 - 12 June, 2000

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The context

An earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale hit the province of Bengkulu on the island of Sumatra on Sunday, 4 June, at 23:30 hrs local time. It was followed 11 minutes later by an aftershock of 6.7, and since then the area has experienced over 700 aftershocks. The epicentre of the quake was in the ocean approximately 112 km southwest of the provincial capital of Bengkulu (pop. 1.5 million). The latest official casualty figures are as follows:

Deaths	90
Severely injured*	788
Injured*	1,709

* These figures are still slowly increasing , since accessibility to some of the rural areas and exact reporting have been difficult; referral of patients with broken limbs to health centres is delayed.

The province of Bengkulu, which covers an area of almost 2 million hectares, has a total population of 1,557,000 (1999 statistics). The province stretches along the shoreline, and further inland becomes more mountainous. The lowlands include the towns of Bengkulu and Manna; the mountainous areas rise to 1000-2000m above sea level.

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On 6 June, the Federation issued a preliminary appeal for CHF 5,353,933 in response to a request by the Indonesian, Red Cross or Pelang Merah Indonesia (PMI), for assistance. A Federation relief team arrived in Indonesia the same day to conduct an initial assessment of the situation.

Despite its high Richter scale rating, the earthquake was not as serious as it might have been, mainly because it struck rural areas where most of the buildings/homes are only one storey high.

Latest events

The assessment phase of the operation is now over (apart from some government and UN assessments in outlying sub-districts where it is reported that some injured still remain in their villages).

Officials said they had yet to assess the full impact of the earthquake, although the official Antara news agency has said preliminary damage estimates were put at around USD 6 million.

On Friday, schools and markets opened in Bengkulu town, although hundreds of aftershocks have kept residents on edge. Local populations are still sleeping outside their homes, because of continuing tremors (measuring between 4.9 and 6.0 on the Richter scale).

Several small road blocks were set up in and around towns by the local population to protest the government's slow progress in meeting expectations for relief supplies. The Red Cross/Crescent emblems have been respected, however, and there has been no restriction on the movement of Red Cross personnel.

The assessment team departed Bengkulu on 11 June and is now in Jakarta, where it is working with the PMI on the full appeal and the plan of action, which the Federation expects to issue tomorrow, 14 June.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Federation Assessment Team •

The full ten-member team, including delegates from the regional delegation and National Societies, arrived in Bengkulu City on Wednesday, 7 June. It took with it urgently needed medical supplies and 500 units of blood from the PMI blood programme. In the next three days it visited Bengkulu City and its vicinity; Manna and its vicinity (Southern Sub-District); Argam Akmur and its vicinity (Northern Sub-District); and Enggano Island, the airport and the sea-port.

Apart from Indonesian government assistance, and the Dutch and Belgian Navy, the Federation was the first international humanitarian organization to arrive in the disaster-affected region.

The assessment team had the use of a Puma helicopter throughout its mission in Bengkulu. This was critical, as airport and port facilities were closed or unreliable. It also facilitated rapid deployment into the affected areas, and more comprehensive geographic coverage.

Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) •

Five first aid posts (medical referral/transportation and information dissemination/collection), and a blood centre, have been established in and around Bengkulu City. Forty-one RC volunteers have been mobilized, and PMI is recruiting additional volunteers from nearby provinces.

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The Bengkulu City RC chapter and the surrounding Bengkulu provincial chapters need significant management and resources support. The national headquarters of the PMI in Jakarta is sending a relief coordinator and other managerial support to the Bengkulu City chapter to assist in managing the forthcoming relief operation, including distributions.

ERU Hospital •

An ERU hospital unit with a 120-150 person in-patient capacity will be flown into Jakarta on Wednesday, 14 June and will then be airlifted by the Indonesian government to Bengkulu City where it will be erected next to the main hospital, the only public one in Bengkulu province, which suffered extensive damage.

The earthquake destroyed the hospital's 250-bed accommodation and surgery, x-ray, laboratory and sterilisation facilities. Only the kitchen and laundry building are still in use.

At present, 120 patients are housed in army tents and under plastic sheeting. The total caseload of patients due to the earthquake in the first 4 days was 200, including 70 inpatients and 13 deaths (mortality rate 6.5%). No earthquake related deaths were reported after the fourth day.

This 80 ton unit will provide medical care for a catchment population of 1.5 million until the original hospital is rebuilt, which could take up to six months. The unit is air-conditioned, and comes equipped with a portable x-ray facility and supply of films and equipment, an operating theatre, nursing and doctor modules and a water supply system. The PMI will assign a medical staff member to Bengkulu for the administration of the ERU hospital.

The Bengkulu hospital has a staff of 20 doctors and 160 nurses, which removes the need for external medical personnel. A Singapore Army Medical Unit will remain until the ERU hospital is operational.

First Aid Kits •

During the aftershocks many minor injuries occurred which can be treated by community members and PMI staff and volunteers with first aid training. Therefore, 125 first aid kits were flown into Bengkulu yesterday June 12 and will be distributed to all PMI volunteers and to people with PMI first aid training.

Shelter and Family Kits •

Because thousands of homes throughout Bengkulu Province were seriously damaged many families are living outdoors without any effective form of shelter. Even people whose homes suffered only minor damage are still living outdoors because they fear another earthquake.

Thirty thousand plastic tarpaulins will be distributed throughout Bengkulu Province.: 7,250 will be arriving with the ERU hospital and the remaining ones are being procured from China and are scheduled to arrive tomorrow. Since many basic household items were lost when homes were destroyed, the Federation and PMI this week are shipping 1000 family kits from Jakarta to Bengkulu. The kits contain 14 items.

Delegates, logistics •

A Federation relief delegate arrived in Jakarta on Sunday. Joining the logistics delegate and team leader, he will work with PMI in organising the distribution. A distribution plan is being developed with further relief items being flown to Bengkulu on Wednesday. An information delegate and a reporting delegate will arrive shortly with the regional finance delegate arriving on the weekend to provide financial support.

Communications, vehicles and capital items for the delegation in Bengkulu will be purchased locally (in Indonesia). Management support will be provided to the Bengkulu chapter from the PMI headquarters.

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Capacity Building of the Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) •

The PMI NHQ, and provincial and local branches in Bengkulu province need a significant input of resources to increase the National Society's capacity to respond to future natural disasters. Components of this capacity building programme could include disaster preparedness and a community based first aid programme.

Outstanding needs

Generous soft pledges have been received, but these urgently need to be converted into contributions, to maintain financing of the operation.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Indonesian Government •

The provincial governments are handling food and relief distributions. It appears that in most areas the food needs of the affected population are being met.

High-level government officials (the Ministers of the Interior, Population Migration, and Social Poverty) arrived in Bengkulu, Saturday 10 June.

Other Governments •

A Singapore army medical unit, a Japanese Disaster Response Unit, and a Taipei medical/search and rescue team have all been assisting in the emergency relief operations.

United Nations •

A six-person UNDAC team arrived 7 June, and immediately established coordination with the Federation. This included a briefing on the Red Cross assessment, and an operational consultation between UNDAC and Federation Team Leaders. The UNDAC medical officer was transported via helicopter, along with the rest of the Federation assessment team, to Jakarta. The UNDAC team will stay until next Thursday, 15 June, which allows for overlap with the Federation's in-coming four-person relief team.

NGOs •

Operational NGOs include World Vision (Indonesia), MSF (Holland/Belgium) which is looking to address targeted water/sanitation needs, Catholic Relief Services and Caritas.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details of hard pledges.

Conclusion

The relief operation has got off to a good start with a comprehensive rapid assessment by the assessment team, followed by the immediate deployment of Federation relief delegates. The preliminary appeal is currently being revised and will be available with a budget within the next 24 hours, followed by an action plan for the relief operation.

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A tripartite (Federation, PMI, Ministry of Health) Memorandum of Understanding will be drawn up for the ERU Hospital, which will be initially deployed for six months in Bengkulu, depending on the duration of the hospital renovation. It is proposed that the unit be re-packed after use and stored in Jakarta by the PMI, to be available for regional (Southeast Asia) disaster response use.

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CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					5,353,933	TOTAL COVERAGE 22.1%
AMERICAN - RC		50,000	USD	85,000	09.06.00	
BRITISH - GOVT/RC		245,098	GBP	629,902	09.06.00	
CANADIAN - RC		50,000	CAD	55,990	06.06.00	
CANADIAN - GOVT/RC		100,000	CAD	111,980	07.06.00	
CHINA - RC		20,000	USD	34,000	13.06.00	
JAPANESE - RC				268,000	12.06.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH					1,184,872	CHF 22.1%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						

