

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

INDONESIA ALOR EARTHQUAKE

18 November 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (No. 02/2004) is being issued

- based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 100,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider international support through an Emergency Appeal.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

The situation on earthquake-stricken Alor island in East Nusa Tenggara province, Eastern Indonesia, is calming down after Friday's deadly earthquake. This morning the death toll reached 27, after a man was found dead having been hit by a landslide during an aftershock. Seventeen people are still in hospital. A total of 118 people were badly injured during the quake and another 119 suffered lesser injuries. Most have broken bones and bruises after being caught under collapsing buildings.

Following a survey by helicopter undertaken by the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI) and the Federation delegate, it is now clear that out of nine affected sub-districts, four are severely affected with most of their buildings destroyed. Some four thousand families have lost their homes and are sleeping outdoors. Approximately a quarter of those families had been given temporary shelter (tarpaulins) by Wednesday night, half of them contributed by the Red Cross. Infrastructure in two of the worst affected sub-districts has suffered extensive damage: roads are cracked and risky to travel on and electricity is only available in the main town of Kalabahi. However, residents have access to water and there are sufficient food supplies – local authorities have 1,500 metric tonnes of rice in stock.



Most roads in Alor are now barely passable and with continuing aftershocks people travel them at their own risk.

The health situation is being dealt with adequately after medicines were shipped in earlier during the week; in the worst hit subdistrict the local hospital was able to resume operations on Sunday with medicines provided by the PMI with Federation support and by the national government. An Indonesian Navy hospital ship is on the way to Alor to enable treatment of those in extensive need. Local and provincial medical teams are providing services, as is MSF-Belgium, whose staff are moving around the island with supplies.

East Nusa Tenggara province is one of the poorest in Indonesia and one of the most disaster prone. The national government has decided to provide each family who lost their home with IDR 3 million (USD 330) with which to rebuild their homes and lives. In total, the government has provided local authorities with IDR 1.1 billion (USD 122,000). The Chinese and Japanese governments have sent USD 50,000 and USD 100,000 respectively.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PMI now has 20 volunteers and staff working in Alor. They have provided 500 homeless families with temporary shelter, distributed 100 mosquito nets to hospitals and health centres (malaria is endemic in the area) and will distribute another 400 nets on Friday. The PMI contingent, consisting of trained staff and volunteers from regional SATGANA (rapid response) teams and the national Tim KHUSUS response team, has an emergency response vehicle with various equipment and facilities.

PMI and the Indonesia delegation are currently in consultation with other stakeholders and actors in the area and will possibly provide 3,000 additional families with basic shelter (tarpaulins). There are also tentative plans to provide 4,000 families with basic repair materials and tool kits (string, nails, hammers, saws etc) for rehabilitating their homes.



Distribution of medicines brought by the Red Cross to a health clinic in one of the worst hit districts.



PMI volunteers bring relief supplies to a remote village on the coast of Alor.

The whole affected area has now been surveyed by PMI, the Federation and the local government. Damage is clearly extensive and complicating the already meagre existence of the populace. Villagers along the coastline still spend their nights in the hills, but come down in the morning, when they would be able to see any tsunami approaching as a result of further quakes.

PMI and the Federation continue to monitor the situation and receive reports from its field team, while preparing for possible further support to the people of Alor.

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