

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: EARTHQUAKE

29 March 2005

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

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 02/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking additional funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

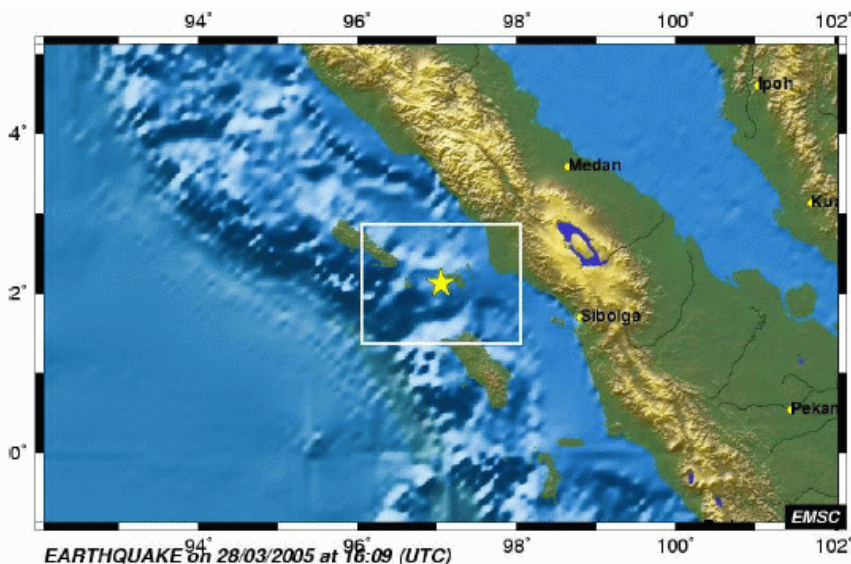
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Indonesia: Ole J Hauge, Head of Delegation; phone: +622.1791. 91 841; mobile: +628 11 824 859; fax: +622 179180 905; email: ifrcid01@ifrc.org and Latifur Rahman, Disaster Management Delegate; phone: +62.811.82.6624; fax: +62.217.18.0905 email: ifrcid05@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Jasna Djordjevic, Southeast Asia Desk (Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia) a.i., Geneva; phone: +41.22.730.4829; fax: +41.22.733.0395; email: jasna.djordjevic@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Josse Gillijns, Regional Officer for Eastern Africa, Africa Dept.; email: josse.gillijns@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.42.24; Fax: +41.22.733.03.95
- Media Department: Sian Bowen, phone: + 41.22.730.4428; email: sian.bowen@ifrc.org

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

In a massive earthquake that struck Northern Sumatra at 23:09 local time on 28 March, approximately 300 people have been reported dead so far on the island of Nias which is located near the epicentre and has suffered extensive damage. Nias is located 200 kilometres off the Sumatran coast towards the southern side of Aceh province and is home to 700,000 people.



Heavy tremors from the quake, measuring 8.7 on the Richter scale, lasted up to three minutes and were felt as far away as Malaysia, causing people to flee their homes in panic. Opposite the Federation base camp in Meulaboh, people were seen sitting down on the road as, at the same time, many cars were leaving the affected areas throughout the night heading inland only to return to the deserted city the following morning.

Although the epicentre was 30 kilometres under the sea and alarms were sounded across the disaster area of possible tsunamis, the alerts were scaled down three hours later as the threat ceased.

According to the government sources, around 80 percent of the buildings in the town of Gunungsitoli (Nias island) have been affected and based on damaged building assessments, the death toll might be much higher.

Contact to Medan and Banda Aceh established during the night revealed no further damages in these locations, although power outages have been reported in Banda Aceh.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Assisted by the Spanish Red Cross, a Federation assessment team including a PMI medical team from Medan chapter (nine persons) departed for the islands off Sumatra coast in the morning on a Cessna Caravan aircraft. A second team has followed shortly with the support of the French and Spanish Red Cross; the team will meet on the ground with PMI and a delegate from the Japanese Red Cross. Both teams are equipped with satellite communications to ensure constant situation updates and will return to Meulaboh at the end of the day checking the western Aceh province coast line on the way.

The first assessment team already reported that approximately 10 percent of buildings and structure on the island of Simeulue were damaged or destroyed by the earthquake. Some 10 people were killed and dozens injured in the aftermath. The team continued on to Nias island for further assessment. The Federation is prepared to send the emergency relief stocks to both islands pending the results of the assessments.

Supporting PMI, the Federation have commenced on rescue and assessment on Sinabang where up to five casualties have been reported and dozens have been injured. In addition to a lack of transportation, PMI action is restricted due to the rubble and the damaged roads caused by the disaster. Some other NGOs reportedly also participated.

The Spanish Red Cross water and sanitation Emergency Response Unit (ERU), Japanese Red Cross basic health care ERU and medical staff from the French Red Cross remain on standby for re-deployment if needed. An additional helicopter has also been requested from Banda Aceh for logistics purposes.

The Federation is maintaining close contact with the UN in Banda Aceh, Meulaboh and Jakarta; a meeting between the two organizations is taking place at the time of reporting.

The Federation assessment team deployed to Nias will also liaise with the UNDAC assessment team for the exchange of the initial assessment results.

A meeting with all Movement partners is scheduled for later during the day for further analysis of the situation and planning of next steps. At this point, no additional human or technical resources are sought.

All Federation delegates and Red Cross Red Crescent partners presently on the ground in Aceh province are reported to be safe.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)