

# 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: SULAWESI EARTHQUAKE

24 January 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. 1/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

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### The Situation

An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 on the Richter Scale (as reported by the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre) occurred on 23 January 2005 at about 04:10 AM local time. The epicentre was located at 1.25S 119.79E, about 61 km NW of Palu, the capital of Central Sulawesi Province, at a depth of 10 km.

The tremor lasted about ten minutes with IV-V MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity) and caused cuts to the local electricity supply. Most of the people who live along the coast of Palu Bay moved to high ground as a precaution. According to reports by Reuters, this quake has killed one person and seriously injured another from West Donggala district. In Palu, several shops were damaged.

Having witnessed the effects of the recent tsunami in Aceh and North Sumatra Provinces the population is understandably panicked and keen to avoid the traumatic aftermath of such an event themselves. A large offshore earthquake with a magnitude of 7.4 on the Richter Scale occurred in this area on 1 January 1996 in which nine people died and ten villages were swept away in the resulting tsunami. As yesterday's event was land based, there is no risk of a tsunami occurring.

The Chief of Police in Central Sulawesi was planning to conduct a helicopter reconnaissance of Palu City, the surrounding area, and assess the ocean in Palu Bay as well.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

At the field level, the nearest branches of the Indonesia Red Cross – Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) – in Palu and Satgana have already been alerted to mobilize for evacuation and assessment tasks as required.

At the national level, the headquarters of the PMI is keeping in close contact with the chapter and Palu branches.

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

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