

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: WESTERN JAVA EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

Information Bulletin
no. 03/2006
26 July 2006

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Indonesian Red Cross (PMI): Mr. Arifin M. Hadi (acting head of disaster management division); mobile: +62.811.943.952; telephone: +62.21.799.2325 ext. 222; email: arifinmhd@telkom.net
- Federation country delegation in Indonesia: Peter Cameron (acting head of delegation); email: peter.cameron@ifrc.org; mobile: +62.81.2104.8209; fax: +62.21.7918.0905
- Federation Southeast Asia regional delegation in Thailand: Bekele Geleta (head of regional delegation); email: bekele.geleta@ifrc.org; phone: +66.2.661.8201 ext 100; Alan Bradbury (regional programme coordinator); email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org; phone: +66.2.661.8201; or Michael Annear (head of regional disaster management unit); email: michael.annear@ifrc.org; phone: +66.2.661.8201
- Federation secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific department): Josse Gillijns (regional officer); email: josse.gillijns@ifrc.org phone: +44.22.730.4224, fax: +41.22 733.0395; or Satchida Rana (senior assistant); email: satchida.rana@ifrc.org; phone: +44.22.730.4429; fax: +41.22 733.0395

The Situation

The death toll following the tsunami has reached 637, with 165 still missing and 624 injured (15 of the total dead are not of Indonesian nationality). A report from the national disaster management coordinating agency (BAKORNAS) also state that 116,506 are displaced. Separate sources indicate more than 24,000 are still living in camps, but people are being urged by the authorities to return home as the threat of aftershocks and further tsunamis greatly reduces. According to the government, damage to infrastructure is relatively small. Although there has been no outbreak of diseases among those living in camps, the government is administering measles, tetanus, and cholera vaccinations. With the help of the community, the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) are spraying disinfectant in community halls, schools and market areas.

Clean up and relief operations in tsunami-hit Western Java continue a week after the disaster. The Indonesian government, Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia - PMI), UN agencies, national and international organizations continue to provide medical service, food, water and other emergency needs to earthquake survivors now living in different camps set up for the displaced.

The improving situation has shifted the emphasis on the urgent need for an early tsunami warning system. In a recent press statement, the UN Secretary General's deputy special envoy for tsunami recovery has said that the Java tragedy reinforces the crucial importance of and the stronger efforts needed in setting up comprehensive early warning and disaster preparedness systems throughout the tsunami affected regions.¹ Foreign ministers of the ten-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also plan to issue an urgent call to set up disaster alert systems in the region.

¹ UN press release, 20 July 2006.

Experts have however claimed that it is unrealistic for Indonesia to have established a nationwide alert system covering 18,000 islands in just the 19-month period since the 26 December 2004 earthquake and tsunami, quote various media sources. The Indonesian government had initiated a network of monitoring buoys, tide gauges and warning sirens on beaches but has only covered parts of Sumatra island, which were ineffective in alerting communities of the West Java tsunami that killed more than 630 people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The PMI has mobilized 476 volunteers for the rescue and relief operation since the disaster on 17 July. These volunteers worked alongside local authorities and the community to evacuate dead bodies and rescue survivors from the rubble of the damaged houses.

People have started returning to their communities and numbers of camp inhabitants are gradually reducing. National society volunteers and staff however continue to provide meals to more than 11,000 displaced people living the camps in Ciamis and Tasikmalaya.

Mobile health units and health posts set up by the PMI have provided medical care to 1,950 patients with cuts, respiratory problems, diarrhoea, chicken pox, mumps, eye irritation and dengue. In addition to transporting patients to community health centres affected families also receive food packages, hygiene kits, baby kits and tarpaulin from the Red Cross while the assessment continues.

Separated family members are further reunited through the PMI's tracing service, with 12 successful cases reported to date.

The PMI expects to complete its emergency support in two weeks time. There are no plans to extend this timeframe yet. However, an expansion of the Yogyakarta earthquake operation to support relief and disaster preparedness in tsunami-affected areas is under discussion.



PMI volunteers prepare food for the displaced

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

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>