

Facts and Figures

Context

A strong earthquake of Richter scale magnitude 7.5 struck Indonesia, causing a tsunami wave, various landslides as well as soil liquefaction.

More than
1,700 killed
2,600 seriously injured
62,000 homeless
66,000 damaged houses
1.5 million affected
Source: AHA Center, 07.10.2018

SDC's activities

Deployment of experts:

14 experts of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) are currently deployed to Indonesia.

The Swiss Embassy in Jakarta is supporting them in their humanitarian efforts.

Relief items:

30 tons of Swiss relief items have been dispatched, consisting of:

- Emergency shelter (tents and tarpaulins) for about 4,000 people
- 30 multi-purpose tents
- Water purification sets for about 200,000 to 250,000 people
- Well-cleaning sets for the long-term decontamination of existing wells

Budget

Emergency relief
CHF 2.5 million

CHF 0.5 million of which have been allocated to IFRC/PMI



Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) expert handling the distribution of emergency shelter in Palu @ EDA

Update on Switzerland's engagement in Indonesia

Switzerland provides humanitarian aid in consultation with the Indonesian government in the fields of drinking water purification and emergency shelter for the people of Central Sulawesi. Switzerland offered its initial support to the Indonesian government on Saturday, 29 September 2018.

Course of events

On Friday, 28 September 2018, at 5.02pm local time, an earthquake of Richter scale magnitude 7.5 struck Central Sulawesi. The epicenter was 60km north of Palu city. In the hours prior to the strong quake, tremors of 5.9 and 6.0 magnitude were recorded. The quakes as well as the shifts of the bottom of the ocean triggered a tsunami wave of more than three metres, which hit the beaches at Talise near Palu as well as beaches near Donggala city. The quakes also triggered landslides as well as soil liquefaction, which resulted in entire living quarters subsiding in the mud.

Around 1.5 million people are affected by the disaster. The region is still experiencing frequent aftershocks.

Context

The events of 28 September have resulted in a cascading disaster scenario, whereby strong earthquakes set off a tsunami as well as soil liquefaction and landslides killing more than 1,500 people and causing severe damage on buildings and infrastructure. These events have made humanitarian access difficult. More than 1.5 million people are affected in the regions of Palu, Sigi and Donggala.

According to the Indonesian government, the humanitarian needs are vast, especially when it comes to safe drinking water, emergency shelter, medical support, logistics coordination as well as power supply.



Swiss engagement

The Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) has deployed 13 experts from the fields of construction (emergency shelter), drinking water purification (WASH), logistics and coordination to Palu city. Six local employees support them in their efforts. Another humanitarian expert has been sent to the Swiss Embassy in Jakarta helping them coordinate the relief work of the humanitarian actors.

The first delivery of relief items consisting of 900kg material for water purification, tents as well as solar panels was dispatched from Switzerland on 5 October. A second cargo flight carrying around 30 tons of relief items left Switzerland for Indonesia on 8 October 2018.

Water

As the power supply is not yet fully restored, and diesel as well as petrol are scarce, the solar modules and WATA supplied by Switzerland have enabled the experts to independently produce chlorine, which is the fastest and most effective solution. With this method, up to 200,000 people in urban areas can be supplied with clean drinking water within a very short period of time. The additional material, which is due to arrive in Indonesia in the next few days, will enable the

humanitarian workers in cooperation with the local authorities to distribute clean drinking water in various locations at the same time.

As preliminary evaluations have shown, the rural region south of Palu has also been seriously affected by the quake. For this reason, Switzerland has sent several well-cleaning sets. Once wells have been contaminated by tsunamis, they need to be cleaned. During the process, the water is pumped out of the well, which is then cleaned with brushes. In order to get the water out of the deep wells, a pump reaching down to up to 36 metres is being employed. In case the water has remained clear and is not murky, it can be disinfected with chlorine, which means the wells can immediately be reused for drinking water supply.

Emergency shelter

The second dispatch of relief items consists of 300 climate-proof kitchen-sets and mosquito nets for about 1,500 people as well as 1,000 tarpaulins for 2,500 people.

The second dispatch also contains 30 multi-purpose tents that can be used as classrooms, health centres (in addition to the partially destroyed hospitals) or storerooms.


Coordination

Switzerland contributes to the national and international coordination efforts, whereby it closely cooperates with the Indonesian authorities.

Support

Switzerland has funded the emergency appeal of the IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) with CHF 0.5 million, which has been allocated to the Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI).

Further Information

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