Indonesia earthquake: May 2006
Information Note
29 May 2006

Latest Facts
Saturday 27 May, at 5:54 local time (2354 GMT) an earthquake of magnitude 6.2 struck the island of Java, 25 kms southwest of Yogyakarta. The current figures indicate about 4,500 dead and several thousand injured. Reportedly at least 1,500 very seriously injured patients need medical evacuation and ambulances are needed. The figures may increase as the area becomes more accessible to further assessment. The Bantul District, south of Yogyakarta, with a population of about 790,000, is reported to be the worst hit with the majority of houses destroyed. At least one of the six hospitals in the District is destroyed and other hospitals in the surroundings are overcrowded. Prior to the earthquake, in the province there were 29,000 IDPs which were evacuated as precautionary measure against the possible eruption of Mt. Merapi. Estimates now suggest that over 200,000 people are currently displaced.

National response
The Indonesian Government has declared a state of national emergency. As a matter of Government policy: Indonesia does not need human resources from other countries. Medicines, supplies and international partners are welcome.

The National health Authorities have started mobilizing medical and health teams and plans to deploy more than 200 doctors and nurses to the affected areas. Food, water, tents, tarpaulins and baby kits are being distributed to the affected communities with support from the Red Cross/Red Crescent. Mass measles immunizations will start in two days.

A Ministry of Health coordination hub has been established in Sardjito regional hospital in Yogyakarta with a team consisting of senior staff from each Health Directorate and focal points/coordinators from each affected district. WHO will support operational costs. Line ministries have started an inter-sectoral, cross-level (local, district, province and central) needs assessment. The MoH will replicate, with WHO assistance, the disease surveillance system that proved very effective last year in Aceh.

International response
International humanitarian partners are present in Indonesia and coordinating around the government. Some of them were already in a state of readiness because of the threat of the nearby volcano Mt. Merapi and others were involved in recovery work in Aceh. Preparations are being made for the possible activation of common services. The IASC Country Team began conducting a joint inter-agency field assessment Sunday morning, 28 May. Local authorities, line ministries, the military and the national Red Cross/Red Crescent society are mobilizing and deploying personnel and equipment in the affected area.

WHO Actions
WHO-Indonesia has several staff working with the Ministry of Health in the affected area and others, national and international are on stand-by in Jakarta. Supplies, including new emergency health kits (containing drugs and medical supplies for 50 000 people for three months) and surgical kits (to support 600 operations) are being moved into the affected area. WHO 4x4 vehicles have been moved to Yogyakarta, loaded with medicines and communication equipment.
The three levels of the Organization the WHO Indonesia Country Office, WHO Regional Office in Delhi and WHO-Geneva, are monitoring the situation together and producing situation reports. Emergency funds have immediately been made available to help the WHO Country Representative face immediate local expenditures.

Priority needs
The priority needs include urgent medical care, disease control and water quality control. MoH is already taking action and WHO is providing support. Needs identified include:

- There is a need to organize medical mobile clinics that will each include one doctor, two nurses and one driver.
- Two additional field hospitals are needed. It needs to be trauma-oriented and to be stationed in the field for at least two months with full medical equipment and staff.
- Operational cars, ambulances and radio equipment are needed.
- Environmental health needs attention, including water and sanitation especially for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- Some hospitals are currently having a shortage of blankets and Intravenous drips (IVs).
- Equipped emergency trolleys for resuscitation and treatment are needed.
- Tents, 500 velbeds, public kitchens, hygiene kits, trash bags, and medical kits (stethoscope, tensimeter, etc) are also needed.
- Doctors and nurses are overwhelmed and need substitutes. There is a request from the field to deploy 200 nurses.

While the relief operation is ongoing, it is important to remember that the threat of eruption of the nearby Mt. Merapi volcano continues. Emergency stocks and other resources which have been mobilized for the earthquake response must be immediately replenished and possibly boosted.