



Relief Activity Report No. 2 Indonesia: Seaquake Java

Cologne, 20 July 2006

Overall situation

An aftershock on Wednesday morning (local time) sent more than 20,000 inhabitants of Java's southern coast on high ground in fear of more giant waves, as rescuers pulled bodies from the debris and aid trickled into the hardly hit town of Pangandaran two days after the tsunami. In the afternoon, the people returned to their villages.



Another even stronger aftershock measuring 6.2 on Wednesday evening (local time) also did not cause a tsunami. Volker Stapke, program coordinator of Malteser International in Indonesia, reported that one could not feel the aftershock on the beach in Pangandaran. The Indonesian authorities had announced that another flood wave was possible.

While the death toll jumped to 525, a search continued for 273 people still missing after the tsunami smashed into a 300-km stretch of coast along southern Java on Monday. Among the dead are five foreigners from the Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden and Saudi-Arabia. Vice President Jusuf Kalla said the death toll was expected to climb. Indonesian media questioned why there was no warning ahead of the tsunami despite regional efforts to set up early alert systems after the massive Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004.

Along the coastline, heavy equipment was deployed to help in the search for bodies left under the rubble when the waves rolled in. Search and rescue official Hadi Tugiman said he expected the search effort to continue at least another three to four days.

Government officials said as many as 54,000 people were displaced from wrecked fishing villages, farms and beach resorts. Thousands of people are staying in six refugee camps in the hills above Pangandaran. Others found refuge under homemade shelters or stay inside mosques at Pangandaran and nearby Cilacap port. At one site eight large military tents are crowded with displaced people who are being given two meals a day. Food and water appear to be in ample supply.



Children in Pangandaran collecting utensils in the ruins (REUTERS)

Malteser International Activity



Dr. Gudrun Müller

The medical team of Malteser International arrived in a camp of homeless tsunami victims near Pangandaran on Tuesday in the afternoon (local time). Team leader Dr. Gudrun Müller treated injured tsunami victims, who have found provisional shelters there. “The situation is worse than expected: Many of the 5,000 people here are injured and in urgent need of first aid. Furthermore, most of them have lost relatives and are traumatized”, Gudrun Müller reported. “We are in close contact with the Indonesian authorities and examine what kind of help is needed.”

The Malteser International team consisted of three people: Dr. Gudrun Müller, doctor from Germany, Mr. Bayer and Mr. Pujo, both Indonesian translators and logisticians. All of them have been working in the Malteser International field hospital south of Yogyakarta, which Malteser International had opened after the earthquake on 27 May. The program coordinator for Indonesia, Volker Stapke, joined the team in Pangandaran later on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the critical situation in the camp has eased. 200 heavily injured people were brought to the hospitals in the region for operations and special treatment. Medics cared for hundreds of people with minor injuries. The most frequent injuries are fractures and abrasions, but also respiratory problems. The authorities started to rehabilitate streets and the power supply.

Dr. Gudrun Müller and her team - except Volker Stapke - returned to their project in Yogyakarta on Wednesday afternoon.

On Tuesday Malteser International has sent another team with a mobile clinic to the disaster area around Pangandaran. The four members of the team are: a doctor, two nurses and a logistician. They support the local authorities and other relief organizations in ensuring basic health care in six camps for people left homeless by the tsunami on Monday.



The Tsunami on Monday left thousands homeless and traumatized. (REUTERS)