

WEST SUMATRA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

BACKGROUND

Within two days of the 30 September and 1 October 2009 earthquakes hitting West Sumatra, IOM established an office in the provincial capital Padang to coordinate emergency relief operations across the devastated region. The quakes left over 1,100 people dead and damaged some 200,000 houses in the remote regions of Padang and surrounds. Hospitals, schools, and livelihoods were all affected by the disaster.

Supported by a EUR 924,000 from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) and with additional funding from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Brazil, IOM moved quickly to deliver and coordinate a range of emergency services in the affected communities, including transport and logistical support, assisted medical returns, shelter assistance, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

IOM's emergency response capacity in Sumatra dates back to the 2004 tsunami and the 2005 Nias earthquake. In March 2007, it established an office in Padang following the Solok earthquake. Today, as the emergency response moves to the reconstruction phase, IOM is continuing to provide on-going support to the government, national and international partner agencies.

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

IOM's logistics hub in Padang moved over 14,330 metric tons of relief items throughout West Sumatra between October 2009 and January 2010, in partnership with 168 government institutions and local and international aid organizations.

The hub provides free trucking services for government and agencies



IOM's medical team provide much-needed safe transport for patients and their family members upon discharge from the hospital, and assistance with their subsequent follow-ups.



donating aid and coordinates the complex logistical operations required to manage incoming aid, warehouse it, and ensure its efficient distribution to those most in need.

As of January 2010, a total of 4,032 IOM trucks had been deployed to transport food and non-food items to survivors throughout West Sumatra on 5,338 trips. In mid-October, food and nutrition assessments in the region reported that some 38,000 households were experiencing temporary food shortages of staples such as rice.

Responding to these shortages and to the lack of shelter in the weeks following the quakes, 80 percent of the transported goods consisted of food and shelter materials.

HEALTH CAMPAIGN

The IOM Medical Team also ran a successful health promotion campaign throughout the affected region, distributing 10,000 hygiene packs to earthquake victims in Kota Padang and Pariaman.

In collaboration with local puskesmas (health clinic) staff, IOM ran activities promoting dental hygiene and hand-washing, educating communities on the connections between proper hygiene and the spread of disease. In schools across the affected region, songs, dances, and games were used to convey serious messages and to engage children in health issues.



West Sumatra Earthquake Response

IOM's medical programs in West Sumatra were closed with a sector-wide review in late December 2009. Focusing on lessons learned during the medical response to the earthquakes, with particular attention to victims disabled by the quakes, the review aimed to connect victims with the government and other agencies able to assist them in their recovery.

ASSISTED MEDICAL RETURNS

Only 50 per cent of the West Sumatra's health facilities were operational three weeks after the earthquakes, with more than half of the roughly 3,900 injured people in the area requiring specialized care and follow-up.

With support from ECHO, IOM ran a medical returns program which reached 2,829 beneficiaries in the months following the earthquake, in coordination with hospitals in Padang, Pariaman, and Agam districts, and an Indonesian military floating hospital.

The program provided transport for patients and their families wanting to leave hospital and return home after treatment. This freed up scarce hospital beds for other patients. IOM also provided transport for follow-up medical visits needed by many patients.

"The program helped patients to recover faster: they didn't need to be concerned about getting home or receiving follow-up treatment, as IOM was there to help as needed," said Colonel Dr. Arie Zakaria of the Dr Soeharso Hospital Ship.

IOM arranged for the return of 204 patients and 371 accompanying family members. Some 853 patients and 1,401 accompanying family members also had follow-up visits facilitated through IOM.



With support from ECHO, IOM's medical returns program reached 2,829 beneficiaries in the months following the earthquake.

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IOM medical staff give advice on the proper care of wounds, braces, and metal appliances, and guide patients in the use of crutches and wheelchairs.

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In two weeks, IOM's health promotion campaign successfully distributed 10,000 hygiene packs to earthquake victims in Kota Padang and Pariaman.

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More than half of the roughly 3,900 injured people in the area required specialized care and follow-up.

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WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

In October 2009, IOM set up a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene pilot project in West Sumatra from which valuable lessons were learnt about community processes, engineering challenges and costing.

Building on these lessons, IOM rolled out a program that is constructing 181 public hygiene facilities, each consisting of five toilets and showers, a laundry area and water storage. One of the toilets in each facility is designed for disabled access.

The project also includes hygiene awareness outreach activities.

As each facility can serve around 100 people, a total of approximately 18,100 beneficiaries throughout the Pariaman and Agam districts will get improved access to the public hygiene, which can reduce the risk of outbreaks of water-borne and sanitation-related diseases.

SHELTER ASSISTANCE

Over 200,000 houses were damaged by the West Sumatran quakes, leaving thousands of families vulnerable and homeless ahead of the monsoon rains. Padang Pariaman district was the worst hit area, with 96 percent of houses across the district reported to have sustained damage.

Past experiences in the region have shown that it can take six months to two years for families to rebuild safe homes. Bridging the gap between emergency shelter and reconstruction allows people the time to plan for safer construction and maintain their livelihoods, as communities rebuild.

IOM led a project funded by ECHO and UN CERF in West Sumatra to provide up to 3,500 shelter kits. The kits comprised corrugated iron (CGI) roof sheets and toolkits that, in combination with salvageable material, helped people to build temporary housing.

The use of durable CGI sheets – rather than plastic sheets – was requested by the government as the sheets can be reused in post-emergency reconstruction.



Over 200,000 houses were damaged by the West Sumatran quakes, leaving thousands of families vulnerable and homeless ahead of the monsoon rains.

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Photo courtesy George Young

IOM also put together individual and community toolkits that were used to demolish unsafe structures and build new homes in their place. Each individual kit included a shovel, saw, hammer, chisel, machete, bucket, wire, nails and work gloves in a kitbag.

Some 5,200 beneficiaries received individual toolkits. The 1,040 community kits, which were shared between five families, contained a wheelbarrow, sledgehammer, pickaxe, crowbar, hacksaw, tin cutter and rope.

In cooperation with the IASC Shelter Cluster and UN Habitat, IOM was also involved in the effort to ensure that post-disaster reconstruction was safe and sustainable. Some 100,000 Safe Construction posters were produced in Bahasa Indonesia and the local Minang language, and were distributed throughout the affected region.



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Post Treatment Support Brings Peace of Mind



IOM's medical team assists patients with all their follow-up appointments, from their homes to the polyclinics and back.

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Ibu Rosniar's days used to be much the same as those of other housewives in Indonesia. They included household tasks, cleaning, washing, preparing meals and looking after her three children and two grandchildren.

An active fifty-nine year old, Ibu Rosniar was rearranging the furniture in her living room while her husband, a retired soldier, was fixing their roof when the 7.9 magnitude earthquake hit Padang on 30 September 2009.

It was as Ibu Rosniar was running through the front yard, calling for her husband to get down on the roof, that a wall collapsed on her leg.

She visited a local paramedic to fix what she thought was a sprained ankle. But in the week following the quake there was no improvement in her condition, and the pain in her leg became excruciating.

Her husband heard about the Indonesian navy's floating Dr. Soeharso Hospital operating in Teluk Bayur harbor which provided free medical service to earthquake victims. He took his wife to the ship, where doctors found that her 'sprain' was in fact a bad break. They operated and inserted eight surgical pins to reconnect the bones.

To recover fully, Rosniar needed rest, but the floating hospital was due to leave, having already stayed in the port for ten days. The hospital staff referred her to IOM, which organized her return home and subsequently helped her to get follow up treatment at a referral hospital free of charge.

Rosniar was just one of over 2,829 beneficiaries of IOM's medical returns program in West Sumatra following the 2009 earthquakes, which was provided with the support of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO).

Dr. Arie Zakaria of the Dr. Soeharso hospital says that this type of assisted medical return program helps victims of natural disasters to move forward with their lives. "Services like this are really needed during emergencies. They not only support physical healing, but also the recovery of the victim's state of mind."

WEST SUMATRA RESPONSE BY THE NUMBERS JANUARY 2010

14,310	Metric tons of food and non-foods items transported through IOM trucking services throughout West Sumatra
4,011	Trucks and heavy vehicles deployed to assist the distribution of relief goods
5,329	Individual trips conducted
168	Organizations and governmental institutions assisted in transporting various aid and relief items throughout affected regions
2,829	Beneficiaries assisted through IOM Assisted Medical Returns project
181	Sites verified and activities started for construction of public hygiene facilities serving up to 25,000 people from affected areas
5,200	Beneficiaries receive individual toolkits to aid reconstruction and clearing efforts
993	Communal toolkits distributed to compliment the distribution of individual toolkits in the area
100,000	DRR and safe construction posters distributed throughout the affected region co-developed and printed by IOM and distributed by various members of Shelter Cluster and government offices
9,940	Individual hygiene kits distributed to students in elementary schools in geographic area of Padang and Padang Pariaman District

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