This bulletin is issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Indonesian Red Cross – Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), are continuing to monitor and respond to the situation with local and national resources. If required, additional financial resources will be sought via the relevant IFRC international disaster response mechanism.

The situation

Due to heavy rains since 16 March 2018 at 17:00hrs on the mountain, landslides hit the riverbed around Sentani causing flash floods with logs and sedimentary rocks that were channeled to the downstream. Nine villages in Sentani sub-district, Jayapura regency were affected. According to Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the spoke person from the National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure or Badan Nasional Penganggulangan Bencana (BNPB), during eight hours of rains, the rainfall reached its extreme condition up to 235.1 mm/hour. There is an indication that landslide occurred in Cyclop Mountain which is the upstream area. Cyclop mountain is one of the conservation mountains in Papua.

According to the information provided by BNPB and Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency that was compiled and circulated via e-mail by UNOCHA; as well as information from PMI, on Sunday, 17 March 2019, the flash flood affected nine sub districts in Jayapura regency, and four sub-districts in Jayapura city. Furthermore, according to the report:

- Around 11,725 households are affected where among those 77 people died, 43 people missing, 74 people injured, and 4,226 people displaced, who are scattered around various sites and evacuated to 6 different evacuation points.
- Approximately 350 houses were damaged; while the water also inundated six areas, including 1,450 houses in Gajah Mada, 1,000 in Jayapura, Kemiri dan Sentani, 200 district offices, and 200 in Doyo.
- Water resource at Cyclop Mountain contaminated by mud and logs from the landslide.

The number of casualties is estimated to increase as the evacuation process is still continuing and not all the affected areas have been reached by the joint Search and Rescue (SAR) team, as they are covered by trees, rocks, muds and other flash floods materials.

A joint emergency response team from District Disaster Management Authority or Badan Penganggulangan Bencana Daerah (BPBD) BPBD together with the military, police, the National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas), local government office, Ministry of Social Welfare Volunteers (Tagana), Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), volunteers and the community are providing emergency response support such as evacuation, field kitchen, and emergency posts to the affected people. Local government has mobilized heavy equipment such as four excavators, four wheel-loaders, 10 dump trucks to clean up debris along Jayapura-Sentani-Kemiri main road.
Immediate needs
Based on initial information from secondary sources as well as from PMI teams on the ground, immediate needs include evacuation and management of clean water, blanket, mattresses, medicines, food items, and hygiene kits.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action
PMI has been on the ground from the onset of this event, with a total of 23 volunteers from provincial chapter and branches on the ground to support search and rescue efforts, delivery of immediate assistance and undertake rapid assessment and coordination with BNPB and other stakeholders. As of today, PMI Papua provincial office has mobilised food items (300 food packages, and 100 boxes of mineral waters) to assist the survivors; as well as personnel to do assessment, evacuation, health services, and field kitchen.

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Jakarta is providing technical support and working in coordination with PMI on needs assessment and to support communications and media relations needs. While evacuation, monitoring and needs assessment activities are carried out, PMI and the CCST are calculating funds requirement to support the emergency operation for longer term if needed.

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC’s vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC’s work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

- Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
- Enable healthy and safe living.
- Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.