



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

INDONESIA/IRIAN JAYA - Earthquake

Date: June 26, 1976 (Transitional Quarter)

Location: The eastern highlands in the remote province of Irian Jaya, located in the center of Indonesian New Guinea

No. Dead: 420; a reported 5,000 people missing

No. Affected: 15,000

Damage: Homes as well as small villages destroyed; no official total of the number of structures affected

The Disaster

An earthquake registering 7.2 on the Richter scale struck the eastern highlands of Irian Jaya Province in Indonesia on June 26, 1976. After-shocks over the next three days caused massive landslides; damage assessment was difficult because of the remote and rugged nature of the disaster area which covered approximately 1,000 sq. mi. The hardest hit areas were Nalca and Eipomekian in Kurima sub-district, and Bime and Okbab in Okbibab sub-district. The most seriously affected villages were: Amisibil, Okdat, Miwi, Jaril, Demen, Aibomeh, Balda, and Randa. The landslides resulted in heavy losses of topsoil and the destruction of most crop gardens.

Action Taken by the Government of Indonesia (GOI)

The GOI established a provincial Disaster Relief Committee in Irian Jaya and provided the services of two Puma helicopters for 10 flying days to shuttle food and medicine to the stricken area. Emergency food requirements, established at 28 tons per week, were also provided by the GOI; an estimated 8,000 people needed to be fed for a period of four to six months.

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Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

On June 29, 1976, the U.S. Ambassador determined that an emergency existed in Irian Jaya and provided \$10,000 to the Indonesian Red Cross. In addition, the USG provided 2,000 blankets, 600 cots, and 30 tents flown in from the Guam stockpile at a total cost of \$115,000.....\$125,000

In order to deliver relief supplies to such a remote areas, AID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) provided \$150,000 to the Mission to contract with a local airline for the use of two helicopters to shuttle food to disaster victims. No. P.L. 480 Title II foods were used in Irian Jaya.....\$150,000

After a second earthquake hit the area in 1977, OFDA funded a contract with the Mission Aviation Fellowship to continued the airlift.....\$200,000

TOTAL \$475,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

The Mission Aviation Fellowship was instrumental in providing relief to disaster victims in Irian Jaya. They used their helicopters to shuttle food and medical supplies into the remotest areas of the disaster site and, along with the Unevangelized Field Mission, provided logistics and rehabilitation support for several months following the earthquake. (See USG assistance)

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

International Organizations

UNICEF - donated supplies worth \$150,000 from stocks in Bangkok, and approved an additional \$150,000 allocation

Governments

Australia - \$50,000 in cash

Canada - \$10,000 in cash

Japan - \$10,000 in cash

Switzerland - \$8,200 in cash

United Kingdom - \$17,700 in cash

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Voluntary Agencies

See the Indonesia/Bali - Earthquake Case Report, FY 1976 for contributions. Red Cross societies and other agency donations for both Bali and Irian Jaya earthquakes have been lumped together for the purposes of reporting and are not included in the total below.

TOTAL \$395,900

* Please note: the figure for total international assistance is an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.