AMURT & AMURTEL

(ANANDA MARGA UNIVERSAL RELIEF TEAM/LADIES)

WEST SUMATRA EARTHQUAKE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

UPDATE : 16 NOVEMBER 2009





AMURT & AMURTEL's emergency response program to the West Sumatra earthquake includes three components:

- Distribution of food and non-food items
- Children's Program
- Women's Program

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2. DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS PROGRAM

On 30 September, 2009, an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale hit West Sumatera near the town of Padang. Official figures for the dead and missing stand at 1,117 persons are dead or missing (presumed dead). Nearly 200,000 households (about 1 million people) were left in need of emergency shelter. About 38,000 households (190,000 people) experienced a temporary shortage of staple foods such as rice.

By end October, AMURT had distributed food and/or non-food items to more than 2,600 families from 21 villages in the 3 districts of Pariaman, Padang Pariaman and Pesisir Selatan. Attention was paid to reach those who had received little aid. The food items distributed included rice, cooking oil, sugar, canned sardines, biscuits, noodles and water. Non-food items included tarpaulin sheets, hygiene kits, bedsheets, men's undergarments and sarongs, toys and sports equipment.

Below are photographs of some of the beneficiaries of AMURT's distribution program:

Below: This severely damaged house propped up with wooden poles and covered with tarpaulin to hide a gaping hole in the wall is home to newborn twins (right) whose mothers stares silently with worry.









Left: In some homes, the damage is obvious, but in others (above) the front of the house looks alright even though the back portion has completely crumbled.

Right: This settlement of 66 houses which was almost completely destroyed, had received very little aid because it can only be accessed by a small suspension bridge (below).







2. THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

AMURTEL's Children's Program aims to provide a safe environment for the children recovering from the traumatic experience of the recent earthquake in order to help them return to a life of normalcy and security.

Our primary focus is on children of preschool/kindergarten age. In the three villages which we have identified to conduct our children's program, the existing pre-school/kindergarten building have all been destroyed by the earthquake. Classes are now being held in uncomfortable makeshift tents or spaces (right)



To help the children return to normalcy, AMURTEL is building attractive structures specially designed to function as child-friendly spaces for the little ones (top).

Construction will take three weeks, weather-permitting. In the meantime, our Children Program Coordinator is working with the village teachers to bring them some of the latest techniques in Early Childhood Care and Development. We are also serving a healthy, cooked meal daily and putting the children on a supplementry milk program.

At a later date, the children will be introduced to a Disaster Risk Reduction program specifically designed for the preschool and kindergarten age group. We also plan to add afternoon sessions for primary school children who will also be given psychosocial support and Disaster Risk Reduction training.





3. THE WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Currently, quite a few mothers turn up regularly at class to accompany their young children (right). In part this is due to the trauma experienced during the recent earthquake, with many mothers and children anxious about being separated from each other. This will gel very nicely with AMURTEL's Women's Program which will begin as an outreach to the mothers of the children attending our children program.



Through talks and other activities, the women will be introduced to topics such as nutrition, hygiene, good parenting, family health, home-based disaster risk reduction, basic business skills, etc