

# APBAid updates on Sumatra Earthquake

(Oct 13, 2009)

## The Incident and the crisis

On September 30th earthquake of 7.6 magnitude struck off the coast of Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia and it left more than 603 deaths (according to Indonesian Disaster Management officials). Homes and buildings belonging to schools, hotels and offices were damaged or destroyed. It was estimated that many persons were trapped and dead under the collapsing buildings. Pariaman, a town adjacent to Padang area appeared to be devastated. The damages in this area were great, 75-95% of the homes and buildings being destroyed.

## Medical Relief/Teams

On 2nd October Eddy Ruble a representative of CBF led a team, which include a nurse, arrived in Padang. They immediately drove around in their 4WD vehicle and treat the patients with cuts and bruises in Pariaman and Agam areas which did not received much help. They sometimes ended up setting clinic that would run till midnight and many a times exhausting most of the medical supplies. The medical team has so far treated more than 500 patients in mobile makeshift clinics set up inside local mosques, under the shades of trees, temporary tarp tents, even on the boat averaging 90-100 patients a day.

Secondary complications such as coughs, shortness of breath and diarrhoea caused by sleeping outdoors, lack of clean drinking water or good sanitation, and emotional trauma. 'It was noticed that many people still in a state of hyper-arousal, jumping collectively at sudden sounds, and almost all with quicker than normal pulse rates'. The team examined a 2 year old girl child who had been unable to stop crying since the quake and a few parents informed the team that their children had quit eating.

## Food Relief

On 2nd October, Doni Wijaya and his REBANA team also reached Padang with supplies like tents, dry food, gensek and standard medicines. Working along with the volunteers of Padang's Kalvari Baptist Church they could distribute packed foods to the families that would last on an average of 5 days. It was a great effort to seek find shops having these supplies. The team also faced difficulty in transporting those food items due scarcity of gasoline and car to rent. Moreover, lot of time was consumed in assessment to identify the actual affected people as most of them stayed with their relatives instead of relief camps.

REBANA team was also working in close coordination with CBF team led by Edie Ruble.

## Search and Rescue (SAR) Teams

BWAid-HBAid Rescue24 team arrived early in the affected area and were working mainly with UN OCHA. Other international teams like the German SAR team, the Swiss had also moved in as quickly as possible and started search and rescue operations. It was officially reported that by 5th October 90% of Padang city had been searched with dogs and there was much left to be done. By then the Government had declared that it was no more of an emergency situation.

The CBF team also announced they would concentrate henceforth on recovery plans, crossing the emergency period.

## Resilience

As Eddy Ruble of CBF has put- 'this is definitely a major disaster but not a catastrophic disaster. This, he meant, should be manageable, the people are not in desperation. Rain and water are in abundance, and much of the village areas hit hardest are subsistence farming communities, so their livelihoods have not been severely affected'. The medical team received lot of attention wherever they went as the local people rarely (or never) see foreigners in their areas. The team expressed that the people were generally in good spirit, friendly and gracious for the help extended to them.

## Need assessment

According to the teams involved there it was assessed that the involvement should be more of rebuilding lives and livelihood. It would be long term assistance with food, tarps, and then rebuilding of homes. Rebuilding of schools, community halls and repairing water sources and income generating project would go a long to help the affected people.

## APBAid role

APBF/APBAid is constantly in touch with the member bodies in the affected areas for news and updates. We are asking Doni Wijaya, UIBC and Eddy Ruble, CBF to prepare plans for the next 2/3 months and circulate to all the Baptist bodies. Many member bodies of APBF came forward with prayer support and contributions in this crisis of great need. Japan Baptist Union, Malaysian Baptist Convention (US \$10,000), Chinese Baptist Convention (Taiwan – decided \$20,000) and Baptist Church of Mizoram is extending helps to the needy victims. Paul Montacute was kind enough to release an emergency relief of \$5,000 to UIBC from BWAid. ABWU has responded with \$ 1000.

## Abbreviation:

<b>BWAid</b>	Baptist World Aid
<b>ABWU</b>	Asia Baptist Women Union
<b>APBAid</b>	Asia Pacific Baptist Aid
<b>CBF</b>	Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; Eddy Ruble is the leader of CBF team at Padang
<b>HBAid</b>	Hungarian Baptist Aid; the team is working a SAR team
<b>Rebana</b>	Relief and Development wing of Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches (UIBC); Doni Wijaya is serving as the coordinator of Rebana
<b>UN OCHA</b>	United Nation Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs

## Sources:

Situation Report 1 by Eddy Rubble and Karen Alford, dated Oct 5, 2009  
Situation Report 2 by Eddy Rubble and Karen Alford, dated Oct 10, 2009  
Words from Padang by Doni Wijaya, dated Oct 12, 2009  
BBC online  
TV news and Newspapers.

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**USD Bank Account for Rebana**

Name of bank	Bank Mandiri
Branch	Jakarta Kreckot, Indonesia
Account type	Mandiri Giro US Dollar
Swift Code	BEIIDJA
Account No	119-00-0460919-2
Payee's Name	YAYASAN REBANA INDONESIA

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**Photographs** (All photographs from REBANA)



A Rebana staff surveying the debris and



Rebana volunteers/staffs with food supplies



Rebana SA

Rebana staff/volunteers looking for trapped people among the debris