

# West Sumatra Quake

Updates



CHURCH WORLD SERVI

Volume 8, 30 October 2009

## Addressing the Need of the Most Vulnerable

Paninjauan village in Sungai Limau sub-district is one of the most affected by the 7.9 R.S. earthquake. The population of over 2,400 inhabitants is suffering a great deal from the disaster. Most houses have collapsed, only one house remains in Kubu sub-village. Their income has been eliminated as the paddy fields were destroyed by landslides. For few days after the earthquake, there was no access to clean water because all wells were contaminated.

“Even before the earthquake, this village has had the highest number of poor families in Padang Pariaman district,” stated Trisuryadi, the *Wali Korong* or the head of the village who has served for more than four years. 85% of the villagers are farmers who rent land to grow paddies, coconut or chocolate, making US \$1 or \$2 a day to support the whole family.

Church World Service attempts to address the needs of the most vulnerable like the villagers of Paninjauan. CWS has distributed a total of 100 temporary shelters in this village. “Many more families do not have shelter yet,” said Trisuryadi, who makes sure that the assistance is delivered to the needy. Trisuryadi hopes that in the near future there will be organizations to help them to rebuild their homes.

To ensure people’s access to clean water, CWS assists the community to clean their contaminated wells. So far a total of 10 wells are cleaned. “Whenever we report there is a well to be cleaned, CWS is ready to help,” said an impressed Trisuryadi. 21,500 liters of clean water have been distributed in this village.

In addition to water and temporary shelters, CWS also distributed baby kits, kitchen utensils and mosquito nets. The *Wali Korong* hopes that CWS’ assistance will not stop after the emergency phase is terminated; it should continue to address the poverty issue in the area instead.

## FEAT to Relieve Children's Stress

Salmiati was holding Alif, her baby boy, in her arms, peering inside a tent full of children. “He is very curious about what is happening in the tent and he kept asking me to take him here,” said Salmiati.

The tent was big enough to hold 30 children and their mothers, who took part in fun and educational activities or FEAT, an activity that Church World

Service has set up to create children friendly space. FEAT aims at addressing the trauma that children experienced following the recent 7.9 R.S. earthquake in West Sumatra.

“Sari, my daughter, is more clingy and afraid of the dark after the earthquake,” Salmiati described her 10 year-old daughter.

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Dessy Susanti, the Psychosocial Specialist of CWS pointed out that each child reacts to

trauma differently. Some tend to cling more to their mother; some wet their bed, while some others lose appetite.

Through various activities such as drawing and playing in groups will help the earthquake-affected children to connect with their thoughts and feelings, as well as express themselves in order to relieve the stress.

"I can see how this kind of activity can help children forget about their worries. My daughter will definitely join the next session," explained the mother of two while watching over Alif, her 16 month-old baby boy, who was happily drawing using a bunch of colorful crayons on a piece of paper.

The CWS Psychological Support Program consists of 12 thematic FEAT sessions, each of which has a theme to help the earthquake-affected children cope with the traumatic experience. CWS is currently implementing FEAT in three villages in Sungai Limau sub-district.

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