

Student Activity Sheet - Getting relief supplies to earthquake victims in Sumatra, Indonesia

The huge earthquake toppled buildings and started many landslides, smashing homes and swallowing up entire villages. As rescue workers arrived and residents tried their best to dig out and help the survivors, another huge earthquake struck close by. Each of the two quakes had at least one large aftershock. Over 1,000 people are known to have died, an additional 3,000 still missing. Many of the survivors are without food, shelter, medical supplies and water. Speed is essential. But this isn't easy country.

A number of villages have been identified as having great need for food and medical relief.

Task 1 – Sorting out the logistics

The area of need you are targeting has been decided by another agency. It is here where you will drop helicopter supplies.

Your team's first job is to find this area of need from the coordinates given - This will test your skills at reading co-ordinates – get it wrong and your helicopter will crash!

- You must identify the area of need
- Decide which is the closest, most suitable area in which to land a fully laden helicopter
- Identify the nearest village to the above site
- Provide co-ordinates of that village

The pilots will select a suitable landing zone from the air.

Using the transparent overlays:

Identify the area of need from the locations of the landslide events below. (See approximate co-ordinates)

100° 09' 35" E, 0° 22' 55" S

100° 10' 32" E, 0° 24' 18" S

100° 12' 52" E, 0° 24' 23" S

100° 13' 27" E, 0° 23' 18" S

100° 14' 20" E, 0° 21' 52" S

It is the villages around these landslides which need urgent assistance.

For this exercise there are a number of restrictions of where the helicopters can land and take off fully laden.

- a) The average slope of the ground must be below 15 degrees, before an area can be considered
- b) The elevation must be below 2000m
- c) They cannot land in areas such as forest, plantation, rice, swamp etc. or built up areas. Open fields may be best

Use the slope, elevation, and landuse layers together to decide where landings are or are not suitable. Use other layers to identify village.

Task2: Identifying the area

After an aerial reconnaissance, photographs have been brought back from the affected area. Assess the photographs below. What is the name of the nearest village to these photographs?

Aerial Photography taken on assessment by IFRC

