WHO/EHA Indonesia,
Aceh Activity Report

Sitrep No. 10 Period of reporting 16-31 August 2003

A. General situation

- Security incidents

During the reporting period of two weeks, in different districts of Aceh province, there were a total of 96 persons shot to death of which, 1 was TNI, 1 Police, 73 GAM and 21 civilians. There were 27 injured cases reported of which 6 were TNI, 3 polices, 20 civilians, and 23 persons reported kidnapped. 41 alleged GAM members were arrested, 2 small minibuses were hijacked and two were burned by the alleged rebels.

- The Blue Book

It has now become more difficult to apply for the blue book several UN and INGOs have been informed that their application has been postponed. The follow-up process is also very complicated and comprehensive. The blue book for the WHO field medical coordinator is still valid up to 14 September but needs to be extended. Rumors have also indicated that martial law will be extended support from Jakarta will be needed to ensure continued access

- Movement of Population (IDPS)

369 people (88 families) of Baharu and Lamkuta villages, Balangpidie sub-districts (Southwest Aceh) have been taken refuge in nearby villages to avoid fighting between TNI and GAM, which took place on 16 August. It has been mentioned that threats from GAM also triggered displacement against local villagers, mostly working as civil servants. Serambi reported, some 1,086 people or 269 families have returned to Rantau Selamat sub-district (East Aceh) as security has improved in those areas.

B. WHO activities

- Emergency Health Information System Report

The Crisis Center in the Provincial Health Office (PHO) established an emergency Health Information and Management System assisted by the WHO. Information from districts are
compiled, analyzed and reported accordingly. Based on the situation and needs, proposals are prepared and emergency assistance provided based on available resources.

- **Mental Health**

WHO and UNICEF conducted a workshop on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support on 6 – 8 September in Sabang Island. The workshop was attended by participants from health, education, and social departments as NGOs. In addition there was a one-day children’s forum to explore children’s views, 18 children aged from 12 to 18 years from conflict areas participated.

- **Strengthening Health the System in Aceh Province**

WHO in close cooperation with the MOH and PHO has now developed a Health Strategy to strengthen the health system in Aceh province. The strategy is designed as a two-year approach for towards longer strengthening of the system as well being able to respond to humanitarian needs. As a first phase, a strategic planning workshop will be held in late September involving all districts. There will be three preparatory workshops in order to gather appropriate data and ensure all participants are aware of the strategy, which will be the basis for discussion and planning. The activity is being conducted by WHO and the Provincial Health Office with participation from the bureau of planning in the central ministry of health and other relevant technical units in Jakarta.

- **Management of Supply Systems**

A clear plan is needed to strengthen the supply system management and computer assisted supply monitoring. Recently Aceh received a substantial amount of supplies from the central government, including from UN agencies, WHO assisted in carrying out the monitoring and distribution of these essential supplies, realizing the existing system was inadequate. WHO will assist the PHO to conduct a review and planning workshop on supply system management that will be organized in September 2003 it is expected that clearer monitoring mechanisms for supplies and storage of medical and emergency supplies will be established and further technical training will result.

- **Strengthening Health Information, Disease Surveillance, Outbreak Response, Monitoring and Reporting system.**

At present much of the information systems have been disrupted, for any kind of planning and response to public health emergencies a minimum level of quality data is needed.

WHO in close cooperation with PHO will hold a workshop, the expected output is a plan to revitalize specific components of the health information and monitoring systems and to set up systems for most
reliable practical information. The workshop is planned to take place in Aceh in September/October 2003.

- **Review and Planning workshop for Immunization Program.**

  Low coverage, around 50% is reported at the provincial level, this is a strong indication a review and planning is needed to improve immunization program in Aceh. Routine immunization at present is being carried out mainly in the large towns and alternative crash programs and mopping up programs are not being implemented. IDP’s and affected communities, need urgent immunizations for both pregnant women and the under 5 population. There is also a need to improve much of the cold chain system

  The expected output of this program is the PHO will address the need in different geographic locations for vaccine and cold chain requirements and mapping of the work performance in order to scale up routine immunization services where possible.

- **Control of Scabies outbreak**

  Recent response to a large outbreak of scabies led to a controlled treatment of around 15,000 people. Evaluation of the campaign for mass scabies control showed 95% effectiveness. Before the military operation it was planned that WHO, ICRC, PHO and SC (UK) would extend the campaign to the other provinces which are most affected. However this has not happened due to the present situation. A review and planning exercise will be conducted to resume this activity given the new context.

- **Capacity Building of Health Staff**

  To refresh the skills of health workers, WHO, PHO will organize training courses, alongside this, essential medical supplies will be provided to the trained health staff, especially those who are working in the affected areas as a first priority. The training will be on management of common illnesses, providing safe delivery services and controlling disease outbreaks. The process will be initiated in October 2003.