



Ten Thousand Villages Artisans Respond to Earthquake in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

A devastating earthquake struck Yogyakarta, a province on the island of Java, Indonesia early in the morning on May 27th, killing thousands and leaving many people homeless and injured. The damage is most significant along a wide swathe south of Yogyakarta toward the Indian Ocean, where the epicentre was located. Early assessments have confirmed that there was extensive damage to buildings in the region. Many people are being treated along the road at temporary clinics and local hospitals have reported that they are treating people in the parking lots because of the sheer numbers of injured people.

Several of Ten Thousand Villages trading partners in the region have been directly affected by the earthquake and many are leading local disaster relief efforts. Novi, director of artisan group Java Ixora, reported that she was injured during the earthquake and has been evacuated from her home.

Woro Tyas, a staff member at artisan group CD Bethesda, wrote, "Today I visited our producers. Some of them have lost their homes or part of their homes. Now, they are living... as refugees." CD Bethesda, which is located at the Bethesda Hospital in Yogyakarta, is partnering with an emergency relief agency to coordinate logistics and the distribution of medicine to people in the affected areas.

Ten Thousand Villages trading partner, Pekerti, did not sustain damage to its main office, however several of Pekerti's producer groups living in Yogyakarta and Central Java have not yet been accounted for in the aftermath of the disaster. Ukumah, a staff member at Pekerti reported, "At this stage we do not know if there has been any direct loss of life to our producers and their families. We ask you to pray for the people of Central Java and Yogyakarta." Ukumah also reported that Pekerti has sent a team to assist in the disaster relief efforts.

While we have not yet been able to make direct contact with Apikri, another Ten Thousand Villages trading partner in the affected region, Ukumah from Pekerti wrote that he has been in contact with Apikri's director, Dewi. Ukumah reported that Dewi and her family are safe and have been evacuated from their home. We hope to hear more about the producers that work with Apikri soon.

Ten Thousand Villages will continue to communicate with our artisan partners in the affected regions of Indonesia and will keep them in our thoughts during this difficult time.