A 6.4 magnitude earthquake has struck off Lombok, province of West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, at 05:47h local time, on Sunday 29 July 2018, followed by 66 aftershocks with the highest magnitude of 5.7 (data released by BMKG at 10.20h local time). The earthquake affected the three districts of North Lombok, East Lombok and West Lombok, with ten casualties reported to date and dozens others injured, damaging many buildings and homes (assessment is underway and fixed figures to be shared soon). According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the quake was centred 50 kilometres northeast of the city Mataram on the northern part of Lombok island, with a depth of 10 km. Indonesia's agency for meteorology climatology and geophysics (BMKG) indicated that there was no risk of a tsunami. The quake also impacted Mount Rinjani national park, a popular trekking destination. Access to the climbing routes are temporarily closed due to reports of a landslide around the mountain.

The national disaster management agency's (BNPB) and the regional disaster management agency (BPBD) are coordinating the response and collating information on the earthquake’s impact. Initial reports indicate that dozens of buildings have collapsed, including houses and public facilities. There has also been damage to main roads, resulting in constraints to accessing some of the affected areas, as well as disruption on communication lines in some affected areas.

Search, rescue and retrieval efforts are underway, with hundreds of villagers and multi-agency teams, including personnel from Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS), BNPB, BPBD, Indonesian National Police (POLRI), Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and local government agencies involved. Assessments as well as delivery of immediate assistance which
includes first aid and basic medical services are also being undertaken alongside search, rescue and retrieval efforts.

In the meantime, PMI and the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Jakarta are coordinating with BNPB and the Ministry of Social Affair (MOSA) to obtain more information on the humanitarian impact caused by the earthquake. Based on initial information from secondary sources as well as from PMI teams on the ground, immediate needs include evacuation and management of injuries, medical and health services including referral services, food and non-food items and emergency shelter.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PMI has been on the ground from the onset, with its base units mobilizing 35 volunteers, including the members of community-based volunteers to support search, rescue and retrieval efforts, delivery of immediate assistance and undertake rapid assessments. To enable its base unit in Lombok to deliver immediate assistance to the affected people, PMI is preparing to dispatch relief supplies of 250 family kits, 250 hygiene kits, 500 tarpaulins, 100 body bags and 250 blankets for 250 families from its regional warehouses in Gresik and Serang. The National Society is also mobilizing three ambulances (with medical crew), as well as two operational vehicles (for evacuation) from its base units in Lombok.

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Jakarta is providing technical and coordination support to PMI with two personnel alongside the PMI headquarter team; one to work closely with PMI on needs assessment and the other to support communications and media relations needs. The CCST is also set to provide financial support to enable the mobilization of personnel and supplies by PMI. In this regard, initial discussions have been held with the Australian Embassy in Jakarta to access emergency response funds – from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) – based on an existing in-country agreement. If required, additional financial resources will be sought via the relevant IFRC international disaster response mechanism.

Furthermore, the CCST is sharing information on the PMI response with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The CCST is also engaging with MOSA, the national shelter cluster lead, to determine whether support is required for cluster coordination.

The situation is evolving as more information on the extent of damage and needs emerge. A detailed plan of action for the PMI response will be developed over the coming days based on rapid assessments and analysis of secondary data. The CCST in Jakarta, with back-up of the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO), will continue to provide technical and coordination support to PMI, with personnel placed on standby in Kuala Lumpur for immediate deployment should there be a need to augment in-country capacity. In addition, IFRC may mobilize regional surge tools upon request from the National Society.
Contact information

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC’s vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC’s work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

- Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
- Enable healthy and safe living.
- Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
Indonesia, Earthquake:

- EQ-2018-000122-IDN

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, WFP, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC.