The situation

A magnitude of 6.5 earthquake struck Maluku Island, Indonesia on Thursday, 26 September 2019, at 08:46 local time, but no tsunami warning was issued. The epicentre of the earthquake located about 40 km northeast of Ambon at a 10 km depth. The tremor was felt in neighbouring areas (MMI); V Ambon, V Kairatu, II-III Paso, II Banda. Since then until 13 October 2019, Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency (BMKG) recorded 1,468 aftershocks, 171 quakes were felt across Kairatu, Ambon V MMI, Masohi III MMI, dan Banda II MMI.

Local Disaster Management Agency of Maluku province (BPBD Maluku Province) noted as of 9 October 2019, the earthquake has displaced nearly 170,900 people. As much as 39 people have been killed and 1,578 injured. It caused an extensive damage to 512 public facilities such like health facilities, schools, bridges, local market and place of worship, with nearly 6,355 houses damaged (1,273 heavily damaged, 1,837 moderately damaged and 3,425 lightly damaged).

The provincial government declared a state of emergency from 26 September until 9 October 2019 followed by Ambon city government, Central Maluku district and West Seram District. Central Maluku and West Seram extended the state of emergency from 10 October to 16 October 2019.

There are three most affected areas in Maluku province: Ambon City, Central Maluku District, and West Seram District. Most affected sub-districts in Ambon City are Nusaniwe, Sirimau, Baguala, Teluk ambon and Leitimur.
Selatan. The most displaced people can be found in Baguala. Most affected sub-districts in Central Maluku are Salahutu, Haruku Island and Leihitu. Whereas in West Seram, most affected sub-districts are in Kairatu, Seram Barat, Inamosol, Amaratu and Kairatu Barat.

Though the situation is improving, people are still living in the shelters and reluctant to return to their houses, especially those who live in remote areas. This is due to fears of an incoming tsunami from fake news spread online. Government officials called on residents to remain calm as they asserted that the circulating information was fake news and could not be confirmed. This situation is still challenging to the responding agencies in collecting data and distributing aid.

Health condition of the displaced communities are stated declining because of the rainy season and practice of open defecation.

Based on initial information from BNPB and PMI Post-Commando, the immediate needs include tarpaulins, clean water, medical services, medicines, blankets, sleeping mats, baby and elderly kits, instant food and emergency latrines. Since then, BNPB has provided portable toilets, field kitchen, medical staffs, and psycho-social care into the lists.

BNPB has established a command post at Aula Korem and is continuously coordinating with the local disaster management agency and other agencies for response. BNPB has provided ready-to-use funds of approximately IDR one billion and 15 units of shelters, one unit of portable light tower, a field hospital, 419 matrasses, 200 sets of family kits, 500 sheets of blankets and clothing. BPBD has established shelter and tents around Haukussy Hospital and Tulehu Hospital.

In response to the damaged houses, the government is providing the affected population with financial stimulus depending on the level of damage. Heavily damaged houses population are allocated with IDR 50 mil IDR per HH, moderately damaged with IDR 25 mil per HH, and slightly damaged with IDR 10 mil per HH.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PMI has been on the ground of this event, mobilizing a total of 34 personnel for assessment, evacuation, psychosocial support, distribution of clean water, relief distribution and emergency latrines construction. PMI Maluku province planned an operation until 10 October 2019 targeting Waai and Liang villages in Salahutu sub-district, Central Maluku district, with one village being a primarily Muslim area, while the second village is primarily Christian. PMI is currently undertaking needs assessments in the outer islands, which are considered hard to reach. Stocks transferred to the PMI Maluku will be made available for reaching these islands. In addition, PMI HQ deployed two surge capacities, sent in and distributed 50 blankets, 50 hygiene kits, 50 tarpaulins, as well as transferred IDR 50 million to the branch. PMI with the support of IFRC CCST are accessing the disaster contingency fund from Australian’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for recovery program for a total of AUD 100,000.

In addition, the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Jakarta is providing technical support and working in coordination with PMI and supporting communications and media relations needs. An initial coordination between PMI NHQ and IFRC was held on 3 October 2019, after the initial assessments and the distribution of the first phase of stocks sent to PMI Maluku. IFRC CCST will directly support the procurement for replenishment of the household items.
Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia), Jakarta
- Dr. Ritola Tasmaya, MPH, secretary general; phone: +62 21 7992 325; email: pmi@pmi.or.id
- Arifin M. Hadi, head of disaster management; mobile: +62 812 9777 7755; fax: +62 217 995 188; email: arifinmuhammadhadi@gmail.com

In IFRC Country Cluster Support Team, Jakarta
- Jan Gelfand, head of CCST and representative to ASEAN; mobile: +62 811 9690 8324; email: jan.gelfand@ifrc.org
- Heather Fehr, DRM delegate; mobile: +62 811 9630 9322; email: heather.fehr@ifrc.org

In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur
- Necephor Mghendi, head of disaster and crisis unit (DCPRA); email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- David Fogden, operations coordinator; email: OpsCoord.SouthEastAsia@ifrc.org

For resource mobilization and pledges
- In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office: Alice Ho, partnership in emergencies coordinator; email: alice.ho@ifrc.org
- In IFRC Country Cluster Support Team, Jakarta: Julia Stefanie Bruckner, partnership delegate, email Julia.BRUCKNER@ifrc.org

For communications enquiries
- In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office: Rosemarie North, communications manager; mobile: +60 12 230 8451; email: rosemarie.north@ifrc.org
- In IFRC Country Cluster Support Team: Musfarayani, communications coordinator; mobile: +62 821 2217 3119; email Musfarayani.MUSFARAYANI@ifrc.org

For planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) enquiries
- In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office: Siew Hui Liew, PMER manager, email: siewhui.liew@ifrc.org

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, Maluku Earthquake: Information Bulletin
18 October 2019

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 territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributions, GEOMS, JRC, IFRC, USGS