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Information bulletin

Indonesia: Maluku Earthquake



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° EQ-2019-000119-IDN	Date of issue: 17 October 2019
Date of disaster: 26 September 2019	Point of contact: Arifin M. Hadi, PMI Head of Disaster Management
Operation start date: September 2019	
Host National Society: Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia)	
Number of people affected: 170,900 people	

This bulletin is issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Indonesian Red Cross – Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), are continuing to monitor and respond to the situation with local and national resources. If required, additional financial resources will be sought via the relevant IFRC international disaster response mechanism.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

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 worships, 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



PMI volunteers responding to the situation. (Source: Palang Merah Indonesia)

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.



PMI volunteers responding to the situation. (Source: Palang Merah Indonesia)

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 mattresses, 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.



[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) to see the map
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For resource mobilization and pledges

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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.



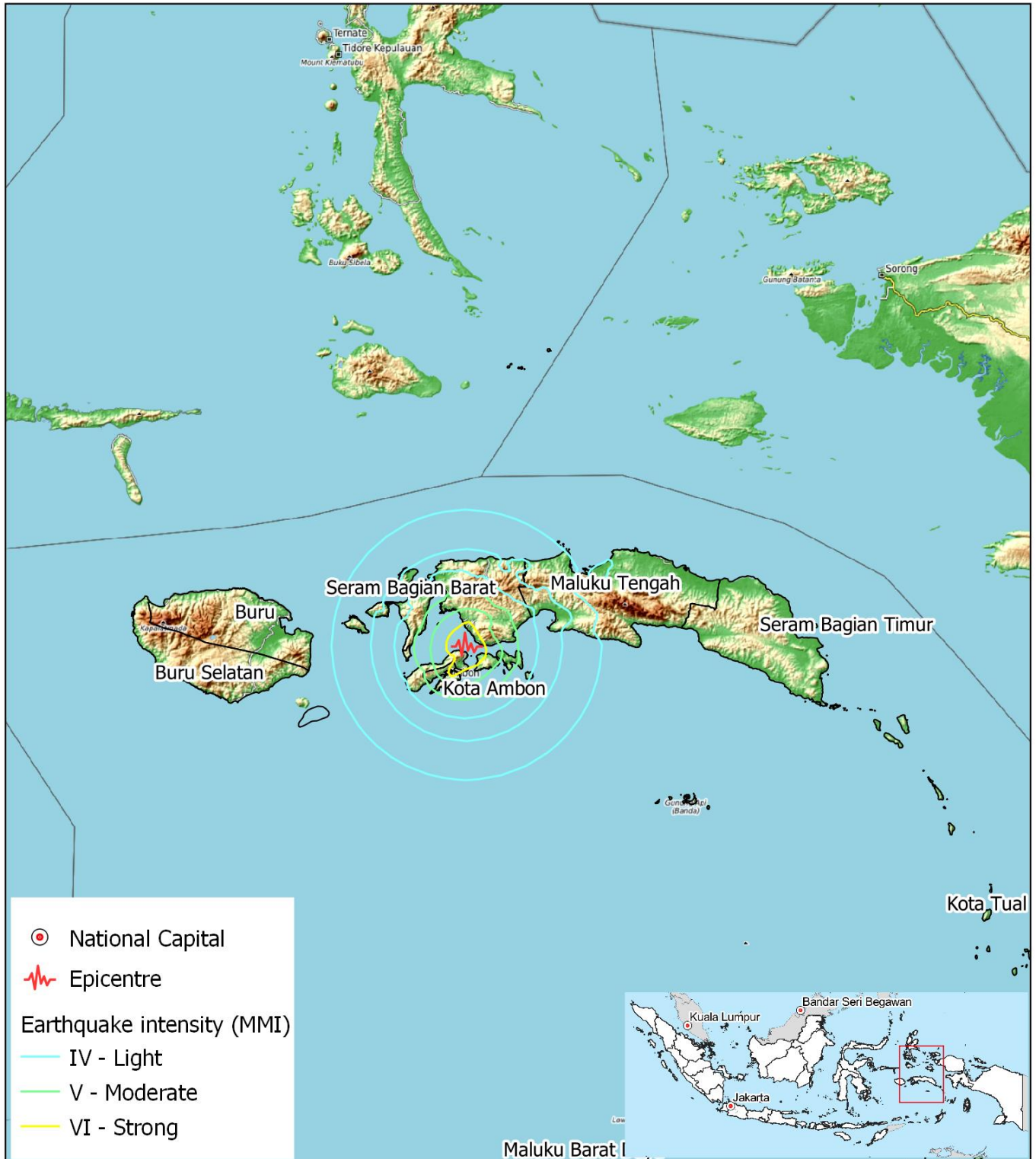
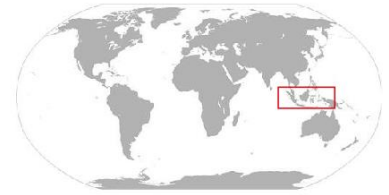
Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



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