

Alert

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Mentawai Islands Earthquake & Tsunami – West Sumatra

Geneva, 28 October 2010

1. Brief description of the emergency

A 7.7 Richter Scale earthquake hit the Mentawai Islands, West Sumatra, at 21h40 local time on 25 October. The epicentre was located 240km southwest of Pagai Selatan Island at a shallow depth of 14.2km. A total of 95 aftershocks have since been reported. The earthquake triggered a 3m-high tsunami with waves slamming inland about 600m and reaching the roofs of houses in the coastal villages on North Pagai and South Pagai Islands.

2. Impact

The worst hit areas are North and South Pagai and the Sikakap Islands. According to the Sikakap Sub-district Office, 344 people have lost their lives, 338 people are missing, 249 people are severely injured and 184 people slightly injured. A total of 640 households (245 in Sikakap Sub-district, 150 in North Pagai, 120 in South Pagai and 125 in South Sipora) have been evacuated to higher ground. A total of 492 houses were destroyed and 160 were slightly damaged. Moreover, four houses of worship, three school buildings, three office buildings and 10 bridges are damaged.

Food supplies, clean water, shelter, clothing, medicines, blankets and medical teams are badly needed. Response is slow since the areas are isolated and can only be accessed by boat or helicopter.

3. National Response

As of 27 October the National Disaster Task Force of Indonesia (BNPB) is sending seven tons of aid: 500 tents, 50 family tents, 500 mats, 80 blankets and 650 food packages. The government has declared a state of emergency in Mentawai Islands for 14 days following the earthquake. Search and rescue teams are still looking for missing people. The Ministry of Social Affairs has sent instant food, blankets, clothing, clean water, etc, while it is also making available an amount of 500 million Indonesian rupiah (around US\$ 56,000) in cash for the response. The Ministry of Health is sending four tons of medicines.

4. ACT Alliance Indonesia Forum Response

Staff of ACT Alliance Indonesia Forum members Church World Service (CWS), YAKKUM Emergency Unit (YEU) and Yayasan Tanggul Bencana di Indonesia (YTBI) arrived on Sikakap Island on Thursday, 28 October to conduct a joint assessment. YTBI carried food and non-food items, YEU sent a medical team and supplies, while CWS has provided 140 baby kits.

The forum members are monitoring the situation and coordinating for a possible ACT appeal.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jean-Daniel Birmele, ACT Chief Finance Officer (Jean_Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org).

Thank you for your attention.

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