



Responding to the Sulawesi Island Earthquake in Indonesia

External Situation Report #3
October 9, 2018

As Indonesian health care workers begin to return their roles in the Indonesian region of Central Sulawesi, the need for clean water and mental health services persists.

The Indonesian government is in the process of shifting focus from emergency response efforts to rebuilding and recovery. Over the weekend, Indonesia's government announced search and rescue operations will end on October 11. Power is slowly being restored in both the Palu and Sigi regions, fuel is becoming more widely available and stores and markets are beginning to reopen for business. All health posts in the Palu and Sigi regions are now active with a minimum of one medical team per post. Clean water supplies continue to be a primary concern as much of Palu lacks access to clean running water. The Indonesian government has requested water treatment equipment be a top priority for international aid.

Project HOPE's Response

Project HOPE's emergency response team (ERT) now consists of 6 local physicians and 9 local nurses, in addition to logistical and administrative staff, allowing the formation of 3 medical teams.

Situation Snapshot

- More than 2,010 dead¹
- More than 74,000 displaced²
- Electricity is slowly being restored and fuel is more accessible

HOPE Highlights

- 763 patients served at local health clinics and through door-to-door visits since October 4th
- HOPE ERT includes 6 local physicians and 9 local nurses
- HOPE operating out of 3 health posts in Palu and Sigi and conducting door-to-door visits in surrounding villages

The teams have rotated between posts in Dolo and Waturalele in the Sigi Region, Palupi in the Palu, and door-to-door visits in the villages nearby. All HOPE operations are undertaken in close coordination with the Health Coordination Cluster and local authorities. Since beginning health care operations on the ground 5 days ago, team members have served the needs of 763 patients. Medical staff report that upper respiratory tract infections, hypertension and skin diseases are the primary conditions they are treating. Some patients wounded on their limbs or head from the earthquake remained previously untreated as their injuries were seen as minor, but they are now at risk for infection. In Waturalele, our team noted a significant number of TB cases.

In addition to physical ailments, mental health continues to be a major concern. Many patients have continued to show signs of stress and anxiety when interacting with medical staff. As strong aftershocks continue to affect the region, patients and clinic staff have been afraid of returning to work or entering buildings.

As of the morning of October 9, more than 20 of the Dolo Clinic's 82 staff returned to work. The Director of the Dolo Clinic informed the ERT that all of the clinic's staff survived the earthquake and tsunami but that some have left the region for shelter elsewhere while others have focused on rebuilding their homes. Project HOPE committed to continuing to work with the clinic as it regains its staff.

Upcoming Priorities

As more health workers begin returning to work, Project HOPE anticipates the immediate need for volunteer medical teams in local communities to diminish in the coming weeks. To help facilitate the return of health workers, Project HOPE will transition activities to focus on mental health care for front line health workers. At the same time, to respond to the growing concerns related to water quality and sanitation, Project HOPE is coordinating with local and international partners for the receipt and distribution of WASH items, including water purification systems and individual hygiene kits, as well as the promotion of good hygiene practices through outreach and education.



Project HOPE has been operating out of the Dolo Community Health Clinic in the Sigi region and making house visits to people in nearby villages. Photos by Ronny Adolof Buol for Project HOPE.

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¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/10/indonesia-quake-tsunami-death-toll-rises-2000-181009112317744.html>

² <https://www.irinnews.org/news-feature/2018/10/09/Indonesia-tsunami-earthquake-health-Sulawesi-survivors-hospitals>

³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/10/palu-disaster-road-recovery-escaping-apocalypse-181008045011088.html>