

Earthquake in West Sulawesi, Indonesia

Situation Report #3

28 January 2021

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 22 health facilities in Mamuju and Majene Districts are damaged by the January 15th West Sulawesi earthquake.ⁱ
- Emergency medical teams supported by Project HOPE in West Tapalang have reached more than 500 people with medical consultations.
- Needs on the ground include medical support for non-communicable diseases, the common cold, and gastrointestinal illnesses; personal protective equipment to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and increased COVID-19 screening capacity.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The 6.2 magnitude earthquake that struck West Sulawesi continues to impact the delivery of healthcare services in the region. The BNPB reports that in addition to damage to more than 7,850 homes, 22 health centers were damaged by the earthquake. Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team (ERT) has reported that one of the region's hospitals collapsed due to the earthquake.

With concerns remaining about additional aftershocks or the potential for tsunamis along the coastline, locals are sheltering in evacuation sites. The largest of these sites, Mankarra Stadium in Mamuju, is sheltering approximately 10,000 displaced people without sufficient COVID-19 screening, social distancing measures, or personal protective equipment (PPE).

Prior to the earthquake, a COVID-19 outbreak was impacting the Mamuju and Majene Districts. With large numbers of displaced people now in congregate settings without sufficient access to PPE or testing capabilities there is concern over the spread of COVID-19 cases. Over the last seven days 84,350 new cases have been confirmed across Indonesia, close to the highest seven total reported to date.ⁱⁱ Due to a limited but growing testing capacity in the earthquake impacted region, the total number of new cases may be higher.

PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Yayasan Project HOPE, a local entity of Project HOPE, deployed an ERT to West Sulawesi to identify needs and coordinate response efforts with local and national responders. The ERT and partner organization, KUN Humanity System (KUN), have assembled emergency medical teams to deliver critical care to

Quick Facts

- A 6.2 magnitude earthquake struck West Sulawesi province on 15 January
- 25,000 people internally displaced
- 7,850 homes damaged
- 22 health facilities damaged in the impacted region
- High-risk for spread of COVID-19 in evacuation sites
- Yayasan Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is on the ground in West Sulawesi

populations impacted by the earthquake. The teams deployed by KUN and supported by Project HOPE are operating in West Tapalang to support the Dungkait Health Center, with one team providing health services and another operating as a mobile unit in the region. The teams have performed medical consultations with more than 500 people. Reflecting the lack of access to healthcare services, significant amounts of patients are presenting with non-communicable diseases like hypertension. The team also reports seeing patients with cold symptoms, and gastrointestinal illness. Yayasan Project HOPE and KUN are supporting local health authorities efforts to establish additional medical screening services in an attempt to reduce transmission of COVID-19 among displaced communities.

Project HOPE has mobilized local distribution of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies to support the operations of the regional general hospital which is seeing a sustained surge of patients. Donations include masks and gowns to help protect frontline healthcare workers, as well as medical testing equipment, such as infrared thermometers and pulse oximeters, and common over-the-counter medications, including antacids and cough syrups. Project HOPE continues to examine opportunities to provide and distribute hygiene kits and other non-medical supplies to impacted communities.

ⁱ <https://bnpb.go.id/berita/total-kerusakan-dan-kerugian-pascagempa-m6-2-sulbar-capai-rp829-1-miliar>

ⁱⁱ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/indonesia>

Contact Information

Chris Skopec
cskopec@projecthope.org
1 (202) 602-8393

Tom Cotter
tcotter@projecthope.org
1 (667) 303-8970

