

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

INDONESIA: BENGKULU EARTHQUAKE

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

Summary:

On 12 September 2007, several earthquakes reaching a magnitude of 8.2 on the Richter scale struck the west coast of Sumatera Island near Bengkulu province in Indonesia.

Three weeks since the earthquake, the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI) has completed their relief distribution, providing non-food items for over 5,000 households as well as medical services for more than 700 people. With the support of the German Red Cross, PMI is distributing toolkits for affected communities in Mentawai. A psychosocial support programme (PSP) is still ongoing, targeting children at 30 schools with the support of the Danish Red Cross.

The Situation

Aftershocks have reduced in the three weeks after several earthquakes struck the west coast of Indonesia's Sumatera Island near Bengkulu on 12 September 2007. According to the local office of the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency, the frequency and intensity of the earthquake aftershocks have decreased.



Electricity facilities are still under repair by local government

These aftershocks are expected to reduce even more significantly in coming days, and given this expectation, people may begin to rebuild their houses which were damaged by the quake.

Those who fled to higher ground have already returned home, with some carrying out minor repairs to rebuild their houses. However, despite the aftershocks decreasing, affected communities still prefer to stay outside their homes under tents made of tarpaulin and other materials. Apart from the fact that their homes are not yet completely repaired, they still fear the occurrence of another earthquake or aftershock.

The last data as released by national coordination board for the disaster management (Badan Koordinasi Nasional Penanganan Bencana/Bakornas PB) on 27 September 2007 stated that the number of houses destroyed or damaged total 52,613 units in Bengkulu Province and 35,812 units in West Sumatera Province. (These figures, however, are still subject to change.) Presently, the provincial coordination unit for the disaster management (Satkorlak PB) and the Indonesian army special forces unit (Komando Pasukan Khusus/Kopassus) have varying figures of damage analysis.

Electricity still remains a problem in some parts of Bengkulu, particularly in Bengkulu Utara and Muko-Muko. Some areas of the Pesisir Selatan district and Mentawai Island in West Sumatera are reported to be facing the same problem. Both provincial governments have been working to repair the power supply networks and other public facilities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Bengkulu chapter of PMI finalized the relief response in two weeks, covering 5,637 families in five districts: Bengkulu Utara, Muko-Muko, Bengkulu city, Kepahiang, and Seluma. The items distributed include 4,784 tarpaulins, 1,481 hygiene kits, 506 hurricane lanterns (mostly in Bengkulu Utara and Muko-Muko), 150 family kits (in Muko-Muko), 238 mosquito nets (mostly in Muko-Muko), 382 sleeping mats (in Bengkulu city), and some family tents on loan.

Relief was largely focused on the most affected areas of Bengkulu Utara and Muko-Muko. In Muko-Muko, the Medical Action Team served around 791 patients until they withdrew on 22 September. Neighbouring chapters also sent requests for support as PMI Bengkulu's doctors were mostly occupied at the provincial hospital.

The psychosocial support programme (PSP) team has been providing services in five schools in Lais and Arga Makmur, sub-districts of Bengkulu Utara and several temporary internally displaced people (IDP) camps. The programme aims at supporting 30 schools in the affected districts of Bengkulu with the support of the Danish Red Cross, and will continue for several months to come.

Based on a request from PMI, the German Red Cross will provide tool kits to 500 families to repair their houses on Mentawai Island. Additionally, the PMI Headquarters plans to distribute approximately 3,000 parcels for the Ramadhan and packages for Idul Fitri.



People in affected areas live under tarpaulins in front of their homes. PMI has distributed more than 4,000 tarpaulins to the affected community.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

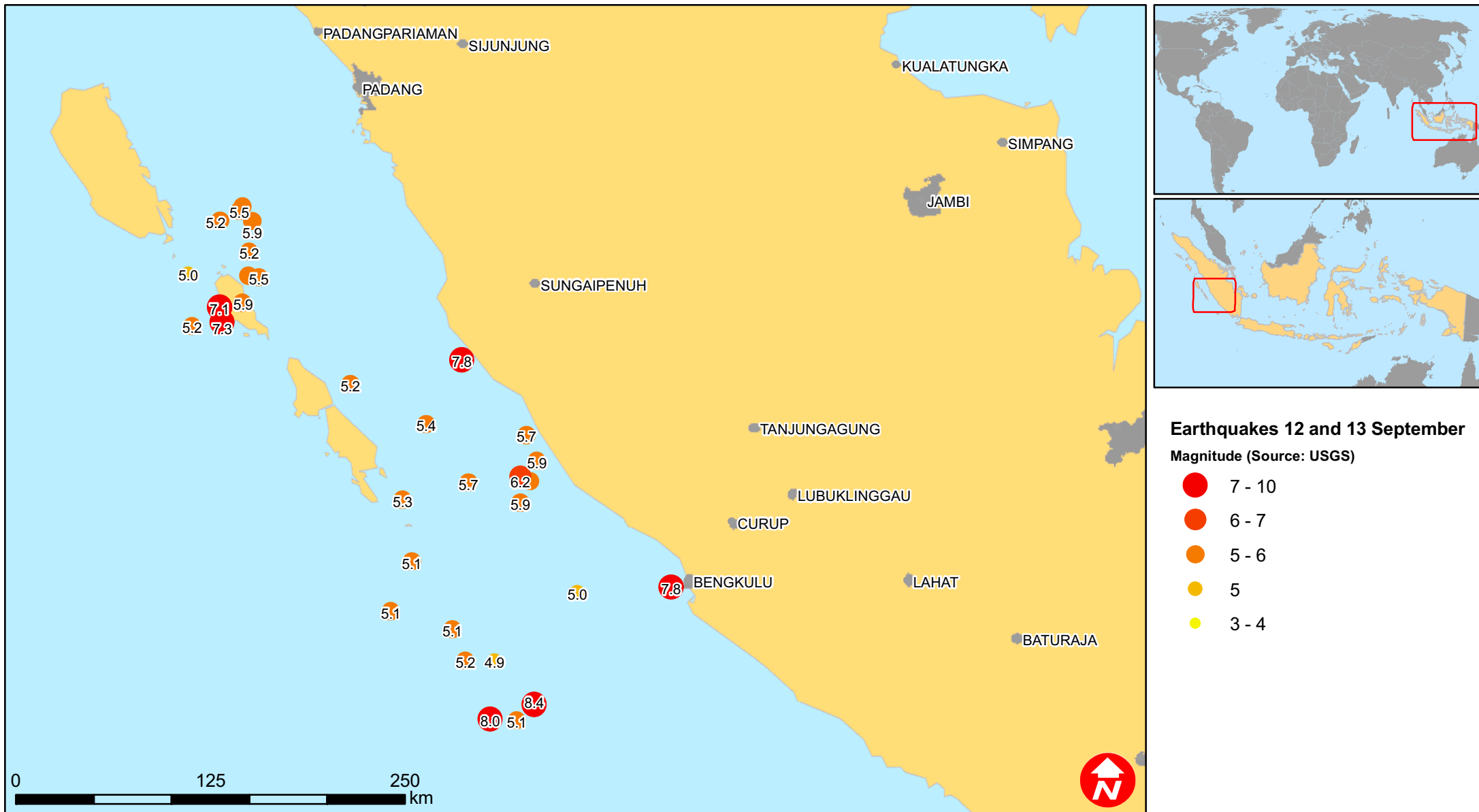
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[Map attached below; click here to return to main page](#)



Indonesia: Earthquakes



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 a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, USGS, Federation