KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit Donggala district and also affected Palu city and Parigi Mountong regency. A tsunami hit Palu City, Central Sulawesi followed by liquefaction in Palu, South Palu and Sigi district.
- An estimated 660,000 people have been affected after a 7.7 magnitude earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi (310,000 in Donggala regency, near the epicenter and 350,000 in Palu municipality). So far, 1,407 persons have died, 2,549 people were injured and 113 people are missing almost 70,821 displaced people in 141 sites.
- Twenty-one health facilities are known to be affected, and other health facilities are being assessed.
- The Government has welcomed selective international assistance, based on reviews to ensure the offers meet humanitarian needs, before granting access.
- According to BNPB (National Disaster Management Agency), key needs are: fuel, generators and lighting equipment; clean water and water tanks; medical personnel, medicines, body bags and field hospitals; tents, tarpaulin and blankets; and food and public kitchens.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- A 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit Donggala District Central Sulawesi, Indonesia on 28th September 2018, followed by aftershocks. The epicenter is at 8 km northwest Donggala with the depth of 10 Km. A tsunami hit Palu City, province capital of Central Sulawesi, around 15 minutes after the quake.
- Liquefaction has been reported in Petobo village in Palu, with black mud rising up to five meters and reportedly burying nearly one hundred people alive. Liquefaction has also been reported in south Palu, Biromaru (Sigi district) and Sidera village (Sigi district). Landslides from Toboli to Palu have been reported.
- Access to Palu is difficult. Road access to the affected area from North side (Manado and Gorontalo Province) is inaccessible due to the damage. Access road from the South (from Makassar-South Sulawesi and Poso-South East Sulawesi) has started to be cleared. Mutiara Sis al-Jufri Palu Airport has been opened on 3rd October as an alternative access for humanitarian operations.
- To date, a total of 1,407 persons have died, 7,113 people have been injured, 113 people are missing and dozens of houses have been damaged across 934 affected villages. The number is estimated to rise, as rescue operations are still being carried out. Estimated exposed population is more than 310,000 in Donggala regency, near the epicenter. The nearest major city, Palu, has the most number of exposed population of more than 350,000.
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- There are currently 70,821 displaced people in 141 sites. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is expected to continue to rise.
- As of 30 September, 122 foreign nationals are reported to have been affected by the earthquake; the majority are safe and well, although five individuals from four countries are still missing. Assistance for foreign nationals is being managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Twenty-one health facilities are affected, whereas damage to other health facilities is being assessed.
- Electricity and telecommunication network is temporarily cut off.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

- Injuries and their complications are expected as a major health problem.
- Lack of shelter and damaged water and sanitation facilities could lead to diarrhea outbreaks and other communicable diseases. Pre-disaster EWARS data from Donggala and Palu indicate ongoing activity of acute diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections.
- Interruption of general medical services, including child and maternal health, and non-communicable diseases, will need to be supported as the situation evolves.
- There is a need for mental health and psychosocial services support.

RESPONSE

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REVIEW

- Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB) has been coordinating with related ministries/agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders and conducting rapid impact assessment and quick emergency response. Provincial and District Health Officers are conducting Rapid Health Assessment. Reports are being awaited.
- ASEAN-ERAT is currently being mobilized to gather information on the impact of the earthquake and assess the needs, in support of BNPB and BPBD’s ground assessment efforts.
HEALTH OPERATIONS AND LOGISTICS

The emergency response is being led and managed by the Government of Indonesia using its disaster management mechanism and resources across sectors. The following measures have been put in place and/or are planned:

- The Government of Indonesia has welcomed offer of international assistance on 1 October 2018.
- Governor of Central Sulawesi announced an initial 14 days of emergency response period starting 28 September 2018.
- BNPB has set up National Assisting Post (Pospenas) in the vicinity of Central Sulawesi Governor Office.
- MOH has deployed two personnel to the affected areas, while PHO and DHO are continuing to conduct Rapid Health Assessment.
- DHO is coordinating with cross-sectors and primary healthcare centers within the affected areas.
- Three TNI (national army) EMTs and two ships (equals to type-2 EMTs) from Surabaya and Alor are joining eight NGO medical teams (equals to EMT type-1 mobile) to the field. WHO Indonesia in coordination with Crisis Center Ministry of Health are monitoring thirteen international EMT and thirty-four USAR teams registered in the relief teams tab in virtual OSOCC.
- Direct Relief stands ready to provide support, i.e. medical supplies and equipment, through AHA Centre’s coordination.

COORDINATION

- The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting was convened on 01 October in Jakarta to discuss the strategy and approach to respond to acceptance of offer of international assistance from Government. Various partners will submit their proposals to the Government and wait to hear for their approvals before starting activities.
- WASH sub-cluster and Information Management Working Group (IMWG) meetings have been conducted on 3 October 2018.
- AHA Centre is supporting BNPB in coordinating the offers of assistance. Humanitarian partners are encouraged to use ASEAN’s SASOP Form Offer of Assistance available here: http://bit.ly/SASOP4Sulawesi.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Damage and impact listed below are constraining emergency response operations carried out by the relevant agencies and actors (BNPB): no electricity, unstable communication, limited heavy equipment and manpower, extremely limited road access to mobilize additional items, size of the affected areas.
- The potential basic needs identified at this stage are: food (ready-to-eat meals) which are halal certified; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs; primary healthcare including first aid and MHPSS; nutrition needs; medicines; feminine hygiene kits and non-food items.
- Immediate medical services to anticipate additional injured cases are needed, especially at affected primary healthcare centres around eleven puskesmas (primary health centers) and ten hospitals in Palu City.
WHO Response

- As part of the HCT team, WHO INO is coordinating with International health cluster partners to prepare for coordinated international support especially on situation assessment and response support planning.
- WCO technical units are also coordinating with the relevant national health cluster and sub clusters to support specific response based on assessment and country needs.
- Although initially being considered, the Ministry of Health has yet to advice on deployment of International EMTs.
- WHO SEARO is providing technical back up including offering support to WCO and through WCO to the Government. SEARO has also offered immediate financial support (SEARHEF) to WCO to facilitate on the ground support to Government.
- WHO is monitoring the situation closely with the Crisis Center of MoH.

Funding

- From the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), US$ 15 million has been allocated to support earthquake and tsunami victims in Sulawesi.

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- OCHA information update  [https://vosocc.unocha.org/VODiscussions.aspx#t5682](https://vosocc.unocha.org/VODiscussions.aspx#t5682)