



Earthquake in Maluku and Sulawesi Region occurred on 21 January 2007

Highlights

- An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.5 (BMG)/7.3 (USGS) shook buildings for several minutes in north-eastern Indonesia Sunday, causing minor damage.
- There was no risk of a tsunami despite earlier fears.

Date of Incidence

Sunday, 21 January 2007, at 18:27:42 hrs local time, (Indonesian local time equals to + 7 hrs GMT)

Earthquake Detail

Magnitude : 6.5 Richter scale (BMG), 7.3 Richter scale (USGS)
Depth : 51 km
Category : Moderate
Epicentre : 1.18°N and 126.42°E
117 km northwest Ternate, Moluccas Region
160 km southeast Manado, North Sulawesi Region

Location

The epicentre of the quake was approximately 117 km northwest Ternate, Moluccas Region and 160 km southeast of Manado, North Sulawesi Region, at a relatively shallow depth of 51 km.



Background

The Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG) reported that an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale shook buildings for several minutes in north eastern Indonesia on Sunday, 22 January 2007, 18:27:42 hrs local time (11:27:42 hrs GMT), causing minor damage.

The epicentre of the quake was approximately 117 km northwest Ternate, Moluccas Region and 160 km southeast of the North Sulawesi capital of Manado, at a relatively shallow depth of 51 km.

Following the 6.5 quake, 20 aftershocks occurred at 128 to 203 km southeast Manado with magnitude ranging from 4.8 to 6 RS. The latest one was at 06:45:16 hrs local time, 5.5 RS.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.



Situation

A television station reported that the earthquake sparked panic in Manado. People were fleeing to higher ground fearing a tsunami. They headed mostly to the Winangun area on the hills south of city, carrying anything they could, including pets. Now, the residents already returned to their houses.

Impact and Casualties

There were no reports of casualties or a tsunami. In Central Manado, in some areas sea water level were higher, in some areas receded.

Electricity was cut off and the telephone network was not functioning in some area of Manado.

Based on the local disaster mitigation team report, the worst-affected were Mayu Island and Tifore Island, where 1 church and 1 bridge were damaged by the quake. The quake has also slightly injured 3 people.

WHO – MOH Action

WHO, in close communication with Crisis Centre MOH and Regional Crisis Centre, is on alert while monitoring the situation.

Status of International Aid

No international assistance was requested as local government has the capacity to response to the situation.

Contact people in Indonesia

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Dr. Rustam S. Pakaya, MPH	Head of Department	Crisis Center (PPK) MOH	021-5265043 08129602324	0215271111	ppkdepkes@yahoo.com
Dr. Kyaw Win (Vijay Nath)	Medical Officer	EHA, WHO	021-5204349 0811933821	0215201164	wink@who.or.id

Source of Information from Indonesia

Information is gathered from the following sources. This report is for reference only and should not be quoted as factual accuracy can change.

- WHO
- UN system
- Crisis Center (PPK)
- BMG
- BAKORNAS
- Media Centre
- Local news media.