



Earthquake and Tsunami – Flores and Surrounding Areas

Indonesian Humanitarian Coordination Platform

Flash Update No. 1

Date: 15 August 2026

Information cut-off: 07:35 WIB / 08:35 WITA

Status: Tsunami warning ended; impact verification ongoing

This report consolidates official information and preliminary reports received by IHCP. It is not a substitute for instructions issued by BMKG, BNPB, BPBD or affected local governments.

1. Key updates

- A strong and shallow earthquake occurred in the Flores Sea at **04:58:24 WIB/05:58:24 WITA**. BMKG's [initial M7.0/10 km parameters](#) were subsequently updated to **M7.7 at a depth of 15 km**, approximately 30 km northeast of Mbaya, Nagekeo.
- The earthquake generated a tsunami. BMKG detected sea-level changes at ten monitoring locations, with the highest reported measurements of **0.94 metres at Maurole-Ende** and **0.54 metres at Bulukumba**.
- At **07:31:30 WIB/08:31:30 WITA**, BMKG issued [Tsunami Warning Update PD-4](#), formally **ending the tsunami warning for all Indonesian territory**.
- The end of the tsunami warning does not remove risks from aftershocks, damaged buildings, rockfalls, landslides, electrical hazards or disrupted infrastructure. Movement from evacuation areas should follow local government and BPBD instructions.
- Strong shaking was estimated at up to **VII MMI** in parts of Nagekeo and Ngada. Shaking was reportedly felt throughout Flores and in parts of Sumba, Adonara and Solor.
- [Preliminary reports](#) indicate damage to houses and public buildings, including reported damage at the Pelni passenger terminal in Maumere. Community-generated media also show evacuation and possible earthquake-induced rockfalls. Verification remains ongoing.
- As of the reporting cut-off, no consolidated official figures were available for casualties, injuries, displaced people or damaged buildings.
- IHCP members should shift their immediate focus from tsunami evacuation support to impact verification, safe return, structural safety, protection monitoring and assessment of humanitarian needs.



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2. Situation overview

On Saturday, 15 August 2026, a major earthquake struck offshore north of Flores Island. BMKG initially reported an **M7.0 earthquake at a depth of 10 km**, located approximately 38 km northeast of Mbay, Nagekeo. Following further analysis, BMKG updated the parameters to:

Parameter	Updated BMKG information
Date and time	15 August 2026, 04:58:24 WIB/05:58:24 WITA
Magnitude	M7.7
Depth	15 km
Location	Approximately 30 km northeast of Mbay, Nagekeo
Coordinates	8.41°S, 121.39°E
Hazards	Strong ground shaking, tsunami, aftershocks and possible ground movement

BMKG issued the first tsunami warning approximately two minutes after the earthquake. The warning covered coastal areas in NTT, NTB, South Sulawesi and Southeast Sulawesi and was subsequently updated based on revised earthquake parameters and sea-level observations.

At 07:31:30 WIB, BMKG issued PD-4, declaring the tsunami warning ended for all parts of Indonesia. The warning was therefore active for approximately two hours and 33 minutes.

3. Timeline of key developments

Time, WIB	Development
04:58:24	Earthquake occurred; subsequently updated by BMKG to M7.7 at 15 km depth
Approx 05:00	BMKG issued the first tsunami warning
05:03	Tsunami first reported at Sikka: 0.19 m
05:09	BMKG issued the second tsunami warning update
05:16	Tsunami detected at Kewapante Port, Sikka: 0.38 m
05:24–06:27	Additional tsunami observations recorded across NTT, NTB, South and Southeast Sulawesi
05:27	Highest reported tsunami measurement of 0.94 m recorded at Maurole–Ende
07:05	BMKG disseminated updated tsunami observation information
07:31:30	BMKG PD-4 ended the tsunami warning for all Indonesian territory

Source: <https://www.bmkg.go.id/gempabumi/berpotensi-tsunami>



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4. Tsunami observations and current status

BMKG confirmed tsunami observations at ten monitoring locations:

Monitoring location	Detection time, WIB	Observed height
Maurole–Ende	05:27	0.94 m
Bulukumba	05:58	0.54 m
Kewapante Port–Sikka	05:16	0.38 m
Labuan Bajo	05:26	0.36 m
Baubau	05:47	0.30 m
Flores Timur	05:24	0.25 m
Kolaka	06:27	0.23 m
Sikka	05:03	0.19 m
Dompu	05:29	0.17 m
Bakalang–Alor	05:41	0.14 m

These observations confirm that the earthquake generated a tsunami. The figures represent measurements at monitoring stations and are not necessarily equivalent to maximum coastal run-up or inland inundation.

With PD-4, BMKG determined that the active tsunami warning could be ended. Nevertheless:

- return from evacuation locations should be organised according to BPBD and local government instructions;
- residents should remain away from visibly damaged coastal structures, ports and buildings;
- coastal facilities should be inspected before reopening;
- boats and fishing activities should resume only after local maritime conditions are confirmed safe; and
- any unusual sea-level behaviour should still be reported immediately to the authorities.

5. Revised government and community response

BMKG has:

- issued and progressively updated the tsunami warning;
- monitored earthquake aftershocks and sea-level changes;
- confirmed tsunami observations at multiple locations; and
- formally ended the tsunami warning nationwide through PD-4.



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The Regent of Sikka had earlier instructed residents to remain calm, avoid damaged buildings, stay away from beaches and riverbanks, prepare emergency supplies and follow instructions from BMKG, BPBD and local authorities.

Although the tsunami warning has ended, local authorities still need to manage:

- orderly return from evacuation locations;
- inspection of damaged houses and public buildings;
- identification of residents unable to return home;
- continuing public information on aftershocks;
- clearance of roads affected by rockfalls or debris; and
- monitoring of coastal facilities, ports and essential services.

6. Priority humanitarian concerns

Following the end of the tsunami warning, priority concerns are:

1. Casualties and urgent medical needs that may not yet have reached consolidated reporting channels.
2. Structural safety, particularly houses, health facilities, schools, ports and places of worship.
3. Safe and controlled return of evacuated communities.
4. Temporary accommodation for families whose homes are damaged or unsafe.
5. Aftershock preparedness, including preventing premature entry into damaged buildings.
6. Road access, particularly routes exposed to rockfalls and landslides.
7. Continuity of health, water, electricity and telecommunications services.
8. Protection and accessibility for children, older people, pregnant and breastfeeding women, persons with disabilities and people requiring regular medication.
9. Psychological distress, including fear associated with aftershocks and memories of the 1992 disaster.
10. Consistent public communication to prevent confusion between the ended tsunami warning and continuing earthquake-related risks.

7. Recommended actions for IHCP

Immediate priorities

- Confirm the safety and whereabouts of staff, partners and communities in the most strongly shaken areas.
- Establish contact with organisations in Nagekeo, Ngada, Ende, Sikka, Manggarai and Manggarai Barat.



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- Collect verified information on casualties, displacement, structural damage, access and disruption of essential services.
- Support clear messaging that the tsunami warning has ended but earthquake-related risks remain.
- Encourage residents not to enter damaged buildings before inspection.
- Monitor whether evacuated households can safely return or require temporary shelter.
- Verify possible rockfalls and road blockages, especially on routes connecting coastal and mountainous communities.
- Assess the safety, accessibility and functionality of hospitals, health centres, schools and ports.
- Record information by sex, age and disability wherever feasible.
- Avoid unsolicited relief supplies or independent deployments until verified needs and government requests are available.

Suggested public message

BMKG has ended the tsunami warning for all Indonesian territory as of 07:31 WIB. Communities should continue following instructions from BPBD and local governments regarding return from evacuation locations. Remain alert for aftershocks, avoid damaged buildings, and report injuries, structural damage, rockfalls or disruption of essential services to the relevant authorities.

8. Analytical observation

The tsunami warning has ended, but the emergency consequences of the earthquake may not have ended.

The immediate danger from additional tsunami waves has been downgraded by BMKG. However, assessment and response remain necessary because strong ground shaking may have caused injuries, structural damage, temporary displacement, rockfalls, landslides and interruptions to essential services. This distinction should appear prominently in all subsequent IHCP communications.

Geographic and historical hazard context

Flores is a mountainous island where many settlements, ports, markets and public facilities are concentrated along relatively narrow coastal plains and bays. Inter-district roads frequently cross steep terrain, increasing exposure to earthquake-induced landslides and rockfalls. Coastal villages, fishing communities and populations on small islands may have limited time and routes for evacuation.



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The region has a complex tectonic setting associated with the convergence of the Australian and Sunda plates. One important regional source of earthquake and tsunami risk is the **Flores Back-Arc Thrust**, an active fault system extending beneath the Flores Sea along the northern side of the Lesser Sunda Islands.

Professor Adi Maulana of Hasanuddin University noted that the current earthquake may be associated with this broader tectonic setting. However, he appropriately emphasised that the precise source and mechanism of the earthquake should be based on BMKG's continuing official analysis. At this stage, the Flores Back-Arc Thrust should be presented as **regional geological context**, not as a confirmed source of the 15 August earthquake.

Previous significant events

1820 Flores Sea earthquake and tsunami

Historical accounts describe a major earthquake and tsunami on 29 December 1820, with effects reported in Bima, Bulukumba and Sumenep. Its precise source remains scientifically uncertain because the event occurred before instrumental monitoring. Source: [Oxford Academic](#)

1992 Flores earthquake and tsunami

On 12 December 1992, an approximately M7.7 earthquake north of eastern Flores generated a devastating local tsunami. Waves reportedly reached parts of the Flores coast within two to five minutes. The disaster severely affected Maumere, surrounding coastal settlements and Babi Island.

International sources record at least 1,690 deaths, with other estimates exceeding 2,000 people killed or missing. Around 18,000 houses were destroyed. While tsunami run-up was generally several metres, an exceptional run-up of approximately **26.2 metres** was documented at Riangkroko, potentially influenced by earthquake-triggered submarine landslides. Source: [UNESCO International Tsunami Information Center](#), [NOAA event database](#)

2021 Flores Sea earthquake

On 14 December 2021, an M7.4 earthquake occurred approximately 112 km north of Maumere. A tsunami of approximately 7 cm was detected at Marapokot in Nagekeo and Reo in Manggarai. The event damaged at least 346 houses and caused approximately 770 residents to evacuate. Source: [USGS](#), [ANTARA/BMKG](#)

These events demonstrate that earthquake and tsunami hazards in the Flores Sea are recurrent and can affect multiple provinces around the basin.



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9. Documentation from Online Sources:

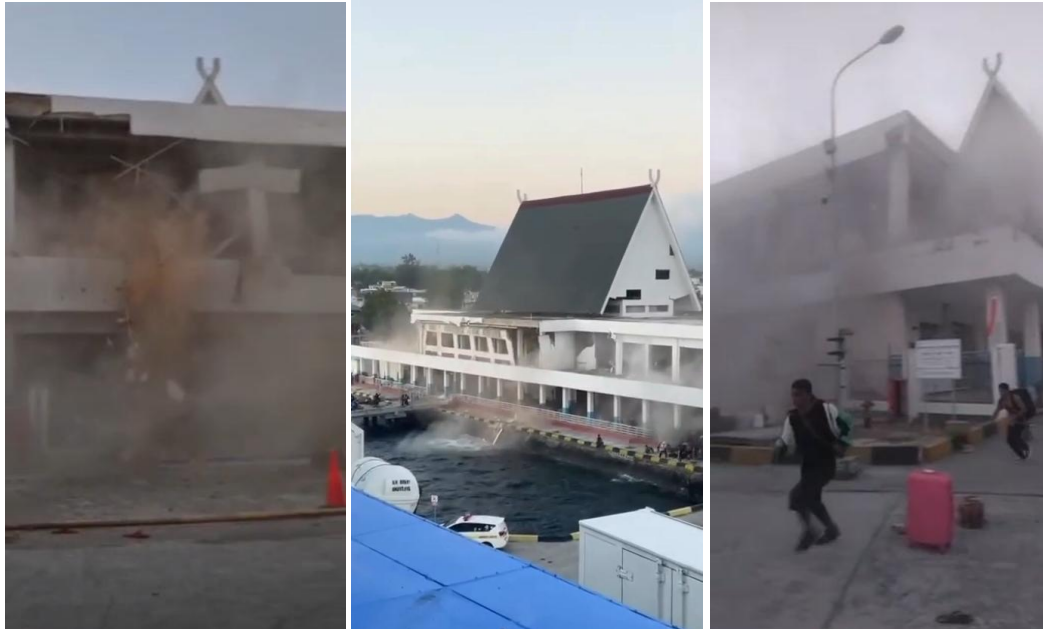


Figure 1. Damages in Elsay port in Maumere, Sikka, NTT



Figure 2. Roadblock from landslide caused from the earthquake in Ruteng, Manggarai, NTT



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Figure 3. Landslide on the Trans Ende-Bajawa Road



Figure 4. Damaged buildings in Manggarai and West Manggarai, NTT

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