Watchfloor seismic alert

M7.7 Indonesia — modelled red

ALERT ID	EQ-2026-0002
ISSUE TIME	2026-08-14 22:20 UTC
STATUS	initial alert
ORIGIN TIME	2026-08-14 21:58 UTC
PLACE	68 km NNW of Ende, Indonesia
MAGNITUDE AND DEPTH	M7.7 / 12 km

MEDIUM CONFIDENCE

The modelled impact of this earthquake is red. About 1,400,000 people are inside strong shaking (MMI 6+) across 203 districts (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, run 2026-08-14 22:20 UTC).

IN BRIEF

STATUS	Modelled Red, peak intensity MMI 8.3, 203 districts inside the footprint (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, 14 Aug 2026)
SCALE	~52,000 people under MMI 8+ shaking, about 4% of the MMI 6+ exposure (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, 14 Aug 2026)
WHERE	Ende (MMI 8.3), Nagekeo (8.1), Ngada (7.6), by modelled peak shaking (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, 14 Aug 2026)
DO NOW	**Country teams should expect the flash update at 2026-08-14 22:28 UTC (30 min after the event) and plan on PAGER's level when published**
NEXT	USGS PAGER, when published, supersedes every modelled figure in this alert

> This alert carries the event as USGS publishes it and the modelled rapid impact. Observed damage comes from Copernicus EMS rapid mapping and the national disaster-management authority; it reaches this series as it is published.

Event

Source: USGS; GEM Global Active Faults for the traces, as of 2026-08-14 22:20 UTC.

FACT	VALUE
Nearest mapped faults	unnamed fault (subduction_thrust, ~34.8 mm/yr) ~38.8 km; unnamed fault (subduction_thrust, ~35.4 mm/yr) ~41.6 km; unnamed fault (subduction_thrust, ~34.0 mm/yr) ~68.0 km — mapped-fault proximity, not causal attribution.
Tsunami flag	not set by USGS; a statement about the flag, not a clearance
Aftershocks observed	5 located so far, largest M5.9 (USGS catalogue, read 2026-08-14 22:20 UTC)
Sequence reading	an active sequence is under way (5 located so far, largest M5.9), so damaged buildings stay at risk and re-entry decisions should assume more shaking
Tectonic setting	Shallow, within the upper crust, near the mapped structures listed above (depth from USGS; traces from GEM Global Active Faults, which carries fault traces and not plate boundaries, so no plate-boundary name is given)

Impact

Source: Watchfloor rapid shaking model on the M7.7 hypocentre, geoBoundaries ADM2 districts × GHSL GHS_POP 2025 projection, as of 14 Aug 2026 22:20 UTC; modelled, not observed.

(Medium confidence) The modelled impact of this earthquake is Red, with modelled peak intensity MMI 8.3 (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, run 14 Aug 2026 22:20 UTC). USGS PAGER, which publishes the exposure and fatality estimate for earthquakes of this size, has not been issued for this event as of 14 Aug 2026 22:20 UTC. The epicentre lies 68 km NNW of Ende, Indonesia at 12 km depth, magnitude 7.7 (USGS).

SHAKING BAND (MODELLED)	PEOPLE EXPOSED	AGAINST THE MMI 6+ EXPOSURE
MMI 6+	~1,400,000	the whole modelled footprint
MMI 7+	~400,000	about 29% of the MMI 6+ exposure
MMI 8+	~52,000	about 4% of the MMI 6+ exposure

Modelled fatalities are ~105 to ~7,800 — an uncalibrated global lethality curve over the modelled exposure, not a count; USGS PAGER's country-calibrated estimate replaces this figure when published (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, run 14 Aug 2026 22:20 UTC). Headline read: the plannable quantity is the MMI 8+ band, ~52,000 people (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, run 14 Aug 2026 22:20 UTC).

So what: ~1,400,000 people in strong-shaking zones (MMI 6+) across 203 districts; modelled red-level impact — potentially life-threatening at scale (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, modelled, not observed).

Population centres

Population centres of 50,000 people or more within 250 km, by distance from the epicentre; smaller settlements closer to the epicentre exist and are not listed (GeoNames cities1000 gazetteer, source of the populations).

POPULATION CENTRE	DISTANCE FROM THE EPICENTRE	POPULATION (GEONAMES)
Ende	68 km	~87,000
Bajawa	96 km	~62,000
Maumere	142 km	~70,000

Links

Open this earthquake: https://crisis.notamy.app/watchfloor.html?event=us6000tkt2&lat=-8.3514&lng=121.3478&mag=7.7
USGS event page and ShakeMap: https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us6000tkt2

Sources: USGS (origin, magnitude, depth); GEM Global Active Faults (fault traces); Watchfloor rapid shaking model (impact figures — modelled order-of-magnitude estimates, not observations). Where USGS PAGER is published, the impact section carries it and it supersedes every modelled figure here.

Planning instruction: Country teams should expect the flash update at 2026-08-14 22:28 UTC (30 min after the event) and plan on PAGER's level when published.