Humanitarian snapshot

M7.8 earthquake, Flores Sea, Indonesia

SNAPSHOT NUMBER	HS-020
DATE	14 Sep 2026
REPORTING PERIOD	10 Sep → 14 Sep 2026 (since HS-019); cumulative since the event: 14 Aug 2026, day 31
PREPARED BY	Watchfloor Seismic Watch

HIGH CONFIDENCE

USGS PAGER holds Orange for this earthquake. The estimate carries 210 fatalities estimated and 388,811 people under shaking of intensity MMI 8 or stronger (USGS PAGER, ShakeMap v10, as of 10 Sep 2026 14:23 UTC). The people to plan for are those under the strongest shaking, on the Flores coast between Ruteng and Ende; the figures below are PAGER's and remain the plannable quantities until displacement registration is published.

IN BRIEF

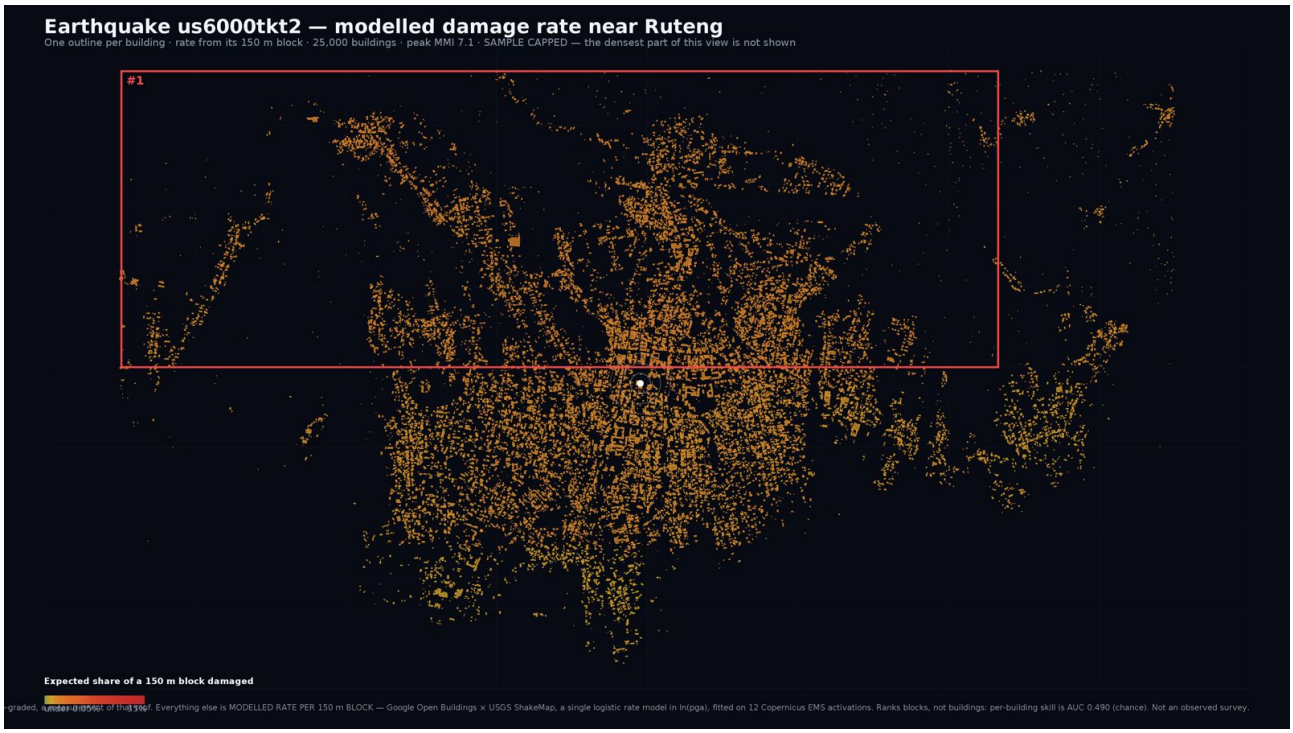
STATUS	USGS PAGER Orange, peak intensity MMI 9, 210 fatalities estimated (USGS PAGER, ShakeMap v10, 10 Sep 2026)
SCALE	388,811 people under MMI 8+ shaking, about a fifth of the MMI 6+ exposure (USGS PAGER, 10 Sep 2026)
WHERE	The north coast of Flores: Ruteng (MMI 7.6), Maumere (7.1), Ende (7.0), by PAGER city intensity (USGS PAGER, 10 Sep 2026)
DO NOW	**Country teams and cluster leads should site shelter and plan re-entry from the MMI 8+ footprint outward (USGS PAGER, 10 Sep 2026)**
NEXT	The next snapshot follows IOM DTM displacement registration when it is published; PAGER revises as data arrives

> This snapshot carries the pre-event coping-capacity baseline, the published USGS PAGER exposure and fatality estimate, and the aftershock sequence to date. Displacement figures come from registration by IOM DTM and the national disaster-management authority, shelter and site figures from the shelter cluster's site reporting, facility status and health figures from the health authorities, WASH conditions from the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) cluster, protection figures from protection cluster monitoring, response activity from the responding organisations through OCHA 3W, funding and appeal figures from OCHA FTS and the appeal documents, access and operational constraints from OCHA access reporting and the logistics cluster, and assessed needs from MIRA and cluster assessments; each reaches this series as it is published.

Pre-event baseline

Indonesia's national capacity to absorb this event is middling. INFORM Risk 2026 puts its lack-of-coping capacity at 3.8 of 10 — higher means less national capacity to absorb this event, beside an overall risk score of 4.5 of 10 (INFORM Risk 2026, European Commission JRC, 2026 release). No IPC analysis has been published for Indonesia, so no pre-event food-security phase exists for this province; the national IPC partners are the source when one is issued.

Cartography



Modelled damage-rate map (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, modelled, not observed). A building absent from the map is not drawn, not undamaged; boxes rank the worst-hit areas by modelled shaking.

Shaking and exposure

Source: USGS PAGER on ShakeMap v10, as of 10 Sep 2026 14:23 UTC; PAGER revises as data arrives.

The published authority is USGS PAGER. USGS PAGER holds Orange for this earthquake, with peak intensity MMI 9 and an estimated 210 fatalities. The Watchfloor rapid shaking model read Red before PAGER was published. The epicentre lies 64 km NNW of Ende at 10 km depth, magnitude 7.8 (USGS, revised 11 Sep 2026).

SHAKING BAND	PEOPLE EXPOSED	AGAINST THE MMI 6+ EXPOSURE
MMI 6+	1,762,629	the whole footprint
MMI 7+	1,476,749	about 84% of the MMI 6+ exposure
MMI 8+	388,811	about a fifth of the MMI 6+ exposure

Headline read: the plannable quantity is the MMI 8+ band, 388,811 people, about a fifth of everyone under damaging shaking.

The most exposed towns, by PAGER's city intensity, are on the north coast of Flores.

CITY	INTENSITY (MMI)	POPULATION
Ruteng	7.6	~54,000
Maumere	7.1	~104,000
Ende	7.0	~87,000

Aftershocks

The sequence continues. 347 aftershocks of M2.5 or larger have been located within 200 km of the epicentre since the mainshock, the largest M6.1 (USGS catalogue, read 14 Sep 2026 00:47 UTC). USGS's operational aftershock forecast gives a 13% chance of an M5 or larger within 24 hours and 60% within a week (USGS, read 13 Sep 2026); it is a forecast of the ground, not of humanitarian need.

Confidence and caveats

(Medium confidence) The exposure and fatality figures are modelled by USGS PAGER on ShakeMap v10 and revise as data arrives; the fatality figure is PAGER's empirical estimate, not a count of the dead. The city table ranks by shaking, not by need: a strongly shaken town with sound construction can need less than a weakly shaken one without it.

Priority

Planning instruction: Country teams and cluster leads should site shelter and plan re-entry from the MMI 8+ footprint outward — 388,811 people at the latest PAGER read (USGS PAGER, as of 10 Sep 2026) — and treat these exposure figures as the plannable quantity until IOM DTM registration is published.