Search and rescue intelligence bulletin

M7.7, 68 km NNW of Ende, Indonesia

BULLETIN NUMBER	SARIB-001
ISSUE TIME	14 Aug 2026 22:58Z
OPERATIONAL PERIOD	14 Aug 2026 22:58Z to 15 Aug 2026 10:58Z (data cover 14 Aug 2026 21:58Z to issue)
NEXT UPDATE	15 Aug 2026 04:58Z (bulletin #2)
PREPARED BY	Watchfloor Seismic Watch

MEDIUM CONFIDENCE

Rescue priority lies where the shaking was strongest. The districts under the strongest shaking — Ende, Nagekeo, Ngada — hold ~52,000 people under MMI 8+ shaking (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, run 14 Aug 2026 22:20 UTC). This bulletin names no entrapment location: the damage model ranks areas, not buildings.

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	**The search-and-rescue coordination cell should task imagery over the MMI 8+ districts and seek national civil-protection reporting (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, 14 Aug 2026)**
NEXT	Next update at 15 Aug 2026 04:58Z (bulletin #2); the 72-hour window closes at 17 Aug 2026 21:58Z (USGS origin time)

> This bulletin carries the search-and-rescue prioritisation input from the modelled shaking, the rescue-window clock for this event, and the aftershocks located so far. Access and operational constraints come from OCHA access reporting and the logistics cluster, search-and-rescue operations status from the responding USAR teams through the on-site operations coordination centre, critical-facility status from the health and education authorities and the utilities, and observed damage from Copernicus EMS rapid mapping and the national disaster-management authority; each reaches this series as it is published.

Search and rescue prioritisation

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 22:58 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).

Buildings inside the modelled MMI 6+ footprint number ~90,000, of which ~4,000 to ~12,000 are modelled damaged (Watchfloor rapid shaking model damage rate per 150-metre cell, run 14 Aug 2026 22:20 UTC).

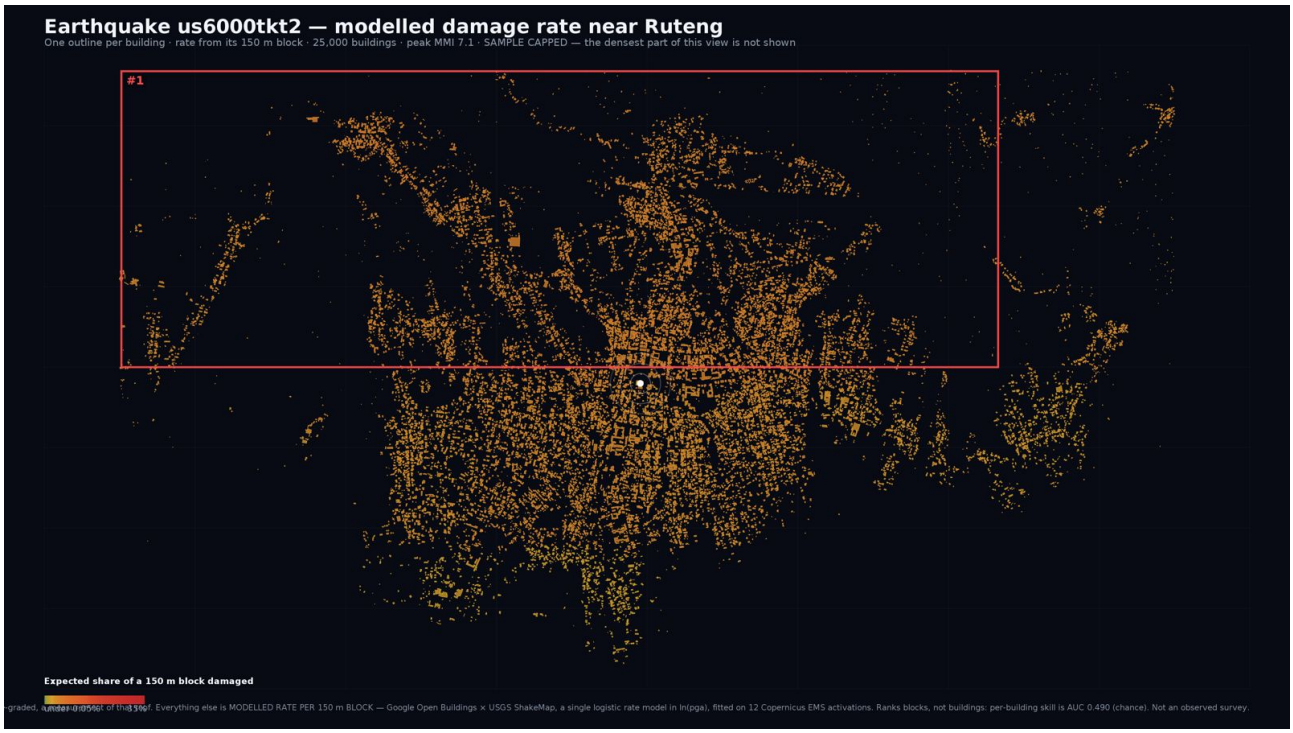
Priority sectors follow the rapid model's district ranking. By modelled peak shaking (MMI), highest first: Ende (MMI 8.3) · Nagekeo (MMI 8.1) · Ngada (MMI 7.6) · Sikka (MMI 7.1) · Manggarai Timur (MMI 6.8). 198 further districts are inside the footprint at lower intensity and are not listed (Watchfloor rapid shaking model). The district ranking is by shaking, not by need: a strongly shaken district with sound construction can need less than a weakly shaken one without it.

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

This is a prioritisation input — where shaking and exposed building stock are highest. It is not a statement about where people are trapped, and where collapses concentrate is a function of construction type, which observed damage settles.

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.

Rescue windows

Time since the event is 1 hour (origin 14 Aug 2026 21:58Z, USGS). The 24-hour window closes at 15 Aug 2026 21:58Z, 23 hours from issue; the 72-hour window closes at 17 Aug 2026 21:58Z, 71 hours from issue (counted from the USGS origin time). Live rescues concentrate in the first 24 hours and decline sharply after 72, a published rescue-window pattern whose source describes earthquakes in general. No survival probability is computed for this event: it would depend on construction type, season, time of day and above all on how many people are under the rubble, which is the number observed damage and structural assessment supply.

Responder safety and access

13 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 Aug 2026 22:58 UTC). Working inside damaged structures during an ongoing sequence is a measured hazard, not a theoretical one. The USGS tsunami flag is not set on this event (USGS); that is a statement about the flag, not a clearance. USGS has not yet published its ground-failure product for this event (as of 14 Aug 2026 22:58 UTC); it runs for larger events and can follow later. The stability of individual buildings is a structural assessment; every standing structure in MMI 7+ is unassessed until one is made.

Confidence and caveats

(Medium confidence) The prioritisation input is modelled from the hypocentre as first published, before any ShakeMap; no impact figure in this bulletin has been confirmed by anyone on the ground. This bulletin names no entrapment location. The damage model produces an expected rate per 150-metre cell: each block shows how many of its buildings are expected damaged, not which ones; there is no occupancy data, no collapse typology and no survivorship model behind it. Naming a location from that would send a team to an address chosen at random while someone waits elsewhere, and the limit is the operationally useful content here: it stops a commander from reading this product as a list of addresses.

Intelligence requirements

- Observed damage imagery over the MMI 8+ districts, from Copernicus EMS or commercial tasking: the one input that turns the prioritisation above into locations.
- Structural assessment of collapsed and standing buildings in the priority districts, from USAR teams on site: it confirms or corrects every modelled figure here.
- National civil-protection and local-language reporting, from the national authority: at this hour it is ahead of every global listing.
- Where people are trapped is answered by structural assessment or observed damage imagery, not by this bulletin.

Recommended actions

Planning instruction: The search-and-rescue coordination cell should task imagery over the MMI 8+ districts — ~52,000 people at the latest read (Watchfloor rapid shaking model, run 14 Aug 2026 22:20 UTC) — seek national civil-protection reporting, and spend the hours left inside the 72-hour window on locating survivors, whose value is at its highest now; do not use this bulletin to select an address.