

Indonesia Earthquake Response

The Aid in Danger project
October 2018



Less than two months after an earthquake hit Indonesia's Lombok island, a massive 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck Central Sulawesi province on 28 September, triggering a deadly tsunami. More than 1,900 people were killed, and the death toll is likely to rise.

International support to the Indonesia earthquake victims includes financial and material aid, as well as technical expertise from governments, most UN agencies and cluster leads, as well as several INGOs.

Duty of care requires aid agencies to think about the safety and security of their staff as part of the delivery of aid. This report provides information for aid organisations responding to the disaster to help them understand the operational threat context, support their duty of care obligations, and increase safe access to people in need.

The information in this document is based on evidence shared by our 26 Aid in Danger project partner agencies between January 2015 and August 2018. The document provides unique insight into aid-related safety, security and access concerns based on shared information about events that have occurred.

The data is not a representative sample, and no claim is made that the total number of incidents has been documented. Please continue to share information or start to contribute.

Recently reported safety, security and access concerns



Operational space: Frequent changes to foreign aid acceptance, visa and work permit regulations; communications, energy and transportation disruptions.



Unrest: Looting with threats by the military to use live ammunition on looters; civil unrest and demonstrations; prison break-outs; 14-day state of emergency declared (28 September-11 October).

Common safety, security and access risks



Crime: Thefts from staff members' residences, aid offices and vehicles; fraudulent use of aid supplies by staff members.



RTAs: Dangerous driving practices; livestock on the road; poor infrastructure.

Indonesia Earthquake Response

The Aid in Danger project
October 2018



Operational space

Common safety, security and access risks

Several partners in the Aid in Danger project raised concerns about visa and foreign aid restrictions but no details of specific issues have been reported so far.

Reported incidents in Central Sulawesi

Difficulties in accessing communities due to roadblocks and transportation disruptions caused by the earthquake and tsunami.

Reported incidents in other provinces

Reports of threatening behaviour towards and intimidation of staff members by contractors (Bengkulu, East Nusa Tenggara).

Reported intimidation of staff members during an anti-LGBT demonstration in Java.

Humanitarian access

Major communications, energy and transportation disruptions caused by the earthquake.

Increasingly protectionist government policy has impacted international organisations, as recently demonstrated in President Widodo's initial refusal to accept international aid.

Frequent changes to visa and work permit regulations. Breaching work permit regulations can result in a sentence of up to five years in prison.



Unrest

Common safety, security and access risks

Reported incidents in Central Sulawesi

There is a risk of staff members being in the wrong place at the wrong time during incidents of looting, particularly in markets and other commercial areas.

Military forces reportedly responded to recent looting with threats to fire live ammunition at those involved.

April 2019 general and presidential elections

The upcoming elections may lead to violence that may affect aid operations or staff. In June 2018, 171 major cities had been on violence alert during local elections.

Social instability

Civil unrest motivated by socio-political tensions can disrupt the delivery of aid.

Social

Protests tend to be peaceful, but sometimes lead to unarmed fighting with the police.

In general, protests are motivated by issues such as wages, labour rights, land ownership and the environment. Recent protests have been reported over the government's delayed reaction to the disaster.

Wage strikes are typically held towards the end of the year when the annual minimum wage for the following year is decided.

Political

Campaigning began in late September for the April 2019 presidential elections. Last year's gubernatorial elections in Jakarta were marked by massive street demonstrations led by hardline Muslims opposed to the capital's former governor, who is ethnic Chinese and a Christian.

Voters and officials were reportedly fired at by alleged separatists during recent general-election-related violence in Papua.

There has been an increase in the capacity and willingness of fundamentalist Islamist organisations to mobilise followers around certain political or social issues.

The nature and history of Indonesia's secular government will likely exacerbate this divide between it and religious organisations.

The risk of political gatherings and protests turning violent will continue to increase as religiously conservative groups attempt to pressure the government.

Indonesia Earthquake Response

The Aid in Danger project
October 2018



Crime

Common safety, security and access risks

Reported incidents in Central Sulawesi

Reports of thefts (laptops, mobile phones) from NGO offices.

Reported incidents in other provinces

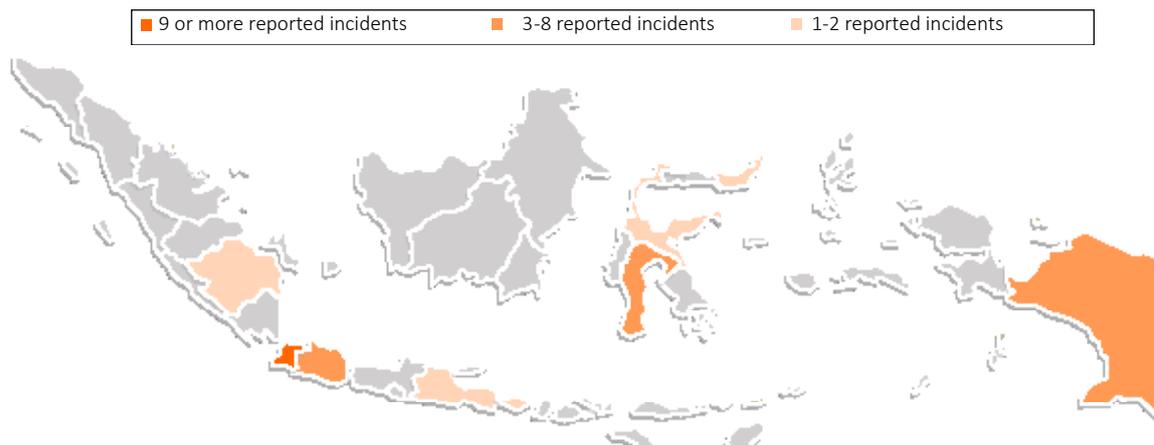
Reports of armed/unarmed street robberies involving assaults.

Reports of NGO staff members in vehicles being stopped and robbed by individuals armed with knives/machetes.

Risk of thefts (laptops, mobile phones) from staff members' residences, aid offices and vehicles.

Reports of fraudulent activities: illegal use of an NGO logo, fundraising under false pretences and financial fraud by an NGO staff member.

Locations of reported crime incidents (Aid in Danger project reported safety, security and access data, January 2015-August 2018)



Criminal activity

National crime rates have shown a rise in assaults and vehicle thefts.



Cases of looting of NGO property tend to rise following natural disasters.

Assaults, petty crime/theft, armed robbery and identity theft are commonly reported.

Kidnapping for ransom reportedly remains at low levels.

Sexual violence and abuse are rarely reported.

Foreigners are natural targets for robbery, theft and possibly assault.

Violent crimes are prevalent in Jakarta, where violent crime and homicides rates are highest.

Other areas of concern include Bali, Kuta, Sanur, Seminyak, Surabaya and Yogyakarta.

Indonesia Earthquake Response

The Aid in Danger project
October 2018



Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs)

Common safety, security and access risks

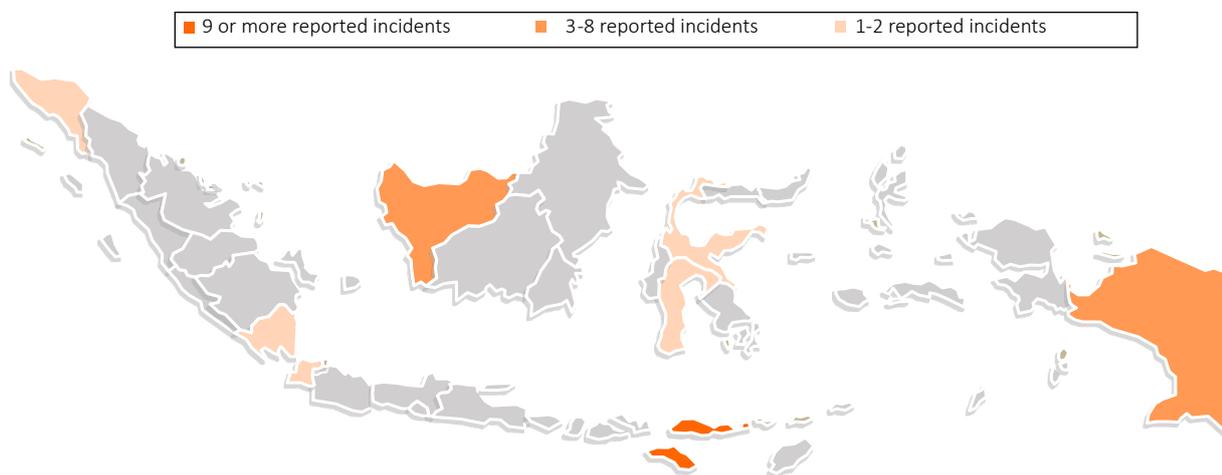
Reported incidents in Central Sulawesi

There is increased risk of traffic accidents due to road damage caused by the disaster. Difficulties in accessing communities due to landslides constitute a risk to staff safety.

Reported incidents in other provinces

There have been reports of traffic accidents due to dangerous driving practices, livestock on the road, flooding and bad weather conditions.

Locations of reported RTA incidents (Aid in Danger project reported safety, security and access data, January 2015-August 2018)



Driving conditions

Major transportation disruptions have been caused by the earthquake.

Road safety in both urban and rural areas can be a threat to aid workers' safety and security.

Dangerous driving practices, poor infrastructure, pedestrians walking on roads, flash flooding and animals crossing roads all contribute to RTAs.

Rural roads are reportedly less well maintained and few are properly lit at night.

Heavy traffic and dangerous driving in central Jakarta can be a threat to drivers and pedestrians.

Other areas of concern include the Alan Raya Malasan Kulon bypass outside Linggo, East Java.

The 25-mile route from Bogor to central Jakarta has heavy traffic, with frequent reports of fatal RTAs.

Indonesia Earthquake Response

The Aid in Danger project
October 2018



Terrorism

Common safety, security and access risks

Reported incidents in Central Sulawesi

There were no reports of terrorism directly affecting an NGO. However, NGOs took security measures to protect staff, assets and programmes following the discovery of an explosive weapon and damage to Catholic and Christian churches at the end of 2017.

Reported incidents in other provinces

There were no reports of terrorism directly affecting an NGO. However, NGOs took security measures to protect staff, assets and programmes following the discovery of a UXO near an NGO staff member's residence in Bengkulu (2017-11) and twin SVIED explosions in Jakarta (2016-01).

Terrorist activity

The al-Qaeda-affiliated group Jemaah Islamiyah is present; however, groups aligned to Islamic State (IS) pose the most significant threat.

63 terrorist organisations in South-east Asia recently pledged allegiance to IS, leading to fears of an IS stronghold emerging in Indonesia.

Indonesia is affected by events in Malaysia and the Philippines: extremists move through both countries.

Additional concerns are posed by the dispersed geography of the Indonesian island chain, which facilitates transit points for fighters going to the Philippines and Middle East.

Targets are predominately police: either physical infrastructure such as police headquarters and precincts or officers in the street.

Militants have the skills needed to make explosive devices; however, at the moment they lack the ability to execute sophisticated attacks. This may change in the future .

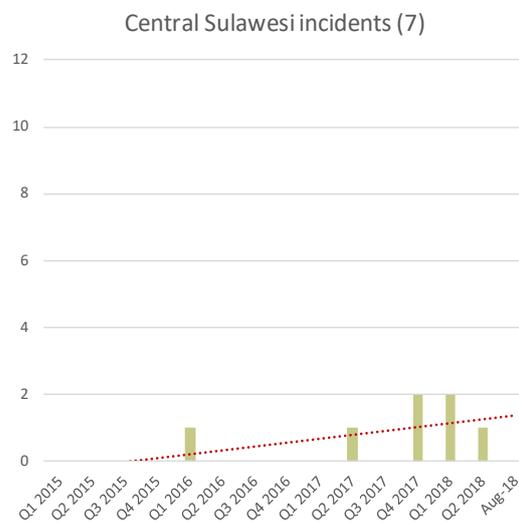
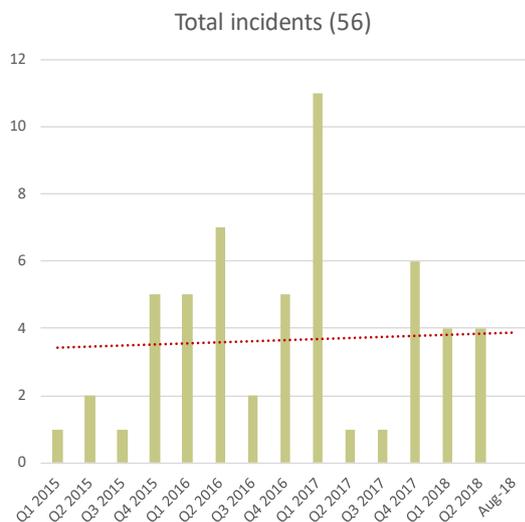
Indonesia Earthquake Response

The Aid in Danger project
October 2018



Aid in Danger project reported safety, security and access incidents

(January 2015-August 2018)



Encouraging information flow

The information in this report was made possible thanks to the 26 aid agencies who have shared security incidents through the Aid in Danger project. We would like this information flow to continue.

Please share the safety, security and access incidents your NGO has experienced with your colleagues to encourage information flow. Knowing what goes on helps NGOs to be prepared and to maintain access.

Please also share the safety, security and access incidents your NGO has experienced with [Insecurity Insight](#) in order to increase the ability of NGOs to react and respond to changes to operational threats, support, and duty of care obligations, and to increase safe access to people in need.

This [checklist](#) can help you to report incidents.

All data shared with Insecurity Insight is treated as confidential, anonymised and analysed, and used to provide aid agencies with up-to-date analysis of threats to aid delivery in Indonesia and elsewhere.

Non-Disclosure Policy

Without your prior and explicit permission, Insecurity Insight agrees not to publish, give access to, or transmit data to a third party on security incidents affecting your organisation, infrastructure, or assets in a way that identifies these incidents as having affected your organisation.

Insecurity Insight will remove your organisation's name from all collated data, and any reports, related documentation or websites unless explicitly authorised not to do so by your organisation.

Organisations interested in becoming partner agencies or those seeking more information on our partnerships should please contact helen.buck@insecurityinsight.org



Get free access to the latest Indonesia Response reports- sign up [here](#).

Indonesia Earthquake Response

The Aid in Danger project
October 2018



Guidance materials



SIIM Handbook published by the [SIIM project](#)

This provides guidance and tools to help aid agencies with incident information management. It is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).



Security to Go published by [EISF](#)

This is a simple, easy-to-use guide for non-security experts on how to quickly set up basic safety, security and risk management systems in new contexts or where the risk levels have changed due to human or natural causes.



Office Opening published by [EISF](#)

For NGOs setting up offices, this guide provides an easy-to-follow process detailing the recommended steps when opening an office in places where the property market may be complex and/or ambiguous.



Working with local partners published by [EISF](#)

This publication provides analysis of the issues affecting the relationship between NGOs and their local partners.

This report is funded by



This document is part of the Aid in Danger project. It includes incidents identified by Insecurity Insight and reported by Aid in Danger partner agencies between January 2015 and August 2018 using the Security in Numbers Database (SiND). Data collection is ongoing and new events may be added as they are identified.