



A Powerful Earthquake in the Molucca Sea Hits Indonesia

Earthquake in North Sulawesi and North Maluku Provinces on April 2, 2026

A strong earthquake struck Indonesia with a magnitude of 7.4 at a depth of 35 kilometers. The epicenter was located between Manado and Ternate, affecting the provinces of North Sulawesi and North Maluku. This was one of the strongest earthquakes to strike Indonesia in recent history.

Following the main quake, several aftershocks were recorded, with magnitudes of 5.5, 5.2, and 6.2. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center also issued a warning that tsunami waves of less than 0.30 meters could affect coastal areas of Guam, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Taiwan.

In addition, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu reported that waves measuring 0.05 meters were recorded in Davao in the southern Philippines.

Damage and losses

Impact on the affected area

A strong 7.4-magnitude earthquake caused significant damage to infrastructure, including the collapse of buildings, houses, churches, public facilities, bridges, and roads. One elderly person was killed after being struck by falling debris.

The disaster also affected more than 205,000 people in Bitung of North Sulawesi province and Ternate of North Maluku province.

Agricultural devastation

Agricultural land: No damages on agricultural crops.

Affected crops: No damages on agricultural crops.

Government responses and countermeasures

Government agencies, including the Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency of Indonesia (BMKG) and regional rescue teams, inspected damaged buildings to assess further structural risks and check for additional casualties. Response operations and damage assessments are still ongoing.

Sources:

1. Agricultural Office in North Sulawesi Province and North Maluku Province
2. National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB)
3. Directorate of Food Crop Protection (Ministry of Agriculture)
4. Magnitude 7.4 earthquake hits off Indonesia, killing one, BBC. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn53krrrr24o>
5. 7.4-magnitude earthquake rocks Indonesia, kills one and sets off small tsunami waves, Independent. <https://www.independent.co.uk/asia/southeast-asia/indonesia-earthquake-tsunami-warning-today-latest-news-b2950517.html>
6. Magnitude 7.4 earthquake leaves at least 1 dead in Indonesia, Anadolu Ajansi. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/magnitude-74-earthquake-leaves-at-least-1-dead-in-indonesia/3888754>
7. Earthquake in Indonesia kills at least 1 person and sets off small tsunami, NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/world/asia/earthquake-indonesia-kills-least-1-person-sets-small-tsunami-rcna266344>