INDONESIA

Flores Earthquake Response

September 2026



Planet Water Foundation

Disaster Response Alliance

THE EARTHQUAKE

On August 15, 2026, at 5:58 a.m., a magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck off Flores Island, Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia, triggering a tsunami with waves up to 1.61 meters. The disaster damaged homes and villages and displaced thousands of people.

According to BNPB (the National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure), at least 156 people died, 23,578 remain displaced, and 1,620 were injured or fell ill. Manggarai Timur was among the hardest-hit areas, with more than 34 deaths, over 10,000 displaced residents, and thousands of damaged or destroyed homes.

In Lamba Leda Utara District, coastal villages suffered severe damage. In Waso, nearly 90% of homes were destroyed, six people died, and many fishing boats were swept away. Other communities, including Satar Padut, also suffered significant damage, leaving many residents forced to stay in tents.

Local officials estimate the number of displaced people in Lamba Leda Utara could exceed 20,000. More than 15,000 aftershocks have continued, leaving many families afraid to return to their damaged homes.









OUR RESPONSE

Following the earthquake, Planet Water Foundation coordinated with local authorities to assess the urgent need for safe drinking water in Lamba Leda Utara, Manggarai Timur.

The Planet Water team arrived in Flores on August 29 and began site assessments the following day. Through these assessments, evacuation centers in Waso and Satar Padut were identified as having high need for support, and were selected as deployment locations where the response could support a high volume of community members.

While the assessments were being conducted, AquaTower water filtration systems were mobilized from Planet Water's logistics hub in Jakarta.



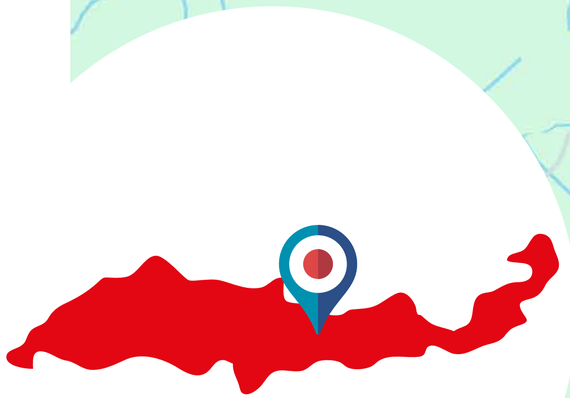












East Nusa Tenggara

Upon arrival in Flores, the AquaTower systems were swiftly deployed to provide safe drinking water to families living in temporary shelters. Local authorities supported the installations, and community operators received training in system maintenance to help sustain access to safe water.

With many homes destroyed and frequent aftershocks continuing, residents are expected to remain in temporary shelters for an extended period. The AquaTower systems will provide a vital source of safe drinking water as families recover and begin rebuilding their lives.



AQUATOWER WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM

In the immediate aftermath of an earthquake, rapid intervention through the deployment of water filtration systems is essential to help prevent health crises and support recovery.

The AquaTower solution has a three-stage water filtration process incorporating ultrafiltration (UF) hollow fiber membrane technology, which removes viruses, bacteria, and pathogens, and activated carbon for enhanced water quality. It produces up to 1,000 liters of safe drinking water per hour.







DEPLOYMENT 1

Waso

September 14, 2026

“That morning, the earthquake struck without warning. Houses collapsed, and everyone ran in panic. After the earthquake and tsunami, many families lost their boats and livelihoods. Safe drinking water was also difficult to access, and we had to boil water from wells or rivers. The AquaTower now gives our community free, clean, and safe drinking water. It means so much to us during this difficult time.”

Syaiful,
Resident











DEPLOYMENT 2

Satar Padut

September 15, 2026

“The earthquake destroyed many homes and damaged the irrigation channels that our farmers depend on. We are still afraid to return home because of the damage and frequent aftershocks. Getting safe drinking water has also been difficult. The supply of bottled water is limited, and many families have to collect and boil water from wells. The AquaTower at our relocation site is a great help. It gives our community easy access to clean, safe drinking water when we need it most.”

Kristo,
Resident











Our response efforts were made possible thanks to the support of our partners Harita Nickel and Xylem Watermark. Through our response, we provided up to 4,000 people in Flores with access to safe drinking water.

HARITA NICKEL

xylem watermark



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