
Planet Water Foundation
Disaster Response Alliance
MINDANAO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE
PHILIPPINES — JUNE 2026

EVENT BACKGROUND

On June 8, 2026, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck offshore near Maasim, Sarangani Province, causing widespread destruction across Mindanao, particularly in Sarangani Province, South Cotabato, General Santos City, and neighboring areas. According to government reports, the earthquake resulted in 77 fatalities, and approximately 1.6 million people were affected by the disaster, with more than 81,100 individuals displaced. The earthquake caused extensive damage to homes and critical infrastructure. More than 80,000 houses were damaged, including over 15,000 which were completely destroyed. In addition, 884 public infrastructure facilities sustained damage, while 130 roads and 47 bridges were affected, disrupting transportation and humanitarian access. Since the main earthquake, more than 9,400 aftershocks have been recorded, many of which continue to be felt in the affected communities, prolonging displacement and delaying recovery efforts.

The earthquake also had a significant impact on water supply systems. Damaged spring sources, pipelines, groundwater systems, and suspected saltwater intrusion in coastal communities left many families without access to safe drinking water. Reports of diarrhea cases linked to contaminated water sources further highlighted the urgent need for emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions.



















OUR RESPONSE

Following the earthquake, Planet Water Foundation mobilized its Disaster Response team and immediately coordinated with the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), municipal governments, and community leaders to conduct rapid assessments across Sarangani Province. A field base was established in General Santos City to facilitate coordination and access to the affected municipalities.

Starting from June 14, the team conducted detailed assessments in the municipalities of Malapatan, Glan, Maasim, Alabel, and General Santos City evaluating water availability, population needs, accessibility, and existing humanitarian support to identify priority deployment sites. Based on these assessments, Planet Water Foundation successfully deployed five AquaBlock emergency water systems in evacuation centers and severely affected communities, and conducted post-monitoring and co-operation with the authorities.

Mindanao

Five AquaBlock emergency water systems were deployed across the earthquake-affected municipalities of Malapatan and Glan to provide safe drinking water for evacuation centers and underserved communities. Installations were prioritized in areas where water infrastructure had been damaged, groundwater was contaminated, or access to humanitarian assistance was limited. Deployment sites included remote communities near the earthquake epicenter, evacuation centers affected by landslides, and damaged homes within Sarangani Province. Water quality testing confirmed contamination in several locations, including the presence of E. coli and coliform bacteria, while some coastal communities also faced saltwater intrusion and diarrhea outbreaks. Together, the deployments provide reliable access to safe drinking water and help reduce the risk of waterborne disease during recovery.

Following installation, the Provincial Government of Sarangani initiated water quality testing of each system to verify compliance with drinking water standards, while the Planet Water team continued caretaker training and monitoring to ensure the long-term sustainability of the installations.



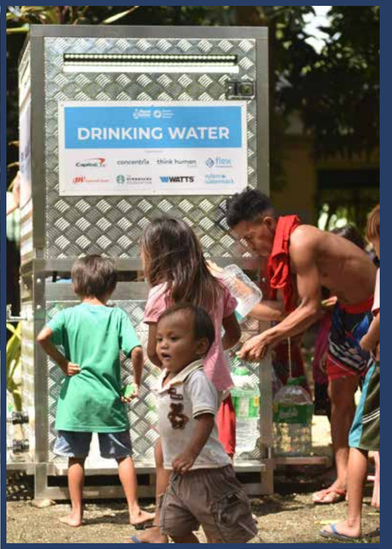
Philippines



















AquaBlock Emergency Water System

The life-threatening waterborne illnesses that are rampant during emergency situations can be prevented with the help of Planet Water Foundation's AquaBlock Emergency Water System. This advanced water filtration system has a four-stage water purification process and produces 700 liters of safe drinking water per hour with capacity to support the daily drinking needs of up to 6,000 people. Each system is setup on an existing non-potable water source and processes this water to produce microbiologically safe drinking water.

Deployment 1

Sapu Padidu Evacuation Center

Malapatan, Sarangani Province

June 17, 2026









“When the earthquake destroyed our home, my family was forced to move to the evacuation center. Safe drinking water quickly became one of our greatest needs. The AquaBlock gives us peace of mind, knowing our children have access to clean water while we recover.”

Sheila Basyaw
Resident





Deployment 2

Big Margus Camp Center

Glan, Sarangani Province

June 18, 2026













“Our family lost our home because of the earthquake, and we are now living in a makeshift tent because the aftershocks are still very strong. We depended on donated bottled water, but it was never enough. For cooking and other household needs, we had to manually pump water from a source that we knew was not safe. The AquaBlock has made a huge difference for us. Safe drinking water is now always available, and we no longer have to spend time pumping water or worry about whether it is safe for our children. This has truly eased one of our biggest burdens.”

Minda Estrada
Widow and mother of seven

Deployment 3

Pangyan Community Center

Glan, Sarangani Province

June 19, 2026











“My first thought when the earthquake happened was my children because they were at school. I immediately rushed there and was very thankful to find them safe. Since then, we have been worried about many things, especially our access to clean water. There have already been reports of diarrhea in nearby communities, and many water refilling stations are still not fully operational. The AquaBlock gives us confidence that our family has access to safe drinking water. It allows us to focus on rebuilding our lives without constantly worrying about the health of our children.”

Manolito Burlas
Resident

Deployment 4

Libi Integrated School

Malapatan, Sarangani Province

June 20, 2026







“I earn a living by selling juices and snacks at Libi Integrated School, which is now serving as an evacuation center. Before the AquaBlock was installed, the water I used came from a deep well, and I was always worried about its safety and the additional cost of buying clean water. Now I can prepare food and drinks using safe water without worrying about waterborne illnesses or increased expenses. This system not only benefits the evacuees but also helps small vendors like me continue earning an income while providing safe products to the community.”

Eleanor Dawara
Resident



Deployment 5

Malapatan Central Elementary School

Malapatan, Sarangani Province

June 21, 2026











“After the earthquake triggered landslides, my family had to evacuate and rely on limited bottled water. The AquaBlock has given us a reliable source of safe drinking water and peace of mind, knowing my children can stay healthy while we recover.”

Norma Jamuda
Resident



Planet Water Foundation extends our gratitude to our donors for their invaluable support.

Through this response we were able to bring clean, safe drinking water to up to 30,000 people affected by the Mindanao Earthquake, Philippines.

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