

Alert note

North Sumatera Floods and Landslides – Indonesia, 25 November 2025

Completed by: ACT Indonesia Forum

Date completed: 26 November 2025

Forum: ACT Indonesia Forum

Type of emergency: Floods

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 25 November 2025

1. The nature of the emergency

Moderate to heavy rain began falling in the western and southern regions of North Sumatera Province on Saturday, November 22, 2025. The accumulation of high rainfall over an extended period triggered hydrometeorological disasters in several areas of the province. Flood incidents were reported on Tuesday, November 25, 2025. Seven districts/municipalities were affected by massive floods, with landslides emerging as the secondary impacting hazard. Based on the BMKG estimates, adverse weather and heavy rainfall are expected to continue until the end of November 2025.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

Since the onset of heavy rainfall from November 22, 2025, seven districts/municipalities in North Sumatera Province have been affected by floods and landslides at many points. The western and southern of North Sumatera Province is the most severely impacted, namely Pakpak Bharat, Padang Sidempuan, Tapanuli Utara, Sibolga, Tapanuli Selatan, Tapanuli Tengah, and Mandailing Natal as reported by the Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD) of North Sumatera Province on November 26, 2025, at 7:30 WIB (GMT+7)¹.

The extreme weather conditions were influenced by two significant weather systems, Tropical Cyclone Koto in the Sulu Sea and Cyclone 95B Seeds in the Malacca Strait, which intensified convective cloud² formation and triggered heavy rainfall across Northern Sumatera. BMKG estimates that the potential for intense rainfall may persist over the next 24 hours.

The disaster has caused considerable human and infrastructure impacts. To date, a total of **20 fatalities, 58 injured people, and 6 individuals reported missing** have been recorded across the affected areas. In South Tapanuli District, floods and landslides have resulted in 8 fatalities, 58 injured residents, and the displacement of 2,851 people. In North Tapanuli District, 50 houses were damaged and two bridges collapsed due to flooding and landslides. In Central Tapanuli District, flooding affected 1,902 houses across nine subdistricts. Meanwhile, in Mandailing Natal District, 1,200 households were forced to evacuate to nearby villages, with four villages submerged under water up to four meters deep. The flooding also inundated 15 hectares of rice fields belonging to farming communities³.

Based on the rapid initial assessment conducted by the partner's member of ACT Alliance Indonesia Forum (ACTIF) which is located in North Sumatera, the disaster causes casualties and interferes with resident's activities. The disaster disrupted the electricity and communication access, and was currently challenged to get access to information on the latest conditions after the disaster. Landslides also disrupted road access in more than 15 urban villages, which makes some areas still difficult to reach because they were covered by landslides materials⁴.

¹ Laporan Harian Periodik PUSDALOPS PB, BPBD Sumatera Utara, on November 26, 2025.

² <https://www.bnpb.go.id/berita/empat-kabupaten-di-sumatera-utara-dilanda-bencana-banjir-dan-longsor-secara-bersamaan>

³ <https://www.detik.com/sumut/berita/d-8228772/15-hektare-sawah-di-madina-terendam-banjir>

⁴ <https://www.ntvnews.id/news/0176698/hujan-deras-picu-longsor-dan-banjir-bandang-di-tapanuli-tengah-4-orang-meninggal>

As of now, two government districts–Mandailing Natal and North Tapanuli–have declared a 14-day Emergency Response Status from 25 November to 9 December 2025. Furthermore, there have been no further updates from the BPBD of North Sumatera Province or disaster response networks due to the limited access within the affected areas, particularly in terms of infrastructure and communication.
3. Local and national capacity
Local authorities across the affected districts and municipalities in North Sumatera have carried out a series of emergency response actions. The local governments impacted by the disaster have coordinated with relevant authorities, conducted rapid assessments in affected areas, continuing to search missing people and carried out evacuations where needed. Several districts, including Padangsidempuan, Sibolga, and Central Tapanuli, have supported residents by assisting with evacuations, securing household belongings, and establishing public kitchens for displaced communities. In Central Tapanuli District, the Social Affairs Office has also distributed food assistance to flood-affected residents, while in Mandailing Natal, rapid response teams are preparing to deliver essential supplies to affected households. At the provincial level, BPBD North Sumatera continues to coordinate with all affected districts and municipalities regarding ongoing emergency operations. However, there have been no significant updates recently from either local or national levels due to persistent communication constraints in several areas.
4. Key needs and gaps
Initial rapid assessments conducted by ACTIF’s networks in North Sumatera, supported by available secondary information, indicate several emerging gaps in the ongoing flood response. Geographically, many of the most severely affected areas remain difficult to reach due to damaged roads and disrupted communication networks. Limited access for search and rescue teams has also hindered efforts to locate missing persons. These challenges continue to delay the identification of humanitarian needs across several districts. Several critical gaps have been identified based on the current situation: a. Health Access to health facilities has been disrupted, increasing the risk of delayed medical treatment and slowing the delivery of medical supplies to affected locations. The floods also heighten the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks. b. WASH Communities face difficulties obtaining safe drinking water due to post-flood contamination, including challenges to sanitation facilities during the evacuation process. Access to essential personal hygiene items is also limited. c. Shelter and Protection Thousands of people have been displaced, and available emergency shelters and essential non-food items (NFIs) are not sufficient to meet current needs. d. Food People affected by the disaster require immediate and sustained food assistance including food specifically meeting the needs of the most at risk groups.. e. Coordination and Information Persistent communication constraints are limiting timely coordination and information flow. Several local churches were reported mobilizing the resources and preparing churches for evacuation centers but were challenged to coordinate with one to another. Updates from both local and national

authorities remain minimal, and a clearer picture of overall needs is expected once access improves and assessment teams can reach all affected areas.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
CDRM & CDS	South Tapanuli, North Tapanuli, Central Tapanuli, Sibolga	Shelter, Food and Non Food Item
PELKESI	North Tapanuli, Central Tapanuli, Sibolga	Health, Psychosocial, Food and Nutrition
YEU	Central Tapanuli	Shelter, WASH, protection for most at risk groups

6. Potential responses

Based on the scope of the disaster-affected area, the presence and network of ACTIF members in North Sumatra, the forum is well-positioned to respond to the floods and landslides through ACT Alliance's RRF for a period of 4 months. CDRM & CDS, based in Medan, will lead the response, with support from YEU and PELKESI.

CDRM & CDS, located in Medan, will lead the operation and coordinate all emergency actions among participating ACTIF members. PELKESI has several member hospitals across North Sumatra, including those nearest to the affected areas, which will be empowered to respond in the health sector for the disaster-affected communities. YEU will work closely with the local church, mobilize its human resources with expertise in WASH, Shelter, and protection, and coordinate with relevant networks for the response.

ACTIF plans to assist at-risk groups by addressing disruptions in health services and providing psychosocial support, food and nutrition assistance, WASH services, and protection support to help meet immediate basic needs.