



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

No. 449

24 December 2025 – 6 January
2026

Indonesia

Flash floods claimed at least 14 lives in Indonesia. On 5 January 2026, heavy rain triggered flash floods on Siau Island in the Siau Tagulandang Biaro region of North Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. At least 14 people were killed, 18 others were injured, and four remained missing. Hundreds of homes, public buildings, and government offices were destroyed. There was a report of at least 444 people evacuated to local schools and churches. Many roads were also blocked by mud and debris. Rescue workers were quickly deployed to assist those affected and alleviate the situation.

Source: Reuters. (2026, Jan 6). *Flash floods kill at least 14 in Indonesia.*

Malaysia

Heavy floods in Malaysia affected more people. As of 4 January 2026, the number of flood victims in Malaysia rose to 1,523 nationwide due to the severe conditions in Sabah. In Sabah, 495 people were sheltering in temporary relief centres, up from 282 people on 3 January 2026, after Kota Kinabalu was declared a flood-hit district. However, the flood situation improved in some areas. In Sarawak, the number of evacuees dropped to 943 people across eight relief centres, while in

Johor, the number of victims slightly decreased to 85 people. Local authorities continued to closely monitor the situation and urged the public to stay alert.

Source: Business Today. (2026, Jan 6). *Floods Leave 1,523 Evacuees Nationwide As Sabah Sees Sharp Increase.*

Philippines

Mayon volcano alert was raised while flooding hit the Philippines. As of 1 January 2026, the alert level of Mayon Volcano in Albay Province on Luzon Island, Philippines, was raised from Level 1 (low-level unrest) to Level 2 (moderate level of unrest) as magma movement beneath the volcano could lead to a hazardous magmatic eruption. The public was strongly advised to avoid entering the six-kilometre-radius Permanent Danger Zone. Later, torrential rains on 5 January 2026 caused by a shear line triggered widespread flooding and landslides in Northern Samar. A total of 24 municipalities, including 90 barangays, were affected. About 1,449 families, or approximately 5,332 people, were impacted; of these, around 984 families or 3,582 people were evacuated to 43 evacuation centres, while the rest stayed with relatives. Classes, government work, and airport operations were suspended across the province.

Source: Bernama. (2026, Jan 1). *Philippines Raises Mayon Volcano Alert Level Amid Signs of Increased Unrest;* Rappler. (2026, Jan 6). *Heavy rain, floods, landslides hit Northern Samar, prompt evacuations.*

Japan

A powerful earthquake struck in Japan. On 6 January 2026, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck Shimane and Tottori prefectures in Japan, measuring upper 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7. No tsunami warning was issued. There were no injuries or property damage in Tottori Prefecture. Likewise, no damage was found at the Shimane Nuclear Power Plant in Matsue City. Bullet train services in

western Japan, including the Sanyo Shinkansen Line between Okayama and Hiroshima stations, were temporarily halted, while sections of the Yonago Expressway between Hiruzen and Yonago and the Sanin Expressway between Yonago-Nishi and Yasugi were also closed. The Japan Meteorological Agency warned that earthquakes of a similar scale could occur over the coming week.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2026, Jan 6). *Strong earthquake rattles western Japan, no tsunami warning issued.*

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