



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

No. 480

12 - 18 August 2026

Indonesia

Powerful earthquakes killed at least 68 people in Indonesia.

A magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck off the coast of Flores Island in East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia on 15 August 2026, causing severe damage and prompting a 14-day state of emergency. The initial tremor was followed over 1,500 aftershocks, including a magnitude 6.2 earthquake, as well as a separate magnitude 6.9 earthquake off western Sumatra Island. The incidents caused at least 68 deaths, injured over 200 people, displaced 5,000 residents, and damaged thousands of buildings. Authorities set up two emergency field hospitals in the hardest-hit town, while nearly 1,500 military and police personnel deployed to distribute aids to the affected areas.

Source: Al Jazeera. (2026, August 15). *Magnitude 7.7 quake hits Indonesia, killing at least 47*. BBC. (2026, August 17). *Aid shortages and fears of starvation as Indonesia reels from deadly earthquake*. CBS News. (2026, August 17). *Indonesia earthquake death toll nears 70 as thousands wait for help on country's Independence Day*.

Philippines

Catastrophic floods extensively submerged Philippines.

Excessive rainfall driven by monsoon rains and two tropical cyclones raised the death toll to 23 across the Philippines, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. The storm also triggered severe floods in several parts of Metro Manila region on 17 August 2026, submerging streets and producing waist-deep or deeper floodwaters. The government offered free public transport amid traffic disruption, while launching relief, clearing, and medical assistance operations. Furthermore, officials ordered relevant agencies to ensure a swift response and prioritise the safety of affected residents in the capital and surrounding areas.

Source: Gulf News. (2026, August 18). *Manila floods again: Billions of pesos for flood control, yet Metro Manila is still drowning – 7 possible solutions*. Philippine News Agency. (2026, August 18). *Marcos orders swift gov't response as heavy rains flood Metro Manila*. Philstar. (2026, August 18). *Metro Manila flooding: It's not just the rain-here's what can help*.

China

Extreme floods forced thousands of people to evacuate in China.

On 12 August 2026, a levee along the Beiru River in Jiaxian County collapsed following extreme rainfall, forcing the evacuation of more than 2,000 residents. Meanwhile, China's state media reported on 14 August 2026 that heavy downpours and floods continued to batter the country's eastern and southern provinces. In Zhejiang province, a mudslide triggered by flash floods caused a house to collapse, leaving one person dead and three others missing. In response, authorities activated the highest-level flood-control emergency response, while China's National Meteorological Center renewed a yellow alert for heavy rain.

Source: Anadolu Ajansi. (2026, August 13). *Flooding in China displaces thousands as Japan declares highest emergency with 1 killed*. Reuters. (2026, August 14). *Mudslide in eastern China kills one, more heavy rain expected*.

Japan

Historic heavy rain caused widespread floods and landslide in eastern Japan

On 13 August 2026, record-breaking heavy rain following a tropical storm in eastern Japan caused widespread flooding and landslides, damaging homes, leaving four dead in Chiba Prefecture. The severe weather severely disrupted transportation, halting rail, bus, and taxi services, as well as causing flight cancellations at major airports. The storm also caused power outages to more than 23,000 households in the country. In response, the Japan Meteorological Agency issued a Level 5 Emergency warning before it was downgraded to Level 4 the following day. Additionally, the agency advised nearly 220,000 residents in Chiba City to take shelter on safer ground and stay alert for further landslides, floods, and swollen rivers.

Source: AP. (2026, August 13). *Torrential rain near Tokyo causes flooding and paralyzes traffic, killing 1*. BBC News. (2026, August 14). *Four dead as historic rainfall hits Japan, triggering landslides and power outages*.

Republic of Korea

Floods and landslides wreaked havoc across South Korea

During 15-16 August 2026, typhoons Dolphin and Chan-hom brought torrential rain to South Korea, triggering widespread floods and landslides. Authorities reported 142 cases of damage in Jeonnam-Gwangju region, while a landslide caused at least one death and injured three people in Geoje. Furthermore, 150 residents were evacuated, with power outages reported in Ilun-myeon, Jangseungpo-dong, and Gohyeon-dong. The city government issued an emergency warning to stay away from Mundong Reservoir and Gohyeon Stream. Additionally, city buses, intercity buses, and taxis were all suspended before the rain moved out of the country the following day.

Source: Korea JoongAng Daily. (2026, August 17). *At least one dead in Geoje landslide as floods paralyze city*. The Chosun Daily, (2026, August 17). *Heavy Rain Eases Drought, Triggers Floods in South Korea*. The Korea Herald. (2026, August 17). *Southeastern Korea hit by over 800 mm of rain, floods and landslides*.

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