

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH of TIMOR

(Member of the Independent Section of the Protestant Church of Indonesia and the Indonesian Fellowship of Churches)

SYNOD COUNCIL

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GMIT SYNOD SEROJA CYCLONE RESPONSE TEAM

SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) #6, 17-20 APRIL 2021

CHRONOLOGY

The Seroja cyclone disaster struck most of GMIT service areas from 3 to 8 April 2021. Heavy rain, accompanied by strong winds caused flash floods, landslides, and big waves. This tragedy resulted in casualties and material loss.

IMPACT

The Seroja cyclone caused trees to collapse and damages of residential houses and other buildings, agricultural land, livestock and fishing facilities. Many people suffered minor to serious injuries, some victims disappeared or died. Families were evacuated, including children, elderly, diffable and pregnant women. Public facilities such as office buildings, hospitals, markets, waterways, roads and bridges, electricity, cellphone network and the internet were damaged.

DATA UPDATE

(TRANSLATION of CUMULATIVE DATA in MAP BELOW)



HUMAN VICTIMS

died: 15 disappeared: 1 wounded: 12 displacement:

individuals: 3,267households: 556



DAMAGE TO HOME/BUILDING/ ASSETS

homes: 11,717 churches: 137

parsonages/manses: 39 GMIT schools: 19

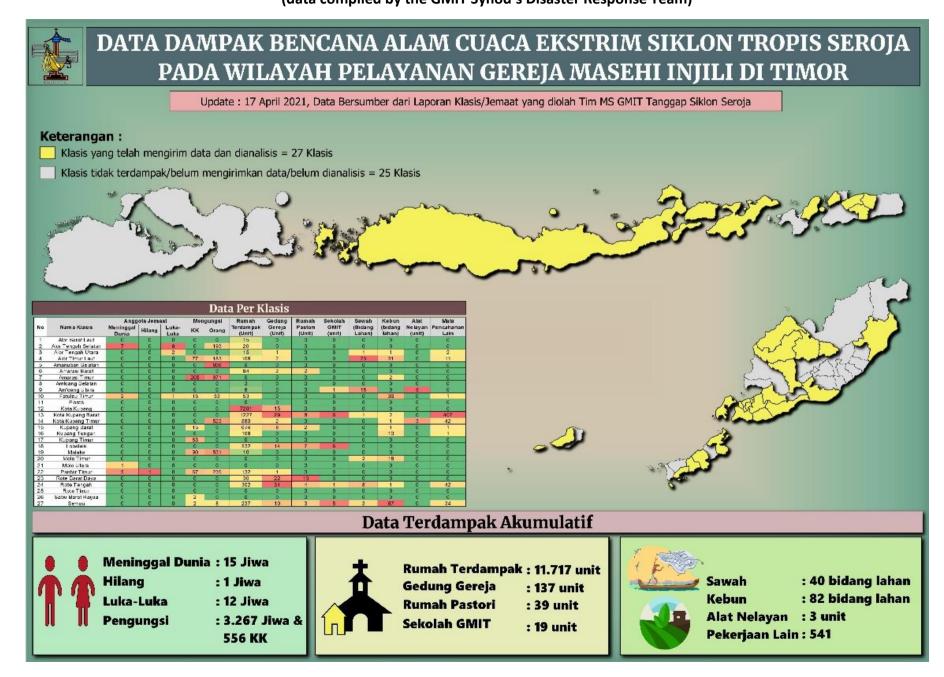


DAMAGE TO LIVELIHOODS

rice paddies: 40 corn & bean fields: 82 fishing equipment: 3 damage to other livelihoods: 541



DATA on the IMPACT of EXTREME WEATHER DISASTER TROPICAL CYCLONE SEROJA in REGIONS SERVED by the PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH of TIMOR (data compiled by the GMIT Synod's Disaster Response Team)



CURRENT SITUATION

Many who left their homes because of the cyclone have now returned and are cleaning up the remaining dirt and repairing damage to their houses. People are also busy cleaning up fallen trees and the rotten carcasses of livestock from around their houses. Affected families and other villagers work together to repair damaged houses using building materials donated by local people and from other islands in Indonesia.

In the badly damaged Sabu-Raijua Regency, the distribution of aid is limited because regular travel to and from Sabu has not resumed. The wooden boats normally used for local shipping were badly damaged. Meanwhile, there is a shortage of building materials such as tin roofing and nails.

In the midst of efforts to recover from the impact of Seroja Cyclone, the National Covid Response Task Rorce has reported an increase in cases of people infected with Covid-19. Ongoing vigilance and implementation of health protocols to prevent Covid-19 transmission must also remain a priority.

UPDATE re. GMIT's RESPONSE

- The Disaster Response Team of the Evangelical Christian Church of Timor (GMIT)
 Synod, in collaboration with related partners, including the Indonesian Psychological
 Association (Himpsi), the Christian Service Association for Health in Indonesia
 (Pelkesi), World Vision International (WVI), and the Indonesian Christian
 Communication Network for Disaster Response (Jakomkris), has been conducting
 pastoral care ministry and trauma healing for the affected GMIT congregations.
- On 17–18 April, GMIT Synod members, along with the Head of the Indonesian Communion of Churches (PGI) and the Director of Yakoma PGI made pastoral visits to GMIT congregations in Sabu-Raijua, using helicopter facilities from East Nusa Tenggara's Provincial Disaster Relief Agency (BPBD). This is the first team from outside the Sabu-Raijua islands to visit affected communities in Raijua. Raijua Island is severely damaged and isolated. There is no electricity, and no boats or ships have traveled to or from the island.
- GMIT's radio station, The Voice of Love, has resumed operating by using an
 emergency transmitter antenna and limited facilities. Previously, the 60-meter high
 antenna was broken and the broadcast equipment damaged. Six broken antenna
 tower segments, broken antenna cables, and broadcast power amplifier accessories
 need to be replaced.
- The management of the East Nusa Tenggara Regional branch of the Indonesian Communion of Churches (PGIW) met with PGI Moderator, Rev. Gomar Gultom to identify churches in East Nusa Tenggara affected by the Seroja Cyclone and discuss their aid distribution approaches.
- The Data Section of the Synod's Disaster Response Team has begun to compile data from the presbyteries regarding damage to church property such as church buildings, parsonages, and GMIT schools.
- The Moderator of the Toraja Church Synod Council visited the GMIT Synod's Disaster Response Post on 19 April 2021. This was the first visit from the leader of a GMIT church partner from outside East Nusa Tenggara.

URGENT NEEDS

Prayers of support and psycho-spiritual assistance

- Cash, basic food stuff (milk and drinking water), thermoses, kitchenware
- School uniforms, games for children
- Building materials, generators, electric chainsaws, petrol, tarps, mats, emergency toilets, kerosene
- Solar panel kits, solar-powered flashlights, power banks, satellite cell phones
- Medical services, medicines, diapers, menstrual pads
- Hygiene kits: soap, toothpaste, face masks, hand sanitizer and jerry can
- Replacement of personal identification documents: ID cards, birth certificates, etc.

Donations can be sent to:

Bank BNI, #1192908672

Account Name: TANGGAP BENCANA GMIT

Swift Code: BNINIDJAKPA

PHOTO GALLERY



13 housing units in Betania-Nefo Congregration, West Amarasi Presbytery will be relocated because they were destroyed by landslides.



The difference in the conditions of houses on stilts and those not on stilts during flooding in GMIT's Malacca Presbytery.





Traditional style houses are more resilient to disaster and need to be preserved. Member of Ephata Ledemanu Congregation, West Sabu-Raijua Presbytery.



Aid collected at Rehobot Malaipea Congregation's Emergency Relief Post, South Central Alor Presbytery. GMIT congregations in unaffected areas provide support to churches in affected areas.



Worshipping on the floor during Sunday service, 18 April 2021, at Elim Naibonat Church, East Kupang Presbytery. The church pews were lost due to the cyclone.