



Severe Weather and Floods in Indonesia

Floods disaster situation from November 2025 to January 2026

Normally, the wet season in Indonesia occurs from November to April, with the peak rainfall typically between December and January. However, rainfall patterns vary by region. For example, Sumatra usually experiences heavy rain from October to January, while southern regions receive most rainfall from November to January. In Sulawesi, the pattern differs slightly, with some northern areas receiving rain in June or July. Bogor is known for its high year-round rainfall, with peak levels occurring from November to March. These seasonal patterns often contribute to severe events such as flash floods, landslides, and extreme rainfall.

Since flood disasters in Indonesia have affected several provinces, including Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra, with the most severe impacts occurring from November to December 2025. These events are classified as wet hydrometeorological disasters. Prolonged and accumulated rainfall triggered landslides and widespread flooding. Moreover, from January 19–26, 2026, flash floods were flooding in Jakarta. On January 24, a landslide occurred in West Java, while continuous heavy rainfall caused rivers to overflow, impacting Pasirlangu Village in the West Bandung District of West Java Province.

Damage and losses

Impact on the affected area

Severe flooding and landslides across Indonesia have caused widespread humanitarian, agricultural, and infrastructure losses, driven by prolonged and extreme rainfall. The disaster has resulted in large numbers of fatalities and missing persons, major disruptions to livelihoods, and serious damage to food crops, plantations, horticulture, and livestock. Public infrastructure has also been heavily affected, including schools, health facilities, houses of worship, and government buildings. Damage is expected to rise because flooding continues in multiple regions.

According to the Directorate of Food Crop Protection (covering November 1, 2025 to January 18, 2026), flooding affected 23 provinces, with the most severe impacts concentrated in Sumatra, particularly in Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra. Across these three provinces alone, widespread flooding and landslides recorded 986 lives as of December 11, 2025.

Aceh was the hardest affected province, with 18 districts affected, 403 deaths, 30 missing persons, and over 4,300 injuries. Flooding damaged about 138,500 houses and displaced more than 773,600 people. Public infrastructure losses were extensive, including hundreds of public facilities, worship houses, schools, health centers, government buildings, and bridges.

In North Sumatra, 18 districts were impacted, resulting in 343 deaths, 98 missing persons, and 698 injuries. Around 11,200 houses were damaged, displacing more than 52,300 people, along with damage to schools, bridges, worship houses, and public facilities.

West Sumatra also suffered severe flash floods and landslides, causing 240 deaths, 96 missing persons, and 113 injuries across 16 districts. Approximately 8,200 houses were damaged and 8,000 people displaced, while access constraints have delayed full infrastructure damage assessments.

Agricultural devastation

Agricultural land:

Several days of severe flooding caused widespread damage across Indonesia, which affected at least 23 provinces, including Aceh, North Sumatra, West Sumatra, West Java, and Jakarta, with a total damaged area of approximately 444,706 hectares. The most severely affected provinces were Aceh (333,498 hectares), North Sumatra (74,816 hectares), and West Sumatra (7,406 hectares), followed by East Java (6,546 hectares), South Kalimantan (6,141 hectares), West Kalimantan (3,292 hectares), Banten (3,221 hectares), South Sumatra (3,075 hectares), West Java (1,796 hectares), Central Java (1,662 hectares), Central Kalimantan (592 hectares), Jambi (341 hectares), West Nusa Tenggara (164 hectares), East Kalimantan (132 hectares), South Sulawesi (180 hectares), Southeast Sulawesi (75 hectares), North Sulawesi (39 hectares), Riau (32 hectares), Bali (27 hectares), Bengkulu (10 hectares), DI Yogyakarta (7 hectares), and West Sulawesi (7 hectares).

Affected crops:

Severe flooding and related disasters caused major losses to agricultural production, with a total estimated damage of approximately 3,282,368 tons of crops. Staple food crops were heavily affected, including paddy (505,874 tons), maize (21,138 tons), and cassava (1,593 tons). Significant losses were also recorded in high-value and plantation crops, particularly oil palm (2,565,480 tons), cacao (68,354 tons), Arabica coffee (64,627 tons), vegetables (25,107 tons), Robusta coffee (11,667 tons), fruit crops (8,547 tons), mixed plantations (7,378 tons), and rubber (2,403 tons). Smaller but also show notable losses, which were also reported for areca nut (91 tons), smallholder coconut (59 tons), medicinal plants (28 tons), tall coconut (11 tons), cinnamon and patchouli (8 tons), cinnamon (4 tons), floriculture plants (1 ton), peanuts (0.19 tons), nutmeg (0.13 tons), and patchouli (0.12 tons).

Government responses and countermeasures

In response to the widespread floods and landslides, the Indonesian government deployed rapid national disaster management teams, established emergency shelters, and mobilized large-scale logistics support. These efforts were reinforced by local authorities, community groups, and humanitarian organizations working together to accelerate rescue and post-disaster recovery. However, response operations faced challenges such as blocked roads, which delayed evacuations and complicated the delivery of emergency aid.

The government has implemented comprehensive recovery measures, including the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure such as roads, bridges, power systems, health facilities, and public utilities. Support is also being provided for the reconstruction of homes

for displaced families. Authorities supplied generator sets, fuel, emergency sanitation facilities, and temporary shelters to affected communities to access immediate needs.

The government is now focusing on rehabilitating agricultural land and maintaining food supplies by transporting produce from other regions until local farming recovers. The Ministry of Agriculture is assisting farmers with replanting paddy fields and restoring farmland, while coordinating with the Ministry of Public Works to repair irrigation systems. Financial relief has also been extended through the waiver of Kredit Usaha Rakyat (KUR) loans for affected farmers.

The Indonesian government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), stated that it can manage the disaster response independently and has not declared a national emergency. Nonetheless, international and private-sector assistance has supported relief efforts. Malaysia sent medical supplies and personnel, the European Union allocated emergency funds to Indonesia through humanitarian partners, the United Nations expressed readiness to assist, and non-governmental organizations and private companies provided relief items and connectivity services to affected communities.

Sources:

1. Commission announces €1.9 billion humanitarian aid budget for 2026, Reliefweb. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/commission-announces-eu19-billion-humanitarian-aid-budget-2026>
2. Impacts of El Nino and IOD on the Indonesian Climate, National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), Indonesia. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323783989_Impacts_of_El_Nino_and_IOD_on_the_Indonesian_Climate
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Food Crops Protection, Directorate General of Food Crops. Period: November 1, 2025–January 18, 2026.
4. National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB), Indonesia. <https://gis.bnrb.go.id/BANSORSUMATERA2025/>
5. Prabowo Will Write Off the KUR Debts of Acehnese Farmers Affected by the Disaster, Tempo. <https://www.tempo.co/ekonomi/prabowo-akan-hapus-utang-kur-petani-aceh-yang-kena-bencana-2096744>
6. Rainfall in Australia's eastern seaboard: a review of confidence in projections based on observations and physical processes, Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Journal. https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/media/ccia/2.2/cms_page_media/472/Dowdy%20etal%202015%20AMOJ%2065_1_1.pdf
7. Variability and long-term change in Australian monsoon rainfall: A review, WIREs Climate Change. <https://wires.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wcc.823>