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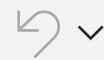
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19 January 2021

Caritas Australia's partners on the ground in Indonesia are responding to the immediate needs of over 15,000 people displaced by twin earthquakes which have rocked the island of Sulawesi.

Over 73 people have been killed and more than 826 injured after West Sulawesi was hit by a magnitude 5.9 earthquake on Thursday January 14, followed by a magnitude 6.2 earthquake on Friday, January 15.

The two earthquakes caused significant destruction, with over 300 houses and several public facilities damaged, including two hospitals. Road access and communications have been cut off in Mamuju district.

The challenges of responding to the earthquake have been magnified by COVID-19, with Indonesia's hospital system already under strain. On Friday when the second earthquake hit, Indonesia reported over 12,000 new infections.

Families across the region are in urgent need of food, clean water, clothing, hygiene kits, blankets and mats, medical attention, personal protective equipment (PPE) and shelter.

Caritas Australia is supporting church and NGO partners on the ground with initial funds to support assessments and to ensure that communities have shelter, food