

Flash Floods & Landslides in Tapanuli Raya

DISASTER MAP: FLASH FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES IN NORTH SUMATRA, ACEH, AND WEST SUMATRA

25-26 NOVEMBER 2025

Severe floods and landslides triggered by extreme rainfall associated with the KOTO cyclone system and Cyclone 95B.



Hundreds Died



Hundreds Missing



Thousands Evacuated



Widespread Damage



ACEH

- Aceh Tengah
- Bener Meriah
- Aceh Tamiang
- Aceh Selatan
- Aceh Singkil
- and surrounding areas



NORTH SUMATRA

- North Tapanuli
- Central Tapanuli
- Samosir
- South Tapanuli
- Padang Lawas
- North Padang Lawas and surrounding areas








WEST SUMATRA

- Pasaman
- Agam
- Tanah Datar
- Padang Pariaman and surrounding areas





ABOUT THE DISASTER

Extreme rainfall associated with the KOTO cyclone system and Cyclone 95B has caused severe flash floods and landslides in parts of North Sumatra, Aceh, and West Sumatra, resulting in loss of lives, missing persons, mass evacuations, and widespread destruction.

- ### IMPACT
-  Hundreds of people died
 -  Hundreds of people are missing
 -  Thousands of people evacuated
 -  Widespread damage to homes, roads, bridges, public facilities, and farmlands
 -  Roads cut off, communication down, and access very limited

LEGEND

-  Affected area in Aceh
-  Affected area in North Sumatra

Disaster Overview

Severe flash floods and landslides struck Tapanuli Raya, North Sumatra on 25–26 November 2025.

More than 300 people died in North Sumatra, hundreds were injured or missing, and thousands of families were displaced.

The disaster spread to other parts of North Sumatra and Aceh due to extreme rainfall linked to the KOTO cyclone system and Cyclone 95B.

Roads collapsed, communication networks failed, and many areas became inaccessible.



Impact on Communities & Churches

- UEM member churches reported widespread destruction of homes, farmland, and livelihoods.
- Congregations lost family members, houses, crops, and community infrastructure.
- Churches opened shelters, organized emergency relief, and established joint coordination posts.
- Despite the devastation, faith communities became centers of hope and solidarity.



Day 1 – North Tapanuli

- Visited survivors at GKPI Lobu Pining Church together with Rev. Naomi Simarmata and Rev. Yenni Tobing.
- Survivors shared stories of losing homes, land, and loved ones.
- Prayer, hymns, and fellowship strengthened the community spiritually.
- Solidarity gifts from UEM friends in Germany, Africa, and Asia deeply moved the survivors.
- Representatives from HKBP, GKPI, and HKI participated in the visit.



Day 2 – Central Tapanuli

In Hutanabolon village, flash floods and landslides destroyed homes and farmland.

Entire sections of the community were swept away by mud and debris.

UEM, KN-LWF, PGI, and the UEM Integrated Post Team visited survivors together.

Members of HKBP, HKI, GKPI, and BNKP gathered in fellowship at HKI Hutanabolon, Tukka.



Providing 'Sipir ni Tondi' – Strength for the Soul

UEM distributed rice, sugar, and emergency support.

Prayer and God's Word became sources of healing and encouragement.

Survivors emphasized the urgent need for continued assistance.

Even amid suffering, survivors expressed gratitude that they were not alone.



Day 3 – South Tapanuli (Hutagodang)

An entire small civilization disappeared under landslides: homes, markets, schools, and shops vanished.

Residents searched through mud with their bare hands for memories and traces of life.

One father found his family photo album and cried while turning its pages.

UEM and partners distributed food supplies, eggs, and school materials.



Interfaith Solidarity & Final Reflection

Relief support was shared not only with Christians, but also with Muslim communities.

Muslim residents expressed gratitude, saying: 'We worship the same God.'

The journey was emotionally exhausting, yet deeply meaningful.

Final message to survivors: 'Stay strong. Do not lose hope. God has not abandoned you—and neither have we.'



Conclusion



The disaster revealed both deep human suffering and extraordinary solidarity.

Churches became places of refuge, compassion, and coordination.

UEM's global fellowship continues to stand with the survivors in prayer and action.

May our shared faith continue to bring hope, healing, and justice.

Thank You

Standing Together in Faith, Prayer, and Solidarity