

## West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesian

2018.08.07-08.10

**Strong Earthquake Destroyed Homes and Caused Casualties  
Rescue Mission  
with Free Clinics in Action**

By: Indonesia Tzu Chi Volunteers

On July 29, 2018 in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesian, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake caused the loss of many lives and severe damage to buildings. On August 5, another 6.9 magnitude earthquake resulted in thousands of destroyed homes and casualties. A team of 20 Tzu Chi volunteers and nine medical personnel flew to Lombok on a military airplane started the rescue operations with food

**Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, suffered several earthquakes in two weeks; several thousand houses were destroyed with severe casualties. On August 7, Tzu Chi volunteers along with medical personnel formed a rescue team accompanied by military personnel to help the victims.**





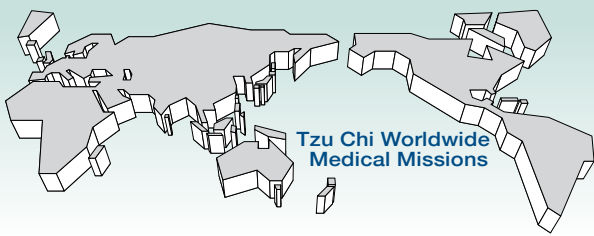
**The night was cold with many aftershocks; residents camped outdoors in sleeping bags.**

and free medical treatments.

Volunteers arrived at Lombok in the afternoon of August 7, but they did not find transportation until 7 pm. They encountered many stops on their way because with no water and electricity, victims wanted to grab the relief goods and material. Luckily, we escaped burglaries being escorted by the military. Finally, around 8:30 pm, we arrived safely at the Temple Jaya-wijaya in the town of Tanjung Pamenang and settled there. Upon arrival, volunteers communicated with the village elders immediately to understand their conditions. Then we organized the goods and material and

coordinated the routes and assignments for the relief effort. Lombok Island was affected by cold air from Australia, the night was very cold but volunteers stayed busy until 11 pm. However, there were still many aftershocks, thus victims either camped outside or slept with sleeping bags outdoors.

In the morning of August 8, volunteers set up a free clinic. Many local residents came to assist. They realized to help the volunteers was the same as helping themselves. Dharmayana, who worked at the province Papua, came home to visit his family after the earthquake. He heard that Tzu Chi was



**August 8, the team went to Tanjung Pamenang and nearby areas to survey the damage.**

starting a relief effort, so he came happily and joined the relief effort from 12 miles away.

Another team went to Pamenang on another pickup truck to survey the disaster area. The houses in that area were severely damaged. The medical team started a free clinic service for the local victims. In the city of Tempos, there was an older woman who complained about aches all over her body. Her son Purniadi told the volunteers: "When our house collapsed, my mother didn't faint, only asked us to take her out. She didn't realize she had cuts and wounds on her head and left arm." Three days ago, she had eight stitches on her head and nine stitches on her arm. Dr.

Dharma examined her wounds, changed bandages, and gave her painkillers and anti-inflammatory drugs. This earthquake frightened an elderly woman but Dr. Dharma comforted her, and helped her calm down. Rutianing held Dr. Dharma hands and said emotionally, "Thank you for coming here to help me." We served 202 wounded victims before noon that day.

Volunteers walked the camps of those refugees, showing concerns for their well-being. They also told the refugees about the free medical clinics and distributions. Tzu Chi volunteer Shen Jeng-Kuan saw another elderly woman sitting on the ground crying, so he stopped and showed his concerns

for her situation. However, she did not want to say anything else except, “hands are painful”, so Brother Shen put some ointment to help relief the pain and massaged her hands.

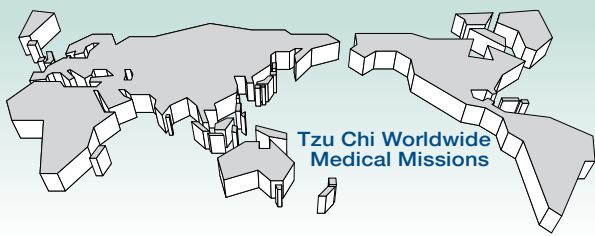
Volunteers also brought some supplies to help the relief effort and surveyed the disaster village Budhis. Then they arrived at Tanhung, and saw the hospital buildings damaged with many cracks and made uninhabitable. They found that all the community hospitals in Tanjung were badly damaged; only a few buildings were operable. Because the general hospitals in the cities of North and East Lombok



**The medical team performed a free clinic at Tempos.**



**The volunteers showed their concerns to those who temporarily stayed in the camps behind the Jaya Wijaya Buddhist temple.**



were inoperable also, and Kota Mataram's general hospital were also severely damaged, most of the patients were transferred here to get medical treatments.

After lunch, volunteers from the TIMA medical team visited a local police hospital in order to understand the scope of this disaster as well as the required assistances. The hospital told the volunteers that 1,702 victims were helped. The hospital already performed orthopedics operations on 20 people and there were seven more surgeries waiting that day. The headquarters had provided the necessary medical personnel as well as medical supplies. Then they went to Kota Mataram province Medical Center. The hospital also expressed that they had taken care of 2,662 victims and performed 1,183 operations and additional 174 orthopedics operations that day. The necessary medical personnel as well as medicine were taken care by Waikato hospital and two other universities.

Around 3 pm, we went to visit those who stay in temporary camps behind the Jia-Ya Buddhist temple, and delivered the supplies such as canvas, instant noodles, blankets, and towels. They were so glad and appreciated that Tzu Chi was willing to come and help.

At 4 pm, Tzu Chi volunteers visited the village of Montong. Last week's



**Dr. Dharmayana from medical team was examining Grandma Rutianing's wounds on her head; and changed the gaze with anti-inflammatory and pain reliever medicine.**

earthquake did not damage the homes that Tzu Chi built long time ago. Although there were few houses damaged by the earthquake few days ago, luckily, no one was hurt. When they saw the volunteers with the familiar Tzu Chi uniform, they were so excited to welcome us like their family. It was a very touching scene. In 2013, Brother Chang Ching-Shen came to oversee the rebuilt effort and stayed for two months. The children were

excited and told the volunteers that they missed Brother Chang. Volunteers also delivered the relief supplies for victims in the village.

After surveys and evaluations, the medical team came to Montong village to hold a free clinic on August 10. Because of long outdoor stay, the local residents appeared to have respiratory infections, skin disease, and body aches. When

they heard about the free clinic, a local nurse named Iwa invited doctors to visit a local resident who could not move freely. Doctors walked with Iwa during their break and diagnosed those who could not walk or with bone fractures and applied some medical treatment. Between 9 am in the morning and 3 pm in the afternoon, the free clinic served 156 earthquake victims.

**The team visited local police hospital to understand the damage and the hospital's needs.**

