

2018 Sulawesi Earthquake

Case Study

In September 2018 Zirkarta and a global Non-Government Organisation were making arrangements for a trial of Zirkarta to be undertaken as part of a training exercise in New Zealand. The plan was for training in Zirkarta to be undertaken at the beginning of the exercise after which the platform would be trialled.

On 28 September, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. The earthquake and associated tsunami killed 4340, injured 10,679, displaced 206,524 and destroyed more than 70,000 homes. Most damage was centred around the regional capital of Palu.

The planned training exercise was postponed and the organisation responded to the disaster with a team flying to Jakarta, the Capital of Indonesia. During the time it took to fly from New Zealand to Jakarta, a new template was configured in Zirkarta for use in an earthquake/tsunami context, a context it had not previously been used in.

As a result of delays in obtaining customs clearance for their equipment, most of the team flew to Palu to assist with the disaster response while a single team member remained in Jakarta until the customs issue was resolved.

Team members in Palu and Jakarta self-learnt how to use Zirkarta with questions being answered either via email or within the platform from Canberra, Australia, 5000km away.



Zirkarta was used to communicate information between the site of the disaster in Palu and Jakarta, 1500km away in real time. Information communicated included mapped information, the location of responders, tasks, planned actions and in-context photographs.

The team member who remained in Jakarta indicated the situational awareness provided by Zirkarta was 'just like being there'. Changes to the template in zirkarta were made 'on the run' based on issues identified as the platform was used.

Zirkarta was also used to provide real time situational awareness and reporting back to Wellington, New Zealand, 7000km away. In response to this, staff in New Zealand stated that Zirkarta was 'amazing' and they were 'very impressed'

This case study indicates Zirkarta:

- Can be quickly adapted for an application it had not been used for previously.
- Can be quickly self-learnt.
- Enables geographically separated people to successfully collaborate.
- Can be changed 'on the run' based on issues identified during use.
- Provides situational awareness 'just like being there'.



People in these 4 locations were able to all look at the same map and make decisions in real-time.

