INDONESIA
IFRC Country Cluster Support Team Jakarta

2019 COUNTRY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Indonesia is the world’s fourth most populous country and is Southeast Asia’s largest economy and the 16th largest in the world. Despite its rapidly emerging economy and growing middle class, agricultural productivity is very low, transport logistics costs are very high, and access to energy remains a challenge.

Located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, Indonesia has to cope with the constant risks of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods and tsunamis. Over the last 30 years, there have been an average of 289 significant natural disasters per year and an average annual death toll of approximately 8,000 people. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami caused widespread destruction and more than 130,000 deaths. The 2010 eruption of Mount Merapi resulted in at least 386 deaths and displaced more than 300,000 people. Most recently in 2018, earthquakes and tsunamis had resulted in at least 2,000 deaths and displaced more than 205,000 individuals.

Climate change is recognized as a key threat to Indonesia’s development, especially for lower-income groups. Rising sea levels and changing weather patterns may lead to increased uncertainty in water availability, food production, and disruptions to transport, commerce, and urban development. While there are greater efforts at improving basic public services, the quality of health clinics and schools is uneven by middle-income standards, contributing to alarming indicators, particularly in health. For example, the maternal mortality rate in Indonesia is 126 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births – higher than the previous Millennium Development Goal of 102 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Approximately one in three children under the age of five suffer from stunting, or shorter height, which reflects impaired brain development that will affect the children’s future opportunities.

Indonesian Red Cross, locally known as Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), serves as an auxiliary to the Indonesian government and is at the forefront contributing to the country’s preparedness and response to natural disasters. PMI’s primary aim is to become the leading humanitarian organisation that provides quality services to communities, in line with the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. PMI’s 2014 – 2019 strategic plan outlines the National Society’s priority areas in disaster management, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

IFRC works with other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners in Indonesia, including the American, Australian, and Japanese Red Cross Societies, and ICRC to bolster PMI’s efforts in disaster risk reduction, logistics, community resilience, communication, and overall Movement readiness to respond in the event disasters and crises.
Beneath the Surface of Poverty Decrease in Indonesia

In early 2018, the Indonesian government announced that the overall poverty rate was at a mere 10 per cent, the lowest that has ever been for the country. However, this must be accompanied by a good understanding of what poverty means and how it is measured. Development critics are scrutinizing the measurements of macro poverty against its dimensions; the parameters of the country’s poverty line; and the ratio of spending versus income. While 26 million of its population now considered to be “poor”, approximately 21 per cent of the entire population still remains at risk of falling back into poverty, as their income hovers only marginally above the national poverty line.

In line with the broader global trend of rural to urban migration, Indonesia’s rural population shrank by 2.7 million while the urban population grew by 5.8 million. The increasing urbanization is changing the face of poverty in Indonesia and potentially affecting the national data presentation of poverty due to differing data collected due to differing needs and calculation of living poverty due to differing data collected due to its dimensions; the poverty line; and the ratio of spending versus income. While 26 million of its population now considered to be “poor”, approximately 21 per cent of the entire population still remains at risk of falling back into poverty, as their income hovers only marginally above the national poverty line.

HEALTH

IFRC and Australian Red Cross (ARC) will support PMI to implement Mother and Child Health project in selected districts of Eastern Nusa Tenggara. The Government of Indonesia evaluated the achievement of National Measles and Rubella Campaign Phase 2 at the end of 2018. IFRC/PMI will use the evaluation result as input for improvement of an immunisation project (including the new programme). PMI will, in line with the recommendation of the Manila Call to Action, work in close partnership with communities to establish preparedness activities at the local level.

- 46,000 people reached with services to reduce relevant health factors.
- 240 volunteers trained in epidemic control.
- 9,100 people provided with clinical health care services during emergencies.
- 5,300 people reached with immunization activities.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI)

Following the results of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in-country research and key recommendations of the Manila Call to Action, IFRC and PMI will commence the implementation of PGI with support from British and Australian Red Cross through Asia Pacific Regional Office. One important recommendation is to initiate a community-based awareness, prevention and response to the SGBV programme at local level in areas where the research was conducted. This will be integrated with community engagement and accountability to ensure the communities have the platforms to raise their concerns relating to PGI.

REPRESENTATIVE TO ASEAN

The cooperation with ASEAN steadily increased in 2018, and it is expected that it will further increase in 2019. Following the recommendations of the Manila Call to Action, IFRC will continue promoting effective, responsive, climate-smart and socially inclusive disaster risk management mechanisms as supported by legal frameworks and developing protection and social inclusion standards for vulnerable groups. IFRC will further expand youth development activities through scaling up Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) and Youth School Safety in the region while further engaging IFRC-ASEAN training and capacity building opportunities.

STATISTICAL FINDINGS

- 62% of the country’s population live in disaster prone areas.
- 23% of the country do not have access to basic health services.
- 33% women in country have experienced some or multiple forms of violence.
- 5% increase in unemployment in 2018.

AREAS OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

PMI and the IFRC with support by the Red Cross Climate Centre (RCCC) will pilot forecast-based finance (PBF) initiatives for Bengawan Solo and Citraen rivers based on the recommendations from the feasibility study conducted in September 2018. The IFRC and the RCCC will support PMI and the American Red Cross to develop a similar approach for the Ciliwung river and drought prone areas in East Nusa Tenggara with the support of Australian Red Cross. These initiatives are important to adapt the humanitarian action in a fast-changing world as noted in the Manila Call To Action (2018).

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CONTACTS

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