



Disaster Preparedness in Indonesia

Hazards and Risks

A chain of 17,000 islands, Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world. 6,000 of the islands are inhabited by highly diverse ethnic groups with over 300 local languages and huge socio-economic differences.

Indonesia is one of the most hazard prone countries in the world, topping regularly the statistics of 'the most devastating disasters', the 'largest death tolls' and 'affected population' figures. A large share of the population is threatened by earthquakes, some of them potentially triggering tsunamis. Volcanic eruptions, landslides, floods and peat fires are other frequent hazards. The high frequency of small to large scale disasters constantly erodes local resources to face and recover from the devastation caused.

Man-made causes such as improper practices and lack of law enforcement in areas ranging from logging to construction aggravate the risks.

ECHO's response

Through its Disaster Preparedness Programme DIPECHO, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) aims at building the resilience of communities that face recurrent disasters, in particular floods, earthquakes and forest fires, both in urban and rural areas of Indonesia.

Since 1998, twelve projects have been funded under the DIPECHO programme for over €2.7 million. The projects have been located in very different parts of the country, addressing haze preparedness in Kalimantan, urban flooding in Jakarta, as well as floods and fires in rural areas.



Population	234,693,997 (July 2007 est.)
Population growth rate	1.213% (2007 est.)
GDP per capita	\$3,900 (2006 est.)
Pop. below poverty line	17.8% (2006)
Life expectancy	70.16 yrs
Infant mortality	32.14 per 1,000 live births

Source: CIA Factbook



Community fire brigade training, Kota Bangun, Indonesia

Photo credit: t. Touch, ECHO



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Activities funded include the establishment of flood or peat fire early warning systems, construction of small scale mitigation projects such as dykes and channels, slope stabilisation, flood mapping, the establishment and training of village disaster risk management committees, the development of disaster management plans at village or kelurahan levels and their integration into economic plans. The Indonesian Red Cross has been involved in most actions.

Until recently priority was given by all stakeholders to relief and recovery in the wake of disasters rather than to disaster preparedness. DIPECHO has invested relatively little so far in Indonesia compared to the high risks of exposure and the needs

for preparedness measures. In 2007, the Government of Indonesia enacted a new legal framework, the cornerstone of the country's commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction. Moreover, many agencies have now shifted their focus to a better integration of preparedness measures in their development interventions.

With the new legal framework and an increased number of possible partners DIPECHO will expand its programme in Indonesia in its upcoming 2008-2009 Action Plan. The priority actions will be centred on the implementation of the legal framework as well as on working through local organisations and institutions to build their capacity in a multi-hazard approach.

DIPECHO funded projects between November 2006 and May 2008 for a total of €0.8 million:

	Partner	Hazard addressed / project type	Area
Country projects	Action contre la Faim	Urban floods	Slum areas of Jakarta
	Danish Red Cross	Floods, landslides	North Sumatra : Langkat; South Kalimantan: Barito Kuala, Banjar, Tanah Laut; West Java: Bogor, Bandung
Regional projects	UNESCAP/ADPC	Development of partnerships, networking, integration of community-based disaster risk reduction into socio-economic plans at national level	National

About ECHO: The Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) is part of the European Commission, the European Union's executive arm. It comes under the direct responsibility of Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid. Through ECHO funding, nearly 20 million people are helped each year in more than 60 countries through 190 partners (NGOs, international organisations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and UN agencies). In 2006, the Commission provided €671 million for humanitarian programmes. Web: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo/>

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