

**OCHA Field Situation Report
Indonesia – Rainy Season
1 December 2008**

This report is prepared based on information provided by the National Coordinating Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) and media outlets including Kompas, Liputan 6, Antara and Media Indonesia.

Rainy Season in Indonesia - September to date

Highlights:

- Since the rainy season started in September, at least 54 people have been killed with the highest number of fatalities occurring in November alone - 33 fatalities;
- During this period, at least 31,500 people were temporarily displaced; in a number of cases the local government provided emergency shelter for the affected population;
- The most destructive flooding incidents in terms of temporary displacement of residents and damage to infrastructure were located in East Kalimantan and Gorontalo Provinces;
- West Java Province has suffered the greatest impact in terms of number of fatalities – over 17 persons killed so far.
- Over 210 people suffered from water borne diseases as a result of flooding in North Sumatra and West Sumatra Provinces;
- Approximately 45,700 houses were temporarily inundated by flood waters, which have generally receded within hours or days.

Situation Overview:

The rainy season started in September across Indonesia and has resulted in numerous cases of flash flooding and landslides caused by torrential rains and excessive precipitation. Overpopulation with all its related consequences such as people inhabiting vulnerable areas, deforestation and urbanization in many cases has exacerbated the situation. The following is an overview of the major incidences of flooding and landslides across the archipelago including a map highlighting the localized disasters.

September:

- At least 16 fatalities were reported in seven provinces: North Sumatra, South Sulawesi, Gorontalo, Maluku, Riau, Central Sulawesi, and West Java, with an approximate inundation of 23,600 houses;

- In five districts of North Sumatra Province, flood waters exceeding one metre inundated over 4,000 houses for several days, causing three fatalities and an outbreak of water-borne diseases which affected 53 people;
- A total of 48 temporary displacement centres were set up for over 17,000 people who were displaced by flooding in Gorontalo City, Gorontalo Province; the flood waters receded after two days;
- Over 10,000 houses in three districts of Riau Province were inundated by flood waters, which receded slowly and kept some areas affected for over one week;
- Large areas of South Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan and East Kalimantan Provinces were flooded and hindered land transportation for over a week; approximately 5,000 houses were inundated as flood waters reached two metres -- East Kalimantan was the most affected province.

October:

- At least five people were killed and flooding affected nine provinces: Central Java, Gorontalo, West Kalimantan, Central Sulawesi, Bali, Bengkulu, Banten, North Sumatra and West Java. Flood water inundated approximately 5,500 houses;
- Over 11,000 people were displaced again in Gorontalo City, Gorontalo Province when floods inundated over 2,000 houses; BNPB deployed a team to the area and the local government set up evacuation centres and distributed non-food items;
- Flood waters which reached 1.5 metres in three districts of North Sumatra Province inundated at least 1,000 houses during two days.

November:

- At least 33 people were killed by flooding or landslides, most notably with 17 fatalities in Central Java Province. Flooding occurred in ten provinces: West Sumatra, Bengkulu, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, West Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, Central Java, East Java, West Java and East Kalimantan and approximately 16,600 houses were inundated;
- At least 1,000 houses were inundated by flash flooding in South Sulawesi Province, killing three people, injuring over 200 and temporarily displacing at least 1,000 residents;
- A severe landslide, triggered by heavy rain, killed 17 people and displaced approximately 2,400 people in Cianjur District, West Java; over 500 houses resulted damaged;
- Flood water reaching 1.5 metres high affected Samarinda City, East Kalimantan Province; almost 12,000 houses and the airport were inundated by water killing one person. Even though the flood waters receded after four days, there was no displaced population.

Response:

To date, most of the disasters associated with the rainy seasons have been of a localized nature and local governments have responded effectively. OCHA has been in regular contact with local officials in the affected areas in the last three months and so far has received one proposal for funding through the Emergency Response Fund (ERF). The capacity of local governments to handle the responses at district and provincial levels is reflected by the limited number of proposals to the ERF. At no time has the Government of Indonesia requested any humanitarian assistance to handle the disasters during this rainy season.

Forecasting:

As the rainy season continues across the country until at least March 2009, incidences of flash flooding, torrential rains and landslides are expected to continue. A number of flood prone areas have been identified by BMKG, BNPB and the World Bank across the country.

BMKG has identified 11 districts in three municipalities around Jakarta which are expected to flood in January and February 2009 – the height of the rainy season. BMKG is anticipating up to 100 millimetres of rain per day which would overwhelm drainage systems and cause flooding. Limited infrastructure for waste management and heavily populated areas contributes to clogged drains which exacerbate the flooding. The Jakarta Crisis Centre reported in October that several locations within Jakarta were witnessing a rise in water level. The City Administration is working with the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) to set up medical posts and flood evacuation centres in 44 districts. Flooding in Jakarta often affects the most vulnerable people in the heavily populated areas in the slums of North Jakarta causing damage to infrastructure, displacement of people, disruption of livelihood activities and the spread of water-borne diseases.

Local and provincial governments continue working together with BNPB on the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction activities and preparedness initiatives to reduce the effect of flooding across the country. As for the Jakarta area, the rainy season will still continue to affect particular areas of the country due to limited waste management; geographic vulnerability and susceptibility to flooding.

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INDONESIA - Main Flooding Incidents, September - November 2008

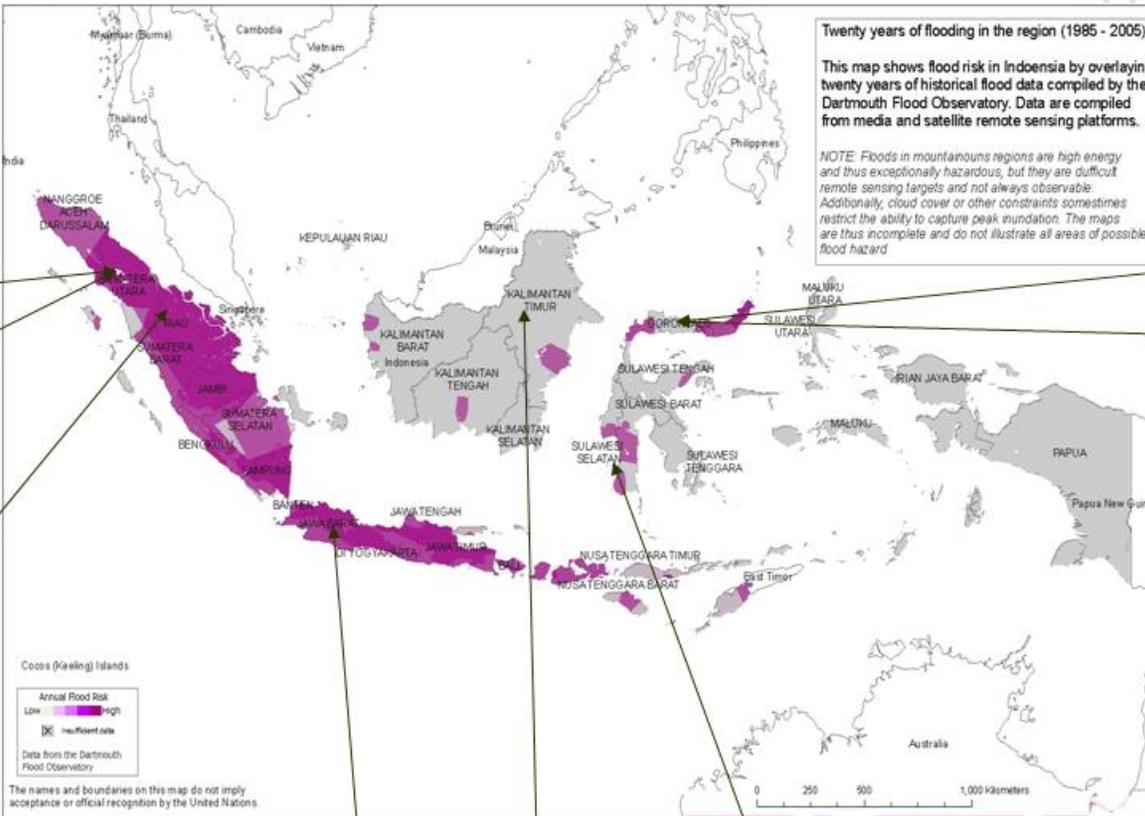
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September: At least 5,500 houses inundated in six districts. Three fatalities reported and 53 cases of water borne diseases.

October: At least 2,200 houses inundated in two flooding incidents.

September: More than 10,000 people temporarily displaced due to flooding.



Twenty years of flooding in the region (1985 - 2005)

This map shows flood risk in Indonesia by overlaying twenty years of historical flood data compiled by the Dartmouth Flood Observatory. Data are compiled from media and satellite remote sensing platforms.

NOTE: Floods in mountainous regions are high energy and thus exceptionally hazardous, but they are difficult remote sensing targets and not always observable. Additionally, cloud cover or other constraints sometimes restrict the ability to capture peak inundation. The maps are thus incomplete and do not illustrate all areas of possible flood hazard.

September: Floods in Gorontalo city inundated more than 4,000 houses temporarily displacing more than 17,000 people.

October: At least 2,000 houses inundated in Gorontalo city temporarily displacing at least 11,000 people.

13 November: landslides in Cianjur resulted in 17 fatalities, 2,400 people temporarily displaced and more than 500 houses damaged.

November: Flood waters inundated almost 12,000 houses, the airport and caused one fatality.

November: Flash floods resulted in three fatalities, 200 injured and at least 1,000 people temporarily displaced.