INDONESIA
IFRC Country Cluster Support Team Jakarta

2019 COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Indonesia is the world’s fourth most populous country, and is predominately Muslim at 86%. It 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 is remain a challenge.

Being located on the Pacific Ring of Fire (an area with a high degree of tectonic activity), Indonesia has to cope with the constant risk 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. 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, earthquake and tsunami 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 1 in 3 children under the age of 5 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 or PMI for short), serves as an auxiliary to the Indonesian government, and is at the forefront and centre in 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

Early 2018 the Indonesian government announced that the overall poverty rate is at a mere 10 per cent, the lowest that it’s 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 only 26 million of its population now considered to be “poor”, approximately 21 per cent of the entire population still remain vulnerable of falling back into poverty, as their income hover 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 the urban population grew by 5.8 million at the same time. 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 costs for rural and urban population.

STATISTICS

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.

AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

PMI and the IFRC with support by the Red Cross Climate Centre (RCCC) will pilot Forecast based Finance initiative for the two rivers of central Java (Bengawan Solo river and Citarum river) based on the recommendation of feasibility study that has been done in September 2018, while 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. This initiative is important to adapt the humanitarian action in a fast-changing world as noted in the Manila Call To Action (2018).

HEALTH

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

- 46,000 people reached with 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 (2018), 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 (2018), IFRC will continue promoting effective, responsive, climate-smart and socially inclusive disaster risk management mechanisms supported by legal frameworks and developing protection and social inclusion standards that apply for vulnerable groups. IFRC will further expand Youth development activities through scaling up the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) and Youth School Safety in the region including engaging and increasing collaboration on IFRC-ASEAN training and capacity building opportunities.

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

IFRC will continue supporting PMI to accelerate the action plans from the outcome of IFRC’s Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification covering the development of Finance, Resource Mobilisation, Human Resource Management, Volunteer, Branch Development, and Community Engagement and Accountability. This capacity building plan will also be linked to the outcome of IFRC’s Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment and Preparedness for Effective Response in increasing branch capacity to prepare and response to local disasters. While maintaining its emergency WASH capacity, PMI would also develop and enhance its capacity in community-based WASH activity. IFRC will continue to support PMI to make themselves Cash ready at scale, given more priority on rolling out Cash based intervention for Forecast based early action.

EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The IFRC, mandated globally for Shelter cluster coordination, aims to continue supporting the Indonesia National Cluster responsible for Shelter coordination, including the merging of camp management sub-cluster with Shelter sub-cluster. Meanwhile on cash based intervention, IFRC and PMI have actively been involved in a new-established national cash working group since 2017. IFRC and PMI will focus on finalising common approach and guideline for cash based intervention, national policy framework and case studies to highlight the lesson learnt and best practices as a tool of advocacy. These initiatives are critical for effective disaster management and in engaging in humanitarian action in a fast-changing world as stated in the Manila Call To Action (2018).

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

PMI will enhance the evidence based advocacy efforts through supporting the role of communities as the first/local responders in the event of disasters through amplifying their voices in key policies e.g. Disaster, One Billion Coalition for Resilience, Forecast-based Financing/Early Warning Early Action, and relevant humanitarian policies. IFRC will support PMI to develop policy brief and in conducting policy dialog, carry out media monitoring and data analysis to help analyse PMI’s positioning, and analyse the epidemic and pandemic risks in Indonesia.

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

IFRC reinforces its commitment to compliance of highest accountability standards, amenability to key management performance indicators, full adherence to IFRC’s Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control policy, strict adherence to IFRC’s Prevention and to IFRC’s: Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy, and highest commitment to ensuring a safe and inclusive working environment towards greater diversity and gender equality.