

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Whirlwinds occurred more frequently than any other natural hazard, affecting some 19,400 people.
- Floods remained the most devastating disaster, impacting nearly 30,000 people.
- The Humanitarian Response Fund approved two new projects responding to whirlwind-affected households.

## FIGURES

### Natural disasters (Mar.)

Natural disaster events	72
Total affected population	55,706
Fatalities/Missing	24

## FUNDING

### Humanitarian Response Fund

**120,109**

Disbursed in March 2012  
(US\$)



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## 72 natural disasters reported in March

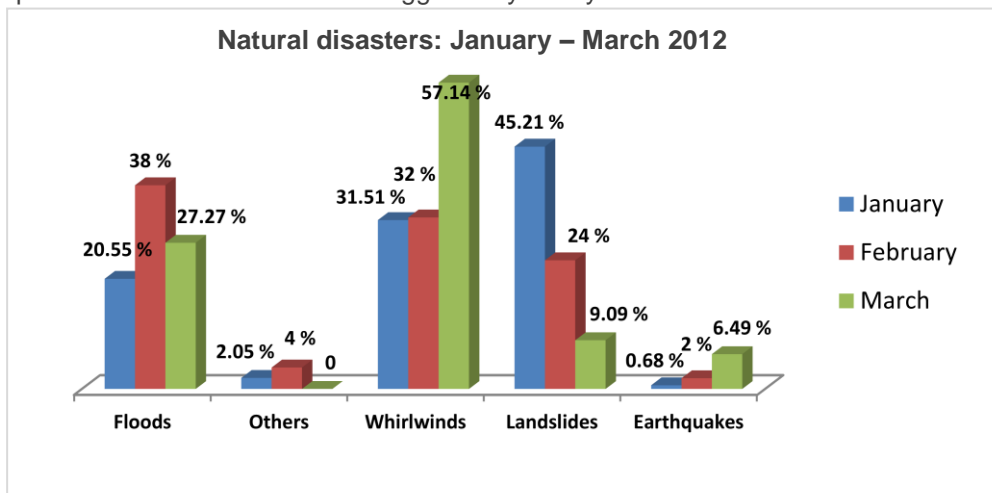
### Whirlwinds were the most frequent natural disaster

Some 72 natural disasters occurred in Indonesia in March 2012, affecting nearly 56,000 people, according to the Indonesian Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB). Whirlwinds were by far the most frequent natural hazard, accounting for three-fifths of all reported disasters. West Nusa Tenggara registered the most serious whirlwind incidence, with 251 houses severely damaged and another 291 suffering light damage across nine sub-districts of Manggarai. Whirlwinds caused two fatalities in Bali, and injured seven people in Jambi and three people in Central Java. Banten, Gorontalo and Riau Islands provinces also experienced some destruction to buildings and property due to whirlwinds. In total, at least 19,400 people were affected by whirlwinds.

### Floods affected 29,000 people in March

Floods due to continuous rains and high tides affected the largest number of people. A total of 8 people were either killed or went missing in the floods, while a further 29,951 people had their homes or paddy rice fields submerged. Floods inundated 86 villages across six districts of South Kalimantan, prompting affected communities to temporarily relocate to higher ground. Five people were reported missing and scores of houses were seriously damaged in the incident. In West Nusa Tenggara, floods combined with whirlwinds hit two villages, destroying five houses and inundating 190 others, leaving an estimated 450 people temporarily displaced. Hundreds of houses were also inundated in North Gorontalo (1,451), East Java (571), West Java (339) and Papua (200) during the month. The Government's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) had warned at the beginning of the year that 21 of the country's 33 provinces risked flooding through March 2012.

At least seven landslide incidents occurred in March, causing 12 fatalities and affecting 1,911 people. The landslides particularly affected East Java, West Java, West Nusa Tenggara and Bali, causing serious damage to over 100 houses and 100 hectares of crops. Half of the landslides were triggered by heavy rains.



*The Indonesia Disaster Database (DIBI) has been rolled out in South Sumatra and is active in 10 other provinces*

### **Five moderate earthquakes registered**

There were five moderate-scale earthquakes in Indonesia during the month. A 6.3 magnitude quake with a depth of 89 km hit some 95 km southeast of Yalimo City in Papua. The next strongest earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale also occurred in Papua, 94 km southeast of Sarmi City. Tremors measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale were registered in North Maluku, Aceh, and Bengkulu. None of the earthquakes caused a tsunami, casualties or damages.

As of 31 March, four volcanoes – Semeru, Lokon, Karangetang and Ijen – remained at Alert Level III (preparedness), and 20 volcanoes at Alert Level II.<sup>1</sup>

### **Government responded adequately to the disasters; no international assistance required**

The Government of Indonesia continued to respond sufficiently to the needs of affected populations in line with its stated position of not requesting international assistance for disasters impacting less than 500,000 people. Regional disaster management agencies provided basic assistance to the populations temporarily displaced by floods, and cleaned up debris following landslides.

## **Disaster Preparedness**

### **Government remained focused on preparedness**

The Government remains committed to strengthening national and local level disaster response readiness and preparedness.

In March, the Central Java Regional Agency for Disaster Management (BPBD), conducted a technical workshop on standardization of disaster data. Officials and technical managers involved in disaster data from BPBD provincial and district/municipal level in Central Java participated in the workshop. Also involved were other Government institutions such as the offices for Provincial Health, Social Affairs, Energy and Mineral Resources, Public Works and Search and Rescue.

Additionally, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) launched the South Sumatra DIBI (Indonesia Disaster Database) during the month. The DIBI is a database and analysis tool containing thousands of disaster data in Indonesia from 1815 to 2012 compiled by BNPB from reports of BPBD at provincial, district, or municipal levels. The tool has already been rolled out in 10 provinces in Indonesia: Aceh, West Sumatra, Bengkulu, DI Yogyakarta, Central Java, East Java, Bali, East Nusa Tenggara, North Sulawesi and Maluku.



Credit: BNPB  
Central Java (3 Mar 2012) – Symbolic handover of DIBI map to BPBD Central Java by BNPB

BNPB also began an initiative to develop guidelines to make schools safer during disasters. The Guidelines for Disaster Safe Schools will contain practical steps to developing safe schools through earthquake-resistant building construction and retrofitting. Such guidelines are especially relevant given that 75% of schools in Indonesia are located in high to medium hazard risk areas, according to the Education Ministry.

### **Inter-Cluster preparedness package launched**

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, launched an inter-sectoral emergency preparedness package

<sup>1</sup> Indonesia maintains a warning system with four alert levels: Level I is the lowest and Level IV is the highest.

*The Government and Humanitarian Community launched the Inter-Cluster Preparedness Package*

for Indonesia on 22 March. The Inter-Cluster Preparedness Package (ICPP) identifies and prioritizes sector-based activities aligned to the response plans in the Contingency Plan endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team in 2011.

Both the Contingency Plan and the ICPP complement the Government's National Disaster Management Plan 2010-2014. The ten sectors or clusters involved in the contingency planning process and the ICPP are: Agriculture, Education, Emergency Shelter, Food and Nutrition, Health, Emergency Telecommunications, Logistics, Protection (Children and Gender-Based Violence), Water Sanitation and Hygiene, and Early Recovery.

## Funding

### Humanitarian Response Fund approved two new projects

Two Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) projects were approved in March. The projects are designed to provide safe, adequate and durable shelters to whirlwind-affected households in Pulau Harapan and Pulau Kelapa of One Thousand Islands in Jakarta. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are implementing both projects at a total cost of \$120,109. The HRF remains with \$933,133 in unallocated funds.

#### Current HRF projects

NGO	Focus	Beneficiaries	Province
Majulah Indonesia Tanah Airku	Early Recovery	290,761	Yogyakarta
Inprosula	Early Recovery	2,052	Central Java
IDEA	NFI	7,035	Yogyakarta
YAKKUM Emergency Unit	NFI	612	Central Java
Catholic Relief Services	Shelter	375	DKI Jakarta
Catholic Relief Services	Shelter	165	DKI Jakarta

Source: OCHA

For further information, please contact:

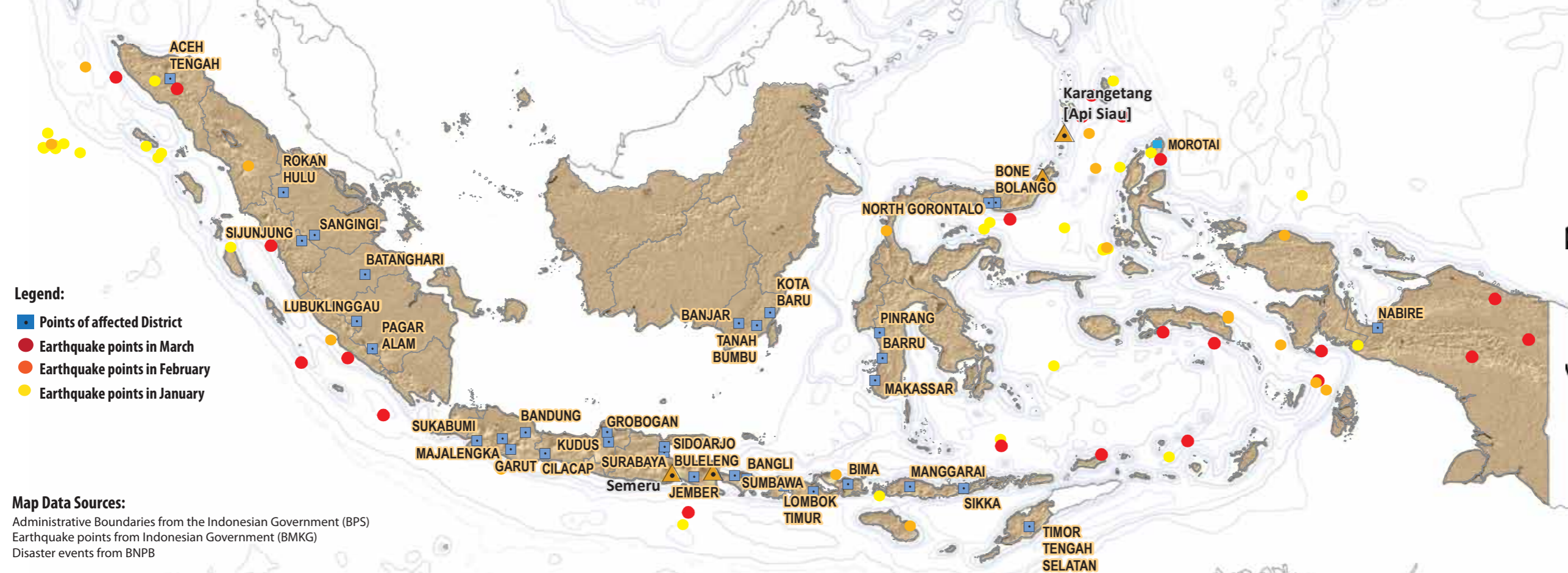
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- Landslides**  
7 Events  
**12** Casualties or Missing  
**1,911** Displaced and Affected
- Floods**  
21 Events  
**8** Casualties or Missing  
**34,375** Displaced and Affected
- Whirlwinds**  
44 Events  
**4** Casualties or Missing  
**19,420** Displaced and Affected

**Disclaimers:**  
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**1- 13 March**  
 The Noemuke River burst its banks and flooded 2 villages in Selatan sub-district and three villages in Kulian sub-district in Nusa Tenggara Timur. In Central Java, 172 houses were inundated and 16 families temporarily displaced in Cilacap District. In East Java, 571 houses in Surolele village and 160 houses in Kraton village were submerged. Floods also occurred in 3 villages in Gorontalo, causing inundation of 270 houses. Also, floods submerged 100 houses and hundreds of hectares of paddy rice fields in 3 villages of West Nusa Tenggara. In Papua, 200 houses in Nabire District suffered inundation.

**14 - 20 March**  
 Floods inundated 86 villages in 6 districts of South Kalimantan, prompting affected communities to temporarily vacate to higher ground. Five people went missing and tens of houses were seriously damaged in the incident. In Sumbawa in West Nusa Tenggara, floods combined with whirlwinds, hit two villages destroying 5 houses and submerged 190 others, leaving an estimated 450 people temporarily displaced.

**21- 27 March**  
 Whirlwinds caused light injury to 2 people and severe damage to 19 houses in Barru District of South Sulawesi. In Central Java, whirlwinds left 29 houses moderately-to-lightly damaged in Kudus District. In Brobokan District, whirlwinds severely damaged 5 houses and left a further 30 moderately damaged.

**28 - 31 March**  
 Two people were killed in floods occurring in Simpasaie village of Bima District in West Nusa Tenggara. Floods also hit several villages in North Gorontalo, inundating 250 houses in Ilangata village, 71 houses in Ilangata Barat village, 300 houses in Tolinggula Tengah village, 150 houses in Tolinggula Ulu, 680 houses in Tolite Jaya, and 150 houses in Limbato Village. In West Java, floods submerged 339 houses in Kertajat village.