Facts & Figures

- €84.5 million in response to natural disasters since 1994
- €22 million to assist victims of conflicts since 1994
- €8.27 million for disaster preparedness since 1994

Key messages

- Conducting rapid assessments of the needs of those affected by natural disasters together with partner organisations.
- Responding effectively and efficiently to the humanitarian needs of those affected by recent volcanoes (Mount Merapi) and tsunamis (Mentawai).
- Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures in all humanitarian assistance and supporting specific DRR projects to strengthen the resilience of communities regularly affected by natural disasters in Indonesia.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago. It is located on the 'ring of fire', one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. In October 2010 a tsunami in Mentawai off Sumatra and the volcanic eruption of Mount Merapi in Java caused more than 600 deaths and displaced hundreds of thousands. In 2009, the islands of Sumatra and Java were both struck by earthquakes above 7 on the Richter scale.

Major needs and related problems

These natural disasters can lead to widespread destruction causing large-scale displacement of communities. This leaves inhabitants in need of temporary shelter, clean water and sanitation, primary health care and new ways to manage hygiene. The size of the country and an underdeveloped infrastructure often makes it difficult to reach victims quickly.
**The European Union’s Humanitarian Response**

**Funding**

Following the tsunami that struck the Mentawai islands and the eruption of Mount Merapi on Java, the European Commission, through its Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), immediately provided €1.5 million in emergency assistance to the people affected by these two natural disasters.

In 2009, the European Commission also released €4.5 million for humanitarian assistance to the survivors of two devastating earthquakes, one in West Sumatra and the other in West Java. This was in response to the urgent needs for emergency and transitional shelter, basic household items, water and sanitation facilities and logistics including transport. As well as this some funds went towards the coordination of the international humanitarian relief effort. ECHO's main partner organisations included Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB), CARE, Mercy Corps, Telecom Sans Frontières, and IOM. These projects have all been successfully completed.

**Disaster Preparedness**

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

The European Commission’s DIPECHO programme for 2012-2013 for Southeast Asia, worth €11 million, has allocated some €1.57 million for projects in Indonesia which will seek to reduce the effects of natural disasters on vulnerable communities. These projects strengthen the local disaster preparedness capacity by supporting community-based activities, local capacity building, early warning systems, and public awareness campaigns (see photo). The main implementing partners include Handicap International (in consortium with Plan International and CARE Netherlands) and Oxfam GB, who are working with local authorities and government agencies, as well as numerous local organisations and community leaders. In addition, the country will benefit from regional initiatives funded under DIPECHO 2012-2013. These include a project run by the International Federation of the Red Cross that will enhance the capacity of the national Red Cross and Red Crescent society, and another led by Oxfam GB called the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which is facilitating regional dialogue between members of civil society. The goal is to make communities safer and more resilient.

Overall since 1998, the European Commission has provided €8.27 million for 29 DIPECHO country and regional projects aimed at enhancing the local communities’ disaster preparedness capabilities in Indonesia.

**Map of ECHO Projects in 2012**