ECHO FACTSHEET

Indonesia

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

Through the EU’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department ECHO funding, nearly 150 million people are helped each year in more than 90 countries outside the EU through approximately 200 partners (International non-governmental organisations, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, and UN agencies).

Key messages

- Making rapid assessment of specific needs of those affected by natural disasters together with implementing partners
- Responding effectively and efficiently to the humanitarian needs of those affected by the volcanoes and tsunamis.
- Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction 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, non-food items and hygiene awareness. The size of the country and an underdeveloped infrastructure often makes it difficult to reach victims rapidly.

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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 the 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, non-food items, water and sanitation, logistics including transport, as well as coordination of the international humanitarian relief. The main implementing partners included Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB), CARE, Mercy Corps, Telecom Sans Frontieres, and IOM. These projects have all been successfully completed.

**Disaster Preparedness**
Through its Disaster Preparedness Programme DIPECHO, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department 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.

The European Commission’s Disaster preparedness (DIPECHO) 2012-2013 programme 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. 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 organizations and community leaders. In addition, the country will benefit from regional initiatives funded under DIPECHO 2012-2013, notably through the enhancing of the national Red Cross and Red Crescent capacity to build safer and more resilient communities (project implemented by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies - IFRC); and through the implementation of AADMER’s Work programme to facilitate the regional civil society’s dialogue with ASEAN bodies (project led by Oxfam GB).

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