Natural disasters impact increasing

Indonesia’s wet season, hydro-meteorological disasters, and their humanitarian impact, reached its peak in January affecting 1,212,747 persons, rising from 171,259 in December 2013. Heavy rains across Indonesia in late December and early January caused widespread flooding that particularly affected Jakarta and Manado. Ongoing volcanic activity on Mt Sinabung in North Sumatra continued to impact surrounding communities. In February, there were renewed eruptions at Mt Kelud in East Java. In March, Mt Merapi in Yogyakarta showed increased activities and returned to normalcy while Mt Slamet in Central Java continues to experience tremors with up to 800 meter high pyroclastic flow eruption.

During February-March 2014, the National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB) reported 285 disaster events – with landslides being the most common followed by whirlwinds and earthquake – resulting in a total of 37 deaths and missing, at least 301,622 persons affected and 23,419 houses damaged.

NUMBER OF NATURAL DISASTER EVENTS
January - March 2014

In January 2014, BNPB reported 238 disaster events – with floods being the most common followed by landslides and whirlwinds – resulting in a total of 174 deaths, at least 1,245,102 affected and 5,127 houses damaged. The overwhelming majority of humanitarian impact and infrastructure damage in this period resulted from flooding, especially in Jakarta and the surrounding urban areas.
Floods were amongst the most common natural disasters experienced during January-March 2014 period and with the highest impact. Floods accounted for more than one third (41.3 per cent) of the total number of disaster events, 75.7 per cent of people affected and/or displaced by natural disasters and 2.4 percent of damage to houses.

In January 2014, BNPB reported that 108 flood events (an increase from 38 in January 2013) resulted in 52 deaths, affected more than 1,160,000 people and damaged 527 houses (including submerged houses). The worst flooding occurred across Central Java, Banten, West Java, Bekasi, Tangerang, Depok, Jambi, South Kalimantan, Central Java and East Java.

In February 2014, BNPB reported that 35 flood events (an increase from 33 in February 2013) affected 183,586 people, damaged about 121 houses and killed one person. Some of the worst flooding occurred in late February when torrential rains overflowed the Ato, Anapri and STM rivers causing flashfloods as well as landslides across North Jayapura, Abepura and Jayapura Selatan Sub-Districts in Papua and killed one person.

The number of flood events in March decreased to 32 affecting 16,207 persons, killing four , and damaging 187 houses.

Jakarta Floods
Torrential rains in late December 2013 and early January 2014, led to flooding in East and South Jakarta. By 13 January local authorities declared a flood alert to last until 12 February. The floods claimed 12 lives and at the height of the flooding at least 62,819 persons were displaced and a total of 134,662 persons from 34 sub-districts were affected. IDPs were evacuated to 253 displacement centers in affected parts of the city.

Landslides
Landslide activity during the reporting period also increased compared with corresponding period from January to March 2013: from a total of 60 landslide events to 138. In March 2014, the number of landslides decreased to 33 events with seven deaths and 131 damaged houses.

In February 2014, BNPB reported that 47 landslide events resulted in nine persons killed, 9,954 affected and displaced and 1,605 houses and public or community buildings damaged.

Heavy rains in January 2014 led to 53 landslide events resulting in 45 deaths, 852 damaged houses and 3,881 persons affected and/or displaced.
Whirlwinds

Whirlwinds were the most common natural disaster for February 2014 with BNPB reporting 49 – almost a third of the disaster events that month. In total 825 persons were affected and/or displaced and almost 2,000 houses damaged.

In January 2014, BNPB reported 48 whirlwind events resulting in 35 deaths, more than 1,000 affected and displaced, and 2,674 houses damaged.

In March 2014, total 22 whirlwind events were reported injuring 9 persons and damaging 989 houses.

Volcanoes

Mt. Merapi – which has been at alert Level 2 since 3 August, 2011 – produced a small eruption on 26 February with little humanitarian impact beyond ash falling on Batipuh and Batipuh Selatan Sub-Districts, Yogyakarta. By the end of March 2014, the Centre of Volcanology and Mitigation of Geological Disaster Mitigation (PVMBG) was reporting one volcano at alert Level 4 (Mt. Sinabung) and three others at alert Level 3 (Mt. Karangetang, Mt. Rokatenda, Mt. Lokon). While volcanic eruption occurrence accounted only 0.7 percent of the total disaster events between January-March 2014, it caused the highest percentage for damaged houses (62.5 percent or 17,380 houses).

Mt Sinabung Eruption

By the end of February 2014, Mt. Sinabung in Karo District, North Sumatra, remained active with PVMBG maintaining its alert status at Level 4. On 1 February, the mountain erupted killing 15 persons and injuring three others. At least 31,739 persons (9,915 households) from 34 villages had been displaced (including 20,270 people from the villages located within a 5 km radius of the crater) by months of continuous activity on Mt Sinabung and were housed in 42 displacement centers. Starting 13 February, the National Task Force led by BNPB facilitated the return of IDPs that live outside 5-km radius from the crater. By 23 February, at least 17,150 people (5,213 households) from 15 villages had already returned to their homes and a further 366 people by 24 February. By the end of March, there were 15,773 IDPs (4,989 households) from 16 villages and two sub villages taking shelter in 33 displacement centers. The Incident Command continues to meet the basic needs of remaining IDPs.

Mt Kelud Eruption

Mt. Kelud, East Java, erupted on 13 February killing seven people and prompting the evacuation of approximately 201,228 persons from Blitar, Kediri, and Malang Districts to the displacement centers across those regions. By the end of March, all IDPs had already returned to their homes. The increasing activity prompted the PVMBG to increase the mountain’s alert status to Level II on 2 February, Level III on 10 February, and Level IV by 13 February. With the increase to Level IV, the PVMBG recommended hazard zones

Thousands have been displaced by volcanic eruptions from Mt Sinabung in Karo District of North Sumatra.
Mt. Kelud, East Java, erupted on 13 February  
Photo Credit: OCHA

within 10 km radius from the crater. After the 13 February eruptions, Mt. Kelud maintained its high volcanic activity until 20 February. The PVMBG then decreased its alert status to Level 3, with an exclusion zone set for a 5km radius from the crater. As the activity kept decreasing, PVMBG continued to decrease its alert status to Level II by 28 February, with exclusion zone 3km radius from the crater. East Java authorities ended the provincial emergency situation status on 22 February and simultaneously declared a new provincial emergency status to respond to the threat of cold lava flows on Mt Kelud. In total, at least 8,452 houses were damaged across Kediri, Blitar and Malang Districts. BNPB has already handed over Rp 4 billion (about US$351,354) in emergency funding as well as logistics equipment with a total value of Rp 3.8 billion (about US$333,787).

Earthquakes

The Agency for Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysics (BMKG) reported 19 earthquake events with a magnitude over 5.0 Richter Scale in March 2014, 16 in February 2014, and 20 in January 2014. On 26 January 2014, a 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck about 104km southeast of Kebumen, Central Java. The earthquake did not trigger a tsunami early warning but was strongly felt along the south coast of Cilacap, Kebumen, Purworejo, Yogyakarta, Solo, Boyolali, Klaten, Magelang, Sragen, Garut, Tasikmalaya, Pengandaran and Semarang. It destroyed 17 houses in Banyumas District, and damaged houses 41 houses in Bantul, Purworejo, Banyumas, Cilacap, and Magelang Districts.

Haze Emergency

Wildfires destroyed at least 6,000 hectares of Giam Siak Kecil Biosfer, Bukit Batu in Bengkalis District and National Park Tesso Nello producing haze at dangerous levels in Pekanbaru City, Bengkalis, Siak, and Meranti in Riau Province. Riau authorities declared a provincial emergency situation for 25 February until 4 April, established an Incident Command, and allocated Rp 10 billion (about US$ 878,387) for the emergency. Several districts and municipalities also declared haze emergency situations including Dumai, Rohul, Kampar, Siak, Bengkalis and Palalawan. The Government responded to the situation by mobilizing planes and helicopters for war bombing, utilizing weather modification technology and mobilizing civilian and military personnel. The BMKG predicted that the peak of dry season in Riau Province will be in June. Thus, the Government has anticipated forest fires from May to September this year.

Disaster Response Preparedness

Development of the National Plan for Disaster Management 2015-2019

In February, BNPB together with the State Ministry for National Development Planning/National Planning Agency (Bappenas) hosted a series of workshop with government and non-government stakeholders in developing the National Plan for
Disaster Management (RENAS PB) for the period of 2015-2019. For the international community, the workshop was held on 17 February. The improvement from the previous process was that RENAS PB is now being complemented with the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period of 2015-2019. These documents will become the working document on disaster management for the new elected government for the period 2015-2019.

Cluster harmonization process continues

On 26 February, OCHA and BNPB co-chaired a workshop on Clusters Familiarization and Alignment as part of the ongoing process of harmonizing the IASC cluster system with the Government of Indonesia-led clusters. The workshop built on the 17 January workshop where BNPB and other GoI Ministries and agencies named eight national clusters: Health; Search and Rescue; Education; Economics; Facilities and Infrastructure; Logistics; Displacement and Protection; and Early Recovery / Government.

The 26 February workshop began with a familiarization of the IASC cluster system including the establishment and architecture of the cluster system, the individual clusters, the tools available to clusters globally and locally, and OCHA’s role in inter-cluster coordination. A following session featured a discussion of the eight GoI clusters and group discussions on how the IASC clusters can support them. BNPB is preparing to issue formal letters to Ministries and will eventually prepare a decree establishing the nationally-led clusters.

Review of the regulation of Head of BNPB on participation of the international community during emergency

On 4 March, BNPB conducted a public consultation to review the improved draft of regulation of the Head of BNPB on participation of the international community during emergency. The regulation number 22 year of 2010 was reviewed and improved to better facilitate the international assistance coming into the country for large scale disasters. The public consultation was attended by representatives of Ministries, donors, INGOs, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and UN agencies.

Mentawai Megathrust Disaster Relief Exercise (MM DIREX) 2014

In March 2014, BNPB hosted a series of exercises and non-exercise activities in West Sumatra Province. Participated by community as well as local and international humanitarian actors, MM DIREX comprised of Command Post Exercise, Field Training Exercise, Mass Evacuation, and Humanitarian Civic Action in Padang City and Mentawai Islands. Activities also included an exhibition with the theme of Collaboration for Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness with the drawing and poster competition as part of the agenda. The exhibition was participated by Government, NGO/INGOs, private sector, donors and UN Agencies. Drawing competition was participated by 370 elementary school students and 170 Junior High School. Also conducted were provision of medical services for community as well as dissemination of information for disaster preparedness at community level.
Eight new MoU with BNPB for disaster preparedness
On 11 March, BNPB entered into eight new Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry for Development of Disadvantaged Regions, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Health, Bank Indonesia, MNC Media, Metro TV, National Aeronautics and Space Institute, and the National Archive of the Republic of Indonesia. So far, there have been a total of 45 MoUs signed by BNPB with various stakeholders in preparation of likely disaster response in 2015.

Bappenas-UN Forum
On 22 January, Bappenas-UN Forum on Development Cooperation had its first meeting to review the implementation of the first phase of UN Partnership Development Framework (UNPDF) for 2010-2014. This review meeting was opened by the State Minister for Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator. UNPDF consists of five focus areas (Governance, Climate Change, Social Services, Disaster Management/Resilience, and Sustainable Livelihood). The meeting also discussed the plan to roll out the second phase of UNPDF for 2015-2019.

Funding
By the end of February 2014, there was only one ongoing HRF project which is being implemented by Humanitarian Forum Indonesia to empower communities affected by the Mt Sinabung eruptions. Five other projects have been recently completed and are being audited ahead of final payment to the implementing NGOs. The decision to close the HRF-Indonesia has been formalized through a letter from USG for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator addressed to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator-Indonesia.