

PROJECT FACTS

Safer Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction



Climate Risk Management

Climate variability is increasing the risk of climate related disasters in Indonesia – a country that is already one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Without better management of climate risks, this is likely to result in greater loss of life and livelihoods, greater destruction of property and increased damage to the environment. Some key facts about Indonesia highlight the possible increased risk related to climate variability:

- Many parts of the country are susceptible to drought caused by a strong correlation with the El Nino/La Nina (ENSO) phenomenon
- Indonesia has over 5,000 rivers, 30 percent of which pass through high-density population centers and regularly leading to flooding - the most common natural hazard in Indonesia.
- With 17,508 islands, Indonesia has 54,716 Km total coast line that is susceptible to potential sea level rise

Disaster risk reduction or specific “climate risk management” initiatives to help prepare and protect communities living in disaster-prone areas, along with enhancement of national and local government capacity for climate or disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, emergency response, recovery, establish early warning systems for sudden and slow-onset disasters like climate related disasters and risks, can help the country to significantly to adapt to increased climate risks.

In light of this, the Government of Indonesia (GOI) enacted a new National Disaster Management Law as the legal foundation for the regulatory framework needed to begin to effectively manage and reduce climate risks as well as risks from other disaster types. This new law firmly establishes the human rights (and obligations) of Indonesian citizens to protection from disaster and climate risks. It also clearly establishes the obligation of national and local government agencies to take action to protect its citizens and communities before, during and after disasters. The new law has led to establishment of a new National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) as a coordinating, cabinet level ministry and calls for strong, decentralized disaster and climate risk management coordination through new Local Disaster Management Agencies



Sea level rise forces coastal communities to adapt and apply preventive measures to avoid loss of live and livelihoods

(BPBDs) to be established in provinces and districts. Both have the mandate, at their respective levels, to coordinate emergency response, recovery and disaster risk reduction work of GOI line ministries, agencies and departments.

With support from UNDP and ISDR, Indonesia is establishing a multi-stakeholder National Platform (forum) on Disaster Risk Reduction that will use Indonesia’s National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAP-DRR) as the basis for coordinating and gap identification of disaster risk reduction initiatives as well as recently completed national disaster risk index maps and a national climate risk assessment. Soon, the GOI will update and improve its National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAP-DRR) for 2010-2015, mapping out what national and local government agencies, communities and civil society organizations and stakeholders will do to begin to decrease disaster and climate risks due to anticipated climate variability and climate changes as they are forecasted. Better still, provinces such as Aceh, Yogyakarta and Central Java, are beginning to prepare Local Action Plans on Disaster Risk Reduction (LAP-DRR) that will be coordinated by Provincial or District Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction.

In support of these initiatives, UNDP, working with the GOI, has designed the “Safer Communities Through Disaster Risk Reduction

in Development” (SC-DRR) project. The project aims to ensure that increased disaster risks, including those resulting from climate variability, are considered, anticipated and, as much as possible, prevented through the country’s development process. Awareness of climate related risks needs to be introduced in the core functions of government, as well as among public and private partners at all levels, with a particular emphasis on local communities. This will go a long way towards alleviating physical, economic and social vulnerability to disasters. The project aims to foster a culture of safety leading to sustainable development and poverty reduction in Indonesia.

Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Project Objectives

With UNDP’s support, the GOI’s SC-DRR national disaster risk reduction project being implemented through the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), BNPB, Ministry of Home Affairs and selected national and local (provincial and district) government agencies will focus on establishing a culture of safety and risk reduction as a routine part of the process of decentralized development. Its multi-hazard approach will ensure that climatic risks are given specific attention as a comprehensive part of reducing future disaster risks.

Key components of the GOI’s SC-DRR disaster risk reduction project supported by UNDP include:

- Establishing the policy, legal and regulatory framework that enables communities to reduce disaster and climate risks.
- Building partnerships with institutional counterparts that allow disaster and climate risks to be considered as a part of development planning and decision-making.
- Changing risk perceptions through education and public awareness programmes to ensure development and

climate variability linkages are better understood by communities and development decision-makers.

- Making communities safer before disasters strike by establishing climate and disaster risk reduction practices in communities supported by local government development programmes and budgets

Climate Risk Management in Action

Many practical steps can be taken to better integrate disaster and climate risk reduction and the establishment of a culture of safety. Some examples include:

- Ensuring the standard use of multi-hazard risk assessments that include climate related risks for provincial or district spatial planning and development project planning
- Helping the scientific community better understand and respond to the climate related risks of communities and the information they need to provide to help communities better manage climate related risks
- Helping communities to better use scientific forecasts of climate variability’s to reduce risks to their livelihoods and development activities
- Forecasting weather conditions that will increase risks to farmers, agriculture sector managers, fisheries, water resource management and urban planners
- Teaching communities how to identify and address vulnerabilities like environmental degradation, weak dams, and potential landslide triggers
- Helping communities more thoroughly evaluate planned development projects to ensure that public buildings and development plans are flood and drought proofed
- Researching climate and disaster risk linkages, and helping communities to respond and adapt

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