



## Indonesia Humanitarian Update – December 2007

This report is prepared based on information provided by UN agencies, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG), the National Coordination Board for Disaster Management (BAKORNAS PB), the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Health (MoH), and media reports.

### NATURAL DISASTERS UPDATE

#### *Floods and Landslides*

- Due to torrential rains, Central and East Java provinces were severely hit by floods and landslides. Overflowed rivers, particularly the Bengawan Solo River, affected 15 districts in Central Java and eight in East Java. BAKORNAS PB reported that as of 30 December, 92 people had died, 38 were missing, and tens of thousands of people were affected. In addition, tens of thousands hectares of crops, agricultural land and animal farming were inundated. A joint UN inter-agency mission was deployed to assess the affected areas, while several NGOs have been providing assistance. On 26 December, landslides in Karanganyar District claimed 60 lives, while two other were still missing.
- Several parts of North and East Aceh districts were also flooded for weeks. Around 19,000 people were affected in North Aceh and over 51,000 in East Aceh. Access to food, clean water and medical assistance represented a challenge for the affected people due to lack of transportation means and condition of roads. The head of an affected district requested assistance through UNORC, to which international organizations with a presence in the province responded positively.
- Floods have also widely spread to West Sumatera, Jambi, Central Sulawesi, South Kalimantan, Gorontalo, West Java, DKI Jakarta and Banten Provinces. Three people in Padang, West Sumatera, were still missing. In Gorontalo, thousands of people were also affected by flooding for weeks.

#### *High Tides*

- Several coastal areas were affected by high tides, including DKI Jakarta, East Java, South Sulawesi, West Nusa Tenggara, and West Sumatra Provinces. In the latter one, one people died as a consequence of this phenomenon.
- The northern part of Jakarta was underwater for more than one month due to unusual high intensity of tides, with water levels varying from 0.5 to 2 mt. The tide damaged the main dam and exacerbated the condition of thousands of residences in that part of Jakarta.

#### *Earthquakes*

BMG recorded 52 quakes measuring 5.0 or above on the Richter Scale (RS) during the month. The quakes jolted Bengkulu (10 times), Papua (8 times), Maluku (6 times), and some other provinces. False alarms on the possibility of a tsunami and major quake on the west coast of Sumatera on 23 December caused panic and triggered people in West Sumatera and Bengkulu Provinces to leave their homeland. Economic activities in these areas were significantly disrupted.

#### *Whirlwinds*

Hundreds of houses were damaged in several districts in West, East, and Central Java Provinces, as well as in Yogyakarta, South Sulawesi and North Sumatera Provinces. In Makassar, South Sulawesi, one person died.

#### *Mud Flow*

In view of the widespread floods in East Java, the Sidoarjo Mudflow Mitigation Agency took preparedness actions by strengthening the drainage capacity along the Porong main street and the railway. The water level of the Porong River increased due to continued days of rain in its

upstream areas (Malang, Kediri, Jombang, Blitar, Mojokerto and Pasuruan districts).

## REGIONAL UPDATES

### *Aceh*

- Lhokseumawe and Aceh Utara Districts still report of tsunami victims living in barracks in several sub districts: Seunuddin, Lapang, Tanah Pasir and Banda Sakti. The numbers fluctuate, reflecting the difficulties of maintaining a verifiable record as victims continue to rent rooms to people from other villages.
- Following the announcement by UNICEF of the cancellation of its water drilling program in Nias, CWS committed to continue its water transport service to IDP settlements until February 2008.
- On 10 December, a grenade thrown by an unidentified man caused damages to the Wakil Bupati Office, breaking the front window. No injuries were reported from the incident.
- Intimidation of local suppliers in the Aceh Utara village of Ulee Rubek Timor forced a Dutch NGO, CORDAID, to withdraw its housing programmes, through a failure to meet construction deadlines.

### *Central Sulawesi*

- Two minor blasts hit Poso and Donggala Districts on 5 December, one day before the Poso Lake Festival in Tentena District. No damages or injuries were reported. A preliminary police investigation showed that the blasts were caused by a homemade bomb, intended to hamper the development of the cultural festival that took place from 6 to 10 December. Home made guns were also found near the sites of two blasts. The police were questioning four witnesses related to the blast and weapons. In response to the incidents, local authorities stepped up the security around the venue and tightened identity checking. The festival ran well without significant disturbances.
- Meanwhile, religious figures in Central Sulawesi view the security situation in Poso District as improved.

### *Maluku*

The Maluku Military Chief instructed his subordinates to take firm action against separatists, including members and supporters of the South Maluku Republic (RMS). Soldiers were allowed to shoot the perpetrators on sight if considered necessary. The statement was addressed in relation to the hoisting of RMS flag by some residents in Aboru village in Central Maluku on 8 December. Previously, several residents from the same area were detained by the police for involvement in an attempted raising of the separatist RMS flag in front of the President during his June visit. The incident led to the removal of the province's police and military chief and their replacement.

### *Others:*

#### *Avian Influenza*

Three human fatalities from avian influenza were reported during December. All those confirmed positive by MoH died. One of these fatalities was in Kalideres, West Jakarta, and two others in Tangerang. As at 10 January, MoH confirmed 116 H5N1 positive cases with 94 deaths since July 2005. This represents a case fatality rate of 80%, the highest in the world. In 2007, no cases were reported in July and November.

There has been a drop in total number of cases in 2007 (41) compared to 2006 (55). WHO funded training for field epidemiology in two local universities on communicable diseases.

Despite a basic structure of a pandemic preparedness plan now being compiled for Indonesia, pandemic preparedness still remains very poor in the country. MoH, WHO and other KOMNAS members are planning a pandemic simulation for Bali in March.

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