

## Palang Merah Indonesia and integrated community based risk reduction

Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) is in a unique position to respond to disasters because of the mandate granted by the authorities to assist local governments. In addition to its activities in disaster response, PMI has increasingly invested in disaster risk reduction over the past years, in particular through an integrated community-based risk reduction strategy (ICBRR). ICBRR's objective is to strengthen the capacities of vulnerable at-risk communities to cope with disasters and to reduce their vulnerabilities to natural and man-made hazards. The strength of an integrated approach lies in the fact that PMI will assess and address all risks facing communities. Hazards (including those enhanced by climate change), health and environmental risks, economic and social issues will be considered in an overall context when looking at the vulnerabilities within a community. The community members and the local government together with PMI will develop activities to address the different risks, making the community more resilient to the impacts of future disasters.

In August 2005 the Netherlands Red Cross (with direct support from the RC/RC Climate Centre), the Indonesian Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies started a joint integrated community based risk reduction / climate change program. The German Red Cross expressed an interest in joining the implementation phase of the program. Data were collected on the impacts of climate change in Indonesia. PMI became part of an Indonesian climate change network consisting of the State

Ministry of Environment and its Climate Change Focal Point, the national meteorological office BMG, Pelangi (independent research institute that advises the State Ministry of the Environment on the UNFCCC negotiations), WWF (Global environmental conservation organization), WAHLI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) operational focal point (helps developing countries fund projects and programs that protect the global environment), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Bogor Agricultural University (Institute of Pertanian Bogor - IPB) and other agencies.



***Children in West Jakarta playing with their feet in the water.***

The program focuses on the Jakarta chapter together with its East and West Jakarta branches. The selection of those branches was based on the risk of extreme weather events and projected climate change impacts; poverty issues facing the area; and the following additional criteria: a

strong or at least moderate capacity of the PMI chapter/branches; availability of (infra) structure of chapters and branches; commitment from chapters and branches; support from local government; communities easy to mobilize and committed to the program. In November 2005 a pre-assessment team targeted local governments, health and public work agencies and community members, using questionnaires, ocular surveys and focused group discussions. The outcome of this pre-assessment helped each of the PMI branches in selecting the two most vulnerable villages of their area.

In April 2006 a hazards, vulnerability and capacity assessment (HVCA) will be conducted in the four selected villages. This process will be used to identify the strengths and weaknesses of households, communities and institutions. An additional important aspect of the HVCA is its ability to raise public awareness of hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities and the risks societies might be facing. The detailed information resulting from this assessment will be used to develop the final program document, including a timeframe, logical framework with indicators, as well as monitoring and evaluation methods and a detailed budget.

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