

Indonesia

In the context of a changing climate, rainfall in Indonesia is projected to increase in some regions and decrease in others. The wet season will probably get wetter, the dry season drier, and extreme events such as floods and droughts are expected to multiply. While more rain might benefit some areas by enhancing water supplies for irrigation, it would elsewhere accelerate soil erosion and reduce the productivity of the land.

Furthermore, with a total coastline exceeding 81,000 kilometres, Indonesia will suffer significant impacts from sea-level rise. Even very small rises will affect millions of people in coastal areas: if not by directly displacing them then by eliminating the industrial and agricultural zones or the fisheries on which they depend. Their supply of drinking water will be salinated, their sewerage systems overwhelmed and their flood control management will be insufficient. All this will leave them more vulnerable to water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and disrupt marketing and transportation networks, limiting their access to goods. Climate change in Indonesia will increase the occurrence of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue, which are already serious health threats.

The capital city, Jakarta, is particularly vulnerable, especially to sea-level rise. Parts of it have been subsiding due to excessive exploitation of groundwater and soil compression from construction. The areas most at risk of the sea-level rise already experienced are inhabited by Jakarta's poorest people, seriously threatened by tidal waves and river flooding. Therefore, the Indonesian and Netherlands Red Cross and the IFRC have in 2005 and 2006 in four slum areas prepared a pilot project on reducing the risk from climate change. It aims to strengthen the capacities of over 120,000 people at risk and reduce their vulnerability to natural and manmade hazards, including the negative impacts of climate change.

The project uses an integrated approach. It does not single out climate change risks, for instance, but also addresses economic concerns. For when people are definitely hungry today, they are less likely or able to prepare for possible floods tomorrow.

Within five years all beneficiaries should have access to clean water and safe health and hygiene facilities. They will have learned how to maintain a clean environment, while their economic situation will be improved through micro-financed activities. They will have high risk-awareness. Their knowledge, attitude, behaviour, practices and adaptation will be such that they are able to handle daily risks. Including climate risks.

The Climate Centre's contribution

Sharing its expertise, the Climate Centre contributed to the preparation phase of the Jakarta project by helping the Indonesian Red Cross build up a climate-change network, develop a background document about the impacts of climate change on the organization's disaster risk reduction work, and provided input on how to integrate climate change in the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment. It also worked on the project outline and secured full financial support for the project's first phase (€ 645,000 for the period January 2007–December 2008, managed by the Netherlands Red Cross and the IFRC). During the implementation period, the Centre will provide advice and know-how when needed. Moreover, it will try to find finances for the project's next three years.

Available funding	€ 25,000 (between August 2005 and December 2006, of which € 15,000 was transferred to the Netherlands Red Cross and € 10,000 was used for Climate Centre support and inputs)
Donor	Rabobank Netherlands
Partner organizations	Indonesian Red Cross, IFRC, Netherlands Red Cross