

INDONESIA

CHF 1,907,000

Programme No. 01.25/2000

National Context

After spectacular growth in the early 1990s, Indonesia became one of the worst victims of the Asian financial crisis. Although the economy's downhill slide seems to have come to a halt, there are few real signs of sustained recovery.

The worsening economic environment has had serious human consequences: it has driven up the level of poverty-related vulnerability throughout the country, leaving an estimated 40 million people living below the poverty line. They include pre-crisis low income families in urban areas who no longer have a formal income, female headed households in both urban and rural areas dependent on income through casual labour, the elderly; street children and rural land-less who find it increasingly difficult to find work. Access to health care is no longer feasible for growing numbers and malnutrition has increased to levels not experienced for decades.

Political and ethnic unrest has increased considerably since the onset of the crisis. Fuelled by the worsening economic situation, tensions between *transmigrasi* and indigenous groups have erupted into serious communal violence, with hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of displaced, particularly in West Kalimantan and the islands of Maluku province. In Aceh, clashes between the army and secessionist groups have intensified, while the newly acquired independence of East Timor has triggered violent protests within Indonesia. The internal strife has dramatically increased the numbers of vulnerable, who include an estimated 343,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Besides its economic and political woes, Indonesia faces constant threats from a range of natural disasters – earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods forest fires (including “haze”) and landslides.

Country Assistance Strategy

The present social and political instability, and the permanent practical difficulties of operating in a mainly rural country of 13,700 islands constitute a formidable challenge for humanitarian assistance efforts. The main programmes of the Indonesian Red Cross, which counts 900,000 volunteers, spread throughout 27 provincial chapters and 308 district branches, are Disaster Response and Preparedness, community based first aid and a nation-wide blood service. The Society has to contend with varying capacity at branch level and the need to reinforce its national management resources. It embarked on a five-year national development plan in 1999.

The Federation's strategy of support to the National Society will be two-pronged, targeting both priority programmes and organisational capacity. It will seek to strengthen the operational capacity of the Society at national, chapter and branch level and its governance and management. At the same time it will provide resources for emergency relief and health programmes, while assisting the Society to develop its information and fundraising capacity.

The Federation opened an office in Jakarta in 1998. It will channel its support through this delegation, which in turn will draw on national and regional based expertise, and through its Regional Delegation in Kuala Lumpur.

Programme Objectives

Disaster Response

Given the continuing political, religious and ethnic tensions, the delegation will support the National Society, in co-ordination with the ICRC, in its work with IDPs/refugees. specifically focusing on building disaster response capacity. It will continue to provide relief and development support to the Society's programme addressing chronic poverty in Java (linked to the 1999 socio-economic crisis Appeal).

Disaster Preparedness

The Federation will help to strengthen the management capacity of the Society's disaster preparedness and response department and will assist with training and the stockpiling of emergency relief goods.

Health

To promote the expansion of the National Society's health services the Federation will provide technical assistance and resources to two pilot projects for water and sanitation in Central and East Kalimantan. It will support HIV/AIDS peer education activities as part of the regional ART programme and help to renovate and equip the Society's national blood centre in Jakarta.

Humanitarian Values

Humanitarian values will be promoted by supporting the development of a media and fund-raising strategy that will familiarise the general public and the international community with the work of the National Society.

Capacity Building

The Federation will give support to the efforts of the Society's governance to develop a vision and mission for the Society. It will help to strengthen management capacity at all levels and develop a branch development plan and strategy. To increase the resources available it will facilitate the development of strategic partnerships with potential donors and supporters and encourage the involvement of branches and chapters.