



INDONESIA

EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Communities at the heart of our work

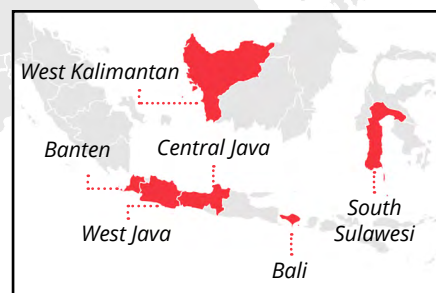
Epidemics begin and end in communities. When communities are engaged and trained in epidemic preparedness and response, they can stop outbreaks and ultimately save lives.

Early detection, early action

Many communities are vulnerable to natural hazards and public health outbreaks across Indonesia. Disasters caused by natural hazards can trigger disease outbreaks particularly when affected people are displaced and have limited access to health services and education. The country has seen recent outbreaks of COVID-19, measles, polio, dengue, rabies, leptospirosis, diphtheria, pertussis and foot and mouth disease in animals. Some of these are zoonotic diseases, caused by infections that spread between animals and people. Communities in rural areas are often at higher risk where agriculture is a livelihood.

Since 2018, the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) has been working with communities prevent, detect and respond to health threats with the technical support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and funding from USAID.

Trained community volunteers engage in health promotion, community-based surveillance and referrals in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to help stop diseases from spreading before an outbreak occurs.



1,649

community volunteers trained by PMI in epidemic preparedness and response with training packages developed by the programme. 736 volunteers directly involved in the programme.

342

cases confirmed positive out of 408 alerts escalated to authorities from December 2018 to February 2023.

233

villages and sub-villages involved in community-based surveillance through several PMI programmes.



OUR WORK



Preparing communities

We are ensuring communities have critical information about the spread of diseases and how to prevent them, systems to detect outbreaks, and communications mechanisms that ensure timely information sharing and community engagement. Activities include:

- Engaging communities through schools, health facilities, as well as community events and activities.
- Strengthening community-based surveillance systems.
- Engaging, training and collaborating with community influencers, such as farmers and community leaders.



Preparing first responders

PMI has more than 440,818 volunteers across the country which gives extraordinary reach into communities. In their supporting role to government, they are often central to emergency responses amid outbreaks. Activities include:

- Standardizing training packages for epidemic prevention and control as well as community-based surveillance.
- Developing core competencies for PMI staff and volunteers to engage in epidemic preparedness and response.
- Enhancing data management for epidemic preparedness and response.
- Strengthening PMI health facilities' Infection Prevention and Control programmes.



Preparing stakeholders

Epidemics not only threaten lives but all aspects of society, including food production, trade, transportation and education. Activities include:

- Sensitizing or training media, private sector actors, religious leaders, schools and universities, helping them play a valuable role in preventing, detecting and responding to outbreaks.
- Mapping critical data to help responders make informed decisions when a health crisis hits.
- Advocacy with public health authorities to scale-up community-based surveillance to the national-level, through the adoption of a regulation and the implementation of a joint roadmap.

A “One Health” approach

PMI recognizes that human health goes hand in hand with animal and environmental health. Due to the close connection between people and animals in many parts of rural Indonesia, PMI has scaled up its work in promoting both animal and human health. This has helped prevent disease outbreaks in communities at higher risk.

“
My request, if there are other programmes like this, please let the local community participate
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Wahyudi, a farmer and Red Cross volunteer in Boyolali, Central Java, Indonesia.

