Earthquake and tsunami response
6-month report
As of March 2019
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Executive summary

Located on the seismically active ‘Pacific Ring of Fire’, Indonesia is known as being the ‘supermarket’ of disaster hazards. In 2018 – dubbed the deadliest year for the country in over a decade – the archipelago was hit by more than 2,400 natural disasters that killed over 4,200 people. The worst catastrophe last year was the magnitude-7.4 earthquake and tsunami that struck the island of Sulawesi in September 2018, claiming over 2,100 lives and causing total economic damages of at least 13.8 trillion rupiah (more than US$970 million) according to the national disaster mitigation agency. Indonesians also face multiple hazard risks such as volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, landslides, liquefaction and flooding.

In response to the spate of disasters that hit Indonesia between August and December 2018, Habitat has helped families and communities with emergency shelter, hygiene and sanitation needs. These disasters included the tsunami and earthquake in Central Sulawesi, the earthquakes in Lombok and the tsunami in Sunda Strait. More than 900 families have been served in the past six months.

Habitat Indonesia is deeply appreciative of all the resources and support that we have received. We continue to work with committed partners and seek further support in rebuilding homes and lives in affected villages in Sigi and Donggala districts in Central Sulawesi and in Sajang village in Lombok.
Central Sulawesi Earthquake and Tsunami
- Sigi and Donggala districts

- 558 UNHCR tarpaulins for 158 families
- 300 Hygiene kits
- 410 Emergency shelter kits
- 104 Transitional shelters
- 5 Community rubble removal kits
- 5 Communal water filter systems
- 2 Communal toilets
- 1 Water catchment facility for 500 families

Sunda Strait Tsunami
- Caringin and Cigondang villages, Pandeglang district

- 202 Hygiene kits
- 45 Emergency shelter kits

Lombok Earthquake
- Sajang village, East Lombok district

- 113 Household toilets
Home-based earnings

The earthquake and tsunami that happened within a day in September 2018 derailed the life that Mesak, 31, and Olni, 30, had built for more than a decade in Wisolo, Sigi district. The couple, who has a nine-year-old daughter Clarisa, had been making a living by harvesting coconuts to produce copra or dried coconut meat. They could earn about 200,000 rupiah (US$14) a month. Mesak also did construction work and other odd jobs just to make ends meet.

After the disaster, the family could not return to their old home as it was in an area that the government had declared dangerous. The family of three had to move into makeshift shelter in a cocoa plantation.

Mesak and other villagers contributed to Habitat for Humanity Indonesia’s disaster response efforts by organizing groups and forming a development committee that provided labor including hauling of building materials.

With the government’s approval, Habitat Indonesia began building transitional shelters in the cocoa plantation. In February 2019, Mesak and his family were among the first few families to move into the shelters, of which 150 are being built.

Grateful that they can start anew, Olni says: “This is not just a shelter; for now this is our home.” Their family income has increased to 400,000 rupiah because Mesak is breeding ants for their eggs that are sold in the local market. The ant eggs are a protein-rich food that also provide an alternative source of livelihood for disaster-hit families.
As the eldest child, Fiska, 21, feels responsible for her family. This is particularly because her parents Jimu, 44, and Erni, 43, made sure that she and her brother could receive the education that they did not have. After the earthquake struck her village in Wisolo, Sigi district, Fiska and her family had to stay in an evacuation camp in Wisolo.

They salvaged wood and other materials to put up a makeshift shelter but it was still cramped for the family of four. Her parents used to earn up to 25,000 rupiah (US$1.70) a week producing copra or dried coconut meat but like other earthquake survivors, they had to take on odd jobs to make a living. Despite the difficult situation, Fiska’s parents made sure that she was able to finish high school while her brother Rendi, 15, continued to study in junior high school.

“I don’t want to get married right now. I want to work first and help my family,” says Fiska. As she was active in church and community work, she joined the development committee that was set up to assist Habitat for Humanity Indonesia in its disaster response work. The development committee helps collect data of affected families and make logistical arrangements in the construction of transitional shelters in Wisolo village. Fiska and her family were among the 150 families who moved into the transitional shelters completed in February 2019.

Fiska saved the daily allowance of 50,000 rupiah that she earned from her work in the development committee. With her savings, she set up a small snacks stall in front of their transitional shelter. The takings from the stall supplements her parents’ income of 400,000 rupiah from selling ant eggs.

“Thanks to the extraordinary grace of God, through Habitat, we as well as others in Wisolo can have a more decent place to live than before the earthquake,” says Fiska’s father Jimu.
This shelter rebuilt my life

Armed with sonders and tools, Subhan, 39, did not let his limitation get in the way of pursuing his passion as an electrician in his village in Lombonga, Balaesang district. His family is one of the 38 families who received shelter support from Habitat for Humanity Indonesia and Caritas Germany after the earthquake. With further support from Habitat’s partners and donors, a total of 464 transitional shelters will be built.

With his house as his workstation, he can’t seem to leave his table, spending hours working non-stop doing electrical repairs, fixing appliances for his neighbors – a duty that he does whole-heartedly with a smile.

“Thank God and thanks to the Habitat shelter, finally I can move around like I used to,” shares Subhan. His positive attitude made him the most sought after electrician in his neighborhood. With teary eyes, he share the source of his joy.

Before moving into their Habitat shelter, their shack was made from improvised materials that they managed to salvage after the earthquake. Subhan and his wife Hartati, 40, did not have much space to continue their repair business. They were living in a shack, which had no bedroom.

“Our old house is just one cramped open space where we did everything - it is where my wife sells wares and my children sleep. The kitchen is also there, leaving me no space to do the repairs,” Subhan exclaims.

Now both Subhan and Hartati have their own workspaces in the transitional shelter, he works in the living area and she does business near the kitchen.

“Everything is getting better each day after moving into this shelter. I can do my work, my wife can do her business and the kids are not disturbed when they are sleeping in the bedroom,” Subhan adds.
My family is safe now

Ridwan, 45, was worried sick about his wife Rosdia, 42, and their family when he heard about the strong earthquake that hit their community in Lombonga village, Donggala district. Then he was more than 1,600 kilometers away, working in Papua, Indonesia’s easternmost province.

It took almost two weeks for Ridwan to return to their village and he was shocked over the destruction that he witnessed when he got home. “My family’s house was flat on the ground, and my grandson nearly died. But finally I was home and thank God that we all survived,” Ridwan recalls.

Months after the earthquake, Ridwan and his family are rebuilding their lives. Now, they live safe and sound in the transitional shelter built by Habitat Indonesia and Caritas Germany.

Ridwan is very hands on, helping with building his new house. “I have added a kitchen in my home. It’s been painted,” Ridwan shares. His wife Rosdia is also enthusiastic: “As long as there’s a stain on the wall, I will paint it again and again. Thankfully, there’s still some paint left,” Rosdia chuckles.

“Now I’m no longer worried about leaving my family at home because they are now safe. I plan to go back to work in Papua in the near future,” adds Ridwan.
Six months after the Indonesian tourist island of Lombok was rocked by several earthquakes and multiple aftershocks, water remains among the top three priorities according to the post-disaster inter-agency assessment.

In Sajang community in East Lombok, people used to get clean water from the nearby spring in the foothills of Mount Rinjani. After one of the earthquakes struck in August, the entire village was cut off from their usual source of clean water supply.

Like many others in her village, Rodi, 29, had to wait for the water ration everyday. For more than seven months, her daily routine was to bring two plastic containers to queue for around two hours just to get clean water. Each household could get up to 50 liters of water a day for drinking, cooking and washing.

“Water is something very valuable nowadays, people should conserve it. After washing the rice and vegetables, we save the water and use it to wash our plates and other utensils before we rinse it with clean water,” says Rodi.

Since September 2018, Habitat for Humanity Indonesia has been working in Rodi’s community to restore their water supply. In partnership with the local government and the community, Habitat Indonesia is building a water reservoir that can provide clean water to 951 families or 3,456 people in three villages in Sajang.
A water committee was formed to help with community consultations and project planning. Through the committee, inputs from the community members on the project are gathered including construction guidelines and water distribution points.

Indonesia’s Department of Public Works has approved the water reservoir project design. The collaboration between the local government, the water committee, Universitas Indonesia and Habitat Indonesia helped ensure that quality construction standards are followed.

The project will be completed in August and will provide access to clean water to hundreds of families. Habitat Indonesia also built 113 household toilets in Lombok to provide adequate access to safe sanitation and improved hygiene practices.
“Inaq (mom), I want to take a shower soon!” Adi shouts. The 4-year-old son of Anis and Ernawati loves to use the new toilet that has been built after the earthquake destroyed the family’s old toilet in Lombok. “Adi always asks to be bathed immediately even when I’m busy cooking,” says Ernawati.

After the disaster, the family had to bathe in a makeshift toilet that was made of cloth and plastic sheets. She adds: “When I wanted to take a shower, I waited for the sunset or did it early in the morning before many people woke up. I was tormented because the water was very cold.”

Ernawati is thankful that her family now has an improved and safe toilet that they helped build. “When the workers came, my husband helped them. He moved cement and other construction materials. We feel we own this toilet,” she says.

“I am very grateful to Habitat. Without their help, I would still feel unsafe and uncomfortable when I’m using the toilet,” Ernawati adds.
Rebuild Indonesia program: revenue allocation
Total funds raised US$2.47 million (as of March 2019)

- Operational Cost: $384,654
- Community Capacity Building: $299,498
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: $503,979
- Emergency Shelter Kits and Communal Toilets: $52,714
- Transitional Shelters & Community Center: $1,229,645
Moving forward

Amid the recovery and reconstruction work, Habitat Indonesia is also increasing the capacity and resilience of local communities in handling future disasters. In disaster-ravaged Central Sulawesi, Habitat Indonesia has engaged local community members in clearing rubble and using shelter repair kits to build transitional shelter.

Over in Lombok, Habitat Indonesia works hand-in-hand with the water committee comprising local community members in the construction of a water reservoir. With the construction of household toilets, affected families have the opportunity to improve sanitation and hygiene standards in their communities. Capacity building and skills training also help disaster-affected families cope and become more resilient. ‘Build back safer’ approaches to housing construction make homes sturdier when disasters hit while community training on water, sanitation and hygiene help promote positive outcomes, including improved health and well-being.

While Habitat Indonesia and its supporters are lending a hand, the survivors are actively taking a role in rebuilding their lives. Among them is Herman, 38, whose family of six have survived the magnitude-7.4 earthquake and tsunami that devastated Central Sulawesi. Although they now live in a camp for displaced families, he is thankful for his work as a driver with Habitat Indonesia. “It was a good thing that I was able to find this job. It allows me to support my family and do my small part in helping those who were affected by the earthquake like me,” says Herman during a November 2018 interview. He expressed his hope of rebuilding his home. “With more support for the people of Sulawesi, we can overcome our hardships and recover,” Herman adds.

Habitat Indonesia has launched a Disaster Reserve Fund to raise awareness and the resources needed to sustain its work in disaster risk reduction, helping communities and building their capacity to prepare for and withstand strong disasters in the future.
Habitat for Humanity Indonesia is very thankful to all donors and partners who supported the disaster program in Indonesia.

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- Caritas Germany
- GE Foundation
- Young Presidents Organization (YPO)

**US$100,000 and up**
- Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH)
- Amazon Foundation
- PT Surya Toto Indonesia
- US Habitat Affiliates

**US$50,000 and up**
- FeG Deutschland
- Procter & Gamble (P&G)
- Habitat for Humanity New Zealand
- Justin Rose
- L’Oreal Foundation
- PT Chandra Asri Petrochemical
- PT Sari Coffee Indonesia
- Yayasan Radha Soami Satsang Beas Indonesia (YRSSBI)

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