INDONESIA

COMMUNITY EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME

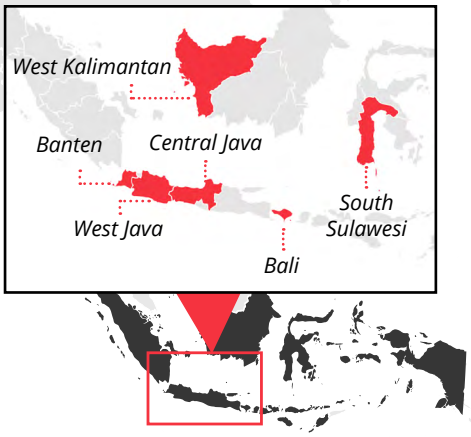
Early detection. Early action. Healthier communities.

Epidemics and pandemics are some of the biggest threats to a safe and healthy world. But with effective preparedness and response, we can minimize their impacts and even stop them in their tracks.

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, diphteria, perthusis and foot and mouth disease in animals. Some of these are zoonotic diseases, caused by infections that spread between animals and humans. 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 to prevent, detect and respond to disease 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 prevent and contain disease outbreaks.



1,651

staff and volunteers trained in epidemic control, community-based surveillance, and other skills to prepare for, and respond to, epidemics

389

health alerts reported by volunteers and confirmed positive by authorities from October 2019 to March 2024.

233

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

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Palang Merah Indonesia

IFRC

OUR WORK

Preparing communities

We make sure 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.
- Supporting communities to identify priority health risks through community risk mapping exercises.

Preparing first responders

PMI has more than 560,000 volunteers across the country which gives extraordinary reach into communities. Through its auxiliary role to government, PMI is often central to emergency response during disease 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 don't just threaten lives. They threaten all parts of society, including trade, transport, and education. We work with a wide range of stakeholders in epidemic preparedness and response. 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.

"Thanks to PMI's support, I have learned more about outbreaks, and have been able to gradually help change people's behavior to adopt a safe and healthy lifestyle."

Evan Sardianto, PMI Volunteer, Boyolali, Central Java, Indonesia.

www.ifrc.org/epidemic-and-pandemic-preparedness

Scan to discover stories and resources from the programme