



NDYS in Action, Newsletter

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The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

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Salta, Argentina



Topics
Disaster Reduction and Climate Change
People in Myanmar are still resisting.

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Since the dry season started in November this year, the situation of Myanmar started to get worst. This country was hit by a cyclone in May, and now there are many villages that are having troubles with the water shortage and depend on other water resources from other villages. The good news are that the UNICEF and other partners are working to clean up the contaminated water, so then they search for the areas which need assistance and deliver it by boats.



People has to travel by boat to obtain water from other villages.

Also the AFC (Action Contre la Faim) is working for those in needing. They deliver water to nine villages and now their inhabitants don't have to buy it from their neighbours.



Leaders of some communities are imposing new rules like citizen have to use no more than two buckets of water per day and pay u\$s2 per bucket.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society is developing a programme called cash-for-work which support people who work in rebuilding infrastructure. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are also working in this programme. There are also groups of at least 40 people working in devastated towns such as Kawhmu, Dedaye, Pyapon, Maubin and Labutta.

These people are rebuilding a road as a part of the cash-for-work programme.

Specialists believe these activities have been vital for villages to improve the situation in an admirable way.

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Topics

Disaster Reduction and Climate Change

Mud is not the only problem in Indonesia.

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When the volcano erupted in 2006 in Sidarjo province, there were 10,000 destroyed homes and more than 75,000 displaced people. Now at least 10,000 people are still living in camps, sharing a few bathrooms and the delivering of clean water and food stopped many weeks ago.

The government built levees of 18 meters to contain the mud, other plans like plugging the hole with cement balls are still in the sheets. There is a decree which states that the affected families will be paid the amount of u\$s9,000 in early 2009 and those who co-own houses and farms, will be paid u\$s2670 per month, according to the seven-year programme proposed by the gas company, Lapindo Brantas.



People now work as touristic guides and some of them had an increase in their income.

The company, Lapindo Brantas, agreed to pay compensation to locals without accepting liability for the mudflow and according to them the eruption was caused by an earthquake occurred 250 km away, and that it was not a drilling accident. The company has received several comments of disagreement proceeding from specialists and injured people.

Now the displaced people are working as everything they can, one new job refers to tourism, other sells DVD footage of the ongoing disaster, and some people started to earn more money, but these are not steady jobs. The situation is kind of tense, because maybe tomorrow people will have no money for eating, and this is an increasing problem due to the fact that competition is turning things in a bad way.

One good news was that on 21 December, the government announced it was prepared to set aside RP82 billion (\$7.5 million) from the 2009 budget to help four additional villages affected by the mudflow.

One of the most important problem is that the sinking mud is producing gas leaks and this threatens people who lives in defective houses. In some villages, there are houses with cracks and if someone make a mistake, the entire house could start to burst. So people are taking extreme cautions on the theme.

Ahmad Zulkarnaen, spokesman for the Disaster Respose Agency said the focus was no longer on stopping the flow after numerous attempts. Instead, the agency, which is using government funds to rebuild infrastructure and maintain the dam walls containing the disaster site, is focusing on shipping the mud out to sea via the Porong River. The worst thing is that polluting the river and affect sea life and human life sounds as the best way to solve this problem.



Comments: What a problem for the government of Indonesia. I mean, to deal with this situation is not an easy thing. I think that shipping the mud to the river is not the best solution, maybe the best solution is expensive and difficult... but is it worthy? I rally think so.

I want to jut out the programme applied in Myanmar. People really like to be there; they feel useful and get money from it. I hope all of them could have a good rebuilding process.

I wish my best to everybody for 2009, happy new year for all!

■ **For more information please contact** ■

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