

## Early prevention

### Indonesia: a model of disaster risk reduction

Floods, droughts, landslides and forest fires – every year at least 200 to 300 natural disasters kill hundreds of people, destroy tens of thousands of homes and cause financial damage amounting to millions of euros. Without adequate disaster preparedness and systematic disaster management, the affected communities can no longer cope with their problems. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, therefore, supports a broad-based disaster risk reduction programme in Indonesia. One essential element of this: analysing the local risk of disaster.

In response to this situation, the Indonesian parliament passed an act on disaster management in 2007. The objective was to be able to react quickly and appropriately to disaster and also to take preventive measures to reduce the risk itself. At a local level, however, there is still a lack of properly trained personnel, information and plans, which would make this achievable.

#### Participation of village communities

In Indonesia, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, therefore, finances – with 198,000 euros from the German Federal Foreign Office – a broad-based programme, which seeks to expand and improve disaster preparedness and management. This involves the participation of around 70,000 people from 25 communities in five regions particularly at risk. They are now learning how to assess their disaster risk, how to use this knowledge to develop targeted, and preventive measures and to be responsible for their implementation and maintenance. The local partner organisation is YEU, the emergency unit of the Indonesian relief organisation, YAKKUM (Christian Foundation for Public Health).

The affected communities are actively involved from the outset. To begin with, one man and one woman from community-based organisations are trained methodically. They then pass on what they have learned to the villages, where, together with the local elected representatives, they identify the specific areas of risk in the village and the surrounding area, as well as the potential risk to residents in a “risk map”.

#### Action plans for community-based disaster risk reduction

The next step is for the 25 municipalities to use the results of their risk assessment to create a tailored action plan specifically for



their village, listing the processes, responsibilities and different measures involved in disaster management. Each village then sets up a working group, which, in the event of a disaster, assumes responsibility for disaster protection and, in collaboration with the relevant authorities, organises the necessary aid measures.

#### Supportive coaching

As well as this, key stakeholders from the organisations also received training in how to properly register the financial needs of the community on time with the regional authorities and to push through their demands. To facilitate the exchange of experiences locally, YAKKUM also organised a national congress for 300 community organisations as well as members of the authorities and government.