

Final Report - 2006 Java earthquake.

Background.

Yogyakarta (also Jogjakarta) is the name of a city and a Province of Indonesia on the island of Java. It is the only province of Indonesia that is still formally governed by a precolonial Sultanate, the Sultanate of Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat.

Jogja city is known as a center of classical Javanese fine art and culture such as batik, drama, traditional music (gamelan), poetry and puppet shows. The city is also known as a center for higher education. The official name of the Yogyakarta Province is Special Region of Yogyakarta (Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta, or DIY). The city of Yogyakarta is the capital of the Province.

Geography.

Yogyakarta is located in south-central Java. It is surrounded by the Central Java Province and the Indian Ocean in the south. Area: 3,185.km².

Population of DIY is 3,121,639 (2003), ethnic groups: Javanese (97%).

Religion : Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism.

Language: Javanese, Indonesian.

Jogja has the highest Aging Population of Indonesia 360, 268 (11,98 %)

It is divided into four Regencies (Kabupaten) and one city (kota):

- Kota Jogja (32.8 km²)
- Kabupaten Sleman (574.82 km²)
- Kabupaten Bantul (506.86 km²)
- Kabupaten Kulon Progo (586.27 km²)
- Kabupaten Gunung Kidul (1,485.36 km²)

Saturday, 27 May 2006, 5:54 a.m.

The province of Yogyakarta bore the brunt of a 6.3 magnitude earthquake on 27 May 2006 which killed 5,857 people and left some 37,299 persons injured. More than 84,643 houses are totally destroyed, while another 323,282 suffered from damaged. An estimated 1.5 million people are homeless. The sub-districts of Bantul and Klaten are the worst affected. It is the worst natural disaster since the Tsunami.

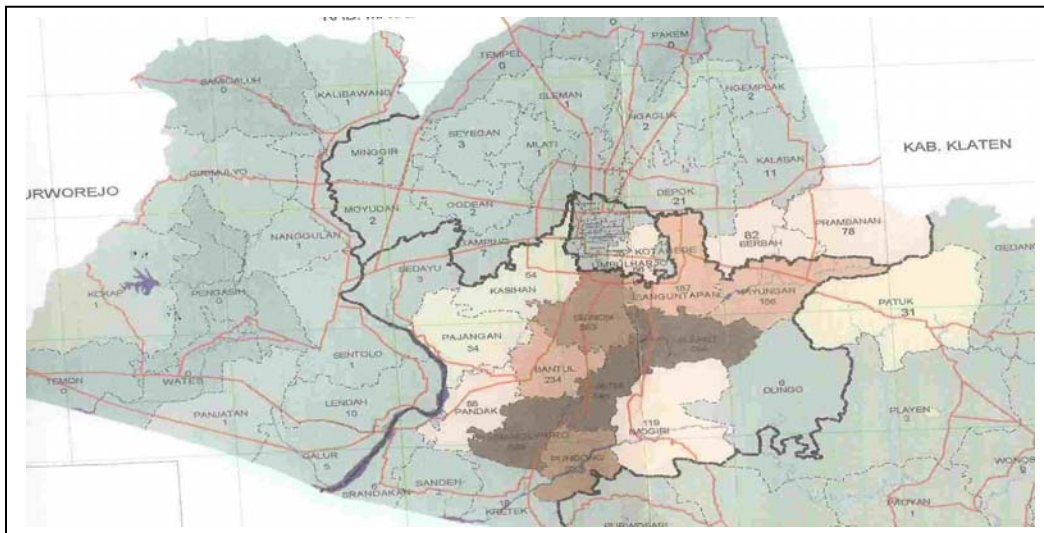
In Klaten (Central Java) 1,668 died. Around five million people live within 50 km of the epicenter.



The most horrific damage occurred in the district of Bantul, south of the city and its surrounding hinterland, where the tremor pulverized hundreds of houses, burying sleeping families beneath the rubble. The most significant number of deaths occurred in this region, 3,580 deaths, while 1,892 were injured.

“Everybody, young and old, ran up the hill for safety” says Ismambandiah, a middle-aged woman caught up in the quake”.

Those lucky enough to escape dug for survivors with their bare hand. Electricity and phone lines were disrupted, and Yogyakarta’s airport was temporarily closed due to damage, diverting much needed relief flights.



Borobudur, an ancient Buddhist Temple well north of the earthquake area, survived completely intact, but the Hindu Temple at Prambanan, suffered substantial damage.

The nation’s fears were focused on the rumbling volcano, than an earthquake struck again. A grim benefit of the weeks of worry over Merapi was that emergency personnel and supplies were already in place and the Tsunami had given many of them practical experience in rapid relief operations. Even if Merapi remains silent, Indonesia still sits on one of the most geologically unstable patches of the earth, part of an earthquake-prone area called the Ring of Fire.

Immediate Response.

Many countries and organizations have offered aid to the devastated region.

In the first days after the earthquake, YEL Jakarta in coordination with YEL Yogyakarta led an initial survey of affected communities and rapid needs assessment was conducted, based on the tools used by YEL in the tsunami response in Nias and Banda Aceh with input from HAI-BAO.

A direct response team was formed consisting of surveyors (30 persons) for rapid assessment and needs assessment of older persons later on, volunteers (20) who did the packaging and distribution of relief aid, logistic (5) in charge of purchasing goods outside Jogja and Project coordinators from YEL Jakarta (2) to supervise the whole operation. Upon arrival in Jogja on June 2nd, a coordination meeting was held and late in the evening after visits or distribution to affected areas, a planning meeting for the next day was held again. Meetings and packing of relief aid were held at Indah's house (YEL Jogja) at the first stage, but YEL rented office space at the second phase for better coordination.



Surveyors met with the Head of village/ neighborhood, as well as the community of older persons to assess the needs and the focus group discussions were interactive and participative, and the needs identified were very much diverse.

The whole Team worked long hours for 2 months.

In the initial stage, everybody needed food, tents and lamps, but at the later stages clean water, blankets, mattresses, farming tools, tools to remove the rubble and debris, cooking utensils and cash transfer to start their economic activities again was what they needed.

Location	Deaths	Injured	Destroyed houses	Damage houses
Bantul	3.969	22.601	37.526	12.965
Sleman	326	5.221	19.737	29.278
Yogyakarta	165	283	5.743	1.108

Kulon Progo	26	423	4.494	4.655
Gunung Kidul	69	1.034	8.044	13.685
Klaten	1.680	16.586	64.074	31.908
Total	6.235	46.148	139.618	93.599

Yayasan Emong Lansia (in partnership with HelpAge International), has distributed direct relief aid to more than 1,000 Households, in ten villages affected by the earthquake, focusing on the elderly, three days after the disaster for a total value of Rp. 75.000.000.

The relief package contained a mixture of food items (rice, noodles, cooking oil, tea, sugar, milk, soya sauce, cooking ingredients / spices, biscuits etc). Food items in each package have an average value of 50.000 to 100.000 rupiah and provide food for one person for one week, although food will be shared within the family.

Bathing supply contained soap, toothpaste, towels, pampers, sanitary napkins etc.



Their age varies between 60 to 100+ years old. What is remarkable is that there are so many very old people in Jogja, especially in Tangkil village.

Volunteers made sure that relief packages were directly handed over to the older persons in each village. List of beneficiaries were obtained from the Village head and through data collection by the surveyors. For those who could not come to the meeting place due to illness or unable to walk the distance, volunteers delivered it directly to their homes / tents.

In Prambanan-Klaten cash transfer were provided for 220 older persons @ Rp. 25.000,-, as this was identified as the best form of relief to meet the diverse needs during the first phase and more cash transfers were give in the next phase @ Rp. 300.000 to enable the older persons to again start their economic activities. An additional twenty large tents (5x10m) and 200 blankets were also distributed, donated by the Women’s International Club.

	# of packages	M	F	ITEMS
1. Plered	50	11	39	Food package
2. Jetis	127			Bathing supply, infant food, rice, noodle and clothing
3. Mredo	117	39	78	Rice, noodle, infant food, biscuit and bathing supply
4. Pandes	89	21	68	Food package
5. Tangkil	350	121	229	Blankets, tents, food package, biscuit
6. Sembungan	70	8	62	Food package
7. Wedi / Klaten	100	13	87	Food package
8. Gantiwarno	100	37	63	Blankets, kerosene lamps, biscuits.
9. Prambanan	220	23	197	Cash transfer, tools to clean rubble, water pump
10. Jogja	150	27	123	Food package

Phase II – “Relief Plus”.

Indonesian Government and communities continue to mobilize their own resources in the reconstruction of the earthquake damaged houses. In the spirit and cultural practice of mutual assistance or gotong royong, volunteers from neighboring cities travel to disaster areas to assist villages in the clean up and reconstruction.

To date more than 87,000 families have received relief supplies, and more than 85,000 received shelter materials. Reconstruction of damaged houses has still a long way to go.

As the need of older persons in the affected communities remained overwhelming and as **elsewhere their needs and vulnerabilities again overlooked**, YEL proposed for additional funding from HelpAge International, to continue its relief operation, building on the already implemented relief activities.

In the second phase, less food was needed as other organizations also has also distributed food items, except in the remote villages such as Tangkil, Mredo, Pandes, Prambanan and Gantiwarno. Three specific needs were identified besides food aid, i.e. clean water, farming tools and tools to clean the rubble plus small cash grants to rehabilitate their livelihood .

Water was very much needed. Lots of efforts and time is needed to get clean water. Most of the wells were damaged and people, including older persons, had to walk for 30 minutes to fetch water and another 30 minutes back home.

YEL has build water reservoirs at 5 locations where access to water was a big problem.

Farming tools was another item very much needed by the affected community.

Most of the older persons (men as well as women) are farmers. Some could not get back to work, as the Landowner could not afford to pay them anymore.

In Gantiwarno - Klaten the farmers were still able to go to the paddy fields but needed farming tools, as all their belongings were lost or destroyed. YEL has distributed the identified tools based on the focused group discussions.

More tools to clean the rubble were also needed in the following stages.

The next phases was focused on the needs of 500 affected older persons in the remote villages such as Tangkil (food, mattress, water and clothing) Pandes (food, clothing), Mredo (food, clothing), Gantiwarno (farming Tools) and Prambanan (water, tools and cash transfer), still not supported by other organizations.

Supplementary feeding program.

During an emergency, affected people become dependent on external food sources.

In Tangkil village, older persons say that “their disaster has just started”.



Pak Achmad, 106 years old:

I'm 106 years old. I have worked all my life, more then 70 years I have worked very hard. I had my own house and my own income.

In less then one minute I lost everything I worked so hard for.

His house was leveled by the devastating quake. *“I have nothing to rebuild my house with.*

It is difficult enough to put food on the table”, he said. “Hopefully the Government keep its promise, so we can have a home again”.

Since the Government announced the assistance of cash for each person affected by the earthquake in the amount of Rp. 90.000,- per month, all other support from various organisations has stopped.

The Government initially also pledged between Rp. 10 million to Rp. 30 million in payouts for families to reconstruct damage houses, based on the scale of damage.

Now, three months after the disaster, many people are still waiting for government support, including the promised living allowance of Rp. 90.000 per month.

Their livelihoods disrupted, and with no idea how to earn some money, the frail older persons who already suffered food shortage, will be malnourished in the near future unless immediate action is taken to provide food available locally.

Through the support of HelpAge Deutschland, YEL was able to provide supplementary food for 140 older persons for the month of August.

YEL also managed to secure funding to support these frail older persons for another month (September).

For the coming months who knows????

Lessons learned.

1. Older persons are not targeted in the relief and needs assessment process during and after emergencies.
2. Older persons are able to assist in the emergency and rehabilitation process.
3. Local partners are capable to response in an emergency and during the rehabilitation
4. During an emergency, there can be no specific target, each individual affected by the disaster is vulnerable; infants, children, men, women, young and old including people with disabilities.
5. Local partners and local community should as much as possible be involved in the emergency relief process. They speak the language, know the local culture and the area.
6. Temporary shelters can be built using local material. In Jogja temporary shelters were built by the community themselves in a very short time (3 days), using bamboo material.
7. Each humanitarian organisation should identify their own capabilities and capacities and include active participation of the local community, including older persons. YEL

does not get involved in the health aspect, but refer health related aspects to the Red Cross (PMI) or Health Centers.

8. A special Task Force is needed to conduct a rapid assessment in the event of an emergency. This special task force will be the first team to directly respond to an emergency, and as much as possible consist of local people of the affected area.
9. YEL was able to form a response team in a short time, as YEL has an extensive network all over Indonesia.
10. An “Emergency Fund” should be available at all times. Process of release of Funds can take a long time and can be an obstacle in the emergency relief process.
11. Networking and collaboration with other relief agencies and related government institutions, including media, is a must. YEL was able to identify affected villages in remote areas through the media.
12. Most of the surveyors have not done any assessment before especially assessing the needs of older persons. This experience has enriched them spiritually, as one of the surveyors observed (Ita, 24 yrs): *It made me reflect on my attitude to my parents and grand parents. I have learned a lot and from now on I will take better care of my grandparents.*

Recommendations.

1. HAI to strengthen partners in the network in managing an emergency, natural disaster or crisis.
2. Each Humanitarian organization to establish a Special Task Force or Direct Response Team for rapid need assessment during an emergency.
3. Each Humanitarian organisation to establish an “Emergency Fund”.
4. YEL to organize a National Disaster Management Workshop and to establish a Special Task Force in the near future.
5. HAI to entrust local partners to do the emergency response in their country.

Conclusion.

On behalf of the older persons in the affected areas, and on behalf of Yayasan Emong Lansia we express our gratitude to:

1. Help the Aged for funding the Emergency Relief Aid
2. HelpAge International-APRDC for supporting, assisting and entrusting YEL to do the emergency relief response.
3. HAI BAO for their concern and input for the assessment.
4. All the surveyors, who dedicated their time and energy to collect data and support YEL in its endeavors to improve the quality of life of affected older persons in the disaster area.
5. All the volunteers, who worked day and night for 2 months long, no holidays, no week-ends and still full of spirit even at times when things did not go right, which made our task much easier.
6. Women’s International Club for donating 200 blankets and 20 tents.

7. Officials from the Social Welfare Agency, for their cooperation and donation of 200 blankets and who also came along on a Saturday with the team, to witness the handing over of the Water tanks, reservoirs.
8. Individual donors, who donated vitamins and medicine and school supply for children.
9. The “Alternative Healers” who responded to our appeal to visit and heal the older persons in the remote areas as there were no medical teams able to visit them.
10. The media, for their information and coverage of what has been done by the TEAM

It was a very tiring and not an easy but very much rewarding task to accomplish.

YEL could not have done it without the support and prayers of ALL of you, including our families.

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Jakarta, 31 August 2006.

Eva Sabdono.

YAYASAN EMONG LANSIA – JAKARTA.