



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

No. 201

13 – 19 January 2020

Indonesia

Indonesia extremely struggled as the deadly earthquake caused mass casualties. The death toll from a 6.2-magnitude earthquake, jolting Sulawesi island on 15 January 2021, rose substantially to 84 as reported on 17 January 2021. Many of the deaths were seen in Mamuju, a city situated in the north of the epicenter, while Majene City also suffered several losses of its population.

The catastrophic event forced many thousands of people to flee from their residences and take shelters in safe areas. Around 250 persons were seriously injured, while more than 650 individuals sustained some minor injuries. Landslides and power outage were also caused by the earthquake.

The local search and rescue teams still had to battle the aftershocks to rescue a lot of people who were still trapped inside collapsed buildings, some of them were public buildings like hospitals. However, the exact number of people under those ruins were still unknown.

Source: CNN. (2021, Jan 18). *Indonesia grapples with earthquake, flooding, landslides and fallout from Sriwijaya Air crash.*

Increasing eruption of active volcanos threatened lives in Indonesia. After erupting on 4 January 2021 and causing around 500 people in its vicinity to be evacuated, Mount Merapi, on 18 January 2021, continued to spill more lava and blowing ashes up one kilometre into the sky. The frightening six lava flows could be seen descending down the slope, according to the Indonesian Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation. Likewise, Mount Semeru, Indonesia's highest volcano located on Java Island, began spewing lava, ash and smoke on 16 January 2021 as well.

Source: CNN. (2021, Jan 18). *Indonesia grapples with earthquake, flooding, landslides and fallout from Sriwijaya Air crash.*

More deaths were counted as more floods struck Indonesia. A heavy inundation triggered by the rainy season killed 15 and six people in South Kalimantan Province and Manado City in North Sulawesi respectively. Around 100,000 people evacuated after floodwater of up to 1.5 metres inundated over 20,000 houses.

Furthermore, the overall death toll in last week's flooding and landslides in West Java rose to 33 after four more bodies were retrieved from the mud and debris on 18 January 2021. The rescue team was continually searching for other four, who were still missing.

In this regard, the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency warned that the rainy season could still bring more torrential rainfalls into the region until February.

Source: CNN. (2021, Jan 18). *Indonesia grapples with earthquake, flooding, landslides and fallout from Sriwijaya Air crash.*

Malaysia

Malaysian states have suffered from floods. More rains worsened the flooding

situation in Sabah, forcing the state to open more of its relief centres to accommodate other 270 affected people. The districts of Kota Kinabalu, Penampang, Putatan, Tuaran and Papar were inundated on 17 January 2021. Electricity and water supply in several areas of the state were disrupted causing more difficulties to already suffered people. Similarly, nearly 100 residents in many areas of Johor still remained at the relief centres as stagnant floodwater still prevented them from returning homes.

On the other hand, a gradual improvement was witnessed in flood situations in Pahang and Sarawak together with a number of evacuees dropping in these states. However, the water level of a river in Pahang was still above the danger level.

Source: New Straits Times. (2021, Jan 17). *Floods ease in four states; evacuees down to 6,358*; New Straits Times. (2021, Jan 17). *Sabah floods worsen; water, electricity supply disrupted.*

The Philippines

Severe downpours struck many areas in the Philippines. San Carlos was a city in Negros Occidental Province hit by the hardest flash floods on 16 January 2021. More than 110 families fled to find shelters in elementary schools. Following the latest hit, the province has been drenched by heavy floods for the third straight weekend.

More areas such as Barangays 1, 2, 5, 6 and Rizal also had to handle with flash floods. Prior to that, a massive inundation in the province forced a state of calamity to be issued in the cities of Silay, Talisay and Victorias, and E.B. Magalona town.

In the same time, around 240 families in Zamboanga city were also evacuated after the river overflowed following heavy rainfalls. Floodwater stream swept away four houses in the city. No casualties were reported.

Source: Philippine News Agency. (2021, Jan 18). *Flood inundates two Zambo City villages*; Philippine News Agency. (2021, Jan 17). *111 families in San Carlos City evacuate due to flooding.*

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