EL NIÑO AND HEALTH - INDONESIA overview - January 2016

EL NIÑO FORECAST AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

- Below-average rainfall is expected as a result of the El Niño, with reduced water supplies and risk of harvest failure.
- The drier conditions associated with the practice of forest clearance may cause continued forest fires, that have already heavily affected southern Kalimantan (Borneo) and western Sumatra.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED HEALTH CONDITIONS

- Forest fires are likely to cause an increase in respiratory diseases. The Indonesian health ministry reported that from July to October 2015, nineteen people had died and that hospitals in the worst affected parts of the country had treated nearly 560,000 cases of people with smoke-related respiratory problems, which is three times the normal rate.
- Prolonged drought can cause food insecurity and malnutrition and an increased incidence of food and water-borne diseases.

HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

- A UN Country Team Focus Group for El Niño, co-led by FAO and WFP, has been established to assess the impacts of El Niño and develop response plans.
- The Government has put in place drought mitigation measures such as irrigation channels, new reservoirs and wells, and water pumps for distribution. The Government has also allocated IDR 3.5 trillion (USD 258 million) to improve rice state reserves and stabilize the prices of staple foods.
- WHO has deployed technical surge capacities to Indonesia Country Office to support immediate response assistance.

*INFORM (Index for Risk Management) is a global risk assessment index for humanitarian crises and disasters: [http://www.inform-index.org/](http://www.inform-index.org/)