

Water Rages, SD Indonesia Shares the Sorrows

Heavy rain and flooding engulfed Jakarta on 2 February 2007 causing a lot of suffering, especially for those people who live on the banks of the thirteen rivers that flow through the city and the many streams that feed into them. Most of the people who live beside the waterways are extremely poor, and even those few families whose conditions could be said to be relatively good are still only living on the borderline of poverty, with just enough income for their daily food.



Seeing these conditions SD Indonesia and the teams of volunteers, which consist of young Subud members, have channeled their assistance towards infants in the "balita" (children under five years old) group. The first aid was in the form of fifty sacks of powdered milk which was distributed to one of the worst hit areas, Rawa Indah, Pegangsaan area in North Jakarta. The name Rawa Indah means "Beautiful Swamp", but it is not beautiful now. At the time of writing this article

The suffering caused by the floods has hit children, aged five or less, the most heavily. They have been forced to sleep crowded together in emergency tents, eating whatever is available without consideration of the protein and general nutritional needs of growing children.



Children at emergency tent



the homes of 150 families in Rawa Indah are still flooded with thick black water up to the waist level of an adult. Of those 150 families, fifty percent of them have infant children (up to age 5) and they are all forced to sleep in emergency tents. Most of the tents do not have ground sheets, so the children are sleeping on the bare earth.



In South Jakarta SDI also gave fifty sacks of powdered milk to the residents of the Terogong area, where the floods reached a height of one and a half meters (five feet). Terogong is only one

kilometer from Wisma Subud, Cilandak.

Ibu Hamdani, aged 61, is a long-time Subud member whose house was flooded in Terogong. (Visitors to Cilandak may remember her – she is the lady who runs a little tea and coffee stall beside the latihan hall on Sundays.) SDI has given cash assistance to Ibu Hamdani to buy cleaning equipment and materials so that her house can be made habitable again after the floods. Two servants who work in the house of a Subud member in Wisma Subud, who are also residents of Terogong, have also been given cash assistance and school uniforms for their children, to replace those that were lost in the flood.



Mrs. Hamdani



Pak Soehoed

Assistance is also being given to Bapak Soehoed, whose house is beside one of the rivers in South Jakarta. The house, which measures 3 meters by 5 meters, was completely submerged by the flood, so that even the top of

the roof was below the water. All the contents of the house were carried away by the flood waters and not a single thing remains, not even clothes. Pak Soehoed is 81 years old, and has two grandchildren. For the moment he is staying at the home of a relative in Bogor, in the hills south of Jakarta. Pak Soehoed has served Subud in many ways over the years in a variety of positions, including as Chairman of Subud Indonesia, International Helper, National Helper, and as Chairman of Yayasan Usaha Mulia.



Ariana talked with Mrs. Soehoed



The Volunteer team bought school uniforms

The volunteer teams are still working hard to locate the Subud members who have been hit by the floods, so that assistance can be given if it is needed. Some of them have been forced to move out of their homes and, because of the floods, finding where they have gone to and making contact with them can be difficult. This is also hampered by the fact that many of the addresses that SDI has been given are incomplete. So far SDI has located 41 Subud families who have been affected.

We wish to thank all donors and all volunteers for their contributions, trust and friendship to Susila Dharma Indonesia.

As of 17 February 2007, we've received contribution total Rp. 8,350,000 million, or USD 927.7 from Ibu Rahayu, Raymond and Muti Lee, Luqman McKingley's & families, Farlan Williams, Handayani, Sumiati das neves Syamsu, Hartati Horthy and Subud South Jakarta. In the mean time, Subud Japan has also sent USD 5,000 to us through Susila Dharma International.

Jakarta, February 17, 2007 Report by Ridwan Umar
Translate by Rachmat Fisher