LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) began working in Indonesia following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, addressing both emergency and long term development needs. Indonesia remains one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with millions of people often affected by earthquakes, landslides, floods and tsunamis. Poor, rural communities have few resources to prepare for or mitigate the effects of these hazards and even fewer resources to recover. Recognizing that effective development helps mitigate the impact of such hazards, Lutheran World Relief works to build community resilience through improving livelihoods, food security, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. We currently works in the provinces of Aceh, Bali and Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT).

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Indonesia is already experiencing the effects of climate change. For Indonesian farmers, there is an urgent need to develop and use crop varieties that can survive drought, erratic temperatures and flooding, as well as pests and crop diseases resulting from the region’s higher temperatures. To address this need, Lutheran World Relief incorporates climate change adaptation in all of our projects in Indonesia. For example, we have worked with local partners and farmers to deter slash and burn agriculture practices, improve agro-water management systems, and to increase crop production and resilience to pests and diseases through climate smart agriculture methods.

We improve sustainable land use and mitigate the impact of climate change by rehabilitating mangrove forests, establishing community-based natural resource management and disaster risk reduction plans, and promoting climate-friendly livelihoods. Our programs increase alternative energy source capacity, like hydropower, to reduce community reliance on firewood or diesel generators. Lutheran World Relief has received support for this work from donors such as the U.S. Agency for International Development and World Vision International.
Indonesia is especially vulnerable to natural disasters such as severe storms, tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanoes due to its geographic location in the Pacific Ring of Fire. We work with community institutions — including schools, government offices and health facilities — to develop disaster risk management plans that assess and rank hazards and vulnerabilities and contain action plans to reduce vulnerability. We use local networks to share best practices in disaster risk reduction and inform policy development as a means to advance preparedness practice and policy, build resilience and empower communities to respond to disasters in coordinated and organized ways. We engage directly with local populations at each step in this process, so that communities are leading their own efforts to reduce vulnerability.

Agriculture & Food Security

Lutheran World Relief is an internationally-recognized leader in transforming poor rural economies. In Indonesia, our experienced staff and partners develop and implement programs that create linkages along value chains — especially coffee and cocoa — that benefit smallholder farming families. We work alongside communities to help farmers adopt climate-smart sustainable solutions so they can maximize crop yield and quality. We coordinate farmer-to-farmer exchange visits and community demonstration plots for sharing techniques among peer groups.

We also help farmers organize and join producer associations so they are better able access to credit, enter more lucrative markets, and collectively purchase farm inputs and market crops. And we provide training on business, leadership and management skills, as well as guidance on organizational governance and networking to ensure the sustainability of producer associations. Lutheran World Relief has received funding for this work from donors such as Progreso.

To promote gender inclusion, LWR encourages women’s participation, including contributing to decision making, on both the family farm and in farmer cooperatives and groups.

Emergency Response

Lutheran World Relief’s presence in Indonesia allows us to deliver immediate aid to families affected by emergencies and crises, and promote sustainable recovery so that communities are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge. Emergency response programs may include food, water or non-food item provision, shelter construction and early livelihood recovery.

Lutheran World Relief believes strongly that those affected by disasters have a right to life with dignity, the right to receive humanitarian assistance, and the right to protection and security, in line with the Humanitarian Charter. Therefore, we provide appropriate and effective services to the communities we serve and is accountable to these populations, as well as donors funding our work.

Organically grown Arabica coffee from Sumatra’s Gayo region is in increasingly high demand. As international buyers turn their attention to Gayo, LWR is partnering with Fair Trade USA to support four cooperatives and their members as they seek to improve both the quality and quantity of their crop, and increase their access to global markets. LWR’s replicable model focuses on improving cooperatives’ governance and management structures, and training producers and staff on pest control, soil management, organic fertilizer use, and post-harvest handling. Pictured here, a farmer demonstrates how to make organic fertilizer. In the coming years, LWR plans to expand its footprint in the coffee-producing areas of Aceh, North Sumatra and Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT).