

NEIGHBORS

**World Neighbors
Board of Trustees**

Officers of the Board:

Tommy Barrow, Chair
Decatur, GA

Carol Blackwood, Vice Chair
Oklahoma City, OK

Emily Estes, Secretary
Hartford, CT

Becky Collins, Treasurer
Tulsa, OK

Board Members:

Martha Burger
Oklahoma City, OK

Susan Chambers, M.D.
Oklahoma City, OK

Mara Tshibaka Cichocki
Tulsa, OK

Stephanie Conduff, J.D.
Broken Arrow, OK

Anthea George
Bozeman, MT

Wayne Moyer, Ph.D.
Kellogg, IA

Marla Persky
Ridgefield, CT

Nani Pybus, Ph.D., CRA
Stillwater, OK

Paul Robertson
Ottawa, Canada

Vlad Sambaiew
Phoenix, AZ

Jay Shanker, J.D.
Oklahoma City, OK

Tiffany Stevens, J.D.
New York, NY

Marnie Taylor
Oklahoma City, OK

**President and
Chief Executive Officer**

Kate Schecter, Ph.D.

Inside:

**A Look at Disaster Preparedness and
Disaster Risk Reduction Around the World**



***Planting mangrove trees in Flores, Indonesia to
stave off rising seas and preserve the coastline***



Dear Neighbor,

As this issue of *Neighbors* goes to print, I have just returned from a trip to Haiti to visit our programs. Each time I go out to the field to some of the most remote and poorest places on earth, I am reminded of the incredible power of the human spirit. Even in the rocky mountains of Haiti where there is no water for miles and the soil is sandy and unhospitable, these communities have worked together to make their lives better. With help from our knowledgeable and compassionate staff we have:

- Installed water catchments on the roofs of dozens of homes;
- Installed hundreds of water filters in homes so that children and families are not getting water-borne illnesses;
- Eliminated cholera in all our villages;
- Helped plant thousands of trees so that food is more plentiful year-round; and
- Instituted Savings and Credit Groups so that our partners can start their own businesses and invest in their children's education.

As you will read in this issue, one of the priorities that all our communities want to focus on is preparing for and reducing the damage from natural disasters. In Indonesia and Timor-Leste, generous grants from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have allowed us to work with thousands of people to mitigate the impact of climate change and extreme weather conditions. In Haiti, we continue to work with the farmers to prepare for the inevitable hurricanes that hit the island every year. Around the world, in all 13 countries where we work, this is a priority that we are helping to address. All of this work would not be possible without your generosity! We are deeply grateful and hope you will continue to support this essential work and change that is happening all over the world. Wishing everyone a wonderful spring and summer!

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Schecter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kate Schecter, Ph.D.
President and CEO
The May Ayers Milburn Chair

P.S. World Neighbors now has the highest ratings for most sound fiscal policies and transparency with Charity Navigator, GuideStar and Charity Watch! Please know that your contribution will always be used with great care and deep appreciation.



Kate in the field with our Haitian team



Meladette and her friend fishing in her fishpond

How Fish Ponds in Haiti Can Help with Recovery from Disasters

Meladette Dalphinis was born in 1967 in the locality of Odigé in Haiti. She works as a farmer and animal breeder to support her two children. Meladette has faced various adversities throughout her life. In 2014, she was ill and had to sell four plots of land in order to afford treatment and medicine. With the help of World Neighbors (WN), Meladette is self-sufficient now.

Although Meladette is single, she can afford to live by herself because her farm is so successful. Through her farming income, she is able to educate her children and improve their standard of living. She also received a small loan from the WN partner community-based organization in her region of Haiti. With the loan she started to raise fish in a small fish pond on her land. Following Hurricane Matthew in 2016, the fish were unharmed and she not only had a source of protein for herself and her family, but was able to sell the fish for additional income. While much of Haiti was struggling to obtain food and clean water, the WN communities were able to weather the storm and the aftermath without problems. Meladette put the loan towards her agricultural activities, too, by planting leeks. She uses animal waste to make fertilizer, which she also sells in the market place.

Meladette's goal is to optimize her production of fertilizer using animal waste and earthworms to make additional

income. She intends to then use this income to invest in more technical and financial tools in order to increase her future productivity in the agricultural sector.



Meladette showing her vermi compost



Banjir Bandang, today

Call me Flood!

Picture the scene – it’s a typical one found across rural Indonesia. Under the blazing sun, there’s a group of children playing football, kicking up clouds of dust. They play in and around groups of chickens and ducks busy looking for food, while a few goats and cows are tied up beneath the shade of trees. The weather is hot, but still cool because this place is right at the foot of Mount Rinjani, on the island of Lombok, Indonesia.

But then something unexpected happens. Despite it not having rained for days, an adult approaches the group and suddenly yells “flood!” Even more surprising is the children’s response. There’s no panic. Most of them continue with their game. All except one, who just turns and calmly replies “Yes father?”

Because – yes – this child’s name is Flood! Born on Saturday night on 24th December 2004, his birth coincided with a terrible flood which hit the village of Madiyin, East Lombok. At that time, there was no disaster response program which could help the villagers. There was no disaster preparedness done before the disaster struck aimed at minimizing casualties and property damage. There was no early warning system which could give the victims precious time to evacuate. With no electricity, villagers would learn about the disaster only

when it struck - first hearing and then seeing through the dark its terrible approach. Trees would fall, rocks would come hurtling down the hillsides, crushing whatever was below.

Hundreds of Madiyin villagers ran in panic, looking for a safe place to escape the waters, all running to unspecified destinations without any guidance or knowledge of where was safe. Two of these people on that night were Inak Eka and her husband Tarmizun. What set them apart was that Inak Eka was eight months pregnant on the night of the 24th. She could not run like the others.

And then suddenly, she felt the pain of childbirth! At first, Tarmizun did not take this seriously, as he knew there was still a whole month to go. But as the pain got worse and worse, he realized that the horror of the flood had brought on premature labor. He was able to get his wife onto a motorcycle and to the nearest health post, where that night she gave birth to a son. In recognition of that night, they named him Mukti Ali Banjir Bandang.

Now fast-forward to 2015. Banjir Bandang is nine years old but has already lived through two floods of equal devastation as that of his birth – the first in 2012 and the second just one year ago. It is clear to the community and the government that this phenomenon is becoming more frequent, and therefore Madayin, together with the two neighboring villages of Dara Kunci and Sugian have been classified as being at the highest risk from natural disasters by the Regional Disaster Management Agency.

Due to their level of risk, WN together with its local partner LPSDM and the district government of East Lombok, selected the villages of Dara Kunci, Sugian and Madayin to be included in the USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)—funded Disaster Risk Reduction in Nusa Tenggara Project, which aims to build

Continued



A disaster preparedness exercise in Indonesia



A bridge destroyed by a flood

resilience, food security and a strong community economy in 35 villages across eastern Indonesia.

One of the project's main strategies in building community resilience is by establishing a community-based disaster management group (KMPB), which for these three villages was done at the start of the project in March/April 2015. Since then, these groups have received numerous capacity-building trainings to prepare them for their role in disaster management, including: formulating the structure and selection of the board and members; developing action plans, standard operating procedures and village government regulations on disaster management; policy advocacy; integrating the action plan on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into the RPJMDes (Mid-term Village Development Plan); disaster practice and simulation; and advanced weather prediction and crop cultivation suitable for climate change. The KMPB is assessed annually using the national

government's Desa Tangguh Bencana (Disaster Resilient Village)¹ guidelines.

For 2 years, the commitment and capacity of the KMPB of these three villages has been increasing, and which was put to the test when this area was hit by flooding in February 2017.

Prior to the disaster, the three KMPBs had already started their preparations. They knew from the rainfall prediction studies which WN together with the Institute Technology Bandung had implemented in their areas, that heavy rain was predicted for December 2016, January-March 2017, and which areas had potential for flooding. Since December 2016, these three KMPB, whose members totaled 150, had started to prepare the early warning tools, evacuation equipment, and maintaining the evacuation route and safe points for assembly. Then on 7th February 2017, the flood first hit Sugian, and

Continued



Additional scenes of disaster preparedness in Indonesia

¹ Regulation of Head of BNPB 1/2012 (Perka BNPB 1/2012)



Reenactment of lifesaving procedures

four days later the villages of Dara Kunci and Madayin. Compared to the previous three recent floods – even the one of Banjir Bandand’s birth, this flood was devastating. It not only causing dikes to collapse; field and farming areas to be destroyed; turning roads into streams; falling trees; houses collapsing and electricity being cut off for five days, but most devastating of all was that the bridge connecting the three villages collapsed - cutting off the villages from the outside world.

But thanks to the preparation and response of the three KMPBs, injuries and material losses were greatly reduced from those suffered in previous years. Early warnings were given to the whole communities using loudspeakers in the mosques and musholla, as well as using tongkek (traditional bamboo instrument). By doing so, the public had sufficient time to protect their valuables and secure their properties. The KMPB then evacuated the communities to their safe points, and continued to monitor the most dangerous areas, keeping people well away. As in any community, the KMPB had to deal with many different personalities, but due to their knowledge they had gained under the disaster management project, they were skilled in convincing people to listen to them, and giving the right information when it was needed to convince everyone to proceed in an orderly manner.

Once the worst of the initial flooding was over, the KMPB then started collecting data on the number of Internally Displaced People (IDP). Similarly, the availability of medicines was directly coordinated with the local clinics. In all, the coordination both before, during and after

the flood with the village government, sub-district government, Disaster Risk Reduction Forum, BPBD (Disaster Management Body), Social Office and Indonesia Red Cross was done perfectly.

The data collection identified 236 households (745 people) who were displaced; 16 houses severely damaged; 183.9 hectares of field severely damaged; 5 bridges destroyed and 65 meters of road broken and unpassable.

Each step in the disaster response was done according to the procedures developed by the KMPB under the USAID/ OFDA project.

In the next few days following the disaster, the KMPBs together with LPSDM looked for ways to ease the burden of the IDPs, by requesting support from the Government of East Lombok District and WN. WN was able to provide food and water supplies, while the government provided heavy equipment to clear the affected areas.

But the damage caused and outside assistance given are not what will be remembered by Banjir Bandang and his parents, when in coming years they talk about the floods of 2017. Due to the skills and knowledge which their village’s disaster management group received during the USAID/OFDA Disaster Risk Reduction in Nusa Tenggara project, they will remember how well the whole community responded and worked together to minimize the devastation, and how much more resilient they now are to face future disasters together.



A garden in Haiti with multiple varieties of crops

Climate Change, Disease Vectors and International NGOs

By Kate Schecter, Ph.D.

This article was originally published on November 13, 2017 by World Politics Review.com

Devastating hurricanes and fires in the US and the Caribbean have demonstrated yet again that extreme weather exacerbated by climate change has created new risks. Suffering and damage caused by extreme weather in turn creates additional new dangers.

One of the more worrisome is the spread of disease, especially “vector borne” diseases. These are diseases transmitted to humans through insect bites, most commonly by mosquitoes, ticks and flies. They include Zika, Lyme, Chikungunya and malaria. In 2015, malaria alone infected over 200 million people and caused about 438,000 deaths worldwide.

According to the World Health Organization, the three key components that determine the prevalence of vector borne diseases are the number and concentration of animals that host insects; the prevalence of disease-causing parasites and pathogens; and human population behavior and disease resilience. Climate change and its effects intensify all three components.

Rising global temperatures. These lengthen the season and increase the geographic range of disease-carrying insects. As temperatures rise, mosquitoes and other

warm-weather insects can move into new regions and higher altitudes. For example, warming is lengthening the season for Zika-carrying mosquitoes.

Since it was discovered in Uganda in 1947, Zika has spread to many parts of the world. Fetuses can acquire the disease from their mothers during pregnancy. The result can be miscarriage and birth defects, including microcephaly, in which babies are born with small heads and underdeveloped brains. Zika transmission has increased in Latin America and has occurred in the US.

Increased rainfall, flooding and humidity. These create more areas for insect breeding and reproduction. Again, Zika is an example. After massive flooding in Louisiana in August 2016, breeding habitats increased and there was a jump in the number of the *Aedes* mosquitoes that host Zika. This phenomenon is likely to be repeated in Texas, Florida and other places as climate change leads to more coastal flooding around the world.

Human migration. Larger numbers of people forced from their communities by drought and other impacts of climate change expose people to viruses to which they are not immune. Since many migrants move to cities, they can bring increased risk of disease to overcrowded urban areas. Wide scale disease outbreaks in large cities could result in the breakdown of social order, with its negative impacts on security, food distribution and economic investment and activity.

So what can public and private organizations, including international development groups, do to address the risks of vector borne diseases?

Enhanced Insect Surveillance. The World Health Organization and other international groups have increased efforts to work with national governments to establish reliable measurement and tracking systems. This is an immense challenge, given the size of insects and their ability to “hide,” the volume of global trade and travel and the increase in migration. While solid steps have been taken, governing bodies at all levels will need to invest many more resources to adequately track insects as their animal and plant hosts move around the globe.

Human Disease Tracking. This is another challenge being addressed by the World Health Organization and other groups. The 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa brought to public attention the need to track communicable diseases of all kinds and the type of public and private infrastructure necessary to do so. In essence, effective disease tracking requires the long-standing and well-funded public health policies and capacities taken for granted in developed countries.

Continued

Building these systems in developing nations—the work of many international NGOs—will take significant investment for years to come. Public and private organizations need to significantly increase funds dedicated to primary care and public health in the developing world.

Economic and Social Development. Effective public health facilities and services cannot be built and sustained in a vacuum. They require dedicated resources, effective regulation and access to medicines and equipment. This, in turn, requires effective governance, including trade rules and relationships.

Most important, the prevention and treatment of vector borne and other diseases requires that citizens know of

and have access to health facilities. While government bodies play a critical role in this, community-based groups are also necessary. For example, these groups have played a decisive role in ensuring that antiviral drugs get to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Africa and Asia. Community-centered economic and social development is most effectively catalyzed by local NGOs, assisted by international NGOs.

Unfortunately, climate change promises to intensify many risks, including vector borne diseases. Public and private organizations large and small have a role to play in reducing these risks. In a globalized world, reducing the risks for some reduces the risks to all.

Commemorative Gifts Received

August 19, 2017 – March 26, 2018

IN MEMORY OF

Burt and Rose Barth
Richard and Linda Craft

Margo Barth
Craig Barth

Don K. Beatty
Karen Redlin

Jean Bell
David Bell
Donald Bell
John Bell

Frank Blackwood
Joe and Zula Walters

Ann Brackett
Jim and Vicki Morley

Marian L. Doub
Delinda Wall

Craig & Ellen Heberton
Marla Persky

Martha King
Charles and
Carol Blackwood
Mary Moore
Jane and Steve Silovsky

Laurene Needham
Brad Tarpley

Madeleine Rossi
Robert Kubie

IN HONOR OF

Paul and Ione Billhymer
Curtis Billhymer

Bill Brackett
Rollin and Elaine Dix

Sharon and Tom Brown
Syntrinsic Investment Counsel
Anna Todorova

Martha Burger
Art and Sandy Cotton

Emily Estes and Roy McAlpine
Katy Draper

Hunt and Christine Lowry
David Ondaatje

Jim Morley
Timothy Schlindwein

Susan Updegrove
Erin Updegrove

Johnathan Yeung
Nick Christian

Did you know?

Through a planned gift, your legacy can give World Neighbors financial security that allows us to spend less time fundraising, and more time focusing on our mission. There are many ways to undertake planned giving, and gifts can even be made in the name of loved ones. If you are interested in supporting World

Neighbors' growth and establishing your legacy, consider planned giving.

To learn more about the many ways to make a legacy or planned gift, please contact Robert Lachance at 405-236-0805 or rlachance@wn.org.



www.bbb.org

OUR MISSION

World Neighbors inspires people and strengthens communities to find lasting solutions to hunger, poverty and disease and to promote a healthy environment

5600 N. May Avenue, Suite 160, Oklahoma City, OK 73112-4222
405.752.9700 | 1.800.242.6387 | www.wn.org