

DISASTER
RELIEF

CASE REPORT
Indonesia-Drought
1972/1973

Agency for International Development
Washington, D C 20523

Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of the Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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INDONESIA

Drought—1972/1973

Prolonged drought created near starvation conditions in several areas of Indonesia which affected approximately 3.5 million people. Assistance provided by the U. S. Government consisted of 7,917 metric tons of P. L. 480 food made available through the World Food Program and U. S. voluntary agencies. Catholic Relief Services and Church World Service were both active in the food distribution program.

Value of U. S. Government Assistance	\$1,232,860
Value of Assistance from Voluntary Agencies	34,341
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	\$1,267,201



A young Indonesian child eating rice provided by the U.S. Government for emergency feeding programs.

A long period of insufficient rainfall prevented the usual October/November planting of corn and rice. Ordinarily the corn is harvested in January/February and the rice in February/March. Both harvests were delayed with loss to the corn crop estimated at 420,000 metric tons, and loss to the rice crop estimated at 300,000 metric tons. Areas particularly affected were Jogjakarta, Wonogiri, Demak Pur Wodai in Central Java; Ponorogo, Nusa Tenggara, Timur; East Nusa Tenggara and Maluku Islands. Two starvation deaths were reported in East Nusa Tenggara and more were predicted if food aid was not forthcoming.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA:

The Government of Indonesia (GOI) approached foreign governments and the World Food Program to provide bilateral assistance. In the meantime, it purchased 20,000 tons of corn (approximate value \$1.2 million) for arrival during December 1972/January 1973. This corn was to be used to make cereals available for sale in affected areas in order to stabilize prices at a low level; it was not expected to meet the needs of destitute groups of the population.

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE
U. S. GOVERNMENT:**

The American Ambassador, Francis J. Galbraith, exercised his disaster relief authority to finance the movement of 2,572 metric tons of Catholic Relief Services' P. L. 480 food from the ports of Jakarta and Surabaya to the Province of Nusa Tenggara, Timur. Cost to the contingency fund was ..\$13,500 In response to requests from the World Food Program and U. S. voluntary agencies, AID provided or released the following P. L. 480 food:

World Food Program—5,000 metric tons of bulgur wheat, value including ocean freight	
	\$820,000
Catholic Relief Services—2,572 metric tons of soy fortified bulgur, value	334,360
Church World Service—Approximately 345 metric tons of bulgur and other P. L. 480 commodities, value	65,000
	\$1,232,860

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY
U. S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES:**

Catholic Relief Services diverted the previously mentioned P. L. 480 bulgur to the Province of Nusa Tenggara, Timur and Church World Service made 345 metric tons available to the Province of Maluku. The

following assistance was given from their own resources:

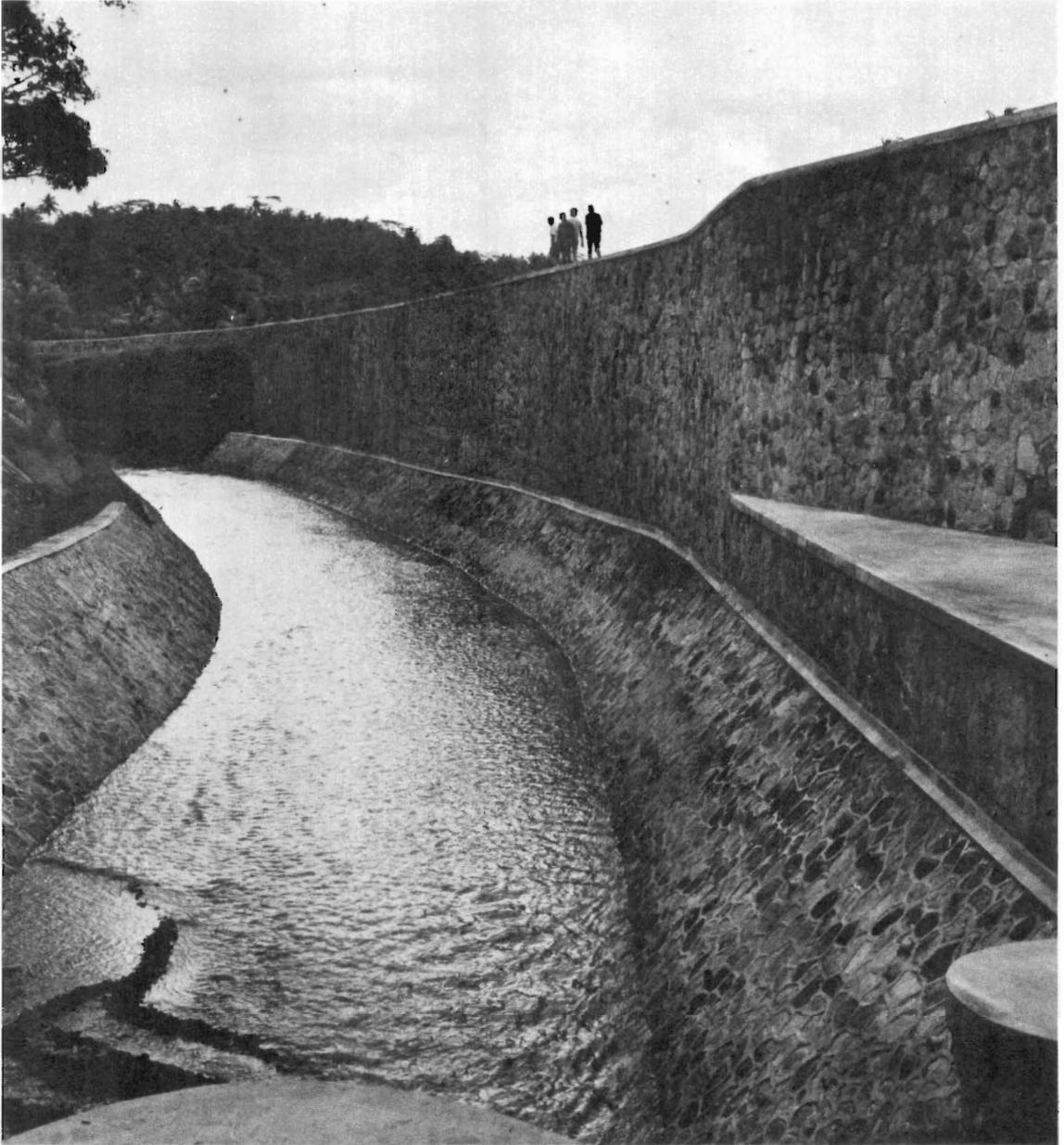
Catholic Relief Services:	
Seeds and corn for 10,000 people ..	\$3,526
Food, other than P. L. 480, for 22,500 people	10,865
15 tons of rice and corn jointly purchased by Australia CRS and U. S. CRS	4,950
	\$19,341

Church World Service:	
Funds for local purchase of relief supplies	15,000

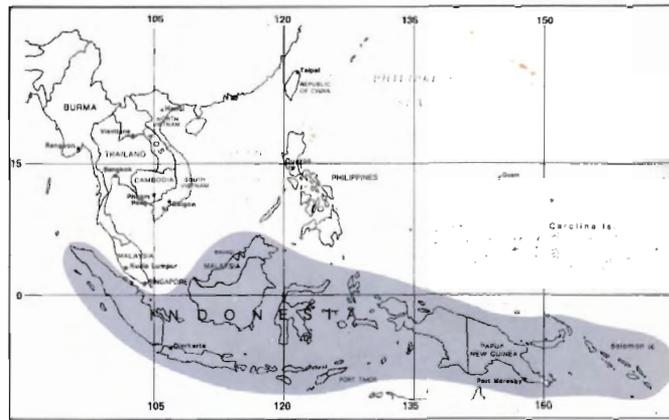
Total Assistance from U.S. Voluntary Agencies	\$34,341
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**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:**

Responding to a World Food Program (WFP) request, the U.S. Government (USG) provided 5,000 metric tons of bulgur wheat for the drought emergency. WFP indicated that it would be able to borrow the bulgur needed for immediate distribution to beneficiaries pending arrival of the USG donation. The WFP emergency feeding program was for 212,000 persons for the months of January and February, with each person receiving a daily ration of 400 grams. There was no information available on what other donor nations may have contributed to the Indonesian drought.



Due to lack of rainfall, this irrigation ditch had little or no water for planting of rice and corn causing food shortages throughout Central Java.



INDONESIA