



Resilient Indonesian Slums Envisioned

Radboud University · Universitas Indonesia · ITB · UPI · Deltares · Open Universiteit · UK Maranatha · Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial
Didanai oleh NWO & RISTEKBRIN melalui Program MERIAN · Dengan dukungan LPDP

INVITATION — HIGH-LEVEL MULTISTAKEHOLDER FORUM FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

Building Water-Resilient Cities in Indonesia

A forum convening government, development partners, and researchers to translate groundbreaking evidence from three Indonesian cities into policy action — closing the gap between community adaptation strategies and the systemic resilience our cities urgently need.

Day, Date : Wed, 25 Feb 2026
Time : 08.30 – 13.00 WIB
Venue : Hotel JS Luwansa, Jakarta Selatan
Format : Forum & RISE Exhibition





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Why now?

Indonesia's cities face escalating water crises — from deadly flash floods in Manado to groundwater depletion in Bima — yet national policy frameworks remain calibrated for megacities only. This forum provides the evidence that is crucial to make decisions that need to be made before more water related disasters will occur and to improve lives of many living in cities.

THE CHALLENGE

Indonesia's cities are growing fast — but their residents are often trapped in a cycle of recurring water related crises

The future of Indonesia's urbanization extends well beyond Jakarta and Surabaya. Millions of people in secondary cities and peri-urban areas face a dual crisis of chronic water insecurity and limited access to public services. Although communities show remarkable solidarity during floods and droughts, households remain very vulnerable. Targeted interventions with regard to these various water related crises, however, can help strengthen communities which is highly relevant considering the rapid urban growth seen throughout Indonesia.

Evidence from Bima, Manado & Pontianak

Six findings that should reshape how Indonesia plans for urban water resilience

RISE's multidisciplinary research across three cities reveals systemic blind spots in current policy — and points toward concrete solutions.

FINDING 01

The "Bouncing in Place" Paradox

Communities survive through social solidarity, yet remain trapped in cycles of recurring vulnerability — enduring each crisis without achieving long-term transformation.

SOCIAL RESILIENCE

FINDING 02

Relational Wellbeing Matters More Than GDP

Citizen satisfaction is driven more by social bonds and a sense of security than by objective economic indicators — yet planning rarely accounts for this.

URBAN WELLBEING

FINDING 03

Governance-Perception Mismatch

A critical disconnect exists between how residents perceive risk, how formal planning mechanisms like Musrenbang address it, and the informal survival strategies people actually rely on.

GOVERNANCE

FINDING 04

Banjir Small Floods, Big Damage

Hydrodynamic modeling in Manado reveals that frequent, short-cycle floods (2-year return) erode community resilience nearly as severely as once-in-a-century disaster events.

FLOOD RESILIENCE INDEX

FINDING 05

Groundwater in Exponential Decline

MODFLOW simulations in Bima project an exponential decline in groundwater levels within new development zones — a slow-onset crisis that demands immediate policy attention.

WATER SECURITY

FINDING 06

Standard Infrastructure Fails Informal Settlements

Conventional drainage design proves ineffective without micro-adaptations that account for the spatial realities of informal settlements — where most vulnerable residents live.

INFRASTRUCTURE



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WHY YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS

This forum is designed to connect evidence with the institutions that can act on it



NATIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Align Musrenbang and disaster planning with ground-level realities

The findings expose critical gaps between formal planning processes and lived experience. This evidence can directly inform national water security policy, RPJMN priorities, and local spatial plans for secondary cities – ensuring budgets reach the communities most at risk.



WORLD BANK & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Invest in resilience models that work beyond megacities

Current urban resilience lending is concentrated in primary cities. This research provides the empirical basis for scaled investment in secondary-city water infrastructure, adaptive flood management, and groundwater governance – where the next wave of urbanization is already underway.



FORD FOUNDATION & CIVIL SOCIETY

Amplify community voice in urban resilience policy

The “bouncing in place” finding reveals communities with enormous social capital but no pathway to systemic change. This forum explores how to translate relational wellbeing and informal survival strategies into policy frameworks that center equity, inclusion, and genuine community agency.





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PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Dari bukti menuju aksi dalam satu pagi



08:30 – 09:00

Registration & RISE Innovation Exhibition Opens

Explore multidisciplinary research outputs, models, and data visualisations



09:00 – 09:20

Opening & Keynote: The Urban Water Crisis Beyond Megacities

Framing the challenge and the opportunity for Indonesia's secondary cities



09:20 – 10:30 09:00 – 09:20

Evidence Presentations: Findings from Bima, Manado & Pontianak

Flood resilience, groundwater depletion, wellbeing, and governance research



10:30 – 11:00

Break & Exhibition



11:00 – 12:00

Multistakeholder Dialogue: From Findings to Policy & Investment

Government, donors, researchers, and community representatives chart a path forward



12:00 – 13:00

Closing Commitments & Next Steps

Concrete actions and collaborative partnerships

The gap between research and resilience closes when the right people are in the room.

Your presence is essential to ensuring that rigorous evidence translates into measurable, real-world action for Indonesia's most vulnerable urban communities.



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For inquiries, please contact the RISE Secretariat