



JUST LIVE WITH IT: HOW MOTHER AND CHILDREN PERCEIEVE THE FOREST FIRE IN PALEMBANG

Introduction

- Forest fires have become a world issue
- many adverse impact in some areas including:
 - health, transportation, ecosystems, economics and politics
- health impact on society might emerged from
 - Direct impact
 - disruption of sanitation and clean water supply,
 - food safety,
 - infection control,
 - as well as access to accommodation and health services

Indonesia

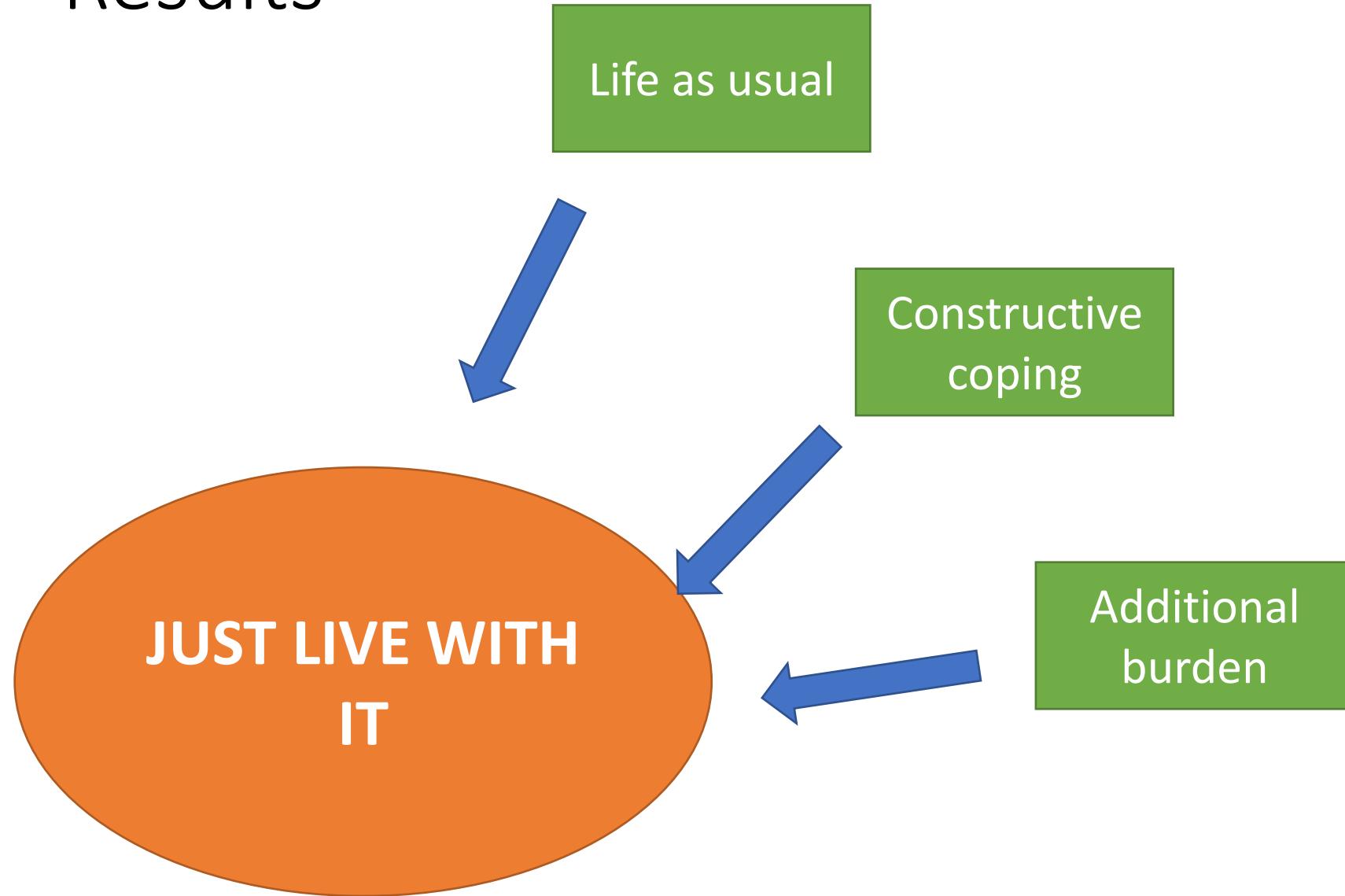
- July – November 2015
 - The worst fire
 - Dangerous condition (ISPU more than 300 ugr/m³)
 - 6 provinces with 2.6 million ha
 - 16 provinces affected by fire, and the neighbor countries
- Education sector:
 - 17000 schools and 4.4 million pupils affected
- Health sector:
 - 25.6 million people affected
 - Lacking in the health impact

**What is the perception of mother and children
on the impact of forest fire?**

Methods

- A descriptive qualitative arm of a big mixed method research
- Mei – November 2016
- Participants:
 - Mother (38 person)
 - Children 11-12 years old (30)
- Focus group discussion (3 groups of 12 – 13 person)
- Drawing
- Thematic analysis

Results



Life as usual

- Annual event

“every year, when we are approaching the month of Hajj, definitely”

“I’d say it’s been almost every year”

- Aware of differences

“for me, when that dry season happened, all of us especially the children, we had coughing and runny nose. And when it happened we felt short of breath too. That’s what I’d call it”

“last year (2015) was the worst. I couldn’t even see the road. The highway was so dark”

Life as usual...

- Health services as usual

"there was nothing (specific program for the victims), no. when the children were sick just took it to the Puskesmas. We went there several times in a month. Luckily we didn't have to pay.. hee."

"yes.. The queue was so long that if we came early in the morning we would be called the next morning"

For children

“extra show”



“carry on living”



Constructive coping

- Internal initiative

"well, sometimes we asked him (her children) to take a warm bath, that's the solution. Then, the coughing would subsided and the runny nose, too"

"my husband would ask me to see the doctor frequently. He'd been more attentive than before and even more when he knew that I was having his son"

- Dealing with the problem

"he..he.. Just enjoy it, relax, well, let's not get to worried about the problem"

"just spending the time with my family"

- Preventive action

"we managed to stay at home"

"wearing mask, a wet mask"

Additional burden

- Go away from the smoke

"well, I had to take my children to Jawa because of persistent coughing. I had tried to treat them myself but didn't work. Took them to the doctor several times without succeeded, then I took them to Jawa, anyway"

- Traumatic event

"mentally, it's traumatic. And financially it's exhaustive, as well"

"I was angry, of course, it made you sick, short of breath"

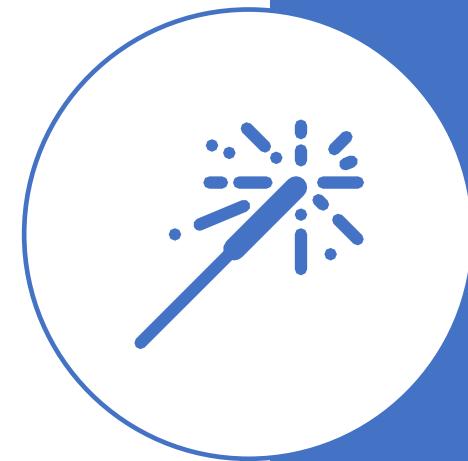
- Affecting the children

"yes.. The school was off. It's was so long. I think it's a week or so"

"a lot of children were late to school, especially the ones who took the boat. And there were accident too"

Challenges

- Advocacy to the policy maker
 - Specific attention to mother and children
 - Preventive action to prevent the impact of forest fire: health, education, socio-economic, etc
 - Promotion on the impact of forest fire to health to the wider population



Summary

Forest fire affecting a varied dimension of life

- Health
- Education
- Economy

Just live it

- Life as usual
- Constructive coping
- Additional burden