

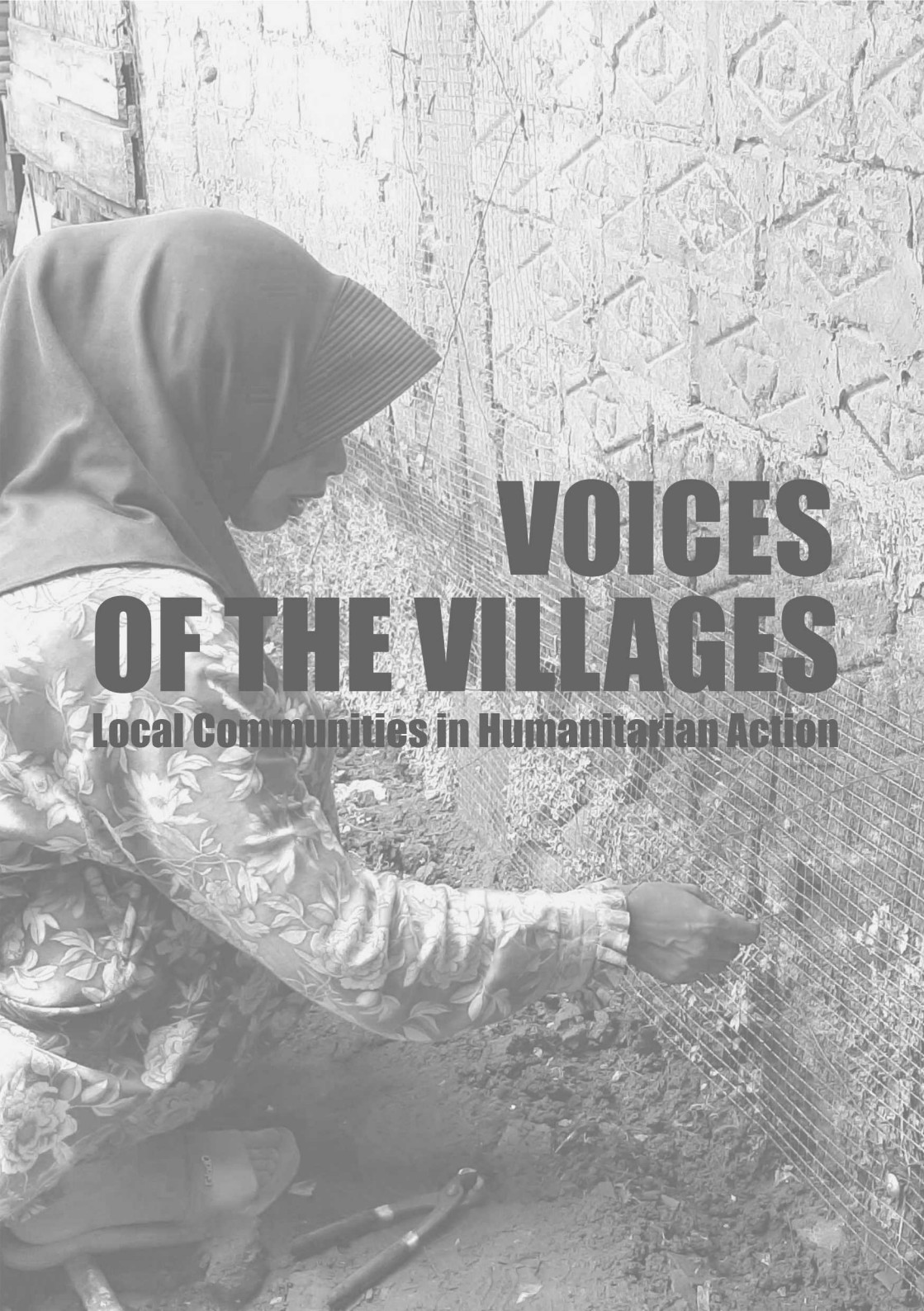


Towards Greater Effectiveness and Timeliness
in Humanitarian Emergency Response



VOICES OF THE VILLAGES

Local Communities in Humanitarian Action

A black and white photograph of a woman wearing a headscarf and a floral-patterned dress, kneeling and working on a wire mesh fence. She is using a pair of pliers. The background is a rough, textured wall with some diamond-shaped patterns. The overall tone is somber and focused on manual labor.

VOICES OF THE VILLAGES

Local Communities in Humanitarian Action

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Introduction

This small book entitled: “Voices of the Villages: Local Communities in Humanitarian Action” exposes stories of the impressions and experiences of some humanitarian actors during the 3 years (October 2021 - August 2023) of capacity building activities in ToGETHER Program, an attempt to place local actors as leading actors in disaster management.

In addition to the profile of ToGETHER Program, there are 6 topics presented in this book:

- Local Capacity Building for Disaster Response – (PKPA, Medan)
- Knowledge as Instrument for a Change (LPSDM, Lombok)
- The KoboCollect Training for Marginalized Communities (YPM, Ambon)
- Retrofit Techniques with Impact (YSI, Yogyakarta)
- Partnership in Disaster Response (YSI, Yogyakarta)
- From Advocacy on Ecology to Disaster Response (YPAL)
- LokaNusa: Spreading Localization Initiative in Indonesian

Each story is constructed through field research, which is analyzed and edited as needed to systematize the flow. All steps in the publishing process of this book were performed together in a team for 5 months.

The Profile of ToGETHER Program is presented in the beginning of this book as a frame to understand why the story-tellers chose the six topics.

The aim of this small book is simple, that is to learn (both good and bad

lessons) from what has been done. Those lessons can be used to do more meaningful works in the future.

The editors are grateful to all community members, story writers, researchers, photographers, and graphic designers who were voluntarily involved in writing this book.

We would love to hear feedbacks and suggestions from the readers to improve our program in the future.

Please enjoy this book!

Editor Team

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ToGETHER Program!

“Nothing about us without us”

The ToGETHER (Toward Greater Effectiveness and timeline in Humanitarian Emergency Response) Program is a program that promotes localization approach in disaster response. This program aims to place local partners and communities as leading actors in humanitarian response.

This program also builds a space for equal partnership that complement each other. This program is initiated by 4 German humanitarian institutions (Welthungerhilfe; Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe; Malteser International; and Caritas Germany) with 40 humanitarian organizations in 8 countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Somalia.

In Indonesia, this program has been carried out since 2021 by Caritas Germany with 5 partner organizations called Local Humanitarian Partner (LHP), consisting of; (1) Yayasan SHEEP Indonesia (YSI) Yogyakarta, (2) Yayasan Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak (PKPA) Medan, (3) Yayasan Pelangi Maluku (YPM) Ambon, (4) Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari (YPAL) Poso; and (5) Lembaga Pengembangan Sumber Daya Mitra (LPSDM), West Nusa Tenggara.

The result expected from this program is the local humanitarian partner (LHP) can be

the main actors in performing effective humanitarian actions.

The main component of ToGETHER Program lays in capacity building and collective learning through training, workshops, coaching, and other measures as needed.

ToGETHER has 4 components:

1. Local Actor Leadership Role
2. Capacity Building and Collective Learning
3. Innovation Funding and Implementation of the Humanitarian Operation and Innovation Facility (HOIFA) Actions

4. Learning exchange and Advocacy reflection related to roles and responsibilities

International institutions recognize that the role of local organizations is very important in humanitarian missions. However, they are often not being involved in the decision making process. TOGETHER Program intends to develop those local organizations so that they can play the leading roles in order to distribute humanitarian aids more quickly and more efficiently.

During the 3 years of this Program implementation in Indonesia, at least 12 different kinds of training and workshops, as well as collective learning media (peer review mechanism) have been held. From the introduction of Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS); Organization Development; to humanitarian aid distribution instruments, such as Cash Transfer Program & Management Logistic, all these capacity improvement measures are put into practice through the implementation of an innovative humanitarian aid Program called HOIFA (Humanitarian Operation and Innovation Facility).

So far, 4 HOIFA Programs have been successfully implemented: (1) Health care as well as food and non-food relief for the survivors of Simeru disaster; Aceh Tamiang flood; (2) Evacuation facilities for the flood victims in Buol, Central Sulawesi; (3) House renovations for the survivors of Cianjur disaster using retrofit technology;





and (4) Drought anticipation by Building clean water network in East Lombok.

In June 2023, LHP of ToGETHER with some senior activists from Civil Society Organizations (CSO) initiated a localization forum in Indonesia called LokaNusa. So far, about 20 CSOs have joined this forum. One of the concrete actions done by LokaNusa is a bi-weekly discussion about localization. To the end of August 2023, 6 series of webinars have been held. The first webinar discussion was held on 1 July, with Pujiono Center as the host and resource person, discussing the topic of

“Models of Humanitarian Aid Localization in Indonesia.” The second webinar was held on 21 July 2023, discussing the topic of “Grand Bargain and the Importance of Local Knowledge in Supporting the Humanitarian Action Localization in Indonesia.” The result of these discussion will be formulated into a localization road map in Indonesia which will be launched during DRR Month - (Disaster Risk Reduction - Bulan Pengurangan Risiko Bencana/ PRB), October 2023.

“Local Actors Playing Leading Roles”¹

Humanitarian missions carried out by international organizations often involve local organizations. Those local actors play important roles as they are part of the impacted community, they know the local context best, and they have clear ideas of what the people really need. However, they are often not being involved in the decision making process. We want to build local organizations by changing the process of decision making and power structure so that their position can be more decisive.

This way, the delivery of humanitarian aids can be done more quickly and more efficiently.



Mahen Rahlf, The Coordinator of ToGETHER Program

Mahen Rahlf, The Coordinator of ToGETHER Program
“Nothing about us without us” is the principle of the local stakeholders.

In our effort to change power relations in the decision making process, we give opportunities to local partners to make collective decisions related to the spending and allocation of fund in an appropriate way. In the scheme of ToGETHER Program, this decision making process is done by the Country Steering Committee (CSC), comprising of the leaders of ToGETHER local partners. Besides, CSC also observes the implementation of the program in their region.

Partner institutions in the ToGETHER Program network can also propose programs to CSC and evaluate the program together.

This opens up a good learning space for them.

Such decision making structure make partner organizations feel that their role is important, they

¹This part is completely abstracted from the Interview of Maren Rahlf (The Coordinator of ToGETHER Program) by Clara Krug, Fazit Communication, in <https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/worldwide-help-i-welthungerhilfe-localisation>. 08.08.2023.

have the power to make decisions, and the relationship is equal within the program. However, there are still matters to be improved, because in general, the nature of power structure in the international system is still top-down. We continue to try dealing with this condition.



Local Capacity Building for Disaster Response

After years of dealing with flood, the people of North Aceh and Aceh Tamiang has getting used to and no longer worried about the floods.

PKPA attempt to respond to and fulfill the needs of the survivors by performing localization approach through partner network and local community capacity building, while continuing to listen to and placing local communities as leading actors.

History and the Root Cause of the Disaster

During 2022 alone, according to the report from the National Agency for Disaster Management (*Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana/BNPB*), 3,531 natural disasters were occurred in Indonesia. 1,524 (43.1%) of them were flood. Aceh Province was one of the regions having the highest potential of flood, especially North Aceh District and Aceh Tamiang. This has become a part of the long history of Aceh Tamiang District. Flood often occurs. However, the floods in 2006 and 2022 are the worst. In 2006, at least 12 sub-districts with total of 58,674 families (246,852 people) were impacted. 114 people passed away and 203,722 people had to evacuate. Then, on October and November 2022, Tamiang Aceh District was once again hit by a big flood. According to the data from BPBD of Aceh Tamiang, at least 12 sub-districts (97 villages) with 10,142 families (3,199 people) became the victims of this disaster. Hence, 2,709 families (8,126 people) had to evacuate to 59 refugee posts.

The floods hitting Aceh Tamiang District generally were caused by heavy rainfall that lasted for a long time. This condition was worsened by the damage to watershed due to the function shift of forests in the upstream area, the sloping and low topography of the area, the shallowing of rivers, and the collapse of flood retention dam in several villages in the downstream area.

According to Ruslan, the Datuk (Village Chief) of Rantau Pakam Village, Bendahara Sub-district, Aceh Tamiang District, since 2007, their village has been always hit by flood from overflowing river when the rain falls for days. The flood retention dam could not hold the water and collapsed in 2019. Since then, at least 8 to 10 floods have hit the village every year. The worst one was in November 2022: 85% of Aceh Tamiang region was flooded. The water had drowned the residents' house 1 – 1.5 meters deep. Rice fields and farms were damaged. It became difficult for the residents to catch and sell fish.



The similar statement was addressed by Siti Fadilah, one of the survivors. Because of the flood, Fadilah and her family had to make seladang² outside their house. There, they waited for the flood to subside.

“We eat whatever is available. We set a fish net in the flood. If some fishes get trapped in it, we eat them. The house is drowning, only the roof is visible,” she said.

Despite living in a flood prone area, the people there are hesitant to move away. According to them, it would be more difficult to start a new life in a new place because it is going to need a lot

of money. Fatima Sari, one of the Village Cadres, said that the people there have been used to flood that they are no longer panicking when getting hit by flood.

PKPA and SMART Initiatives:

Since joining ToGETHER Program in 2021, PKPA has participated in various trainings and capacity building, as well as gotten opportunities to apply the results of the training (roll out). These capacity building makes it easier for PKPA to respond to the flood in Aceh Tamiang through HOIFA (The

² The local term for people of Tamiang, meaning a board that is tied in a slightly higher position, resembling temporary shelves. A kind of bed made of wood. Seladang has a mat on its floor and a simple roof, but has no walls.

Humanitarian Operation and Innovation Facility) project within the scheme of ToGETHER Project. The HOIFA Project can be held if the following important criteria are met: (1) intended only for emergency response purposes; (2) innovative in supporting community's resilience in dealing with disasters.

PKPA met those criteria, hence in 2022, they were able to implement 2 emergency responses to flood disasters in Aceh Tamiang.

First, PKPA together with YPAP (Yayasan Permata Aceh Peduli) performed responses in 2 villages (Simpang 4 Village and Alur Bamban Village) which was the most impacted by the flood in Karang Baru Sub-district. According to the initial information from Suheri, a YPAP staff, the access to and from the village was flooded. However, because most of the villagers are fishers, the food aid that was extremely needed could be distributed by boats. Unexpectedly, after the first food aid was distributed, there were still several villages that

did not receive the aid. That is why, in November 2022, PKPA performed another disaster response.

The first time they heard that there were several villages that need aid, PKPA, which is part of SMART consortium (Sumatera Assessment and Response Network)³ coordinated and did a quick study with the local partner network, such as: Yayasan Permata Aceh Peduli (YPAP), TAGANA, Child Protection Stakeholder Forum of Aceh Tamiang Village, and Komunitas Mari Berbagi Aceh Tamiang (KOMBET).

This second aid to the flood in Aceh Tamiang District emphasizes the quick response by local partners.

The partners that are part of SMART consortium network have received training related to disaster preparedness. Their office location is also very close to the location of the disaster, making it easier to carry out surveys and coordinate with the village government to get more accurate data related to the number of the impacted villages and families. It's also easier for

³ The SMART Consortium is a collective initiative from several civil society organizations that have received capacity building from PKPA through ToGETHER project





them to build communication with the people because they know very well the community members and local institutions coming from the District and Village.

“Before intervention, there was a discussion between Coordinators, Cadres, and Village Officials. The aids would be distributed to the entire society, but we prioritize elderly people, toddlers, and pregnant women. Assembly points and methods of distribution are also agreed upon with the people,” Sri Wahyuni, the Field Coordinator at that time, explained.

The Village Government admitted that various parties, including central government, have send aids each time a flood occurs. However, none of them assessed the people’s need or involved the local society and community. *“The amount and type of aids sometimes do not match the number of people, so each person only gets a small portion of the aids. Sometimes, Pak Datuk does not distribute the aids right away. The aids from different parties are kept in Datuk’s Office, then distributed equally to the people once there are enough aids gathered. On the other hand, before distributing aids, PKPA gathered data according to family cards. This way, everyone convinced that the distribution of the aids is fair and equal,”* Fatimah Sari, one of the District Cadres, explained.



Ruslan, Datuk Pengulu of Rantau Pakam Village, agreed. He said that there was a clear communication before the aids was distributed.

The voice of the people become the first priority. For example, during the distribution planning of 600 packs of basic necessities for 3 villages, they found out that there were up to 333 Family Heads in every village. The shortage of the relief would of course cause a commotion among the people. Finally, Ruslan suggested to split the pack so that the aids will be enough for the entire community. Ruslan also mentioned that only PKPA gave aids in the form of school necessities, which were very useful for people because generally, all the children stationeries were damaged by flood.

Suherni, a member of YPAP who was directly involved in the response to flood disasters in Aceh Tamiang District, admitted that the collaboration with SMART Consortium was very beneficial for quick response.

Knowledge related to disaster preparedness helps the community in making decisions of which actions need to be done immediately. An online discussion within a group was also carried out regularly by the consortium to help the members and the community to exchange information. *“At that time, we used a digital application (kobocollect) for distribution. This application is so useful for emergency situations and we have been transferring knowledge using simulation method with other members and communities, such as BPBD, Persatuan Aceh Serumpun (PAS), Ikatan Keluarga Anti Narkoba (IKAN), and TAGANA.”*

A similar statement was also said by Muhammad Khadafi, a member of KOMBET. Before being involved in the response in three villages of Bendahara Sub-district, Khadafi was given training for disaster preparedness in Langsa and Kuala Simpang by SMART Consortium. In the training, Khadafi was invited to think of the most effective and efficient ways to anticipate disasters and educate the affected communities.

“This localization is very good because we are not only a member of a community, but also a part of a society affected by the flood. This of course increases empathy. In addition, the Consortium also helped us expand our networking and collaboration.”

Sahroni Nasution, one of the Administrator of TAGANA, North Sumatera Province, agreed with the other partners, that SMART Consortium has the potential to be a network that have the commitment to build the community's capacity in responding to natural disasters. *“The localization efforts done by SMART Consortium is very good, but the differences in community characteristics demands us to learn even more. In TAGANA, the SPHERE standard is applied, even though it is not fully applied yet. We have also gathered data and studied through mini training in internal communities. We want this system to be the main policy and we want the local government to implement this system as well,”* he said.

Future plans:

Datuk Penghulu of Rantau Pakam Village, Ruslan, said that currently, the community is trying to build a 400-meter-long flood-retaining-wall in Halban Bay and a 580 meter long in Rantau Pakam. *“Dam is more effective to hold water from flooding, but wider land is needed to build it. After some discussion, the people agree to build a flood-retaining-wall instead to temporarily hold water from flooding,”* Ridwan explained. Besides, the government also has a plan to straighten and widen the river to overcome abrasion, and hopefully, it can prevent flood in the future.



Retrofit Techniques with Impact

*“Strategies to Improve the Community’s Resilience in
Responding to Earthquakes”*

“Do these remaining buildings have to be destroyed? Isn’t there any simpler and more affordable way to reconstruct this building in this time of crisis?” that’s what the survivors had been thinking about. YSI tried to answer those questions by introducing retrofit technology which is not only simple, but also easy to be performed by the local communities.

The Condition:

The wood-cutting machine roared from the side of Mr. Parman's (48) house in Kampung Kuta, Kutawaringin Village, Mande Sub-district, Cianjur District, Sunday (14/05/2023). The roaring sound was from the machine used by Mr. Parman and his child who were working on a jamb order to build their neighbor's house. Mr. Parman and his family is one of the families who received an aid in the form of house repair with retrofit technology run by Yayasan SHEEP Indonesia (YSI) after the Cianjur earthquake in November 2022. This project was a collaboration between YSI with Caritas Germany in ToGETHER Program.



YSI met Mr. Parman to perform assessment for the emergency response to the earthquake disaster in Cianjur Regency.

One of the affected villages to be visited that time was Kutawaringin Village in Kampung Kuta where Mr. Parman lived. Kutawaringin Village is located in

Mande Sub-district, about 21 km or about 45 minutes driving from the center of Cianjur City.

The village is pretty cold as it is located about 200-500 meters above sea levels and is surrounded by hills and plantation areas owned by the State Forest Company

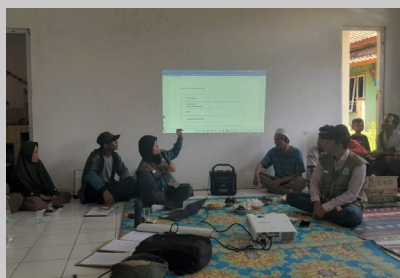
(Perhutani). Unfortunately, it takes effort to access this village from the main road of Cianjur-Cipanas. The damaged and steep road is pretty risky to be accessed using a big vehicle. According to the information from YSI response team, because of this challenging road, not many humanitarian institutes are willing to come and help people in Kutawaringin Village.

When the YSI Team arrived, the condition in Kutawaringin Village, especially in Kampung Kuta, was very bad. According to the Report of ER-Cianjur Team of YSI, 97 houses were heavily damaged, 93 houses were lightly damaged, and 576 people evacuated, including Mr. Parman and his family.

From the information collected by the YSI Team, we got the idea of how bad the damage of the house, so Mr. Parman and his family had to temporarily stayed in a modest tent. According to them, their house was damaged because it was located in the fault of earthquake in Cianjur. Mrs. Ipah, Mr. Parman's wife, added, *"We can see it clearly. The middle to the back part of this house have collapsed. It completely demolished."* Mrs. Ipah gave more details about the condition they had to go through after the earthquake. Her family and most of people in Kampung Kuta lived in tents or temporary houses (*huntara*) that they built from the debris of their destroyed houses. The temporary houses that they built were quite concerning. The building was only a small barrack with a room with dirt floor, full of what was left of their housewares.

The walls were made from worn down tarpaulin sheets. When it rained, leakage was everywhere.





Retrofit Techniques and the Collaboration with Community

After the earthquake, most of the houses in Kutawaringin were damaged. Some of them were lightly damaged, were moderately damaged, and heavily damaged. Some people of the village said that their houses need to be demolished to get repaired.

The houses were slanted and the walls were wobbled, so it was impossible to do repairment without demolishing them. Meanwhile, people whose house were lightly and moderately damaged received incentive funds for reconstruction from the Government only as much as Rp15 million to Rp30 million. The fund was of course not enough to rebuild their damaged house. On the other hand, they didn't know how to repair a house in an economical and efficient way.



The YSI team then approached the problem by involving a retrofit expert to educate the community about retrofitting technology. Retrofitting technology is a set of techniques or procedures done to strengthen the structure of an existing building to make it more resistant to earthquakes. The aim is to increase the structural capacity and to reduce the damage risk or even preventing the building from collapsing when an earthquake happens.

This education was delivered to the survivors whose house were damaged as well as the survivors who had skills in construction, like Mr. Parman.

Initially, the education was delivered by showing a video about the process of retrofitting. That way, the survivors and the builders could get the overview of retrofitting with the ferrocement layer. Then, they were guided to put the lesson into practice.

The house repairment using retrofitting technology was started by analyzing the structure of the house to identify the damaged parts. The parts that were damaged or slanted then fixed to their initial condition. Slanted walls were supported so they can stand again. Meanwhile, collapsed walls were rebuilt. Cracked walls were repaired by filling in the cracks with a mixture of cement, sand, and water in the correct measure. After that, the strengthening process was carried out. The strengthening process was done by adding woven/ram wires that are tied with rebar tie wires in certain ways to the house. The woven wires were added by tying the ram wires to both sides of the walls, the outside and inside. The ram wires were then buried a few centimeters into the house foundation so that they were not hanging on the walls. After adding and tying the woven/ram wires, the walls were plastered. After the entire process was done, the finishing was carried out the way the house owners want.

From this process, the builders learned the technical steps of repairing a house, such as determining which parts that need to be layered with woven/ram wires, drilling the walls to tie the wires, covering up the cracks or holes in the walls using a mixture of cement, sand, and water, installing ram wires, and plastering the walls.

In addition to the technical steps of retrofitting, the YSI Team also intensively inform and educate the community about the potential threat of disaster in their region, especially in Mande Sub-district. They were invited to identify the threats and vulnerabilities by looking at the village geographic condition. The region is located in the fault position, demanding the residents to always be ready and alert, because the earthquake cannot be predicted. This became the basic reason of why it is important to repair a house using a safe and correct technology and structure. The YSI team underlined that in building or repairing a house, people need to pay attention to its structural strength so that the house is safe to live in and durable.

The next step was approaching the members of the community who were interested in and eligible of receiving aids. The requirements

of receiving aids were having a house that was lightly or moderately damaged by the earthquake and having a family member who are vulnerable or at risk. The owner of the house had to supervise the process of their house repairment and be involved by helping the builders by breaking walls or digging floors to install wires.

After reaching an agreement, important documents such as family cards, identity cards, and agreement letters were

prepared. In a conversation with Mr. Parman and other members of the community, we found out that the verification process of data of people who received the aid from YSI was simple. This helps the people in need get the aid without facing any trouble of gathering administration requirements. *"We are really thankful to YSI who does not make us go through complicated processes in getting aids. They only require a picture and a simple verification. If we are eligible, we immediately receive the aids, sign, and that's it."*





The participants were then asked to find builders to repair their house. If the builders did not know yet what a retrofitting technology was, they were trained together with the owner of the house. The house owner needs to understand the process of structure strengthening and wire ties attached to their house. This knowledge is important to ensure there is no alteration or work that is fail to meet the determined standard. By involving the house owner, the supervising process of the repairment was more optimal and better in quality.

In addition to retrofitting training, to the survivors eligible for

aids, YSI also provide building materials as needed and the fee for the builders.



However, this process was not always easy. The topography and access road to distribute the material to Kutawaringin Village became hindrance. YSI and the local people then tried to find a material store that was willing to send the materials to the place that is most easily accessible to the public without any additional charges. The people then bring the materials from the distribution point to their house.

With the builders who know how to apply retrofit techniques and the ease for the local community to get materials, the people of Kutawaringin Village, led by Mr. Parman, worked together to repair their house. *“Mr. Parman helped YSI to convince his neighbors that this retrofit method is safe. The neighbors trusted him because he is a builder. So, we worked together to build the houses,”* Mrs. Ipah, Mr. Parman’s wife, proudly told us the effort done by her husband.

One by one, the houses were repaired. Some of the houses could be lived in again. There were no sign of damage or crack when the houses later were hit by aftershocks. Naturally, the people felt a lot safer.

Benefits Enjoyed by The People:

Ustaz Jajang, one of the prominent community members of Kampung Kuta, said: *“At first, we were asked to watch a video explaining how and why this technology is good and safe to use. We also learned from the video that Japan has implemented this method, and then we were convinced. It’s proven now. Our houses are stronger,”* he said whilst inviting us to enjoy the fruits from the village garden.

This whole journey is a story and a lesson about the importance of collaboration and equality in understanding to overcome hindrances and limits.

“Partnership in Disaster Response”

In the effort of disaster response, there is often an imbalance relationship between the aid receivers and aid providers. But, there was something different in RT. 03 Kampung Salakawung, Sarampad Village, Cugenang Sub-district, Cianjur District. Mr. Obur, the head of neighborhood association respected by the local community, wisely built a good and equal relationship among all the partners, including with YSI staff. Besides, with his wisdom, Mr. Obur also helped building a good relationship between YSI and the local community. This was a new experience for YSI to work with a local figure having a unique wisdom.

For example, when we were distributing goods in the village, Mr. Obur was actively involved, and the YSI staff considered Mr. Obur as the key factor. “Each time an aid arrived, Andi and Manted (YSI staff) always invite me to have a discussion. I was also told how to manage and decide which parties need to be prioritized.”

In the hamlet (RT - Rukun Tangga) of 03, YSI distributed tarpaulin sheets, cooking ware, and SAP (Saringan Air Praktis/ Simple Water Filter) for 114 families. The administration requirements for this aid were



simple (were not complicated), presented using a language that is easy to understand, and YSI helped people with the administration and data gathering.

Before distributing the aid, YSI invited the local community to recognize the different levels and characteristics of vulnerability, so that they understand why some people were prioritized more than the others. This way, YSI also gained trust from the local community. *“I tried asking the people how they feel about the aids given by YSI. Thank God, everyone said that the distribution is good and equal. They know best who has to be the priority,”* said Mr. Obur.

With the role taken by Mr. Obur, the communication between the local people and YSI went smooth. The local people often give feedback regarding the aid they receive. Feeling appreciated, the local people happily participated in the assessment, coordination, and activities done by YSI in their village. *“Previously, the local people here received aids passively. We only thought about how to keep the aids safe to meet the family needs. But now, we also think about how to make those aids last longer,”* said Mr. Obur.

Mr. Obur said that the change of behavior of the local community happened because YSI addressed their opinion in a way that is easy to understand and can be implemented into daily life. For instance, YSI helped finding a solution to the sanitation issue by building minimum standard lavatories. Apparently, this can increase the confidence within the local community that they also have the capacity to be the agent of change in their village.



Knowledge as Instrument for a Change



"Knowledge and skills gained from training and capacity building are not only for the purpose of implementing TOGETHER Program, but also can be replicated and applied directly to other programs. This is the different with other program."⁴

⁴ M. Azri Imaduddin – The Coordinator of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Program, LPSPDM.

For example, the digital training for data collection (KoboCollect), a survey data collection tool that can be used to develop questionnaires and analyze complex data presented digitally (paperless) and interactively. The use of KoboCollect is very helpful in arranging disaggregated data that becomes the foundation of inclusion data-base development. This inclusion data base is very important for carrying out disaster response, because it can ensure the implementation of the principle that no one is left behind.

After the training, LPSPDM immediately applied the lesson learned to gather data in two different programs. First, a baseline survey in the agriculture sector for the Climate Change Adaptation program in 8 villages; second, a baseline and endline survey about digital financial literacy for women running small and medium enterprises (UMKM) in Woman Digital Financial Inclusion (WDFI) program in 4 villages. In this data collection process, local communities in both locations were actively involved as researchers.

“The Kobo Application changed the way we collect data. Previously, we use paper. We had to carry many copies of questionnaires, and in case of answer changes, the correction process is very inconvenient. Recapping the result also consumes a lot of time and energy. After using Kobo, everything is easier and more efficient. The data collection process becomes quicker and more concise, as the answers are automatically recorded. Changing the data is also a lot simpler. The best part is we only need to carry our mobile phone.” (Denda Singaden, The Headmaster of School for Girls of Bayan Village – North Lombok District)





Knowledge for Innovation:

For over 1 decade since its establishment, LPSDM has been true to their commitment to build the capacity and resources of the local community so they are capable of improving their environment and socio-economy condition. However, since 2014, the focus of LPSDM expanded to climate change and disaster related issues, especially in helping to improve the resilience of communities and vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change. The focus expansion demanded the institution to develop and improve their skills in different aspects, such as discourse, perspective, methodology, and technical skills. This demand drove LPSDM to join the ToGETHER Program in 2021.

Until 2023, no less than 14 kinds of trainings and peer review activities were undergone by

LPSDM during their participation in ToGETHER Program, starting from training about Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) in SPHERE Training, disaster response tools and instruments, such as Cash Transfer Program, Anticipation Humanitarian Action (AHA), and proposal project writing, to different training for organizational development.

Previously, LPSDM admitted that the access to training and capacity building activities was pretty difficult for institutions in a smaller region. Therefore, LPSDM optimized the application of knowledge gotten from these trainings to develop the organization.

For example, the knowledge and skills gained from the fund raising strategy and proposal writing training in February 2022 were immediately applied by LPSDM in developing 4 project proposal. From these

4 proposals, only one of them is granted to be carried out with the project duration of 6 months. From the aspect of fund, this is only a small project. However, the success in accessing fund raised the confidence and spirit to keep innovating.

In July - October 2023, LPSDM also accessed the HOIFA fund from ToGETHER Program to build clean water network for people in coastal area of East Lombok who always experience drought and do not have any source of drinking water all year long. At the same time, LPSDM was also developing a Project Pilot for Flash Flood Anticipation in Seruni Mumbul Village and Labuhan Lombok Village.

The approach of this anticipation action is relatively new and innovative. LPSDM just completed the Training in June 2023. The AHA approach was complex because they had to combine scientific data and local wisdom to convert the threshold and trigger into the basic vulnerability index for AHA activation. Besides, LPSDM needs to prepare infrastructure for the aid scheme (cash or non-cash) if AHA is successfully activated. However, the members of LPSDM, especially from millennial generation, tried to find a new way to fulfill the needs of local community.

It was no surprise that after LPSDM developed the Complaint and Response Mechanism



(CRM) instrument, there weren't many complains or other forms of rejections from the people. The CRM instrument is also used by LPSDM as a tool to measure the satisfaction level of local community regarding the performance of LPSDM. Through this instrument, the community can address their complaints, report issues, show appreciation, or ask questions related to the program. This is very helpful in evaluating the

program to be more effective and beneficial.

The Changes are Real:

Eventually, LPSDM experienced positive changes from the training. They were proven to be helpful in increasing the performance of the institution to be more efficient and productive.



“ToGETHER Program has effectively improved the capacity of LPSDM (internally and externally) in responding disaster and humanitarian issues. In addition, the program has also helped expanding our network to promote GEDSI perspective in disaster response.”

(Ririn Hajudiani, The Director of LPSDM).

The KoboCollect Training for Marginalized Community

With its unique mandate, Yayasan Pelangi Maluku (YPM) specifically used KoboCollect to collect data from communities in Batu Gajah Village, Ambon Municipality, including marginalized groups, such as sex workers (both men and women) and transgender.



The involvement of these people in the data collection process is very important because firstly, the data collected can be more complete and accurate as they have a better access to the environments and potentials risk specific to them. Secondly, their active involvement

in the assessment, improved the awareness and responsibility towards safety and preparedness in responding to disasters. Moreover, Batu Gajah Village is one of assisted area becoming YPM's focus because flood and landslide often occur there. The data collection process is once again important to build an inclusive data base so that no one is left behind in disaster response. Hence, YPM specifically include this group in the KoboCollect training.

YAYASAN PANORAMA ALAM LESTARI

From Advocacy on Ecology to Disaster Response

Social and natural disasters that happen one after the other in Central Sulawesi demanded Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari to shift their focus and character from the advocacy of ecological issues and the fulfillment of farmers' rights of land, to the fulfillment of disaster survivors' rights. This shift brought consequences that were not easy to overcome, but Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari tackled them cleverly. This shift brought contributions to disaster management in its region.



Starting from SPHERE:

Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari was founded on 22 November 1999, with a mandate to advocate ecological issues. This mandate is elaborated into several activities, such as set up a farmer organization in Poso District to fight for their rights of land and fight against unfair business of investors, and advocating for conservation policy for Lake Poso.

During social conflict in Poso (December 1999 to December 2021) Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari immediately collaborated with Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Sulawesi Tengah (WALHI Sulteng) to investigate the root of the conflict, to advocate the fulfillment of survivors' rights and to give humanitarian aids for the survivors.

After the conflict, an earthquake and liquefaction happened in Central Sulawesi on 28 September 2018, taking thousands of lives, and destroying thousands of houses as well as economic infrastructures.

The disaster that is now known as the PASIGALA (Palu, Sigi District, and Donggala) Disaster demanded Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari to focus most of its resources to help the victims. However, at that time, the personnels of Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari were mostly young people with very little experiences and skills in handling disasters. Then, Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari immediately did many efforts to overcome this, from looking for help in the local level by forming a volunteer group of the village youths and students to collect donation from the people of Poso, to consolidating the National NGO partners.

After involving in the PASIGALA disaster, in 2021, Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari then started to join with ToGETHER Program, coordinated by Caritas Germany in Indonesia. The main goal of Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari joining this program is to improve the skill of organization and the staff so that they can take the leading role in responding disasters. This involvement began with the participation of Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari in SPHERE training.

According to Fadhil Abdullah (The Focal Point of ToGETHER in Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari), SPHERE is the minimum standards (Core Humanitarian Standards/CHS) in humanitarian response that can be used by all humanitarian workers, both individuals or organizations. It has 4 important sectors: WASH, HEALTH, Food and Nutrition, Shelter and Settlement.

Fadhil Abdullah actively promoted and advocated the application of SPHERE standards in disaster response. He also held training and shared knowledge about the quality and accountability of humanitarian works among the volunteers, within the Regional Government, or in the institutions working on humanitarian issues in Central Sulawesi. The synergy between Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari with several institutions, both government and non-government, help making the





humanitarian works in Central Sulawesi become more organized and effective.

“SPHERE opened our view to the understanding and knowledge of the standards in humanitarian response. Through SPEHRE, we learned each of those standards and got a guidance. If we had not use SPHERE as our foundation or basis of working, the result of our work would be different. In responding to disasters, a good intention is not enough. We have to have standards. That is why SPHERE is important!” Fadhil

claimed.

Roll out: Sharing Knowledge

Besides SPHERE, the Contingency Plan (Rencana Kontingensi/RENKON) Training attended by Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari from ToGETHER Program was also very useful in helping Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari in building the community's preparedness in responding to disasters. Contingency Plan is a document that specifically explains threats

and scenarios and ways to respond to disasters.

After receiving the Contingency Plan training, Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari immediately made a contingency plan for Institutions, then facilitated the local community of Lengkeka Village, West Lore Sub-district, Poso District, Central Sulawesi, to make a contingency plan for the village. This was important because Lengkeka Village was one of the most prone village. From the discussion about disaster history, it was found that within this year, this village was hit by at least 2 landslides and flash floods. The last one happened in 2020, forcing the villagers to evacuate and live in shelters for a week.

Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari's contribution in building the local community's resilience in Poso District received a positive response from the Regional Government, especially the Regional Disaster for Management Authority (Badan Penanggulangan Bencana Daerah/BPBD) of

Poso District. The contingency plan activity held by Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari contributed to the formation of Disaster Resilient Village (Desa Tangguh Bencana/DESTANA) in 60 villages targeted by BPBD up to 2026, including Lengkeka Village.

The head of Lengkeka Village, Benjamin, said: "After the flash flood in March 2020, which destroyed 10 houses and took the life of a person, it is very important to prepare Lengkeka Village as a disaster resilient village. We hope to continue working with Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari to build resilience in our village."

A similar statement was also expressed by the head of West Lore Sub-district, Gilbert, that the preparation of Contingency Plan document was very important, because it became a guidance for the people of Lengkeka Village in responding to disasters. We hope that the representations of local communities in the disaster management team can give better understanding on the effort that need to be done.

It has been almost 3 (three) years since Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari first joined the ToGETHER

program. The various knowledge learned by the institution helped them, which has an environmental background, continue to build and expand their network with the local institutions in Sulawesi Island.

Hampir 3 (tiga) tahun Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari bergabung dalam program ToGETHER. Berbagai pengetahuan yang diterima oleh Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari, menjadikan lembaga yang berlatar belakang lingkungan ini terus berjejaring bersama lembaga lokal di Pulau Sulawesi.

Innovation in Mitigation:

Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari had also received a training on proposal writing. It helped them writing project proposals to access fund from the Humanitarian Operation and Innovation Facility (HOIFA) that is provided in the scheme of ToGETHER Program. The proposal submitted by Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari aimed to respond to disasters by providing inflatable boat to help evacuate especially the group of high risk people who have to deal with flood almost every year in Buol, Central Sulawesi

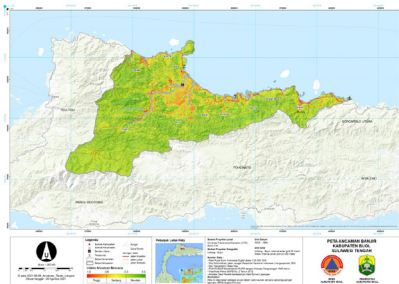


Figure 1: Map of The Flood Threat

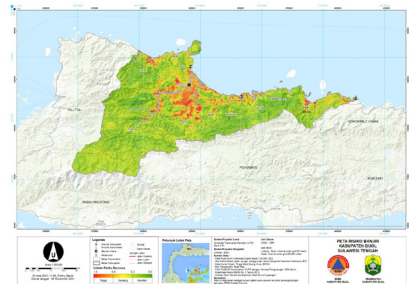


Figure 2: Map of The Flood Risk

From 2021 to 2022, 5 floods were occurred in Momunu, Tiloan, and Bukal Sub-districts. Buol and Lantikadigo rivers overflow and flooded settlements in three sub-districts. The water was 30 to 170 cm high. In several places, the height of the water even reached 200 cm. 14,329 people had to evacuate. Some of the local people evacuated themselves on foot, some others by wooden boats. They need up to 18 hours to reach the evacuation shelter. From Wakat Village, the journey could take up to two days.

The director of LPMS KSDA Buol, Eko Budiman (The Partner of Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari in Buol) expressed that the presence of Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari brings positive impacts to the local people, because they are very helpful in handling disasters. Other than helping with the improvement of organization governance and skill development to the staff of LPMS KSDA of Buol, they made other significant changes, especially with the new collective network from the Village to District levels, in the formation of Disaster Volunteer Community (Komunitas Relawan Bencana/KRB) in the sub-district level.

This new institution was successful in empowering youths of every village. KRB's works were organized well, especially when a flood occurred. Information about flood in the

village can be disseminated quickly and received by different people through Whatsapp Group or Radio network from the Village to the District and Municipality of Buol.

Before this program was carried out, LPMS KSDA of Buol experienced difficulties in assessing the situation of the flood because it often happened at night.

Eko added that other than forming KRB in 3 (three) Sub-districts, Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari also have 3 units of inflatable boats placed in each KRB Secretariat in every District. Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari also give training and evacuation simulation using inflatable boats.

Today, the evacuation process is easier. Previously, people used traditional wooden boats that





can only pick 2 to 3 people at a time. With inflatable boat, they can pick 8 to 9 people at a time.

"We are very grateful for the inflatable boats because it really helps us in the evacuation process, especially there are usually babies and pregnant women who need urgent help. Sometimes we wait for inflatable boat from BPBD, and they only have 1 boat. The boat needs to be sent from the district and it took time. With the boats from the Program, placed right in the sub-district, the evacuation process is now a little faster." Mrs. Amas (51 years old), a villager from Panimbul Village, said.

Future steps:

The remaining issue is finding the way to handle the root cause of floods so that the future generations do not have to suffer.

Currently, Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari is developing a disaster response concept with AHA approach, and the Pilot Project is going to be carried out in Poso District.

This is the next step of the long journey of the organization to continue strengthening its position and skills as the local actors in responding to disasters in Central Sulawesi.

LokaNusa: Spreading Localization Initiative in Indonesian

“..... the term local, means involving local actors, local languages, local cultures, and local institutions that exist in the local level.

(Mari'i Muhammad, Ketua PMI Periode Tahun 1999-2009)

Localization in the Context of Indonesia:

The term localization and grand bargain became popular after being stated by the Secretary General of United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon in the World Humanitarian Summit 2016 in Turkey. Grand Bargain is an agreement between a humanitarian institution and a donor on the commitment to make human ecosystem more efficient, effective, and people-oriented. The bottom line is, both terms refer to the effort of placing the local communities and institutions as the leading actors in humanitarian action that reflects the high level of efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and quality.

For Indonesia, where geographic regions are known as the laboratory of disasters, the localization practice in responding to disasters and social crises, is not new. Culturally, in its long history, the local communities always take the first initiative in the humanitarian action through working collectively (gotong-royong) and other local wisdoms.



This tradition lives within all communities with different names and expressions, but with the same essence, such as sister village, jogo tonggo, alliance in helping each other, *sintuwu maroso*, etc. Indonesian even have applied preparedness and ecological protection through the food barn, the subak farming system, the anti-earthquake building architecture, etc. In addition, Indonesian also have a long history in practicing local fund-raising system, such as *jimpitan*, *sonjo*, *arisan*, *ilmu padahimo*, *dana punia*, etc⁶

The essence of localization in Indonesia's perspective is similar to what Mari'i Muhammad expressed, which is quoted in the beginning of this article. It is also similar to the saying of the Secretary-General of UN: "*As local as possible, as international as necessary.*"

Constructing thoughts and practices of localization in Indonesia:

The effort of localization is important because it is proven by the survey of Kobe Japan earthquake, done by Rajib Shaw in 2004. The result shows that most people affected by the earthquake were helped or saved by friends, families, and neighbors. 60% of the residents were evacuated by their own effort, and about 20 percent were saved by their neighbors.⁷

The ToGETHER program identifies 6 important meanings of localization: (1) Close to the Local Community; (2) Considering the local context; (3) Connected with the local authorities; (4) Continuity between emergency response with rehabilitation; (5) Low overhead; (6) Continuity after disaster.⁸

⁶ Basically, this practice is included in 7 localization dimensions, they are: Participation; Partnership; Capacity Building; Access to Funding; Coordination; Visibility; Policy.

⁷ The main reason why the local community make the rescue effort effective is: the information and knowledge of the community; the leadership in the community-based organization. See Rajib Shaw and Katsuichiro Goda: "From Disaster to Sustainable Civil Society: The Kobe Experience," *Disasters*, 2004, 28(1): 16-40.

⁸ Yushar (The Country Project Coordinator of ToGETHER): "Project Kick-Off & OCA Plenary Workshop," Yogyakarta, 23 – 27 August 2021

However, we must admit that the impacts of a disaster, both physical and financial, are often way beyond the capacity of the local communities and institutions. The Map of Indonesian Disaster Risk issued by BNPB in 2022 mentioned that 192 districts/municipalities are at high risk; there are active volcanic mountains in almost every island; Indonesia is passed through by 25 active faults. With those numbers, Indonesia becomes the third country with the highest disaster index after Philippines and India. Indonesia's direct loss risk due to disasters is over Rp.20 Trillion - 50 Trillion every year.⁹

In responding to disasters, we need big resources, like fund, knowhow, and managerial experience. In 2021, Indonesia received a loan of US\$500 million or Rp 7.05 trillion (exchange rate of Rp14,100/US\$) from the World Bank. This loan was given to strengthen Indonesia's financial and fiscal resilience against disaster risks.

However, even though they are considered as important aspects in the disaster governance system, local communities, local organizations, and their wisdom are often placed as subordinates. They are not trusted in

managing budget or ideas to optimized their potentials. Meanwhile, in the disaster management level, there is a tendency of unequal relationship within disaster related advocacy works. Data presented by Global Mentoring Initiative (GMI) shows in detail the pattern of imbalanced relationship among actors (international, national, and local) in the context of disaster response in Central Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara 2018.¹⁰

There is a concern that aids that disregard the local capacity turns into a new trap for the local community's independence. Therefore, several non-profit¹¹ institutions working in the humanitarian sector in Indonesia discussed the possibility of building a collective space for learning and sharing localization issues. In the middle of June 2023, the five institutions then agreed to form a space for Indonesian localization

⁹ Rita Helbra: "Kebijakan Pengelolaan Pendanaan dalam aksi kemanusiaan," (Policy for Fund Management in Acts of Humanity) essay for the 6th discussion series of LokaNusa on 8 Sept 2023.

¹⁰ Ascholani and Van Brabant, "Reinforcing and Supporting National and Local Actors in Indonesia. Where Are We Now?", 23 October 2020, pg.13

¹¹ YSI, SKALA, YAPPIKA, PUCEN, PKPA, Mosintuwu, and Caritas Germany.

forum called **‘LokaNusa.’** This forum is a place to discuss ideas and thoughts about localization practice in Indonesia.

One of the activities done by LokaNusa is holding bi-weekly discussion about different aspects of localization issues. The discussions are conducted online (webinar). Until September 2023, there are 6 series of discussion conducted by LokaNusa:

- Models of Humanitarian Aids Localization in Indonesia
- Grand Bargain and the Importance of Local Knowledge in Driving Localization in Humanitarian Actions
- Localizing the Measurement of Localization Performance in the Context of Indonesia.
- The Front Liners of Localization Movement in Indonesia.
- Equal Partnership in Localization Perspective.
- Policy of Humanitarian Actions Fund Management in the Context of Indonesia





The first discussion was participated by 40 participants. Now, the number of participants has increased to 60 or 70. The number of institutions joining LokaNusa has also increased to 20 institutions.

Other than the bi-weekly discussion, 5 members of LokaNusa (PKPA, YSI, YPAL, LPSDM, and YPM) took the initiative to research on and start a pentahelix dialog about localization aspects in 5 regions, including Maluku, Central Sulawesi, West Nusa Tenggara, Yogyakarta, and North Sumatera. One important issue coming up from this dialog is the awareness of the importance of building network and being involved in disaster related clusters to increase capacity and access to information so that local institutions can be important actors in humanitarian action.

Future plans:

From the regional discussion and consultation, LokaNusa will develop a roadmap of localization in Indonesia. This roadmap will observe:

- What: what, why, and how the localization in Indonesia is (concept and identity of the movement).
- Where: the NGO's position in power relation configuration between other NGO's, with the government, with international NGOs, with the UN, and Donors; how is the set up and pattern of relation.
- How many: resources and funding frame for LSM that can be independent; how to optimize the potential of funding between NGOs with other parties.
- How: capacity and competency is needed for and by NGOs to be able to carry out humanitarian response; and how to develop the strategies.
- How: the position of local actors in their relationship with other networks, or other actors who are already developed.

This roadmap will be intensively addressed in national and global forums, especially to countries and parties that signed the grand bargain.



