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Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the District of Gunungkidul

Strengthening Tsunami Preparedness and Early Warning at Community Level

BACKGROUND

The development of preparedness and early warning for tsunami in the communities often faces constraints primarily due to the absence of technical references and guidance, but also for the lack of financial resources, including from local government sources. On the other hand, the private sector has considerable funds within their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs, which could be dedicated for disaster risk reduction activities.

As symbolised by the triangle in the BNPB logo, the cooperation between government, private sector and community is encouraged to integrate resources from the three parties for efforts to develop capacities and resiliency of communities towards disaster.

THE INITIATIVE

The common interest to strengthen tsunami preparedness in the coastal communities in the Gunungkidul district brought together the local disaster management agency BPBD, the insurance company Maipark and the agency for international cooperation GIZ. During a series of meetings the parties agreed on goals and achievements, division of roles and responsibilities and the implementation process. Then a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) contract was signed and the implementation process started.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

PPP requires good coordination, commitment and active involvement of the participating parties. The BPBD of Gunungkidul District and the local working group for tsunami preparedness took care of the development of references and the local coordination. The local communities actively participated in the development of local evacuation plans, community outreach campaigns, and a tsunami drill. The insurance company Maipark supported the implementation of activities at community level, by providing funding for training, outreach activities as well as the provision of materials (billboards, evacuation signs, local dissemination technologies, and outreach materials). GIZ participated with two projects. The project "Decentralization as contribution to Good Governance" (DeCGG) managed the overall project and the knowledge management component to share the experiences of the PPP project with institutions form the national level, whereas the "Project for Training, Consulting and Education for Tsunami Early Warning Systems" (PROTECTS) facilitated the project implementation by providing technical advisory and training.



















PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The PPP project focused on Baron and Krakal area in Gunungkidul district. The implementation activities took nine months (April-December 2012), and resulted in a significant improvement of tsunami preparedness through the development of tsunami evacuation plans and early warning arrangements for the selected tsunami prone areas. Complementarily, evacuation signs, billboards showing the evacuation maps and procedures, as well as local sirens had been installed in designated locations. Individuals from the participating village were trained as cadres to deliver awareness raising activities for the population in sixteen locations along the coast. At the end, all developed procedures were exercised during an evacuation simulation involving people of Krakal Beach.

Beside the remarkable progress, this partnership has not yet completed all what is needed to make the communities fully prepared. Further inputs are needed to support the local government in linking to the community in other areas to provide similar opportunities for evacuation exercises. Nevertheless, the project set a model, which is replicable and the community in Gunungkidul shall continue with their own resources in the future.



One reason for the success of the initiative was that all parties involved in PPP project respected the agreed roles and responsibilities during the project implementation. The local BPBD turned into the hub to locally coordinate and operate the PPP project.

Private sector initiatives in the field of disaster preparedness need to be embedded in local disaster risk reduction strategies and based on local references, like risk maps, evacuation plans and concepts of local early warning. If these references are missing, they need to be developed prior to implementation of activities at grassroots level. The PROTECTS project provided a step-by-step and multi-level approach to achieve the development of such basic references. This approach had been developed and applied in nine districts in southern Java from June 2011 to June 2013.

There is a considerable potential for replication of such a PPP initiative as many companies have substantial budgets for Corporate Social Responsibility programs and are open for proposals. A third party may be needed to bring the interests of the local government and the private sector into a partnership. The experience from Gunungkidul sets a viable way to promote PPP projects in other areas.

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