



US IOTWS Small Grants Program Making Safety the Law

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC DIALOGUE ON DECENTRALIZING LEGAL REFORM FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Presentation on "Coastal Area Management" by the Ministry of Marine and Fisheries at a local workshop in West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia



Cover of the MPBI publication Knitting the Sense of Togetherness

US IOTWS Small Grants Program

The US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program has funded 17 small grants in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand as part of its \$16.6 million two year effort to support the development of an end-to-end warning system in the region. The grants program catalyzed and promoted pilot activities that contribute to community and bottom up results in disaster mitigation, preparedness and response.

Outreach and Public Dialogue on Decentralizing Legal Reform for Disaster Management

The year 2007 was remarkable for the reform of Indonesian's disaster management policy framework. Three very important events took place: the launch of the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAP DRR), passage of the Disaster Management Bill by the House of Representatives, and passage of the Bill on the Management of Coastal and Small Island Areas. Through this grant, the Indonesian Society for Disaster Management (MPBI) documented and critically analyzed the process of drafting the Disaster Management Bill, including advocacy initiatives. MPBI then distilled the findings into a guidebook for local governments to develop disaster management regulations based on the new national policy.

Project Achievements

Through its advocacy efforts, MPBI worked to strengthen capacity within, and beyond, the government as the Parliament drafted Indonesia's Disaster Management Bill. With the keen participation and commitment from the government, particularly BAKORNAS, MPBI helped stakeholders at the local level gain a fuller understanding of the scope of this new law. The project also facilitated the process by which local policymakers and stakeholders can draft their own legal reforms and action plan documents to suit the needs of their communities.

MPBI successfully created two key tools that have increased awareness throughout its network of civil society and government institutions, and it has aided local governments in reforming their disaster management laws to suit their communities' needs. The case study *Knitting the Sense of Togetherness* on the development of the national Disaster Management Bill and the guidebook *Creating Legal Reform (PERDA) in Disaster Management at the Provincial and District Level* will continue to facilitate progress towards greater coastal resilience.

MPBI workshops in the four highly disaster-prone provinces of West Sumatra, Bali, East Java, and West Nusa Tenggara targeted key stakeholders in civil society, NGOs, and universities. During these sessions, participants agreed on the next steps required to begin implementing the NAP DRR in each province.



Roundtable discussion at the local workshop, Surabaya, East Java

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Lessons Learned

- In the disaster management reform process, it is critical that organizations have capacity spanning many technical areas, access to detailed hazard maps of the target area, and detailed knowledge of the legal instruments available to them, such as advocacy, direct access to government, and lobbying.
- When working with the government, it is vital to incorporate flexibility into the project timeline, allowing for unforeseen delays. Crafting legislation is a complicated process that takes time and a healthy dose of patience.
- Without coordination among a diverse array of partners, including NGOs, universities, and the government, a complex process of reform, socialization, and dissemination cannot take place.

Next Steps

With its extensive network throughout Indonesia, and in partnership with donors such as GTZ and Oxfam, MPBI will continue to support local governments in the formation of local disaster management laws. The first group of partner cities includes Ende, Alor, Semarang City, and Yogyakarta City. In addition, the case study and guidebook are key tools in MPBI's advocacy support program, which runs until at least 2010, for local governments in Makasar, Lampung, West Java, Jogjakarta, Padang, Surabaya, Bandung, Nusa Tenggara Timur, Aceh, Semarang, and East Kalimantan.

About the Indonesian Society for Disaster Management (MPBI)

The Indonesian Society for Disaster Management (MPBI) was established in March 2003 as a professional network for individuals working in the field of disaster management. MPBI promotes and maintains the momentum for achieving progress in Indonesia's disaster management agenda. It develops and pilots models for managing disasters and encourages good ethics in disaster management in Indonesia.

MPBI's mission is to support comprehensive disaster management to achieve safety and protection from disasters and to create welfare for society in Indonesia. Moreover, MPBI's vision is to establish a safe society that is protected from disaster threats and to solve problems related to disaster management.

For more information on activities or partnership opportunities with MPBI, visit www.mpbi.org.

About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an "end-to-end" approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region. For more information please visit www.us-iotws.gov.

