



## US IOTWS Small Grants Program

# Teaching Communities through Kids

SCHOOL EDUCATION ROADSHOW IN PADANG, INDONESIA



*Students designing their school's hazard map*



*Students learning earthquake safety*

### 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.

### The School Education Roadshow

Komunitas Siaga Tsunami (KOGAMI) is a local NGO founded in September 2005 in West Sumatra to promote the shift in paradigm from disaster response to disaster preparedness. Since 2005, KOGAMI has trained teachers and students in 150 out of 260 vulnerable schools in Padang. The government of Padang, in cooperation with KOGAMI, trained 200 teachers in disaster preparedness through the School Education Roadshow. The project assisted the government with its disaster preparedness program to encourage the eventual development of a system of disaster preparedness in Padang.

With facilitation from KOGAMI, teachers, school principals, and even students got together to build hazard maps for 60 schools. The hazard maps then served as a basis for full-school evacuation simulations. In June and July of 2007, KOGAMI took the Education Roadshow to 61 vulnerable schools in Padang with the assistance of 20 local volunteers.

### Project Achievements

The School Education Roadshow was implemented successfully in 30 elementary schools, 21 junior high schools, and 10 senior high schools. Each school developed its own evacuation plan and hazard map in a participatory manner, and KOGAMI had them professionally formatted and enlarged to poster size as a lasting tool. Overall, approximately 17,700 students and 900 staff gained new skills and knowledge in disaster preparedness and safe evacuation.

According to KOGAMI's pre- and post-Roadshow assessments, the schools' disaster preparedness for floods, fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides increased dramatically as a direct result of this program. The results indicate that students are even better prepared than the staff, and they are actively passing on disaster preparedness skills to friends and family. Following the Roadshow, KOGAMI and the schools presented recommendations to local government officials who have committed to improving infrastructure and emergency equipment, particularly in "red zones", the most disaster prone areas.



Women's spirit in the SER Program



Evacuation simulation

For more information about this project contact:

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## Lessons Learned

- Cooperation and endorsement from the local government was extremely important. Without government support, the principals would not allow external agencies to provide input to the education process, especially when children are involved.
- A standard system of disaster preparedness that is developed for local conditions and with the participation of local stakeholders is critical to ensuring that all children are safe and that local responders (the fire brigade, search and rescue, etc.) know how all schools will react in a disaster.
- A national education curriculum for disaster preparedness is necessary for sustainability and to ensure that all Indonesian children develop this critical knowledge.
- To increase the motivation and participation of children, the activities can be designed as competitive games.
- A strong, capable group of committed local volunteers was the backbone of this project, with whom KOGAMI was able to reach so many schools.
- Providing large, colorful maps and a bound printed manual as “leave behinds” was truly valued by the schools, although a more permanent display box to house the map would be appreciated.

## Next Steps

Some important next steps are already in the works with KOGAMI, the Social and Education Departments of Padang, and school principals:

- All 60 schools will follow up this activity periodically;
- Disaster preparedness will be included on the local education curriculum;
- Socialization of disaster preparedness will be conducted at least once a month; and
- The physical rehabilitation of school buildings will be included in strategic planning for disaster preparedness in Padang.
- KOGAMI will use a grant from UNESCO to develop a “Disaster Prepared School” certification program, complete with Standard Operating Procedures, to deepen the knowledge of 12 pilot schools, which were selected from the original group of 60.

For more information on activities or partnership opportunities with KOGAMI visit: <http://www.kogami.or.id> and <http://kogami.multiply.com>.

## 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](http://www.us-iotws.gov).

