

OUR EXPERIENCE

Community Awareness

Training of Facilitator for Community Outreach

BACKGROUND

Since a number of districts in tsunami prone areas have already implemented tsunami early warning mechanisms, established local warning chains, and developed tsunami hazard maps and evacuation plans, it is important now to share these achievements with the communities at risk to improve their preparedness and to establish the final link of the “end to end” warning system.

THE INITIATIVE

Therefore, a new model for community outreach, which not only raised general awareness about the tsunami hazard, but also provided specific information on local warning and evacuation procedures and motivated communities to define their own procedures and plans, was considered necessary.

In 2008, a training module for community facilitators was designed and implemented by GTZ IS, PMI Bali and DREAM Yogyakarta. A group of 39 facilitators from the Java Pilot Area participated in the training and conducted community outreach activities in the districts of Bantul, Kebumen and Cilacap. An evaluation confirmed that the training led to a high level of initiative and ownership by the facilitators to conduct community events and considerably increased knowledge and awareness of tsunami hazards in the participating communities.

The encouraging experiences from 2007 led to the decision to develop a more generic training approach that can be applied in other pilot areas and beyond.

THE GOAL

The development and implementation of the new training approach aimed to provide communities and districts with qualified local facilitators to act as change agents in strengthening the community’s tsunami preparedness and early warning mechanism.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

In 2009, GTZ IS, in collaboration with PREManet, established a ToF team to develop and implement the new training approach. The team produced new training modules for master trainer (ToT) and local facilitators (ToF), that cover principles of disaster management, earthquake and tsunami hazards, InaTEWS, warning chains, evacuation planning, and adult learning methods. In addition, the training modules also focus on improving the skills of community facilitators in planning and conducting community events.

Additionally, a guidebook and a visualization tool (Lembar Balik) were developed to assist local facilitators in preparing and conducting community events. Other materials like videos, comics and posters were made available to be used and distributed during community events.

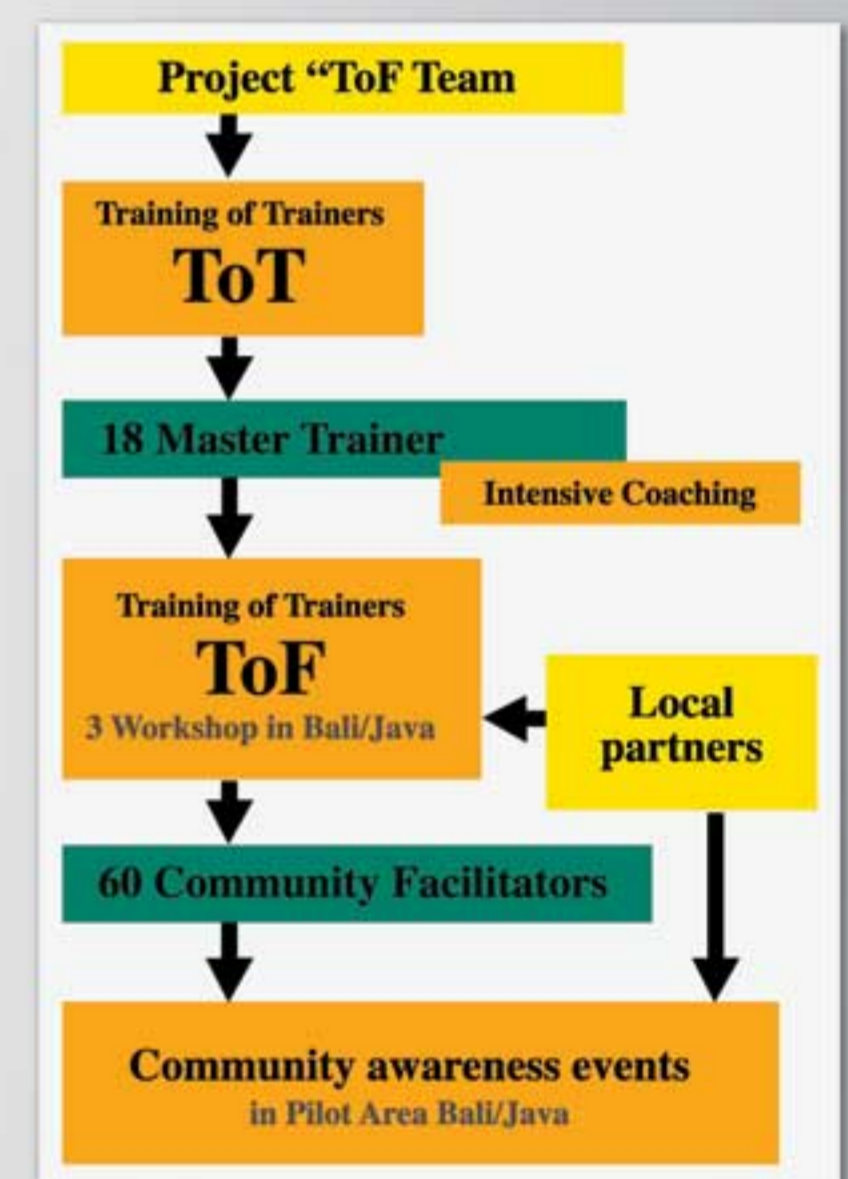
The training sequence started in October 2009 by preparing master trainers to implement training for community facilitators and build a community outreach network.



ToF in Bantul - Yogyakarta, December 2009



Facilitator Using Lembar Balik in Community Meeting



The Training Scheme

Eighteen representatives from local partner institutions participated in this ToT. After graduating from the training, the master trainers, with intensive coaching from the ToF Team to strengthen their confidence, in-depth knowledge and facilitation skills, then facilitated three ToF workshops in Bali and Java. In these three training workshops, 20 participants representing the communities from Kuta, Tanjung Benoa, and Sanur in Bali, and 40 participants from the districts of Bantul, Purworejo, Ciamis, Cilacap, and Kebumen, acquired technical and methodological knowledge and skills to assume roles as local facilitators for community awareness activities.

Community events have already been implemented in Bali, while in Java, final preparations are underway. This preparation and implementation is in the hands of local partners who also provide the necessary resources. During the initial phase, a number of community events are supported by the project with a modest funding mechanism to help cover local expenses for transport and snacks.

The community outreach activities are expected to provide necessary information and to create interest and initiative in the participating communities, enabling them to improve their own preparedness through local warning dissemination and evacuation planning.

LESSONS LEARNT & POTENTIAL FOR REPLICATION

Selection of training participants was done in close consultation with the partners and based on predefined criteria to ensure the quality of the program. Nevertheless, one of the major challenges in the process was the wide range of backgrounds of the facilitators in terms of age, education, culture, and social status, as it implied that participants had different capacities of learning and delivering outreach activities. During the training their determination and hard work bridged the gaps.

A key factor was to link the training of the community facilitators to the local stakeholders, i.e. local government and local working groups, to ensure local ownership for community outreach activities and to assure that local procedures regarding early warning and evacuation are respected and included in community awareness events. Joint planning and close coordination is necessary to keep all parties on board.

As the process is not final yet, continuous monitoring by the project still goes on and the findings will be integrated into the final version of the training modules and materials.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ToT in Yogyakarta, October 2009



Facilitators in ToF Bantul - Yogyakarta, December 2009



Master Trainers in ToT Yogyakarta, October 2009



Facilitators in ToF Cilacap, December 2009

Author:
Jenik D.S. Andreas
ds.jenik@gtz.de
jenikandreas@yahoo.com

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GTZ Office Jakarta
Menara BCA 46th Floor
Jl. M.H. Thamrin No.1
Jakarta 10310
T: +62-21-2358 7111
F: +62-21-2358 7110
E: gtz-indonesien@gtz.de
I: www.gtz.de/indonesia

Further information:

www.gitews.org/tsunami-kit
“Veteran” Pembangunan National University –
DREAM, Arief Rianto: +62-812-2968134
arifupnvy@yahoo.com
www.psbmbupn.org
PREMANet, Sri Handayani
info@premanetindo.org
PMI Bali, D. Reny Anggraeni: +62-812-19968115
wie_tmt118@yahoo.com, info@pmibali.or.id
GITEWS: www.gitews.org