

OUR EXPERIENCE

Local Disaster Management Agency

Experiences with the Establishment of BPBD in the Pilot Areas

BACKGROUND

The Disaster Management Law No. 24 (2007) created the foundation for the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB, inaugurated in 2008) and agencies at the sub-national level (BPBD). This constitutes the Indonesian commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005) and nation-wide awareness after the catastrophic tsunami in Aceh.

BNPB and BPBD are designed to address comprehensive disaster management – shifting from a conventional approach of emergency response to one that puts equal emphasis on all parts of the disaster management cycle and a strong focus on risk reduction. Referring to the regulation of the Ministry of Home Affairs No. 46 (2008), the President's Decree No. 41 (2007) and the Regulation of the Head of BNPB No. 03 (2008), all disaster management tasks are handled in three divisions of BNPB and BPBD: 1) Preparedness, 2) Emergency Response, and 3) Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. The supporting units within the institutions are the Logistic Division and the Operations Control Centre (PUSDALOPS). The latter plays a central role in operations before, during and after a disaster. It is in charge of tsunami early warning, i.e. receiving warnings, deciding on proper responses, and disseminating warnings and guidance to the people at risk.

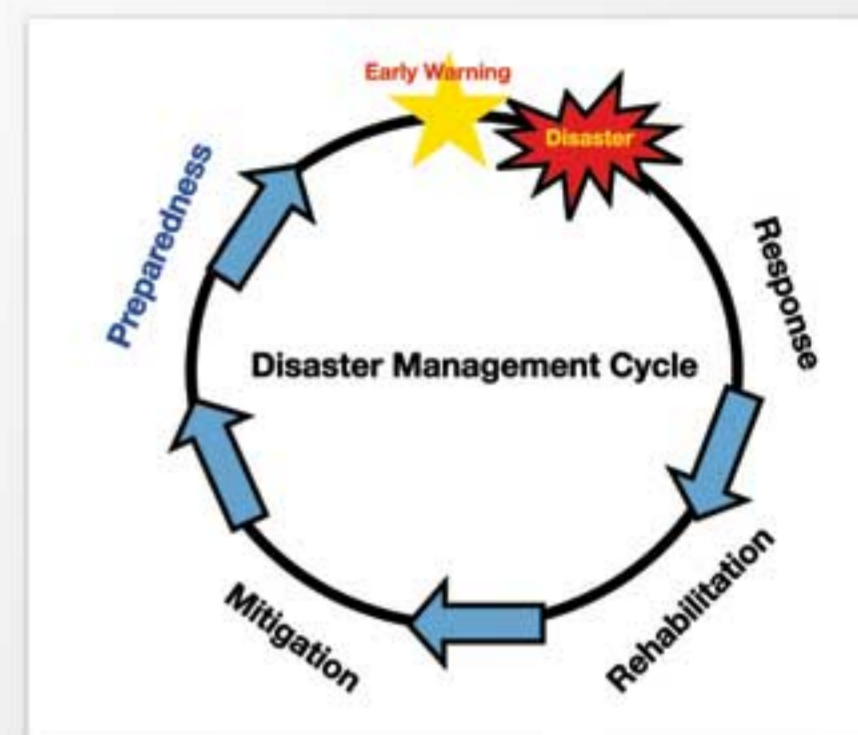
The establishment of a BPBD needs to be based on a local regulation or decree. The government suggests the formation of a BPBD to the local parliament and must coordinate with the Ministry of Home Affairs and BNPB. To date, most disaster-prone provinces in Indonesia have established a BPBD, which is mandatory by law. Districts and cities can choose whether to establish a BPBD.

OVERALL CHALLENGES

The establishment of various BPBDs indicates the commitment to better disaster management. However, preparedness and disaster risk reduction is still a new field for local authorities. The lack of clear national and local guidance for the formation of these agencies has inhibited the development of solid institutional structures and the institutions' performances. The main difficulties are constraints with human resources development, i.e. the recruitment of skilled personnel, planning and budget allocations. Many districts and cities are still hesitant to initiate the formation of a BPBD, as it is optional according to the pertaining regulations.

PROGRESS IN THE PILOT AREAS

The pilot areas of the city of Padang, the province of Bali, and several districts in Java respond differently with regards to the establishment of a BPBD.



Disaster Management Cycle



BPBD Padang



PUSDALOPS Padang



Inauguration of PUSDALOPS by Bali Governor

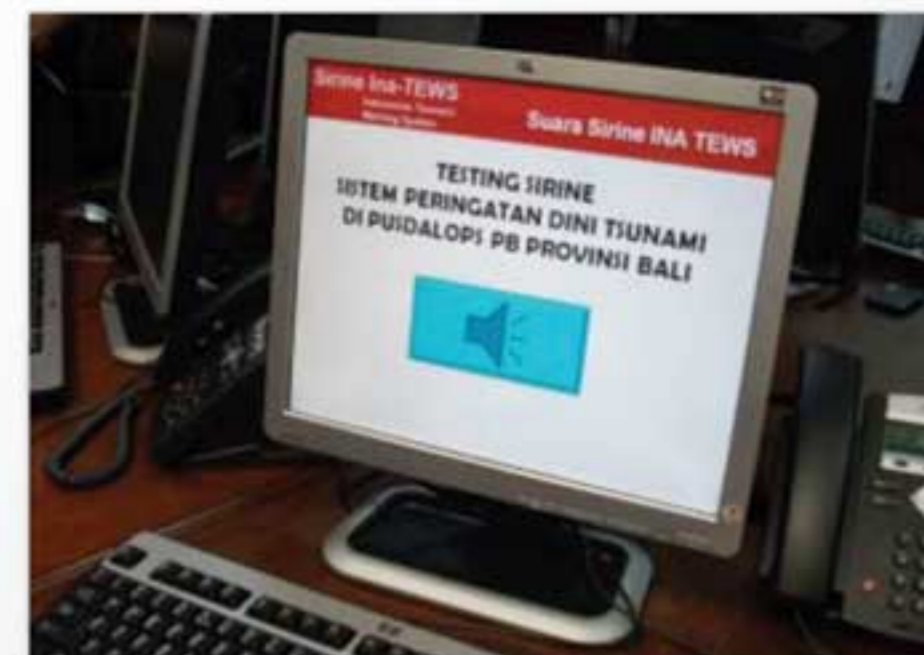
In 2007, the government of Padang assembled a team of representatives from local government institutions and NGOs to develop a disaster preparedness system and strategic plan for Padang. Setting up the city's BPBD was part of the plan. A local regulation in 2008 that had received input from the team stipulated the establishment of Padang's BPBD, effective in January 2009. The major challenge for the institution is the recruitment of skilled personnel and overall human resource development. Padang's BPBD already operates a PUSDALOPS with modest facilities and equipment, that serves as the local tsunami early warning centre.

The province of Bali now has a BPBD, though only based on a Governor's Decree. The BPBD will soon be legalized by a local regulation. The tasks for disaster management are transferred gradually from the institution's predecessor, the provincial civil defence agency. Other BPBDs in Bali were established in the city of Denpasar, as well as the districts of Gianyar and Karangasem. A fully-equipped PUSDALOPS at province level that has been running since 2009 was established with a contribution from the French Government. The PUSDALOPS provides tsunami early warning and emergency response services to all districts in Bali. While equipment and personnel in good number and quality are in place, the PUSDALOPS is still working to achieve a sufficient level of performance.

In 2008, among the five districts in Java, only Cilacap and Ciamis had established BPBDs. Since late 2009, Bantul has been preparing to fulfill the preconditions (technical and legal appraisal, local regulation) for the establishment of the local BPBD that is expected to be in operation in late 2010. This will include a PUSDALOPS that has been operating under the local Civil Defence Agency since 2008. In Kebumen, the PUSDALOPS is located in the Official House of the Bupati and has been running since 2009. To date, the districts of Purworejo and Kebumen still rely on their respective Civil Defense Agencies to address disaster management. Each has own reasons to restrain the initiative of establishing their own BPBDs.

OUTLOOK

Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. The impact of floods, volcanic eruptions, landslides, earthquakes, and tsunamis on people's lives and the economy is frequently felt across the country. However, the shift to a paradigm of disaster mitigation and preparedness, both within institutions and in the public sphere, is an ongoing process that will take time. BPBDs at the district and city level play a major role in this transition process, as they are closest to the problem and the people, and therefore are most instrumental. However, they will be successful only if they receive sufficient guidance and support, in terms of political commitment, human resource development and budgeting from the national and local levels of government.



Bali Province PUSDALOPS



Tsunami Desk in PUSDALOPS Bali



BPBD Ciamis



BPBD Cilacap

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