

ASB INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES

A COMMUNITY THAT IS INCLUSIVE, EMPOWERED AND RESILIENT



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RESPONDING TO COVID-19: PRIORITY OF PROTECTION FOR MOST AT-RISK GROUPS

While it is true that the novel coronavirus is spreading indiscriminately, it is also undoubted that some people are at higher risks in this calamity due to epidemiology or socio-economic factors. Older persons are more likely to have some sorts of comorbidity which increases the possibility of a severe complication when contracted with COVID-19. Persons with disabilities, who mostly work in informal sectors, are dealing with a greater threat of serious economic impacts. Responding to this situation, ASB collaborates with local organisations of persons with disabilities (OPD) from several districts in Indonesia to distribute relief items to most at-risk groups. The activities were carried out in April - May 2020.

The distribution in Sukoharjo, Central Java, was carried out by Sehati, a local OPD which is currently operating a service center to help older persons, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk community members during the pandemic. 30 volunteers were involved in distributing relief items of staple food and hygiene kit to 200 households of persons with disabilities or older persons. While distributing door-to-door, the volunteers also delivering psychosocial supports to the recipients, many of whom felt more excluded from the community during this pandemic.

Still in Central Java, ASB distributed hygiene kits and food items to 70 households in Magelang District. 39 households among the number have family member(s) who are living with disabilities, and the other 31 households have family member(s) who are older persons. During the distribution which was undertaken

by Warsamundung, a local OPD in Magelang, dissemination of COVID-19 prevention measures information was also conducted. Circulating this essential information was crucial considering that some of the 70 households stated that they have difficulties accessing public information due to various factors, including limited capability to access and understand formal information available in online communication platforms.

The distribution of relief items in East Nusa Tenggara Province was led by inclusive disaster management teams at village level. The teams delivered 80 packages of staple and hygiene kit to two villages, Oesena in Kupang District and Kuatae in Timor Tengah Selatan District.

In Central Sulawesi, ASB works together with the Working Group of OPD in Palu, Sigi, Donggala (Pokja OPDis Pasigala) to reach most at-risk communities in two districts, Sigi and Donggala. Small packages of hand soap were handed out to 1,300 households in three villages in both districts. 361 packages of staple and hygiene kit were also distributed to all households in Ape Maliko Village, Donggala, as well as 25 members of Pokja OPDis Pasigala.

Not only in reaching out to community members, Pokja OPDis Pasigala also took lead in distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) packages for 3 public health centers. This was done in response

to the scarcity of PPE supplies for health care workers, especially the ones who works at community level health centers.

ASB believes that priority protection for the most at-risk groups is a key indicator of an effective emergency response, particularly in this pandemic. Promotion and sensitization on the importance of inclusive response have been continuously undertaken at various levels. In Central Sulawesi, ASB facilitates the involvement of Pokja OPDis Pasigala in the provincial COVID-19 Task Force. Pokja OPDis Pasigala is currently leading the coordination for a sub-cluster for older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. ASB also collaborates with other organisations at national level to develop communication materials and recommendations document to stimulate and foster inclusive implementation of COVID-19 response. The recommendations can be found [here](#).

Inclusion will merely be a notion if the most at-risk groups only play as receivers of the response. Throughout ASB's response activities, local OPDs have been a living evidence of leadership and capacity. "Nothing about us without us" is an impeccable principle in providing priority protection for the most at-risk groups.





PUTTING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK INTO ACTION

April 2020 marks the closing of the Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DiDRRN) consortium programme. Titled as “Putting the Sendai Framework into Action: Realising all-of-society commitment through the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction at regional, national, and local levels,” the programme was implemented in four countries across Asia and the Pacific: Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, and Myanmar. Alongside the role as the consortium lead, ASB also directly implemented a project within the framework of this programme in East Nusa Tenggara Province of Indonesia.

The programme aimed to reduce the disproportionate risk of persons with disabilities in case of disaster through ensuring the Sendai Framework commitments on all-of-society approach are reflected in regional and national strategies and planning documents and implemented practically. Through DiDRRN partnerships, the programme had been collaboratively building evidences and good practices of leadership of persons with disabilities in strengthening inclusive community resilience. Experiences from the 4 countries were then presented at

regional and global level to promote and advocate for replications and scale-ups of inclusive approach in disaster risk reduction planning and programming.

Since its early implementation in 2017, the programme had effectively develop impactful transformations, significantly in creating opportunities for organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to participate in disaster management. At village level, persons with disabilities involved in the establishment and operationalisation of community-level disaster management team and planning. At national level, OPDs initiated coordination mechanism to influence emergency management, including for COVID-19 response. At regional level, representatives of OPDs took lead in advocating for change, emphasizing the capacity of persons with disabilities and removing the stigma of ‘vulnerable group’.

Throughout the programme implementation, 2.496 persons with disabilities have been reached through various programme activities. Moreover, 29.197 persons in project communities, including most at-risk persons, demonstrated increased knowledge and skills on disaster preparedness. More information on the programme achievements are available [here](#).



SERIES OF ONLINE TRAINING ON RESEARCH AND DISABILITY

As a component of the “Investing in inclusive WASH: Identifying barriers and values” project, ASB organised a series of training and workshop in May to June 2020. The activities involve participants from the project key actors that are researchers from Gadjah Mada University (UGM) and representatives of the Working Group of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Palu, Sigi, and Donggala (Pokja OPDis Pasigala).

The first session of the series was a training on disability etiquette which was held on Tuesday, 12 May 2020. Delivered through an interactive webinar, the training presented Samsinar, a member of the Pokja OPDis Pasigala, as the main resource person. During the session, Samsinar shared essential and practical tips on how to interact with persons with disabilities in dignify and courteous manner.

Furthermore, she elaborated ethical and accessibility considerations in conducting data collection process which involving persons with disabilities. This theme of training is particularly important considering that the “Investing in inclusive WASH” project focuses on working closely with persons with disabilities. Further information about this research project are available [here](#).

8 follow-up sessions will be organised subsequently with various theme related to the project implementation, including research ethics, research instruments, and data collection trials. Interactive webinar format will be used throughout this series of activities following the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Certain measures were taken to ensure accessibility of the training and workshop delivery for all participants with diverse learning needs and functioning limitations. ASB ensures the availability of Sign Language interpretations and distribution of learning materials prior to training/ workshop dates.

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