



SIAP SIAGA Real Time Learning Brief

May 2022

Insights from the SIAP SIAGA Pulih Bersama Program: Approaches to Mainstreaming GEDSI and Economic Development into Local Resilience Strategies

Background

SIAP SIAGA - The Australia and Indonesia Partnership in Disaster Risk Management is a five-year program implemented from 2019 to 2024 financed by the Government of Australia - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and managed by Palladium. The goal of the SIAP SIAGA program is to strengthen Indonesia's management of disaster risk, and engagement between Australia and Indonesia on humanitarian issues in the region. The outcomes of this investment have both a domestic focus on improving disaster management system to build national preparedness and deliver disaster management services at the sub-national level, and a regional focus to strengthen cooperation between Australia and Indonesia on regional humanitarian preparedness and response.

Together with its partners, SIAP SIAGA works towards four End of Program Outcomes (EOPOs):

1. BNPB's organisational systems are strengthened resulting in better domestic leadership of DM.
2. Target provinces, districts and villages are better able to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from disasters.
3. Strengthened cooperation between Australia and Indonesia on regional humanitarian preparedness and response.
4. Strengthened learning, innovation, cooperation and inclusion for DM.

Key aspects of the SIAP SIAGA program are implemented through grant partners, both nationally and in SIAP SIAGA's four target provinces of East Java, Bali, NTB and NTT. In 2022, SIAP SIAGA is administering a package of grants under the '**Australia-Indonesia COVID-19 Emergency Response Package - Pulih Bersama (Recover Together)**' program.

The objective of the package is 'Australian support for local-level COVID-19 responses delivers enhanced health and social services for the affected population in hard hit regions and builds community resilience to pandemic impacts.' The expected outcomes related to the SIAP SIAGA program are:

1. Sub-national and community **health responses** are enhanced to prevent, detect, treat and manage the spread and impact of COVID-19.
2. Local communities, including marginalised people, have improved access to **livelihoods support** to meet basic needs (including food and nutrition).

In line with SIAP SIAGA's emphasis on learning and knowledge management, grant partners are included in SIAP SIAGA's politically driven iterative adaptation (PDIA) process (try, review, learn, adapt) including regular evaluation and reflection points. SIAP SIAGA implements Real Time Evaluation (RTE) and Real Time Learning (RTL) with all of its grant partners. Monthly RTE provides rapid analysis of the progress from Pulih Bersama Partners. Based on these results, RTL creates space for partners to identify what is working well, what is not, and identify opportunities for the continual improvement of the project approach or activities in to achieve outcomes and have more sustainable impact. RTL is an important tool to ensure that projects can adapt to changing context and stakeholder needs.

Based on the first quarter of RTE results, peer learning has been undertaken on emerging lessons and challenges across all partners' activities. The thematic topics sharing for first Pulih Bersama RTL were:

1. How to ensure that people with disabilities are included in COVID-19 health and economic recovery activities, specifically how to approach and overcome community resistance to their participation.
2. Sharing of experiences in empowering BUMDesa (village owned enterprises): what are the elements of a common approach to share and scale up to improve community economic development and resilience?

Emerging Findings and Reflections

1. *On approaches to inclusion in community-based health and economic resilience strategies*

SIAP SIAGA's partner, Konsepsi Mitra Samya, implementing activities in Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB), shared their experiences in engaging people with disabilities (PWD) in the health and economic recovery

About SIAP SIAGA

SIAP SIAGA is a five-year partnership program between the Governments of Indonesia and Australia. The program aims to improve the management of disasters and increase community resilience in Indonesia and in the Indo-Pacific Region. Our approach is measured, reflective and forward-leaning which helps us to deliver the best results for DFAT and Indonesia's communities.

disabilities (PWD) in the health and economic recovery activities. In the villages where they are implementing activities, PWDs had not previously been engaged in village development discussions, disqualified by community members as 'unable to join the discussion.' This is largely due to the stigma surrounding PWD, with communities embarrassed by them and lacking empathy for their needs and aspirations. This has resulted in few opportunities for empowerment of PWD in the villages – viewing PWDs only as recipients of support, not as active participants in projects as well as apathy among family members to improve the situation of PWD. This situation is compounded by the lack of confidence among PWD to express themselves (and their hopes and aspirations) in discussion, considering themselves a burden to family and community.

A similar situation was also identified by SIAP SIAGA's partner Swara Parangpuan (SWAPAR) in East Sumba, Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). They further explained that data on vulnerable and marginalised groups is often weak or non-existent at the community level, with many village leaders having a broad understanding of who lived in their community but not data upon which to plan, or provide support during times of crisis, including during COVID-19.

Both organisations have seen progress in their ability to ensure that vulnerable and marginalised groups, and PWD in particular, have been included in and accepted by communities in project activities. Working to overcome both stigma and data issues, the partners employed individual advocacy, and often door-to-door information gathering, in order to raise awareness among PWD and their families that their involvement in the health and economic recovery activities was important. Both partners focused on creating space for PWD to first discuss among themselves their aspirations for their livelihoods, as well as ideas on how to put plans into action. The partner worked closely with PWD stakeholders to build their capacity and confidence to express their ideas and engage more effectively in the wider stakeholder groups – whether on development planning or specific SME groups for livelihoods development, demonstrating that PWD can and should be included in village development planning based on the capacities they have – including as volunteers and community facilitators.

A further issue that both partners faced was that lack of awareness among government officials on the core needs of PWD and the need for them to be engaged in village planning and economic stimulus activities. Moreover, even though regulations related to mainstreaming the needs to PWD into local development planning, including on disaster management, are in place, there has been no internalisation within the government resulting in weak or absent implementation. By prioritising data collection on PWDs in the community, both partners were able to demonstrate to local authorities that support on COVID-19 response and recovery to date as poorly targeted those most in need, which was a critical first step in raising awareness on including PWD among government stakeholders.

2. On empowering BUMDesa to serve as an accelerator of village development and economic resilience

SIAP SIAGA's partners in East Java, PDTCA ADEMOS, and in NTB, ADBMI LGBS, shared their experiences in supporting BUMDesa as an approach to economic recovery and resilience at the community level. Both noted that BUMDesa are important tools to accelerate the village economy, acting as a platform to identify where other businesses need assistance, to optimise the assets of the village and resolve key economic/livelihood problems in the village. However, they noted that when BUMDesa are not inclusively and transparently developed and are only used to collect income for the village without contributing to the village economy itself, they rarely succeed.

Based on their experiences, BUMDesa can focus on the productive economy and service provision. What is important is that they reflect the aspirations of the village and be strategic in their roadmap for development and sustainable business growth. For example, in one village the local economy is highly dependent on agriculture (in this case, cashews), but the BUMDesa was organised around car wash and repair (there were very few cars in the village), so there was very little economic benefit to the village. Conversely, in another village, the BUMDesa was organised to support transportation services, including transporting children to school, so there was both an economic and educational benefit to the village. The lessons which have emerged on case-by-case basis highlight that sustainability is critical – if the BUMDesa wants to focus on agriculture, then think about linking production of crops (i.e.: cashews) to other services and facilitate people in the community to start-up businesses along that value chain. Most importantly, BUMDesa need to start small and once well established, work to diversify its business based on village needs and priorities and linking to surrounding villages and supply/value chains.

The project learned that although BUMDesa is a nationally driven initiative, the success of BUMDesa in the villages are largely dependent upon the capacity of the village itself. It is true that the national government has issued guidance regarding this initiative. However, it is not sufficient. In fact, the success and legitimacy of BUMDesa necessitates several requirements, and will take time to build the capacity of human resources to manage the organisation. First, BUMDesa need a strong, diverse management board¹ which is separate from the village political apparatus. Second, the BUMDesa needs strong and transparent fund management based on clear

¹ One partner supported the revitalisation of BUMDesa in three villages, where youth and women were selected to be members of the management board. The partner perceived this to be a good practice which would hopefully safeguard the independence of the organisation from the village government and politics.

guidelines, as well as assistance to understand guidelines on licensing and permitting. Third, BUMDesa needs strategic capacity to analyse community needs and opportunities and create a strategic road map for sustainable growth. Fourth, BUM Des needs oversight and should be evaluated against the eight indicators of success included in Permendes No. 4/2015 and Permendagri No. 113/2014, which are both qualitative and quantitative and provide opportunity for rapid assessment and the development of recommendations for improvements in BUMDesa strategy and management.

Key Take Aways and Emerging Lessons

When it comes to GEDSI mainstreaming and fostering inclusive local development, including inclusive local economic development, there is **no magic bullet**. Awareness raising in communities still requires time and effort, including home visits to build awareness and confidence of vulnerable and marginalised groups themselves to participate in community dialogue and activities. Projects which aim to ensure inclusion and GEDSI mainstreaming need to **appropriately budget time and human resources, as well as sufficient awareness and engagement activities**, to foster acceptance and space for participation by vulnerable and marginalised groups, particularly people with disabilities.

Similarly, when supporting the development of BUMDesa, a **long-term engagement strategy** is required in order to be effective and also have impact on the community. Strategic planning and capacity building takes time – they are no one-off activities – and need to be grounded in the local context. BUMDesa have the **capacity to promote economic resilience, but also need to be resilient themselves**, in terms of political independence, management and strategic vision. It needs to be **complemented by good governance at the village level**, so projects which can accommodate both needs have a higher likelihood of successful interventions in the long term.

These lessons are helpful for actors working on GEDSI mainstreaming and inclusion and local economic development. They are meant as insights to support more effective project planning and activity implementation and are not meant to be replicated 'as is' from one project, or one village, to another. The insights provided by SIAP SIAGA's Pulih Bersama partners are based on local context, and the lessons which have emerged need to be accommodated within the local context of where they will be replicated by other actors in the future.

SIAP SIAGA has partnerships with the following organisations under the Pulih Bersama program:



PULIH BERSAMA WORK AREAS

