

## Issue Brief No. 6

November 2023

# Enhancing Local Resilience in Indonesia:

## The Role of Minimum Service Standards in Disaster Management (MSS-DM) and Disaster Resilience Villages (DRV) in Disaster Risk Reduction



Local resilience is key in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), for several reasons: First, it enables the creation of tailored strategies that are specifically designed to meet the unique threats and vulnerabilities of each community. Second, such tailored strategies naturally empower local communities, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for disaster preparedness and risk reduction. And thirdly, this empowerment enhances knowledge and efficiency including efficient use of local resources. When communities and local authorities are actively involved, they can manage resources more effectively in disaster situations, making this a central aspect of a resilient DRR strategy.



In line with these principles, Indonesia has introduced two key mechanisms to bolster local resilience: the implementation of **Minimum Service Standards in Disaster Management (MSS-DM) at the district level and the establishment of Disaster Resilience Villages (DRV) at the village level**. These approaches are designed to operationalise the concept of local resilience, making it a tangible reality. By fulfilling the MSS-DM requirements, local governments actively engage in identifying risks and vulnerabilities in their districts and the capacities needed to address them. Similarly, the collective effort to achieve DRV indicators enables villages to assess and utilise their resources effectively. The successful implementation of these policies at the grassroots level is a critical measure of Indonesia's progress in embedding local resilience into its DRR framework.



Through a cross-provincial knowledge exchange event held on 6-7 September 2023 with more than 647 participants from across the Disaster Management Sector in 30 provinces and 133 districts, the SIAP SIAGA program (Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Disaster Risk Management) facilitated a discussion on the implementation of both approaches and identified lessons and recommendations by looking at the challenges and opportunities presented at the local level. This issue brief highlights the key issues discussed in the event and actionable recommendations to improve policy implementation to help achieve local resilience in the context of the decentralised Indonesia.

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# Minimum Service Standards in Disaster Management (MSS-DM)

## Opportunities:

**Guidance for Local Governments:** The MSS-DM policy specifically aids local governments in focusing on essential aspects of Disaster Management across all stages. It ensures that each phase, including preparation, response, and recovery, is adequately addressed with targeted strategies.

**Accountability and Standards:** This policy is integral to national laws and regulations, setting clear standards for local governments. By establishing these minimum service standards, it fosters a sense of accountability and commitment to disaster management goals.

**Mandatory Local Disaster Risk Analysis:** Local governments must perform a thorough Disaster Risk Analysis using region-specific data, a requirement under this policy. This analysis is crucial for crafting a tailored Disaster Management Plan, considering the unique risks and vulnerabilities of each locality.

**Subnational Awareness and Prioritisation:** The MSS-DM policy acts as a key driver in enhancing disaster management awareness at the subnational level. It encourages local leaders to recognize and prioritise disaster management within their jurisdictions.

**Enhanced Role of Provincial Governments:** Provincial governments are tasked with not just overseeing but actively supporting district-level disaster management. Their role includes providing technical assistance and aiding in securing necessary funding.

**Integration into Local Development Planning:** The policy promotes the inclusion of disaster management strategies in local development plans. This ensures a cohesive approach, aligning disaster preparedness with broader developmental goals.

**Engagement of Non-Government Stakeholders:** The policy opens doors for collaboration with non-government entities, such as CSOs, media, and the private sector. These stakeholders bring innovation

and diverse perspectives, vital for a dynamic and inclusive approach to disaster management.

## Challenges:

**Financial Constraints:** Implementing disaster management often faces budgetary challenges, as it tends to be a lower priority amidst competing local financial needs. This lack of funding hampers the effective execution of disaster management initiatives.

**Technical Capacity Shortfall:** Local entities struggle with the technical expertise required for MSS-DM compliance, such as conducting detailed risk assessments and developing comprehensive contingency plans. This gap significantly impedes their ability to meet the required standards.

**Inter-Agency Coordination Issues:** Participants note a persistent lack of coordination among district agencies, crucial for MSS-DM compliance. This challenge arises from bureaucratic barriers and departmental silos, which obstruct effective inter-agency collaboration.

## Policy Recommendations for MSS Implementation:

- **Prioritise Funding:** Encourage local governments to allocate a significant portion of their budgets to disaster management by highlighting the potential economic benefits of preparedness.
- **Capacity Building:** Develop training programs and workshops for district-level officials to enhance their disaster management skills and knowledge.
- **Inter-Agency Task Forces:** Establish inter-agency task forces to streamline coordination and facilitate compliance with MSS.



## Disaster Resilience Villages (DRV)

### Opportunities:

**Innovative Strategies for DRV Implementation:** In provinces supported by the SIAP SIAGA program, the high number of vulnerable villages necessitates innovative strategies. Collaborations with local universities and CSOs, and incorporating local wisdom in village practices, are seen as strategic and sustainable approaches to extend the reach of the DRV program.

**Community Engagement in Disaster Resilience:** Central to DRV's effectiveness is engaging communities directly, such as through the completion of PKD (Village Resilience Assessments). This process helps villages identify resilience strengths and areas for improvement, fostering a sense of ownership and a culture of preparedness.

**Leveraging External Funding:** Forming partnerships with NGOs, donors, and the private sector enables village governments to supplement their disaster management funds, addressing financial limitations and enhancing resource availability.

**Importance of Capacity Building:** Providing targeted training and support is crucial for equipping villages to meet DRV criteria effectively. This capacity building strengthens individual communities and contributes

to a broader network of prepared villages, enhancing overall disaster risk reduction efforts.

### Challenges:

**Financial Constraints at the Village Level:** The implementation of DRV faces financial hurdles, notably the limited flexibility in using Village Funds (Dana Desa). Despite regulations allowing these funds for disaster management, lack of specific guidance from District Heads creates uncertainty, leading villages to hesitate in allocating funds for these purposes.

**Community Acceptance and Understanding:** Varying levels of community acceptance and understanding of the DRV concept pose a challenge, affecting its effective implementation.

**Conflicting Central Government Initiatives:** Different ministries in Jakarta often have conflicting initiatives, causing confusion at the village level about prioritisation. This can lead to inefficient resource allocation and impede the development of local resilience.

### Policy Recommendations for DRV Implementation:

- Enhance village resilience through streamlined initiatives: In each village, the various Jakarta-based resilience initiatives should be coordinated and integrated. This can be achieved by optimizing the allocation and utilization of village funds, thereby maximizing the overall resilience of the community.
- Flexibility in Fund Allocation: Encourage local governments to provide villages with greater discretion in using village funds for disaster resilience activities.
- Community Awareness Programs: Develop and implement educational campaigns to raise awareness about DRV benefits and responsibilities among village residents.
- Capacity Building Support: Establish training programs to enhance the capacity of village officials in disaster risk reduction and management.



**By fostering a culture of preparedness and proactive response, and leveraging external funding and capacity building, Indonesia can build a more resilient society.**



## Conclusion

To significantly enhance disaster resilience in Indonesia's decentralized framework, a multifaceted approach is essential. Addressing financial constraints and capacity issues at both district and village levels is fundamental. Prioritisation of disaster management funding, coupled with effective coordination among various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, will bolster resilience efforts. Engaging communities in understanding and implementing the Disaster Resilience Villages (DRV) and Minimum Service Standards in Disaster Management (MSS-DM) policies is crucial for success. By fostering a culture of preparedness and proactive response, and leveraging external funding and capacity building, Indonesia can build a more resilient society. This comprehensive approach not only aims to save lives during natural disasters but also promotes sustainable development and economic stability in regions prone to disasters, thereby creating a harmonious balance between development and disaster risk reduction.

