

REFUGE

Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia

Accompany, Serve and Advocate the Cause of Forcibly Displaced People



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Preface

Looking back at the last two months of JRS Indonesia's work Refuge reports about an earthquake simulation exercise as part of a disaster risk reduction effort in South Aceh and the conclusion of the six months Earthquake Response in West Java project (January-June 2010) in Takokak Sub-district, Cianjur District, West Java. Finally just before the World Refugee Day, 20th June 2010, an experienced pro-bono advocate shared her knowledge about the rights of asylum seekers. The workshop was a first step towards increased awareness on asylum issues that will continue with the screening of six films between 14-24 June in the Refugee Film Week at Taman Ismail Marzuki (TIM) in Jakarta. By telling the stories of refugees and asylum seekers and discussions, we hope to encourage more people to practice solidarity with those having to leave their home countries in fear for their lives.

AN EFFORT WORTH MAKING

By: Paulus Enggal

The mosque sirens started to wail as the earthquake was felt by people of Pulo Kambing Village, North Kluet Sub-District, South Aceh District. All of a sudden people were thrown out of their daily routine. Mothers ran out of the house screaming the names of their children. Fathers left the paddy fields and gardens to hurry

home. Students at school immediately took shelter under their tables, waiting for the quake to pass. On 28 April 2010, a great earthquake hit the coastal village of Kluet - in what was a scenario in an earthquake simulation exercise. This simulation is part of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) and displacement pre-





Emergency First Aid (PPGD) was given to the injured.

vention program of JRS Indonesia in South Aceh District. Pulo Kambing Village is one of 13 JRS assisted villages in which JRS accompanied community, youth, students and teachers in becoming more resilient towards hazards from natural and man made disasters. The program in these 13 villages is planned to be completed in June 2010. The simulation exercise was conducted to see in how far the community is prepared to face a disaster after nearly 1.5 years receiving training on DRR, EPS (Emergency Preparedness System), PPGD (Emergency First Aid) as well as having gained practical skills and knowledge on how to manage disaster risks.

"Please don't panic. Let's all move to the football field," ordered Dedi Suwandi who was in charge of giving the early warning that day. Over his megaphone he continued to provide information on how to best react to what just happened. Just in seconds, lines of people move from the youth centre to the football field. Mothers hold their children, men carry bags with key items prepared for the case of a disaster, youth swiftly help injured survivors, and teachers gather their students. All moved directly to one place, the football field on the side road of Kota Fajar-Manggamat. Some injured victims were already evacuated to the medical tent. Pregnant women, elderly and disabled people previously identified as vulnerable received attention in regards to their special needs.

Later that afternoon, tents were erected by people that escaped the earthquake. A group of mothers with babies were in deep conversation about the simulation. "I was frightened when the earthquake occurred," recalled Ardiah (45) expressing her feeling during the simulation. "I am glad to be able to join this simulation," explained Mursidah (25), mother of one child. According to her, the simulation taught her how to save oneself when an earthquake occurred. "This simulation is important. If in the future an earthquake occurs, we will never be confused about what to do," added another women while holding her child under

the blue tarpauline. Eni Marjan, one of the villagers active in the PKK (Family Welfare Movement) of Pulo Kambing Village was pleased with this activity. "This simulation is very beneficial. We learned how to take care of the injured and prepare food for the displaced," she explained. Even though this activity was quite tiring and used considerable resources and time during the preparation and implementation, most people were satisfied and proud to organize this simulation. "We were satisfied since it felt like real," said Marwan, the head of Pulo Kambing youth group. According to him, youth were keenly involved in this simulation, especially those who are the members of the village disaster management team.

"Yet, in some aspects we were still weak and that gave us a headache," he explained. "Hopefully these weaknesses can be minimized," he added as he ate instant noodles.

"Because everyone was prepared, including the teachers, no one was confused," said Zakaria (51), the principal of Pulo Kambing Primary School. However, there were still shortcomings in the implementation of the simulation, according to him. It relates to the limited debriefing given to the school. "This simulation is an experience we can relate to when an earthquake really occurs, including for us at the school," he summarizes when asked about the benefits of this activity for his school. Zakaria impressions were echoed by the experiences of the students who took part in the simulation. Febi (11) and Mukhlis (11), 5th grade students revealed that now they know how to save themselves when an earthquake occurred. "Hide under the table," Mukhlis answered. "Run to the open field," Febi continued. Disaster preparedness for school was also recognized by Kiyaruddin, the head of Pulo Kambing Village. "Cooperation between school and community went quite well. This simulation gave us some kind of safety system for the school to avoid children from getting lost during a disaster," he admitted. According to him, there should be strong cooperation between schools and village authorities so that each knows what to do in the village during an emergency situation.

"It was quite tiring but everything went well. Though I had doubts due to last minute preparations," said Zainuddin (37), the simulation coordinator of Pulo Kambing Village. He added that the community was actively involved since the preparation of this simulation. "The scenarios were well prepared since the villagers were involved in it from the beginning," added JRS school project field officer. The villagers initiative and involvement should be appreciated. Besides that the time and resources to prepare the simulation are worth spent on this effort to prevent future loss and displacement through disaster.

THE BEAUTY OF SOLIDARITY



A good foundation is the basis of an earthquake resistant house.



A woman from Bungbangsari village participating in the reconstruction of her house



Construction workers in Bungbangsari Village.

By: Theresia Kushardini

Drizzling rain accompanied the arrival of JRS and UNPAR (Parahyangan Catholic University of Bandung) at Mr Suherman's home (Mang Akung) on 20th May 2010. "Welcome," said Mang Akung with a smiling on his face, welcoming the visitors to his home in Takokak Sub-District, Cianjur District, West Java. "I cannot find words for JRS, but I just realized that I'm much calmer now. Yesterday when another earthquake occurred (18/05), I was not so scared anymore in this house. Neighbors said that the earthquake was quite big. However, the shakes didn't make us panic about this house. We left the house calmly and later checked the *umpak* (building foundation)," said Mang Akung.

Mang Akung feelings were also shared and expressed by other people served of JRS West Java Earthquake Response Program during the last visit of JRS and UNPAR team. The stories of trauma and grief of losing the house that would often be heard during the initial visit after the earthquake on 12th September 2009 had not been heard again. Gratitude and news about the activities to repair and rebuild their homes dominated villager's conversations. Funny anecdotes experienced during the construction process colored the dynamics of program implementation; encounters with local traditions being one of them. In the Takokak's tradition, the owner of a house will cut a chicken just before the house construction starts. The chicken's blood then is to be dripped in every corner of the building site. Seeing blood on the construction site made JRS field facilitator panic as he thought that an accident had occurred. Fortunately the house owner explained the tradition shortly afterwards. The involvement of local staff speaking the Sundanese language and knowing local traditions facilitated a smooth communication as most workmen and villagers still have difficulties in using Indonesian language.

Positive appreciation of the community towards JRS programs helped in the house construction. Even though the rebuilding of the 25 houses took place in distant parts of the area sometimes difficult to reach by four-wheeled vehicles but construction and repairs could be completed within 75 days.

While usually professional construction workers from the local area usually receive IDR 45,000 (workmen) and IDR 50,000 (foreman) with additional meals, cigarettes and snacks. However, for this humanitarian program they were willing to receive IDR 40,000 (workmen) and IDR 45,000 (foreman) plus a meal served by the house owner.

"Every job has ups and downs. However we experienced more ups than downs," said Mr Eman as the spokesman of construction workers. "Obviously, JRS program is different from what we normally do. It's a bit heavy at the beginning since it's unusual, for example to create earthquake resistant folds on *bege!* (rings).

"We felt our tiredness disappear when seeing the houses completed and the owners happy," added the workman.

The experienced construction workers were also supported by construction assistants consisting of relatives, neighbors and the people served, all volunteering themselves for the construction. This *gotong royong* (voluntary community work) culture is the social wealth of a community that will have to continue to face "disasters" in the future. Through openness and inclusiveness the JRS team provided opportunities for the communities to participate and take ownership during the program. This sense of ownership in the communities helped overcome difficulties in the process as they could be solved together. People served, construction workers, material suppliers who are all local

people facilitated a smooth construction process. Everyone felt involved in this humanitarian effort.

In the afternoon when the JRS team returned to the base camp in the village carrying their hungry stomachs through the cold weather, suddenly some construction workers brought fruits or crackers from home. For agrarian communities such gestures are not merely a "take and give" but carry a sense of kinship, sharing with the visitors (in this case the JRS team). The construction workers who are mostly farmers always share their crops in every harvest. They felt that's "the only thing" they could do to show their appreciation after they obtained lots of knowledge while joining the program. Attending a course on bamboo at Parahyangan University in Bandung on 27 January 2010 became a meaningful memory for them. "I have sat at the university, with lecturers and college students, even though my head was dizzy due to the air condition," said a workman proud.

Sometimes the construction workers even brought their own meals when rebuilding a house for a very poor villager.

Solidarity, mutual support, sharing and caring for each other made this program implementation enjoyable. Con-



Program socialization with people of Hegarmanah Village before conducting house reconstruction.

struction workers, people served and the JRS team build up relationships with one-another. Even local people surrounding the people served provided some voluntarily assistance. For example when the construction took place at Mr Uci's house in Pasawahan Village, neighbors took turns in sending meals for the workmen.

"Summarizing this program it can be said, that it let us feel and see the beauty of solidarity within the community," says Dini, who accompanied the JRS program in Takokak Sub-District for the JRS country office.

THE LEGACY OF JRS IN TAKOKAK



Bamboo Preservation class given by Mr Purwito for the construction workers

By: *Theresia Kushardini*

The end of the reconstruction process of 25 houses in Pasawahan (3), Bungbangsari (7) and Hegarmanah Village (15) in Takokak, Cianjur District, West Java does not mean the JRS West Java Earthquake Response Program ends here. Following the initial aim of empowerment and knowledge transfer JRS facilitated a training on how to preserve bamboo so it can be used in the construction of buildings.

The training itself was conducted on May 28, 2010 at the Centre of Research and Housing Development, Department of Public Work in Cileunyi, Bandung and was attended by 11 craftsmen and one material supplier. Facilitated by Mr Purwito a researcher on bamboo from the Centre of Research and Housing Development at the Ministry of Public Services this training is expected to enable the craftsmen in the community to use bamboo in future con-

structions and repairs as an available, stable and affordable material.

The craftsmen's longing for knowledge was expressed by their enthusiasm during the training. The training presented knowledge in a way that aimed to be most practical and relevant to the needs of communities and the availability of local material.



Bamboo preservation Training for construction workers.

"During our work with JRS, it is true that we agreed to be paid below standard. However, the knowledge we received cannot be measured in money. We will pass on the knowledge we obtained within our communities as our form of devotion," said Mr Deden the leading craftsmen during the project.



Mr Purwito is introducing bamboo as an available, stable and affordable material

WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP!

By: Lars Stenger

Does it matter if someone seeks asylum with UNHCR in Jakarta, at an Australian Airport, on Australian mainland or goes via boat to Christmas Island? Can someone claim asylum on the bases of her/him being denied medical treatment in his home country for being HIV positive? These were some of the questions discussed in the two day workshop JRS Indonesia invited its pro-bono lawyers to over 1st and 2nd of June in Jakarta. Elizabeth Biok, an experienced lawyer for the Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales providing *pro-bono* legal aid to asylum seekers in Australia as well as to some in Indonesia.

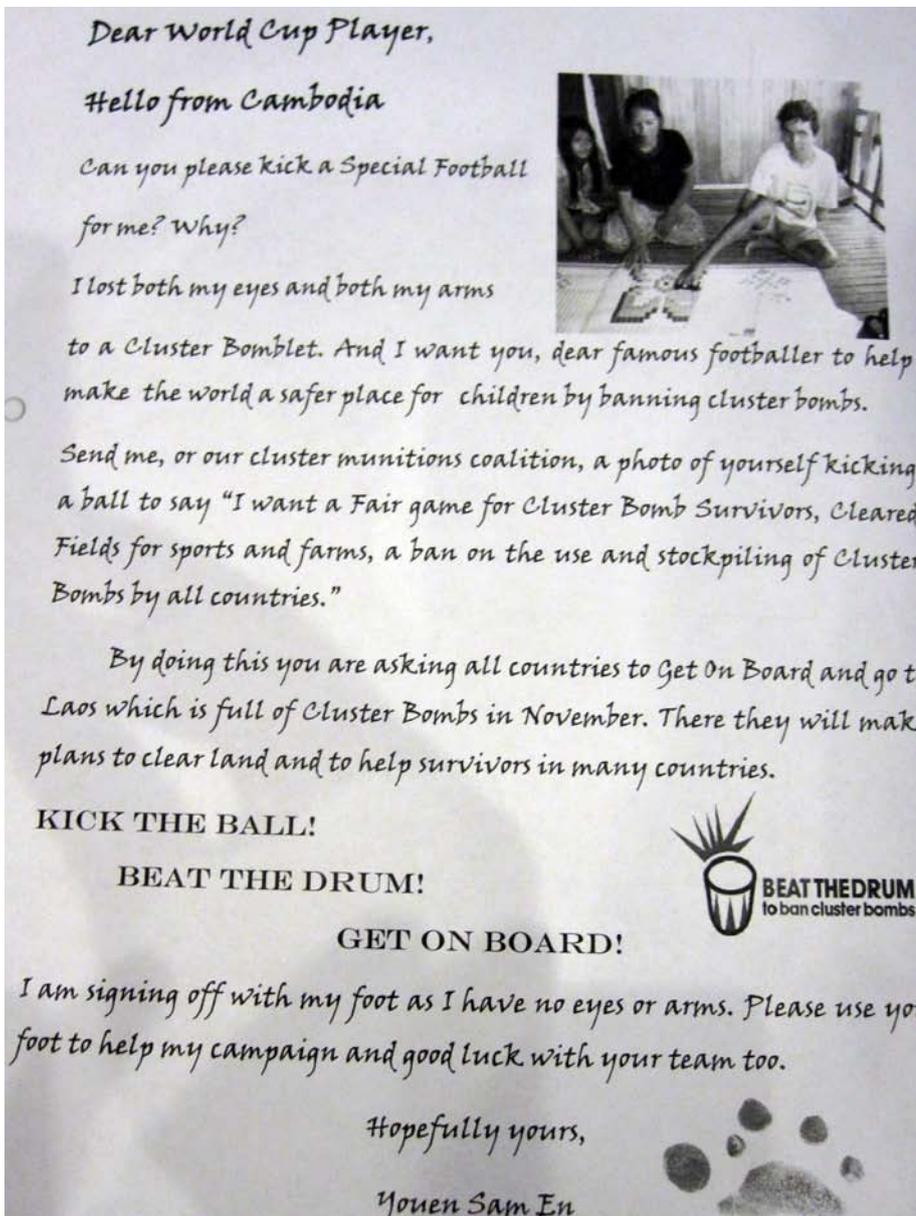
The workshop was a reaction to the fact that Indonesia's *pro-bono* lawyers and legal aid world has had little or no experience in litigation for asylum seekers. It provided an opportunity to explore the Refugee Protection Principles and how legal advice for asylum seekers can contribute to refugee protection. Further Elizabeth gave a short overview about what happens if an asylum seeker arrives in Australia and how it will be decided if this person is a refugee receiving protection in Australia. The members of the workshop looked at different resettlement options that organizations could assist asylum seekers & refugees in accessing. Participants were in particular concerned about the situation of

children and unaccompanied minors during their asylum process and under detention in Indonesia.

"For me the material presented in this workshop was very good and really needed, as I don't have experience yet in how to assist asylum seekers. The presenter was very competent and has lots of experience," stated Yonesta one of the public lawyers of LBH (Legal Aid Foundation/Lembaga Bantuan Hukum) Jakarta.

"This workshop helped me to understand the issues people searching for asylum face and to see possible solutions, but we need to further follow up on the suggestions made, together with other organizations we can improve the situations of asylum seekers and refugees in Indonesia," adds Silvester from JRS Indonesia.

Overall this workshop was just the first step bringing together committed individuals and lawyers sharing the concern for people in a very vulnerable situation, having to flee their country in fear of persecution and in desperate need for international protection, often without papers and without their voices being heard. These people need our solidarity and support to find what every human being deserves, a live in dignity and safety.



INTERNATIONAL DAYS

11 July	World Population Day
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
12 August	International Youth Day
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO BAN CLUSTER BOMBS?



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