

THE STORY OF EARTH



Save the Children

9 Good Practices
stories of Disaster Risk Reduction Program
Building Children & Families Resilience in Indonesia



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Contributor:

Disaster Risk Reduction Project Team - Save the Children

Design, Lay Out and Writer:

Wahyu Bramastyo

Editor:

1. Dewi Sri Sumanah - Communication & Advocacy Manager
2. Fredy Chandra - DRR & Resilience Advisor

Copy Right:



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Dream Together for Resilience

To dream together is an appropriate expression to illustrate the various activities in the 1 year of Save the Children Indonesia's project supported by Google.org entitled "Disaster Preparedness Program for Disaster Resilient Cities and Communities".

The dream is shared, amplified, and owned by individuals, communities and even institutions that have been involved in the implementation which is carried out, wrapped in a marvelous partnership. In West Java Province and three districts within it: Bandung, West Bandung and Tasikmalaya, the dream has begun.

To achieve the dream, all parties are invited to a humanitarian collaboration to see through with optimism that there are still many good things which can be done in disaster risk reduction efforts. The fact is, disasters are not only caused by nature, but the risk shall increase due to human negligence and deliberation as well, so all activities should involve every stakeholder wherever possible.

In the notes collected, it is revealed that we are still able to listen to the nature, protect the nature and improve human behavior.

In a humble manner, we realize that "there is nothing new under the Sun", then with our knowledge, good practices and the results of previously similar programs, various activities are designed to achieve dreams, putting forward innovations to allow them to be more contextual and effective.

In this booklet, those who have done their best are crafted into words to become stories so the phrase "we protect nature, and nature will protect us" is carried out with the capacity that the actors and the communities already have and strengthened.

The story of mankind who are constantly exposed to technological developments is a beautiful part of the human flexibility to be able to reduce disaster risk. Through digitalization, humans can connect with each other to

share information and carry out intensive communication in disaster-prone lands and waters in Indonesia.

Citizens Science is manifested through the involvement of anyone or crowd sourcing, has helped all of us to be able to do participatory mapping and reporting of disaster events. Humankind can protect our earth (Bumi Kita) as a place to live together, assisted by the existence of technology.

Based on existing records, community preparedness activities will not work by relying on only one party. The government having the mandate to ensure a country to be safe from disasters will not work effectively without collaboration with communities and other parties.

A charmingly coordination at the level of government from the center to the village is needed, and unity of action across sectors is necessary. Innovations were also made to bring resilience by integrating the efforts of Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, and Safe School to be manifested by the actors in their stories at the grassroots level. Everyone needs to move, from village officials, educators, and community leaders to manifest a disaster resilient community.

As we dream of a productive future, children should also convey their aspirations for the world they live in for a sustainable future. The “rambling” of children shall not be taken lightly. We are proud to have Indonesian children as an active campaigner. Knowledge-based filled with curiosity and the love for the earth makes them feel passionate to spread disaster resilience. The children convey the message to government leaders at the central and regional levels and the same message continues to be echoed throughout their friends. In this story, there are children who continue to spread their dreams to all.

Dreaming together is not that hard. Through the stories in this book we come to a realization, when there is a will and union, everyone can do it. Our relationship to build resilience with the involvement and support of all parties is

meaningful in achieving "temporary success" by the dream that has begun in this project. However, the willingness to continue our dream and apply it in a disaster-resilient society is a collective endeavor.

The phrase "Remember; when disaster strikes, the time to prepare has passed," is an accurate saying. With disasters still occurring even today, preparedness is the duty of all.

We do not want to destroy nature, we do not want to be neglectful, we do not want to lose, we want to be resilient, we want to be aware and we want to dream do it now in our place. KEEP DREAMING INDONESIAN CHILDREN.

Be resilient,

J.Victor Rembeth

Director of Disaster Risk Resilience

Save the Children Indonesia

About Disaster Risk Reduction Program

Since July 2019, Save the Children supported by Google.org implementing the Disaster Risk Reduction Program for Disaster Resilient Cities and Communities in three pilot districts in West Java Province, these districts are Bandung, West Bandung and Tasik Malaya. This program aims to educate and increasing public awareness, particularly children and youth to be more prepared in Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Safe School.

This program is expected to reach 560,000 people, where 30% of them are children. At the end of January 2021, this program reached more than 20 million people including children.

There are three results that are supposed to be achieved in this program, including:

1. Increased National Awareness, understanding and planning on disaster preparedness
2. Primary school children in one province are safer and better prepared for disasters
3. Children and youth participate in Government planning to increase public investment and reduce the risks faced by children

To discover the achievements of the three results above, the 9 stories in this “the Story of Earth” book represent an action to protect the earth and the dreams of Indonesian children.

Building a better world for and with children!



NGARUAT SIRNAJAYA

It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark

~Howard Joseph Ruff, penulis.

“Most people work as farmers here. Whenever landslide and flash flood hit the rice field, we have no solution for how the villagers could restore their crops. Last year, after the growing season and when the rice was almost turning yellow, there suddenly came flood and landslide, causing tens of hectares of rice fields failed to harvest, and the villagers lost more than 200 kg of their crops”, amidst the cold air of Gununghalu when Pak Muslim, the head of hamlet 2 in Sirnajaya Village, told the story that afternoon to the three of us.

Coffees, fried bananas, and other snacks were served one after another by Pak Muslim's wife at the guest table. We felt we were attending a private party, a warm and friendly party with coffee and Pak Muslim in the center of his universe telling stories about Sirnajaya Village. Among many people we met in the village, Pak Muslim was the most talkative. A simple question was all we

needed, then he immediately offered a flood of information. His genuine laugh and loud tone conveyed enthusiasm to his listeners. Pak Muslim enjoyed the conversation as we did enjoy the coffee that afternoon.

Gununghalu is indeed one of the best coffee producers. Its coffee varieties are not only acknowledged in the national level, but also in the international level. Some even said that in 2018, Gununghalu coffee received an award from AVPA Gourmet Product at SIAL exhibition in Paris, France. Even so, Sirnajaya villagers do not only grow coffee. 28 neighborhood (RW) and 86 ward (RT) divided into four hamlets in this village grow various crops such as: jackfruit, lemongrass, taro, sweet potato, inca berry, chili, black jelly, cardamom, lettuce, carrot, and others. Pak Suhardi, the village head, presented a wise suggestion that the villagers should not grow the same plant or crop because it would trigger a price drop.

"Of the total population of more than 13,500, 80% of them live from agriculture," said Pak Muslim. "There are more than 300 thousand hectares of rice fields out here. 70% of the area is rice fields, while 25% is dry land farming".



Image 1. Green House of Farmer Group in Sirnajaya Village

Interestingly, Sirnajaya village has a fairly well managed farmer group. One of the breakthrough programs from the head of Sirnajaya village in this period is to create a green house containing dozen variants of vegetables, herbals and crops. Each family head (KK) is allowed to adopt 60 polybag seeds they are interested in for free. They then plant the seeds in their own house and the harvest are for their own consumption or profit.

Unlike trade or carpentry, agriculture is one of the sectors less affected by the pandemic. That is the reason why Sirnajaya villagers choose to farm, while

unfortunately becomes the reason that if a disaster befalls on agricultural land of the village, villagers will experience enormous loss. The poverty caused by disasters is a huge issue. People who have lost their income due to damaged rice fields become a problem that need to be solved.

In 2019, Save the Children with the advice of various related parties such as National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD), and the local government conducted an assessment to several regencies in West Java Province suspected of being prone to disasters. Sirnajaya Village located in Gununghalu District, West Bandung Regency, was one of the villages selected to be assisted by Save the Children through Disaster Preparedness Program for Disaster-resilient Cities and Communities funded by Google.

According to data obtained from BNPB in 2019, the number of deaths and missing persons due to disasters in Indonesia in 2009-2018 reached 11,579 people. This becomes a sad truth when the price is human life. Furthermore, data from Ministry of Education and Culture in 2019 also recorded that 48,000 schools in Indonesia were affected by disaster during 2004 to 2018.

Save the Children, which has been established since 1919 and has responded to disasters in various parts of the world, has never stopped educating public regarding the importance of disaster preparedness. They believe that the number of victims and damage caused by disasters should be reduced if people do the right things to reduce the risks long before disasters occur.

Through this program of Disaster Preparedness for Disaster-Resilient Cities and Communities, Save the Children is committed to educate 560 thousand people, including children, regarding Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for 1 year through various approaches. This is an important step, because vulnerability to threats that exist in the village can be reduced by increasing

community knowledge and capacity in dealing with disasters.

Even though it was a hard task, especially when the pandemic began in 2020, Save the Children humanitarian workers were still looking for ways, sparing time, and giving their energy to visit Sirnajaya Village. They carried out various socialization activities regarding disasters, trained village and school facilitators related to disaster risk reduction, helped to form village disaster preparedness teams, assisted disaster preparedness teams to conduct disaster risk assessments in the village, compiled disaster SOPs, put up danger signs in locations prone to landslides, floods and earthquakes, as well as installed evacuation route instructions.

More specifically, Save the Children also assisted SDN Baktimulya, one of the elementary schools in Sirnajaya Village to help them turn the school into a Disaster-Safety Education Unit (SPAB), so children and all school members will remain safe and protected if a disaster occurs.

Hard work is indeed a price to pay, but public awareness will become the fruit of a labor in the future. Opening people's eyes and forming new behaviors was not a simple feat to achieve, especially when in March the government began to restrict various gathering activities according to health protocols. There were many activities that must be carried out with a new strategy. However, when we saw how Save the Children team worked, we believed that it was in their hands that every target was achievable. These humanitarian workers are taught to stand on their ground when it comes to the safety of children and citizens.

All fatigue was paid off when the villagers and village head of Sirnajaya began to open their eyes to the importance of disaster preparedness. Heavy rain, strong wind, shifting land, and moving fault of the earth's plates are the language of nature, but humans have contributed to reduce risks due to threats

presented around them. Anticipatory steps are needed to reduce disaster risk long before the disaster occurs which need contribution from all parties. Dealing with disasters is not only about responding to emergency response after disasters, but also taking anticipatory steps by taking into account all aspects of daily life: economy, education, religion, health, social and infrastructure. In an integrated manner, Sirnajaya village meetings began to discuss all aspects, then gradually they were poured into Village Development Work Plan. Pak Suhardi and Pak Muslim keep on reminding villagers of the disaster preparedness issues in Sirnajaya Village. During village sermon, visit to villagers' houses, or ceremonial opening event, messages about disaster risk reduction always come out of their mouths.

"In the past, for disaster management, the village depended on the decision of the village head," said Pak Muslim while sipping his black coffee. "that means even though there was no village fund and regulation, the village head could provide assistance to villagers according to his discretion. However, since we get a lot of information from Save the Children, starting this year we are trying to formulate village policies related to disaster risk reduction and deliberately include the budget in the RKPDes (Village Development Work Plan) and APBDes (Village Income and Expenditure Budget) "

The process of drafting RKPDes involved consultation with representatives of all elements. Women, religious leaders, RT/RW, local government, school representatives and youth, were brought together to voice their aspirations regarding what should be included in the work plan for the long-term development of the village in the next six years. After that, in January 2021, village officials will come together to discuss the APBDes for the next year before it is later announced transparently to all villagers regarding what components the village will fund that year.

One seed of consciousness grows, it causes another consciousness to appear. One support after another emerged from various parties. During the preparation of RKPDes, Gununghalu sub-district head was present and strongly encouraged Sirnajaya village to spare special budget for disaster risk reduction.

The changes in Sirnajaya Village are constantly moving like the breath of waves, good news is blowing about the new breakthroughs the village is starting to work on. In order to accommodate the aspirations of all parties better, especially children, the village includes a plan to form a Children Forum at the village level in RKPDes next year. It is a great gift to Save the Children when adults and government agencies have the initiative to involve and listen to children's voices in the policy-making process. The Children Forum is an official organization fostered by the government through Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection with the aim of being able to bridge communication and interaction between the government and children in Indonesia. This forum is developed at every level of government administration, from village/sub-district level to the national level. This is one of the government's efforts to fulfill children's participation rights and to listen to their voices in every policy that is made and affects children's lives.

The stronger awareness and involvement of various village elements are, the merrier the process of the disaster risk reduction in Sirnajaya Village is. Together they assess, analyze, evaluate, and map the risks that exist in the village in order to take steps ahead to reduce disaster risk by using available local resources. This is in line with the concept of Disaster Resilient Village where community members are the main actors in reducing risks and increasing disaster preparedness. Regulation from the Head of BNPB No.1 of 2012 concerning General Guidelines for Disaster Resilient Village explains

that a disaster resilient village is a village that has independent ability to adapt and face potential disaster threats, as well as to recover quickly from the adverse impacts of disasters.

In the concept of disaster resilient villages, the community is the main actor carrying out community-based disaster risk management, including climate change adaptation. Realizing their lives depending on nature, Sirnajaya Village has also begun to formulate village regulations to care for the environment better, for instance a rule not to cut trees in protected forests carelessly, how to make spatial and building structures for a safe and disaster-proof house, reproduce fruit plants in order for them to be harvested without the need to cut down the trees, and so on. Disaster Risk Reduction is gradually linked with village development plans.

Save the Children is not a half-hearted organization. Their movements do not stop at mentoring. After the hard work of all elements of the village to reduce disaster risk has taken shape, advocacy is the next leap. The good news regarding the development of Sirnajaya Village is passed on by Save the Children to BNPB. Continuing the torch, BNPB invited Pak Suhardi as the head of Sirnajaya village to present the good practices in his village. In a short time, Sirnajaya Village officials cleaned up, took pictures of evidence, made power points, and wrote down the results they had obtained from collective work to be voiced in front of policy makers.

Sirnajaya village has a valuable experience, not only because they can demonstrate the good practices they have successfully implemented in the village, but also because they get direct attention from BNPB and are connected with relevant stakeholders on DRR issues. For a village in a remote location like Sirnajaya, the opportunity to get direct government attention is an excellent opportunity.



Image 2. Rice Fields area in Sirnajaya Village

Pak Suhardi said, "This kind of information regarding the facilities and assistance available from the government is very crucial for us so that in the future the village can access it independently".

As the head of the village, Pak Suhardi is committed to fix and increase the village preparedness in order to overcome every disaster in the village.

"Target saya adalah korban jiwa dan kerugian akibat bencana harus terus dikurangi, dan saya ingin desa saya dapat menjadi model desa siaga bencana yang dapat dicontoh oleh desa-desa lainnya", ujarnya berapi-api.

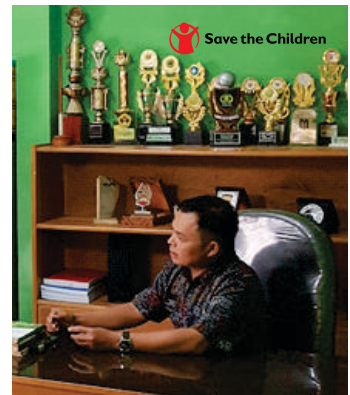


Image 3. Suhardi, the Head of Sirnajaya Village in his interview with Save the Children

To make this happen, he promised to continue to coordinate with BPBD and other relevant stakeholders at various levels. "The important thing is we ask for help about various accessible assistance to create a disaster-alert village, because our resources and knowledge are limited," the village head's request was submitted to Save the Children when we ended our talk that day.

For a village like Sirnajaya, support does not have to be in the form of

assistance. Accessible information is also invaluable support for them. Bringing together village parties with relevant policy regulators at various levels will pave the way for making the village more advanced even after the mentoring program is over.

'The Bridge'.

That is the name that Pak Muslim gave for Save the Children. "If we want to cross, and there is no bridge, we will never arrive. Save the Children for us is like a bridge that helps and brings us together with other sources of aid to make our village grow," said Pak Muslim as he led us through his plant-filled front yard. The sun began to slide over the clouds when we said goodbye. Dusk was nearing perfection, coloring Sirnajaya's gardens orange.

This village is beautiful without disaster.

TAKING A LESSON IN SINDANGKERTA, TAKING CARE OF THE DYING EARTH

'We do not inherit nature from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children'

~Old Indian saying

"Do you know why the people of Sindangkerta are not afraid of big waves?" asked Wak Dudul one day by the beach when Sophia and the Save the Children team visited him to make a short film. "Our elders taught us not to destroy the forest," he said, pointing to a green forest that stretches along the shoreline. "This forest acts as a village fence, if a big wave comes, it will be broken by a line of coral, then broken again by a green forest belt, so that it won't reach the residential area. If forests are cut down and corals are destroyed, then our fortress will collapse".

Sophia has been in Sindangkerta for three days, learning with Save the Children team about the close relationship between the nature and disasters. Wak Dulia, who was often called Wak Dudul by the children, was her learning resource when she stayed there. The customary leader of Saung Budaya Tatar

Karang occasionally asked her out to enjoy the beach. Her nose smelled the scent of salt brought by the wind. The blue sea on her right was in stark contrast to the green leaves of the trees on her left. Wak Dudul took Sophia along the coastline separating the two, they walked on the sand, following the sea veins.

Sindangkerta Village located in Cipatujah Sub-District, Tasikmalaya is not a completely safe area from disasters. The location is right next to the ocean. When a tide comes, the waves roll upon the shore, but the simple local wisdom of Sindangkerta about protecting the surrounding environment keeps the people away from the rage of nature.

Sophia remembered her village in Cipasung. You may not find a stretch of beach, but a plateau in the village. The foot of Mount Galunggung stands proud to fortify his residence. When Sophia first moved to Cipasung, she hoped that she could often go camping or play with the river water. Unfortunately, pollution in the evening dashed her hope. The noises of passing by trucks loaded with sand marked the evening in the village. The excavator dredged and loaded tons of sand to the trucks to be transported and sold, leaving a steep cliff and deeper giant puddle like a ravine.

"The dredging has been going on since Mount Galunggung erupted in 1982, can you imagine how many cubic feet of sand have been dredged from the site?" told Father one day.

Sophia was concerned about the human behavior that does not seem to care about the environment. Nature is being exploited and destroyed by endless greedy hands to gain personal profit. After learning about disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with Save the Children, Sophia has become increasingly aware that our current behavior determines either the safety or destruction of the entire planet.

Initially, Sophia was very concerned with literacy. She had a strong interest in the spirit of reading and writing of Indonesian children. For her concern, she was appointed as a reading ambassador for West Java at the West Java Reading Leader Challenge organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture when she was in Secondary School. But as time went by, Sophia was aware that it is not just books that need to be understood.

“There is something that is no less important to read than books,” said Sophia. “The natural environment where we live in should not just be understood casually”.

The nature where we live in also needs to be studied and understood. Sophia was eager to teach environmental awareness to its peers and other Indonesian children. It was all just a restless roar in the ocean of Sophia's heart. Until one day, her active involvement in the West Java Regional Children's Forum brought her to Save the Children. Sophia was invited to learn and take action in the Disaster Preparedness program for Disaster Resilient Cities and Communities with Save the Children and Google.

Together with Save the Children team, Sophia made a visit to Sindangkerta. She learned that learning disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation can be carried out in a fun way. Some areas such as Sindangkerta have local wisdom and traditional games to explore and preserve. Their elders were accustomed to befriending nature. They take care of the nature like a family, then pass this teaching on to their children and grandchildren through stories and games.

“You guys run so fast!” Sophia shouted to the children running on the beach chasing her car. The children in Sindangkerta chased the car, laughing happily. The soles of their feet already understand how to make friends with the sand that rose and fell by the breath of the waves.

One afternoon, Sophia saw Wak Dudul and the children playing traditional games, *Mumundingan* and *Papancuhan* by the beach. They had so much fun, they run as fast as possible carrying *mumundingan*. There were times when they were racing up onto pieces of wood when the waves came sweeping their footprints in the sand. From climbing agility, running speed, getting away from the seawater and heading to a higher place, the children didn't realize that Wak Dudul was not just asked to play, but was also equipping them with the skills to save themselves whenever the coral and kakayon forest were unable to hold the waves from the sea.

The visit to Sindangkerta provided valuable lessons for Sophia. Upon arriving home, her mind was flooded with ideas. She might start doing the same by teaching environmental awareness and creative disaster risk reduction through fun activities.



Image 1. Sindangkerta children learn about nature and disaster risk reduction through play.

Independence day celebration arrived, Sophia saw an opportunity to teach environmental awareness and disaster risk reduction to the children and her peers. Together with her friends from the Regional Children's Forum of West Java Province, she initiated game challenges on social media, namely twibbon and poster competition for the West Java children with interesting captions

about independence, the Covid-19 pandemic, and disaster preparedness. Besides, she had several quizzes with the same theme. Sophia chose the right educational tool. What's more appealing to millennials if not social media?

Social media is indeed a topnotch app. Only by installing it on our cellphones, we can take advantage of many interesting features to learn about disaster preparedness and get the latest information about disasters that occur. The disaster app presented by Save the Children for the Indonesian people was not only popular with children, but also the head of the National Disaster Management Agency of the Republic of Indonesia, Lieutenant General TNI Doni Monardo:

"I really appreciate the collaborative work between the Government, Non-Governmental Organization and Company, such as Save the Children Indonesia and Google, which have developed the Bumi Kita app.

As an educational, interactive, participatory and child-friendly app, Bumi Kita will complement the InaRisk app developed by the National Disaster Management Agency.

The use of digital information technology in the current era can support efforts to build community resilience in facing disasters",

said Mr. Doni in his speech when attending the launching of Bumi Kita app on December of the last year.

Sophia also spread awareness about the importance of environmental education at the school. Starting with the small steps she could take, with her schoolmates at MAN 2 Tasikmalaya, Sophia initiated the waste bank movement at the school. She was concerned seeing the large amount of waste generated by the school community every day. The students dumped 12 carts of garbage into the river every day.

“Why is a place to seek knowledge like our school polluting the environment where the surrounding community lives?” asked Sophia one day when attending an audience held by the headmistress of the school. “Why should we study mathematics and natural science if we can't solve environmental problems? Science should make people care more”.

“Do you have any ideas?” asked the headmistress.

“What if we try to make a waste bank?”

Together with her classmates, this idea was successfully realized. Every time she came home from school, Sophia watched the waste bank secretariat at the school, accepting waste deposits from all the students. The students deposited waste from their respective classrooms after cleaning their own classroom. In one month, the average waste deposited by each classroom reached 1-6 ounces. With the existence of waste bank, each classroom had an income. Sophia and her classmates sorted and recycled the deposited waste, they turned the waste into ecobricks for crafting materials.

What Sophia and her classmates did was not in vain. The socialization on the importance of protecting the environment carried out through a real action stimulated a greater action. The school welcomed her idea of environmental awareness by spending a budget to purchase lots of flower pots, build a pond, make a miniature forest, and a green house at the school.

“Father, can Sophia grow this plant at the school?” asked Sophia to her father who worked in the village agriculture office daily.

“Sure, what do you want to do at the school?”

“Sophia wants to build a household garden at the school,” she said while gathering the seeds of green onion, celery, galangal, and some plant

seeds available at home to take to her school. She wanted the plants in the school to be more diverse, so that her fellow santri who lived in the dormitory can enjoy the yields for free when the plants bore fruits.

Sopia and her classmates' efforts at the school were rewarded accordingly. The Ministry of Religious Affairs visited the school several times, eventually it was named an Environmentally Friendly School. The school received an award for the second time. Previously, MAN 2 Tasikmalaya was named a Child Friendly School. This was all the result of good habits developed by the school. The headmistress often holds an audience with the teachers and students at the school to accommodate good aspirations of all the school members. The children involved in positive activities outside of school were asked to share their knowledge with the other school members, including Sopia's activity at the Children's Forum.

Sopia also shared what she had learned and done with Save the Children in Sindangkerta to the headmistress. The concern for the environment has developed into disaster preparedness. The two should not be separated. Sopia recalled an earthquake occurred in 2019 when she and her classmates were changing clothes in the classroom after taking a physical education. In a state of panic, Sopia ran and tried to push the classroom door repeatedly so that she and her classmates could get out. Her attempt failed and she nearly passed out. Sopia forgot how to open her classroom door by pulling the door instead of pushing it out. This experience taught her a valuable lesson that if the school is not prepared, a disaster will result in death or injuring many victims.

The school listened to her aspiration and slowly began to improve the condition. Evacuation route signs were installed, directions were affixed to walls and stairs, the number of stairs was added so that the students would not be overcrowded if they had to evacuate at any time from a disaster, lastly an

assembly point sign was installed. According to Sophia, the school's concern for children's safety reflects a better awareness of disaster preparedness in the school. He hoped that one day the school can meet the requirements as a Disaster Safe Education Unit (SPAB).

“Save the Children teams are so inspiring. Someday I want to be like you guys, to make meaningful changes to other people's lives,” said Sophia when talking with her tutors at Save the Children.

“What do you want to fight for?” asked Dewi, one of the Save the Children facilitators who handled the disaster preparedness program.

“I want the children to love reading, not only books but also the nature around them”.

Sophia opened her palm, releasing the sea turtle hatchling from her hand to get to the ocean. The hatchlings moved their little legs as hard as they could to push their bodies across the sand. The hatchlings had a great spirit despite the short reach of their legs. Their eyes stared at the strange waves crashing in front of them, this was first time meeting with the ocean.

“Do you know that hatchlings record memories of where their feet first touched the sand,” said David that afternoon while accompanying the Sindangkerta children to release the hatchlings on the beach. “When these hatchlings become adult turtles, they will return to their original beach where they were first released”.

Sophia also hoped that humans will remember their origin. The effect of climate change is not only be felt by people living now, but also our great-grandchildren in the future. That's why protecting nature should be the responsibility of all generations. In whatever way we can, people of all ages

must contribute either ideas, thoughts, opinions, energy or whatever to save the earth where human feet first touched the life.



Image 2. Sopia together with Save the Children released hatchlings on Sindangkerta Beach.



THE SONG OF *BUMI KITA*

'There is no such natural disasters, there is only natural hazards meet vulnerability circumstances'.

~Ben Wisner, researcher.

Being born different is not easy for anyone. Since he was just born, Adji has relied on his visual abilities to understand the world around him. The voices may freely fly around him, but those were out of his grasp. His ear could not give much information to be understood like what he deserved. Adji was born with a total hearing loss.

Despite his condition, Adji still tries to learn many words on purpose at school or at home with his family. Those who never live around people with hearing loss are usually hard to understand about this. Without hearing, a lot of information are not received automatically in mind, even as simple as the name of things.

It really sends shivers down our spine when we were listening to Adji's stories that afternoon. It might be because of the cool breeze that blows around his house or the beautiful paddy fields landscape behind it. But deep in our mind we knew, it happened because of the interactions that occurred through the different languages. A new language that came out unwittingly when we were communicating each other with all the wholehearted effort. It is called; UNDERSTANDING.

In the living room of his house, Adji and his family welcomed the Save the Children team in a friendly manner. He and his six siblings grew up in this house. They shared the three rooms available in the house for over the years.

17 years living in Cimaung village, Bandung Regency, Adji grew up to be a very friendly child. When we walked down the village alleys with Adji, people always greeted him. Even children around his house were screaming his name as he passed. Some jumped and raised their hands asking to be carried on his back. We were amazed at how a person's facial expressions and demeanor can convince other people that he is a good boy, even without words. It is in contrast with us who easily make promises and convince people with words but with zero proof.

"Among his older siblings, Adji is the most diligent in helping me at home. Cleaning the house, watering the plants, and if there is an impromptu market, Adji will help his father to manage the parking area at the market, and then gives all his earnings to me," said Bu Imas, Adji's mother.



Image 1. Adji and his family in their house.

Cimaung Village, Bandung Regency, where Adji and his family live are located at an altitude of 801 meters above the sea level. With an area up to 302 hectares, this village has a quite cool climate with some beautiful view of the mountainside.

Unfortunately, good scenery can not guarantee the safety. Earthquakes and landslides are like sleeping dragons that lurking behind the green fields, and become the threats that can devastate villages at any time.

One day in 2018, a massive earthquake hit the area. The ground shook violently and shook Cimaung Village, but Adji did not understand what happened. He never had a name for the moving land throughout his life, nor never heard what to do when the disaster occurred and starts to shock down the roof and pillars. Adji was waiting for some instructions.

However, hoping for an explanation arrived as fast as the speed of sound is like hoping the summer comes in January. During the earthquake, everyone was panic, there were no lips can be read to explain what is actually going on.

"At that time I was confused, scared, and could only cry while hugging my Mother," said Adji, telling his experience in his distinctive voice. The incident buried traces that would not go away in his mind.

The knowledge about disasters and how to deal with them were such a rare information that he almost never got. The school where he studies was still far from the term Disaster-Safety Education Unit (SPAB). Also, the community environment where he lives was not familiar with the term Village Disaster Preparedness. Awareness of the importance of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) education was still very low in Cimaung. As a result, the level of vulnerability to disaster risks was very high.

Not only Adji, many of other children in Cimaung Village also did not understand what to do when a disaster occurred. A survey from Save the Children conducted in West Bandung and Tasikmalaya Regencies in 2019 revealed the fact that 7 out of 10 children did not know how to save themselves during a disaster, especially for Adji who has a hearing loss. Nevertheless, Adji still knew one thing that could save him if the similar disaster ever happens again.

AN 'INFORMATION'!

Adji needed to learn more about disasters as a precaution, but knowledge was not an easy concept for people with hearing loss. In the world that Adji has lived in all this time, that desire might seem too hopeful. If the disaster education for people without hearing loss was not fully optimal, then it was even more impossible for people with disabilities like himself.

Adji did not know that in the other part of the world, people are trying to ensure equal access to information for everyone, including for people with hearing loss. In all over the world, people are screaming when the disaster happened whether you can hear it or not, so the preparedness education should be given for everyone equally. Save the Children is one of the organizations that is in the lines of this struggle.

The United Nation Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) which was adopted in 2006 marked a change in perspective in the approach and treatment given to people living with disabilities. Article 11 of this convention states that:

'States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and

international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters'.

Save the Children, with Google's financial support, is working to assemble the features to create some sort of a friendly disaster preparedness education application for everyone. For the people realized that they are currently in a race with disasters, therefore, the correct knowledge can be the main boat to make a big difference between life and death.

That is the reason why they do not waste time carelessly. Education on disasters issues should not be given cold and rigid. For the problem is not just to create it, but also how to make the application could increase people's interest to use it continuously. The more users, the more people will learn, which means that more lives can potentially be saved during a disaster.

This year, through the Disaster Preparedness for Disaster-Resilient Cities and Communities program, Save the Children together with Google is creating a major breakthrough:

'BUMI KITA' APPLICATION

A disaster risk reduction platform that is not only practical and full of knowledge, but also fun. The designers behind this application deliberately thought of a digital platform where users could obtain information and knowledge about disaster risk reduction. They consider every detail carefully: the availability of visual information for people with hearing loss, fun games to attract children's interest, challenges that motivate children to learn, and definitely accurate informations.

The designers are also not careless in the manufacturing process, the

concept is built through in-depth consultation with various parties. Trials and assessments by representatives of user groups (user experience assessment) are also carried out with at least two large groups such as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) experts from all over Indonesia, as well as groups of children, youth, including people with disabilities. By considering the suggestions from these various elements, it is hoped that *Bumi Kita* can facilitate all users in Indonesia.

Considering people with hearing loss growing up with limitations in understanding the structure of language, in one consultation session for the drafting the application, they suggested the information to be shown in infographic display. Messages in the form of images are usually easier for them to understand than just a series of text. In addition, they also hope that the interactive games and learning materials are made simple to make them easier to understand.

For children and even adults, this application is full of disaster information, which is presented in a variety of game features and challenges that are very entertaining, also full of educational content at the same time.

Knowledge about disaster can be increased by visiting the Information Zone feature which contains components such as: '*Baca Yuk* (Let's Read)', '*Bagaimana Jika* (What If)', and '*Informasi* (Information)'.

In '*Baca Yuk*', we could learn a variety of knowledge simply and easily related to Climate Change Adaptation, Child Participation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Disaster-Safety Education. Meanwhile the '*Bagaimana Jika*' feature seems to be receiving favorite visits from users. This section contains questions that put us in certain catastrophic situations and then ask us to decide on the answer. The children, including Adji, seem very happy to do these problems. They are competing to get the highest score. The reason why they like it might be due to the the unconventional and fun way of learning.

To ensure our safety and security when visiting certain areas, we can use the 'Monitor Zone' feature which is connected to Google Map to detect the presence and absence of a disaster threat in the vicinity of location where we are currently.

Meanwhile, to avoid disasters, once we open Bumi Kita application, the main page will automatically provide the latest notification from BMKG informing what disasters are happening in various regions in Indonesia. Interestingly, this notification is also equipped with information about how big and how far the disaster is from our current location. It is indeed a disaster preparedness application needed for anyone living in a disaster prone area like Indonesia.

Even though this is a very practical one-stop solution application related to disasters, Save the Children realizes that something interesting is needed to motivate people to download, use, and learn various information contained in it. That's why they designed this application users to stay motivated through the mission challenges that are available in it waiting to be completed.

Each successful mission we complete will increase our ranking in the leaderborad. The names of the rankings are deliberately made interesting, from Jago Kandang, Siaga Anak, to Pendekar Siaga. The missions that can be carried out to advance to higher ranks are very diverse. We can achieve this by: learning how to deal with disasters, writing disaster articles, and reporting disasters that occur near us. Each method has a different rating weight. Some elementary school teachers seem to be diligent in uploading the articles they write into Bumi Kita application, and when their ranking on the leaderboard rises higher, they use it to motivate their students to catch up by learning more disaster information and rewriting it.

Save the Children really makes a big breakthrough by designing *Bumi Kita* application, a functional hybrid between technology and disaster education in schools.



Image 2. Scenery behind Adjij's house in Cimaung Village, Bandung Regency, West Java Province

“Bumi Kita application designed by Save the Children and Google comes at the right time when we were strengthening Disaster-Safety Education in schools, then the pandemic hit at the same time that makes students could not do face-to-face learning. Bumi Kita application is very helpful,” said DR. Samto, director of the Directorate of Public Education and Special Education (PMPK) in Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia.

"One of the 10 targets in the disaster-safe education unit road map is technological innovation. Save the Children and Google have helped Ministry of Education and Culture achieve this by developing Bumi Kita application," added Pak Samto while attending the inaugural launch of Bumi Kita application held by Save the Children on December 8th 2020.

For Adjii and other people with hearing loss, this kind of innovation was only in their wildest dream. However, with *Bumi Kita* application, Adjii and his friends are no longer need to think of this as a dream. This application is very friendly for people with hearing loss. All information regarding disasters could be understood visually through easy-to-understand images and writings. This is part of the embodiment of Save the Children's spirit so that all children in all parts of the world could get access to information fairly, including Adjii and other people with disabilities.

KNOWING IS SURVIVING.

The more we know, the greater our chances of survival and our chances of helping others are.

We could never predict when a disaster will occur. The earthquake that Adjii experienced in 2018 was not an anomaly. Our country is surrounded by a series of Pacific rings of fire and is between the collision of three continental plates. Disasters might happen at any time.

Information and knowledge are power. As long as Adjii and people with disabilities could continue to learn and access information, we could reduce the risk of possible disasters, so the victims could be reduced as much as possible. Those who know the power of science will not underestimate the ability of teenager with hearing loss.

"If an earthquake comes, don't panic, what we need to do is always be ready," said Adjii to his mother while organizing a disaster prepared bag.

~*~*~



THE TEACHER'S DEVOTION

“Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear”

~Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa 1994-1999.

SDN Baktimulya located in Pasirpeusing, Sirnajaya Village, Gununghalu Sub-District, West Bandung Regency, West Java, was still shrouded in the cold that morning. A thick fog hung over the cliff edge. The hand of the wall clock has not pointed at the nine. Agus and his 3rd grade classmates were paying attention to the subject taught by Mr. Didin when the tremors slowly crept out the ground. A stronger shaking was felt throughout the classroom walls made of bricks and mortar. Mr. Didin suddenly fell silent, his eyes observed the walls and roof of the classroom which began to collapse. The students stared at each other before eventually realizing that they were in danger. Suddenly, all the students jumped from their benches shouting “earthquake!”. They ran wildly in every directions, desperately seeking cover. Agus and his classmates ran out of the classroom.

The disaster occurred 14 years ago crossed his mind. December generally brought memories of major disasters recorded by almost all citizens of the world. Agus recalled the day after the shock he felt at the school, television was busy broadcasting the news, an earthquake measuring 9.3 on the Richter scale shook the west coast of Sumatra. The Indian Plate was being subducted beneath the Burma Plate, causing huge waves that slammed into the coastline of Indian Ocean countries. The tsunami devastated the coastline of Aceh province.

Although the earthquake's epicenter was located far north of the island of Semeuleu, 30 KM below sea level, the tremors were felt in Pasirpeusing. The students felt a stronger shock as SD Baktimulya was located on a cliff slope. Luckily, the small number of the third graders allowed them to rush outside the classroom without bumping into each other.

At that time, Agus was a third grade student of primary school, now he is a smart and pious village youth. Many of his playmates have left the village. Some women were married and stay with their husbands in the busier places. It's not that Agus doesn't want a better life, but his great devotion spirit hears the village calling out. He wants Pasirpeusing under the same sky as Sirnajaya Village, to be more advanced. He decided to devote himself as a teacher at SDN Baktimulya. Agus teaches the Islamic Religious Education subject at the same school where Mr. Didin used to impart him the knowledge.

SDN Baktimulya is not a school with an ideal condition, but he is the only religion teacher for the children in the village. Another school was too far down the hill, it was impossible to let the Pasirpeusing children walk there every day. The road on the hillside is steep and slippery. Not to mention that it will be hard to walk on the road while it is raining. That keeps him going. He wants to do a lot of things for SDN Baktimulya.

Thanks to his intelligence, the school frequently won the competitions at the regency level, including *salah* competition, Islamic art creation competition, and various other competitions. SDN Baktimulya has become known anywhere. The parents started taking their children to enroll at the school.



Image 1. SDN Baktimulya, Pasirpeusing, Sirnajaya Village, Gununghalu Sub-District, West Bandung Regency

But quality is not enough, the location of SDN Baktimulya building on the edge of a cliff has a big potential risk. The unstable land can be eroded at any time if rain pours the surrounding area, dissolving the sand and rocks that support the buildings above. The old school founded in 1985 is waiting to be saved.

The landslides occurred several times in the area, rock and soil masses moved down the hill to the rice field just behind the school. 400 m² land was covered with rock and soil masses from the hill. Agus was concerned about this. The cliff behind the school can pose a threat. No counterfort had been built to hold the ground behind the school in case the soil and rock move down the slope.

“You should attend the program, Gus,” said the principal one day. “Save the Children sent an invitation of a training for the school facilitators. Our school is selected to be coached. He said that it’s about learning disaster management”.

The instruction was a breath of fresh air for Agus. As a religion teacher, he knew that all things require knowledge. Long prayers are not enough to stop the earthquake. A joint endeavor is needed to reduce the vulnerability of students and school officials to the threat of disasters that may occur at any time.

Accompanied by Mrs. Komariah, the first grade teacher with the same dedication, Agus went to attend the school facilitator and village facilitator training held by Save the Children. During the seven-day training, he gained insights from various information related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) education. All the material about disasters delivered by the experts satisfied his mind which had been filled with curiosity. His dreams converged into one, turning SDN Baktimulya into a Disaster Safe Education Unit (SPAB).

Upon arriving home from attending the training, Agus can't stay still. He arranged a sequence of strategies for his mission to save Baktimulya.

Without waiting long, he started the first agenda right away. Baktimulya's fellow teachers gathered at the school. Agus began to speak up, sharing the new knowledge he had gained from Save the Children. There is a Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 33 of 2019 concerning the Implementation of the Disaster Safe Education Unit (SPAB) Program. This regulation provides protection and safety for students, educators, and education personnels from disaster risk, as well as to ensure the continuity of educational services in education units affected by the disasters.

Either because of a clear regulatory basis, the fact of threats that have been ignored, or Agus is fluent in speaking, or perhaps because of all the three factors, all the teachers agreed with his idea. Their minds have open due to the urgent need for disaster risk reduction at Baktimulya.

All the teachers agreed to have another meeting by involving all the school members, including: the parents of students, school committees, village representatives, religious leaders, community leaders, and student representatives.

Agus shared the new knowledge about the disaster during the seven-day training with Save the Children to all the school members. He did not want to work alone, all parties must be involved in saving Baktimulya.

As the meeting leader, Agus and Mrs. Komariyah who was appointed as the school facilitator, as well as with the support from the village facilitators and community leaders, spread the flipchart papers on the table, accommodating opinions from the elders who witnessed the school establishment, asking for the opinions of parents who send their children to the school, accommodating the children's voices from his students. Adang, as a village representative, was also present to provide full support. At the end of the day, the first document was completed:

'SDN BAKTIMULYA DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT'

From this assessment, it can be seen that the hazards that threaten SDN Baktimulya do not only come from the cliff behind the school. Strong winds had repeatedly hit the area during heavy rains. Agus recalled, when he was a student, the school roof made of asbestos repeatedly flew away in the wind.

Currently, the school roof has been replaced with a stronger material, but the school location remains on an unfavorable wind direction. If heavy rain comes, the wind will hit the cliff wall and turn around to hit the school. The students may never know whether today is a sunny day or a stormy day.

Agus invited the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders to participate in preparing a risk assessment and mapping the hazards around them. It is not

only to gather information, but also to make children understand all existing hazards around them so that they can save themselves if a disaster occurs.

A disaster risk assessment at the school is a good start. From here, all the school community began to understand and were motivated to prepare an action plan. Everyone wants the children and school community to be safe and secure. A serious discussion was going on, various ideas poured in as a form of an action plan to reduce the number of victims if a disaster occurs. The school community began to understand the Three Pillars of a Disaster Safe Education Unit that had to be upheld, they reviewed them one by one and prepared an action plan to re-enforce each pillar: (1) Safe Learning Facilities (2) School Disaster Management and (3) Risk Reduction and Resilience Education.

Agus did not want to work alone, he wrote down the parties one by one who might have joined the mission to save Baktimulya. The list contained not only the internal parties such as the students, teachers and school committees, but also the external parties such as the parents of students, village communities, village government officials, related agencies, and humanitarian organizations. Thus in the end, it can be mapped the ones to be involved in the action plan.

Several action plan targets for each pillar were set in detail according to the school's capacity. In the pillar one, Baktimulya infrastructure shall be re-examined in order to achieve safe learning facilities. A number of action plans were prepared such as: conducting a building evaluation once a week, strengthening school infrastructure every three months so that it is sturdy and safe when an earthquake occurs, creating an evacuation route and assembly points, evaluating school spatial planning once a month, and mapping vulnerable points in the school environment.



Image 2. SDN Baktimulya community work together to install signs of evacuation route and assembly point at the school

Not only infrastructure, the second pillar of SPAB regulating school disaster management has begun to be addressed: the teachers have begun to prepare SOP for disaster, form a School Disaster Preparedness Team consisting of the teachers, students, parents, committees, and the community, evaluate the risk assessment once a year, develop contingency planning and preparedness for the school.

Meanwhile, to increase the capacity of school community in dealing with disasters, Agus and Baktimulya teachers began to improve the pillar three related to DRR education at the school. They started planning DRR and disaster preparedness training for the teachers and parents, integrating disaster preparedness materials into the scout extracurricular and into everyday lessons in the classroom.

Next year, if the provision for teachers and students has been well established, Agus and the teachers plan to hold a disaster emergency response simulation at the school with all Baktimulya community.



Image 3. Agus is sharing knowledge about disaster preparedness with the committee representatives and parents of SDN Baktimulya students

Realizing that SDN Baktimulya is an inseparable part of the wider community, Agus presented the results of risk assessment and action plan in front of Sirnajaya village officials. The village head, hamlet head, village secretary, RT/RW officials, and community assisting facilitators were present.

Agus's struggle was not in vain. The Baktimulya infrastructure improvement and disaster risk reduction plan was included in the Sirnajaya Village Government Work Plan (RKPDes). This means that the Baktimulya infrastructure improvement will no longer depend only on the BOS funds, but also has the opportunity to be funded by the village if it passes into the APBDes next year. Besides, the village officials appointed Agus to become part of the Village Disaster Preparedness Team representing the school. Thus, the opportunity to voice the needs of children related to disaster risk reduction at the school is wide open.

If Sirnajaya is a human body, then Baktimulya is a vital organ that people need to stay alive. Through a process that took place in the old building of Baktimulya, the quality seeds of the village's young generation were born and sprouted. Agus is one of them.

“I feel safe sending my child to SDN Baktimulya since the school has partnered with Save the Children for disaster risk reduction,” said Ustad Kashful Hidayat, a committee member as well as a SDN Baktimulya student guardian.

The risk assessment and action plan document did not save anything, but the willingness to compile it was the first step to gain courage to save SDN Baktimulya, an old school with a big contribution in educating the children of Pasirpeusing. You can hear Baktimulya's heartbeat, its pulse warming up to protect the students who learn to read the alphabet, religion and geography under its roof.



TEH INONG AND ASIBEN TEAM THE EARTH GUARDIAN

'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much'

~Helen Keller, Author & Human Rights Activist

In the afternoon, the meeting room at the Cikalong Sub-District office was crowded with the invited guests. The representatives of Puskesmas, Koramil, Polsek, Satpol PP, and BPBD were present. Glancing at the writing on the invitation letter, Teh Inong could guess what this meeting was about. However, she wondered why she was invited.

In the last few months, the country was in an uproar. Word got out everywhere that there was a virus spreading from neighboring countries. Initially, the people only heard the news from television that the people across the country fell on the streets. It was a terrifying scene like the one in a horror film broadcasted on television at night. In order to prevent the virus from spreading, the entire city was eventually isolated.

Unfortunately, this time the enemy was different from the ones she generally faced, pathogenic micro-organisms with a high level of cruising speed which are invisible, out of touch, quietly infect living beings. It is said that the virus is acellular, it infects a living being as its host to replicate. This time, the disaster is like a war against aliens infiltrating the human body.

SARS-COV-2 is a new type of Corona virus identified in early 2020 after China's outbreak in December 2019. It has an elegant name, COVID (Corona Virus Disease)-19. This virus spreads like other types of Corona virus, through contact between humans. Airborne droplets are thought to be the most significant mode of transmission. The severity of infection may range from mild to life-threatening.

Gradually, what people fear becomes more evident. The first case was identified in Indonesia and broadcasted through the news. The number of infected people had been reported to increase daily. Television, newspapers, and the internet have been broadcasting the latest information on the increasing number of infected people. The number of Covid-19 cases has exploded from tens to hundreds, until eventually reaching hundreds of thousands.

In the capital, the high number of residents have been infected. Hospitals were overwhelmed. Doctors and medical personnels were exhausted after handling the Covid-19 patients day and night. The government was preparing to close the cities, places of worship and shopping centers. The atmosphere was tense at any place because the government prohibited any crowd. Any crowd in sight will soon be dispersed. Masks and hand sanitizers were gone from markets. It was said that they were purchased by certain individuals to protect themselves from the fast-spreading virus.

The information about the virus on the news was unclear. The people were confused about what should they do. All the people were advised to stay

at home and postpone travel. The schools and offices were closed to break the chains of transmission.

“Hopefully we are all safe,” said Teh Inong to her family. She was a bit worried because one of her children had asthma. The virus affects the respiratory tract and it is feared that those with congenital diseases are at a higher risk.

Emergency meetings to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic have begun to be held in all the government agency offices. The coordination to prevent the spread of the virus was carried out by various parties, starting from the central to village and sub-district levels.

Teh Inong was invited to the Cikalong Sub-District office in the afternoon. The teams from various related agencies were gathered, including: Puskesmas, Koramil, Polsek, Satpol PP, and BPBD. The meeting was intended to maintain the security of the area from the threat of 'enemy' attacks.

Teh Inong was asked to be part of the Cikalong sub-district task force team for handling COVID-19. As a geography teacher at MAN 4 Tasikmalaya and also a scouter, she was considered to have a major role in minimizing the potential spread of Covid-19 outbreak. The duty of the task force was to make every possible effort to prevent the outbreak from spreading to Cikalong Sub-District.

However, it was not an easy duty. The month of Ramadhan was near, the people would go to their hometown by passing through Cikalong sub-district. Cikalong sub-district is an area passed by the travelers from the east and the west. Those traveling from Garut to Pangandaran or vice versa inevitably had to pass through this area. Not to mention the residents of Cikalong returning home from the capital. The possibility for virus transmission will be higher if they don't guard the area.

"We have to be cautious, some individuals infected by the virus don't experience any symptoms, but they can transmit it to other people. And it will be dangerous if the infected person is sick or has weak immune system," the instruction was given to all the task force teams on duty.

The task force teams did a lot. They were stationed on the border of Ciamis and Tasik. Pangandaran was one of the areas prone to virus transmission so that the travelers passing through the area had to be strictly monitored. The task force team checked the body temperature of all the passing drivers. They wrote down where they came from and where they were going. If the people checked have high temperature, they will soon be taken to the Puskesmas for further treatment. In addition, all motorcycle drivers must wear a mask to reduce the risk of virus transmission. Coronavirus spreads through airborne droplets when the infected people sneeze or cough. That's why everyone should wear a mask to prevent the droplets from being spread when sneezing, coughing, or even talking.

Eid Al-Fitr celebration was getting closer, the number of travelers passing through Cikalong sub-district was increasing. Puskesmas officers were overwhelmed because they had to check all the homecoming travelers, treat the travelers experiencing any symptoms, and deal with Puskesmas visitors with various complaints of other diseases. They were busy with multiple tasks.

"We can't handle that many patients," said the health worker of the Puskesmas who was exhausted.

The task force personnel at the Puskesmas were also overwhelmed, the administration was neglected because the number of homecoming travelers and passing drivers who had to be checked and recorded was not proportional to the number of available task force personnel. One thing that should not be considered was the physical condition of the health workers at the Puskesmas.

They were the most needed front line officers for handling the outbreak. As much as possible, don't let anyone get exhausted.

"I have additional personnel!" ,said Teh Inong

A few months earlier, when the world was still safe, and everyone was busy thinking about their plan in a hopeful 2020, Teh Inong received an invitation from Save the Children to attend a series of trainings on Disaster Risk Reduction. MAN 4 Tasikmalaya, often known as MAN Cikalong by the residents had the opportunity to be assisted by Save the Children through the Disaster Preparedness program for Disaster Resilient Cities and Communities funded by Google.

Receiving this assistance means that school would be trained to prepare itself to become a Disaster Safe Education Unit (SPAB) by paying attention to 3 Main Pillars: safe learning facilities, school disaster management, and risk reduction and resilience education.

Teh Inong was appointed to represent the school as a facilitator and attend a seven-day training prepared by Save the Children. During the week, she learned a lot about disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation. Her mind was open as the school was in a disaster-prone location. Hazards such as floods, earthquakes and landslides can threaten the students and teachers at any time if they do not improve the condition.

Image . Teh Inong provided training on Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change adaptation to the Asiben Team at school.

After participating in the training, Teh Inong soon got into action. Ideas and plans flowing in her mind during the training need to be realized. To help

realize her ideas about the school and to raise awareness of the school community about the importance of disaster preparedness, Teh Inong formed the Disaster Preparedness Team which was later known as the Asiben Team. The team consists of the representatives of 10th-12th grade students interested and committed to actively participating in improving disaster preparedness at MAN 4 Tasikmalaya.



Image 1. Teh Inong provided training on Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change adaptation to the Asiben Team at school.

“Information about disaster risk reduction will be easier for the students to understand if it is conveyed by their peers, Sir,” suggested Teh Inong to the school officials when asking permission to form a disaster preparedness team whose members were the students.

Under the assistance of Save the Children, Teh Inong passed on the knowledge she had gained during the training to 18 members of the Asiben Team. She held training at the school to equip the team with information on disasters and how to deal with them. The capacity technique used by Save the Children team during the facilitator training was modified by Inong Tea to train the students. They were divided into groups to study information related to certain types of disasters and what they should do if they occur.

Teh Inong also taught the students how to use the sophisticated 'BUMI KITA' app created by Save the Children and Google to learn various things

about disasters. The students were very enthusiastic about it. The students had a lot of fun with learning disaster preparedness. They competed with Teh Inong to complete more missions and reach higher levels available in the app.

After her team got stronger, Teh Inong carried out the next guerrilla. She asked the Asiben team to help her gather the teachers, representatives of parents of students, and the school officials to map and prepare a disaster risk assessment at MAN 4 Tasikmalaya. Save the Children and the LPBI-NU Teams chaperoned them during the process. All that Teh Inong had done were fully supported by all the school community. They realized that the school was in a disaster prone area. Disaster preparedness shall be carried out at any time because a disaster may occur at any time.

It seemed that in 2020, the disaster had a new face. Instead of landslides, floods or earthquakes as feared, COVID-19 has suddenly emerged to infect many countries on earth. Fortunately, Teh Inong had a special force to help protect Cikalong sub-district from being infected by viruses during the pandemic or when other disasters occur. The knowledge of disaster risk reduction gained by Teh Inong from Save the Children were truly valuable, all of them were on target, practical and can soon be implemented.

Teh Inong took the Asiben Team to the sub-district office to coordinate. If the Covid-19 Task Force needs help, the students are ready to collaborate. Anything can be done to help ease the burden against the pandemic. All parties agreed and appreciated the effort. The Asiben Team was soon assigned according to their respective abilities. Several students were assigned to help the administration, to record data on people coming to the Cikalong sub-district ahead of Eid Al-Fitr celebration. Several other students were assigned to help with computerization issues. Not all health workers at the Puskesmas were

proficient in operating digital equipment, the students can help transfer data to computers to help record information orderly. Although it seemed simple, the impact of this assistance was tremendous. The health workers can perform their duties optimally to help those who were infected as they were no longer preoccupied with the administrative problems.

While some were completing administrative tasks, some other members of the Asiben Team assisted at the border, recording the data and helping to check the body temperature of passing travelers. Teh Inong put forward one condition to the Covid-19 Task Force for the Asiben Team to take action: health protocols and nutritional intake shall be met so that the health of all students is guaranteed.

The Asiben team did not only collaborate with the Covid-19 Task Force, they frequently conducted socialization at the school. When the government announced the regulation to restrict the number of students attending the school, the Asiben Team was assigned to check the temperature of the students. They also reminded their schoolmates whenever one forgot to wear a mask. Luckily, Save the Children provided mask assistance for the school, the students and teachers who initially did not have masks were able to protect themselves with the distributed masks. The socialization on the importance of self-protection was held at the school on an ongoing basis. Everyone should know how to protect themselves so they can break the chains of Covid-19 transmission.

Disasters come in many forms. Since the Asiben Team was formed, the disaster to be handled as their first task was not an earthquake, landslide or flood, but the pandemic. The Asiben team did not face local disasters, but a global outbreak.

We never know what type of disaster and when the disaster occurs. Even after a year has passed, no one knows for sure how long the outbreak last. This is why the school is prepared in the first place. Teh Inong provides a good example that when the students and the school community are prepared, the worst possibilities, at least, can be anticipated. She was aware that the school played a vital role in the community. Save the Children was making a tremendous effort to connect the school and community, so they can work together to cope with the disaster.

The careful preparation is not only beneficial for the school, but also for the village and surrounding community.

“The government cannot work alone, all the components must be ready to take action!” ,said Teh Inong to the Asiben team who guard the earth.



Image .The Asiben team clears trash on the beach as part of an effort to protect the environment.

SARIPAH AND 150 TREES

It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent.

~Madeline Korbel Albright, the United States' first female Secretary of State

Everyone who meet Saripah for the first time would think that she looks all the same with any adolescent at her age. The long-muslim-robe and veil that wrapping her small body make her looks much younger than her actual age. By looking at her figure at a glance, people might not think that this 17-year-old and 12th grade girl is having an outstanding progress by actively involved in the efforts to prevent natural disasters and care for the environment in the area.

We can clearly see the intelligence, creativity, and fierce determination on her when she starts talking. She criticizes things that are not right about the surrounding environment which marks her broad insight. She presents facts in arguing during the discussions so that the interlocutors are aware of her strong arguments. People will not question her when she introduces herself by saying: “I like reading books and enjoy a discussion”.



Image 1. Saripah shares with residents of Campakamulya Village about the importance of protecting the environment to prevent landslides and reduce risks when a disaster occurs

The residents of Margaasih Village, Bandung Regency should be proud to have her in the village. Saripah taught us about the importance of education for girls. The traffickers will not target girls like Saripah. Human trafficking is carried out for the purpose of exploitation for the benefit of irresponsible people. Traffickers generally do not target educated and eristic girls. They are likely to target village girls because they think that they are likely to follow orders and surrender to fate. When interviewing Saripah at her home, we saw a great hope from the girl growing up in transitional areas such as Margaasih Village. The village is located between rural and urban areas, where rice fields stretch on either side of the road, a large textile factory was built in the village as a monument to hope for almost all residents to earn a better income. Before the Covid-19 Pandemic hit, her mother used to work at the textile factory. Together with the residents in the village, her mother used to work every day from morning to evening and had a steady monthly income. The Pandemic has changed many things, forcing everyone to adapt.

“My mother switched her profession, her current job is sewing school uniforms at home”, said Saripah. “However, the children have been studying at home this year, so that her turnover decreases. Besides, my mother has been sewing kids caps with cartoon characters embellishment”, said Saripah proudly.

Saripah inherited resilience from her mother. She has been resilient to analyze problems in the surrounding environment. She has been sensitive to the destruction of nature in the vicinity of her residence. On one occasion, Saripah was concerned about the villagers habit of burning haystack after harvest causing pollution. The haystack fire smoke may cause shortness of breath and eye irritation. Saripah attempted to speak out through WhatsApp Messenger by writing a message about the alternatives to processing the hay to be used as fertilizer instead of being burned.

“Even though the process is rather long, it is safer for the environment and the resulting fertilizer can help fertilize the soil,” said Saripah.

According to Saripah, burning of crop residue may cause the soil to lose a lot of nutrients making it unsuitable for cultivation. As a result, the cost to be incurred by farmers to cultivate their land will be higher. It was not an easy task for Saripah to talk to people older than her age. However, her efforts were not in vain. Some people give a positive respond to her ideas through WhatsApp and they discussed further about it. At least, a continuous process of discussion and education was Saripah's current strategy to make a better situation.

The same strategy she uses for herself. People asked her, “How have you learned so far to gain such broad insights?” She answered that she upholds some principles relevant for youths:

“Information literacy, data literacy and have frequent discussions. We must be open to receiving any information, but at the same time, we must be critical to filter information in order to identify false information. I use social media to find information, I follow social media accounts related to the government, the ministries, the research institutions such as LIPI or NGOs because their accounts contain critical information about the current situation,” said Saripah.

According to Saripah, social media is an effective media for discussion and education if we can make good use of it. Through the story feature on her Instagram account, Saripah creates various educational contents such as disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Her habit of seeking information from social media and following NGO accounts brought her to Save the Children. On one particular occasion, an ad of *Aksi Jabar Tangguh* (AJT) that appeared on social media feed caught

her attention. The *Aksi Jabar Tangguh* is a project under Save the Children to find excellent youths who are interested in the issues of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. Considering the potential of youths in disseminating information appropriately and quickly, Save the Children hopes that youths can help campaign for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts and increase community awareness and resilience to disasters in their respective areas.

Save the Children sees that youths with tremendous potential in disseminating information are rarely involved in the process of disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness. Through one of their projects: Disaster Preparedness for Disaster Resilient Cities and Communities funded by Google, Save the Children is committed to actively involving children and youths in disaster risk reduction programs in Indonesia. The target area for the implementation of this program is West Java Province. A survey conducted by Save the Children in 2019 showed that 80% of children in West Java do not understand the causes of climate change. However, the good news is that 65% of children are interested in learning more about climate change adaptation.

Save the Children's efforts to target these youths is a sensible spirit. As the largest group of internet and social media users, youth groups should have a big opportunity in the process of socializing and disseminating any information more quickly if they are empowered. Not to mention their potential intelligence, creativity and ability to think critically which can greatly help an information disseminated widely in a more enjoyable way.

Through the Youth Leader Initiatives Fellowship activity called the *Aksi Jabar Tangguh* (AJT), Save the Children gathered talented youths to take part in a series of activities including: training, initiation, cross-learning, and

conveying aspirations. This was an extraordinary educational and mentoring process undertaken to prepare young generations to be featured in the campaign process related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Save the Children is serious in the regeneration process of Indonesia's excellent youths to increase public awareness. The international organization fighting for children's rights realized that they are in a race against disaster. The faster information about disasters is disseminated to the community, the faster community resilience is created. It means greater hope for the safety of more human lives when disasters strike.

Information regarding the program was announced by Save the Children to Children Forum in the three regencies assisted by the Disaster Preparedness Program for Disaster Resilient Cities and Communities, namely: Bandung Regency, West Bandung Regency, and Tasikmalaya Regency. In addition, they also disseminated information through social media. The youths shall register and follow the selection process to be selected to participate in the program. One of the selection requirements that shall be met by prospective participants is writing an essay. Saripah is interested to get participate in the program when she saw the ad of the program appearing on social media. She registered the program on her own initiative.

The *Aksi Jabar Tangguh* (AJT) began with a three-day training held on January 17-19, 2020 at Gumilang Regency Hotel. 22 selected children and youths with various backgrounds, including children with special needs who passed the selection, were involved in this program. Save the Children has a strong belief in making sure that all children get the same opportunities.

During the training, youths who passed the selection and became the participants received some training on a variety of subjects related to

children's rights, climate change, environmental issues, disaster risk reduction, and various psychological materials related to their development as children and adolescents. The participants discussed the topics regarding disaster preparedness, such as: evacuation route, disaster preparedness kit, how to save yourself, and the Disaster Safe Education Unit (SPAB). What was interesting about this program was that the participants were not only provided with a variety of materials, but were also guided to understand the environmental issues around them.

Next, the participants were grouped to design concrete actions to contribute to solving environmental problems according to their capacity. A symbiotic relationship was well established, the youths can fulfill their developmental tasks to self-actualize and build a positive self-concept, but at the same time also contribute to solving social problems around them.

Saripah found this process quite interesting. Her thirst for knowledge was quenched when she received a variety of new information from the facilitators. Saripah, together with five members in one group, initiated a program called ADAPTASI 2020 with a theme 'The Golden Generation, The Intelligent Generation for Disaster Preparedness'. The group of five members worked hard to identify the environmental problems around them, map the target areas, design action, compile the fundraising proposal, and coordinate with relevant officials to realize their actions.

Saripah's group searched for target locations in the sub-districts and villages in Bandung Regency. A data from BPBD Bandung Regency in 2019-2020 caught their attention. The data states that 81% of the areas in Bandung Regency are prone to flooding and landslides. The high number of land function shifts in highland areas such as Pengalengan, Ciwidey, Cimaung, and Banjaran causes landslides to occur frequently. Meanwhile, in lower-lying

areas, poor drainage systems are suspected to be the main cause of frequent flooding. Saripah wanted to take an active role in overcoming this problem. After consulting with village officials and local community leaders, Saripah and her group members were advised to carry out their initiative in Campakamulya village, Cimaung sub-district, which was prone to landslides during the rainy season.

Saripah and her group members offered an initiative in the form of community service to plant 150 trees with the residents in landslide-prone areas and socialization to increase public awareness about the importance of disaster preparedness.

Although all this time, as a minor girl, it was a formidable challenge for Saripah to convey her ideas to the adults, but this time she was not alone. Saripah knew that with sufficient knowledge, the right spirit, and strong team work, the youths can convey their voice and contribute to society.



Image 2. The residents of Campakamulya village and AJT members are working together to plant trees to prevent landslides during the rainy season.

The residents welcomed the initiative. On Saturday morning, February 29, 2020, the residents of Campakamulya Village and related communities flocked to the location to carry out community service of planting 150 trees in the designated landslide-prone area. The Campakamulya village head suggested to plant mahogany and eucalyptus trees because they were well fitted to the soil properties in the area. Apart from helping prevent landslides, these two types of trees have economic benefits for the community.

“As youths, my friends and I took the initiative to plant trees so that the adults can follow our initiative. If the youths can take actions, why can't the adults?” said Saripah when being interviewed in front of the residents after carrying out the tree planting activity during the day.

The program of Save the Children to educate and guide the youths to be actively involved in the process of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is a step that should be appreciated and replicated by various parties. With the right coaching method, the potential of youths can be explored and optimized to be actively involved in solving problems.



Image 3. AJT members initiate a movement to plant 150 trees in Campakmulya Village

It did not stop with the implementation of the action plan designed by Saripah and friends. As an organization that has fought for children's rights since 1919, Save the Children strongly believes that every child in the world has the right to have a voice and to be heard. Saripah and friends' initiative to plant 150 trees was not the only action plan. With the guidance of Save the Children, other youths have taken various actions to help save the environment. Some youths carried out clean environment campaign through music concert, vlog challenge, open discussions with the residents, and other attractive actions. All the actions taken by these youths were clear evidence of the ability of youths to contribute to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in their respective regions.

On August 19, 2020, Save the Children facilitated a dialogue between the youths and stakeholders at the national level. During the program, the youths from the six provinces assisted by Save the Children, including the participants of *Aksi Jabar Tangguh*, expressed their opinions in front of national level policy makers, including: the Deputy for Prevention and Preparedness of BNPB, the Director General of Social Rehabilitation, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Deputy Commission VIII of the DPR RI, and the Director General of the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration. During the three-hour dialogue session, the stakeholders were fully present, listening to and responding to the various opinions expressed by the youths.

During the dialogue, Saripah and Safira were appointed by their group members to be the spokespersons in conveying the aspirations of children's voices in front of policy makers. This is a very important step to be

considered. Save the Children encourages the government to listen to children's voices in any policies that involve child's life. Government policies made without considering children's voices have the potential to put children in a vulnerable situation. BNPB data for 2019 shows that 11,579 people died and declared missing during the disasters from 2009 to 2018. In addition, 48,000 schools were also affected by the disasters during 2004-2018, where children were also affected. Seeing this situation, every policy related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation made by the government shall be ensured to pay attention to the needs of children. Don't let children become victims because their needs are not fulfilled by adults. We need to get used to involving children's voices in the policy making process, starting from the lowest level in the family to the highest level of government. This should be carried out in order to realize the best interests of every Indonesian child.

The hard work performed by Save the Children through all programs implemented in various regions in Indonesia has repeatedly proven that children and women are not helpless individuals. These two frequently overlooked, vulnerable groups have been shown to make tremendous contributions when their voices are heard and opportunities are given. Exploring and accommodating the creative ideas of children and youths are the reasonable first step to find solutions to the existing problems. 150 trees planted in the landslide-prone area of Campakamulya Village are proof that children's voices deserve to be heard.

Save the Children's effort to provide access to information and actively involve the children and youths through the trainings and

socialization help to produce excellent young generations which in turn will help the government solve various problems in society.

“Please don't underestimate the child's voice”, said Saripah at the end of the interview that afternoon.



FROM ATHAYA WITH LOVE

'We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.'

~Mary Mcleod Bethune, educator, philanthropist, & Human Rights activist

Pangandaran was showered with a heavy rain. The beach located in the southeast of West Java was hit by droplets of water from the sky, forcibly showering the hot sand on the shoreline.

Athaya loves a rain. At her young age, rain brings out a romantic atmosphere. But today, Athaya was forced to learn the new reality that a young age, beach, and rain do not end up in the Kahlil Gibran's poems. Trash scattered everywhere. The beautiful coastline turned into dirty puddle.

“Where did this garbage come from, sir?” asked Athaya to a local resident around the beach when the rain had stopped.

"Indeed, it turns out like this when the rain stops, Neng, the trash from the rivers around the coast overflow everywhere, people throw the trash whenever they feel like".

Athaya was not satisfied with his answer. She picked up a piece of trash or two then stopped. “Too much trash,” she thought. Feeling annoyed, she kicked an empty plastic water bottle away from the shore. If she do a simple thing, such as disposing the trash in its place, then it will have a big impact on the environment cleanliness and the tourist comfort. Athaya can hear her inner voice protesting in her head.

Trash has always been Athaya's concern. She was always fussing about the people throwing trash away carelessly. She didn't only think about her daily generated trash, but also other people's trash seen scattered on the streets. Athaya was eager to take action by picking up the trash then putting it in the nearest trash can. It was not once or twice that trash issue triggers dispute at home. Athaya asked her siblings to pick the trash on the streets and put it in the nearest trash can. But they refused to pick up the trash scattered on the street. They argued that some people are paid to clean up trash, that is their responsibility. Many people think that there are so many things that is more important and noble than just picking up scattered trash.

This upset her and she eventually decided to set an example by doing it herself. So Athaya picked up trash when she found ones. It was not a big deal, just throwing trash in its place. Athaya thought that doing something was better than doing nothing. If you are lucky, then the wind that resulting from your tiny fluttering wings will roll into a hurricane.

A good intention never stops flowing in the ears of the universe, Athaya's ideas got a breath of fresh air. One time, the 'Kerlip' organization where Athaya has been actively involved in, sent her to join the Youth Leader Initiatives Fellowship held by Save the Children. This event was named the Jabar Tangguh Action (AJT). This event held by Save the Children aimed to find young candidates to campaign for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (API). The event was held on the weekend for three days. During the event, Athaya and other youths from several regencies assisted by Save the Children in West Java discussed various issues related to disaster preparedness and how to respond to climate change.

Can you imagine, what will happen when the youths with high enthusiasm are gathered in one place?

During the three-day event, Athaya found creative ideas pouring. Everyone has the idea of saving the environment and preventing disaster from their perspectives. It was a weekend full of games and screams of joy. The atmosphere made anyone in their thirties feel so young. Save the Children has the right view, youth is power. The turbulent flow from the hot-blooded youths can make a difference if the shackles of their creativity are released.

Information regarding disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation was distributed by Save the Children throughout the day. Taking turns with experts in their respective fields, various presentations were given, interesting facts related to disasters and world climate change were presented to arouse the interest of the younger generation to be willing to be involved in the movement to repair and protect the earth damaged by human activity.

Eventually, the participants in groups were asked to release their ideas in disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation projects. All the youths were boisterous talking about various forms of programs to be held. The room was filled with a restless glow that lit up everywhere. Possibilities were explored, ideas were poured out endlessly, a party of ideas with an exciting burst of energy.



Image 1. Athaya and her group presented their ideas in Aksi Jabar Tangguh.

Athaya did not want to remain silent. She and her group members shouted their ideas to be realized. In early 2020, flooding was still an issue in various regions in Indonesia. Our country experienced high rainfall, the capital was surrounded by floods, as well as the Dayeuhkolot area in Bandung Regency.

“This is caused by trash,” said Athaya. Her constrained concern got a place to be voiced that day.

“What if we campaign for environmental awareness and waste management to the millennials?” just like the parks fell on the pool of oil, Athaya’s idea was snatched by her friends. Although technically, the idea wasn’t clear in her head, Athaya and her group members celebrated this idea with a clink of optimism and happiness.

Technical implementation and structured plan were established. Athaya's group calculated how much it would cost them to make their dreams come true. Surprisingly, based on the budget calculation, they required approximately 20 million Rupiah for the project. They had to rack their brains where they could get the huge amount of money. As young generation, they were challenged to solve the budget problem. With having to wait a completed plan, they had to come up with great ideas.

The proposal was made, ideas were poured onto paper with promising complementary pictures. Athaya and her group members submitted the proposal to the organization. Save the Children reviewed and considered all the eligibility components proposed by Athaya and her friends. In the end, their proposal was approved. The budget can soon be disbursed for the program implementation.

The From 2 With Love (F2WL) music concert has been held by SMAN 2 Bandung for years. Athaya also became the concert committee many times during high school. Even now, after Athaya graduated from high school and currently studied in the 3rd semester of the accounting department of UNPAD, she was still connected to the legendary music concert held by the high school.

Unfortunately, despite all the delightful festivities, the concert always left the same unpleasant memory every year: trash scattered everywhere, leaving a job to do after the celebration.

It was not just F2WL that annoyed her. Almost all the music concerts that she went to, in the end, always ended up with the same scene, the mountain of trash after the event. Her dream was to reverse the reality, music concerts are no longer a garbage factory, but a place to raise awareness of cleanliness and love for the environment.

The project proposed by Athaya and her friends at AJT targeted young people who went to the concerts. She hypothesized that those who went to concerts were young people who like to hang out. Many of her friends were like this, most of them had good social relations. This means that each child has the potential for great influence to their friends, not to mention if they post relevant information on social media. Good information can go viral instantly.

Athaya and her group members carefully designed the campaign materials. With funds approved by Save the Children, Athaya and her group members were able to negotiate to become a sponsor. They used this authority to leave messages about cleanliness and care for the environment. Several public figures who were present to enliven the event participated in campaigning the message about cleanliness and concern for the environment before the concert started.

In the event targeting the young people, we cannot ignore the most important, must-have condition: fun!

The message about environmental cleanliness must also be conveyed in a way that arouses enthusiasm and happiness on a cellular level of the audience enjoying the event. The competition was announced amidst thousands of watts of lights and beating music that made the night full of joy. Those who managed to collect 10 plastic bottles scattered throughout the event can exchange them for a tumbler or tote bag to the committee on duty. This was not without reason, the tumbler was given with the hope that the youths would bring their own tumblers everywhere so as not to increase the amount of plastic bottle waste. Meanwhile, tote bags were used as gifts with the hope of reducing the use of plastic bags when shopping. All the excitement at the concert that night was full of environmental education messages.

Although the number of the Aksi Jabar Tangguh group members to join the event was limited, Athaya was not out of ideas. She collaborated with Litterbug, a waste management community in Bandung to help keep the environmental awareness campaign running. Litterbug provided unique bins to be placed at several strategic points of the F2WL during the event. It was hoped that the audience would be attracted to see the bins closely and eventually would be motivated to throw candy wrappers, cigarette butts, or their food packaging into the bins.

Not only that, to reduce the number of plastic mineral water bottles thrown away during the event, Athaya and Litterbug team also put up several refill drinking water stands that visitors could access for free.

During the concert, Athaya and the team did not do nothing. Slipping among the crowd of audience prancing or waving in the air, she went around picking up the scattered rubbish, while occasionally reminding the trash to be disposed of in its place. It seemed that their behavior had received attention, the audience who felt reminded over time began to pick up trash and throw it into its place.

In fact, the trash problem is not something new for the residents in Bandung. The Regional Regulation No. 9 of 2018 concerning Waste Management was enacted several years ago. But once again, the regulation is not completely a solution if it is not accompanied by socialization and calls for implementation. The government had policies and regulations for waste, but in matters of raising awareness, the younger generation should also participate.

"We often complain when a disaster occurs, but at the same time forget to reflect that our hands actually contribute. There are things that humans can do to prevent disasters from causing more damage. An example is as simple as throwing out the trash in its place," said Athaya.

Colorful plastic coats brighten up the school ground which are drenched in water droplets from the sky. But the rain this time was different from the one in Pangandaran. The raindrops did not cause annoyance, but fuel of a spark of hope. The wet air did not dim the flames of enthusiasm burning in the eyes of Athaya and her friends. They closed the afternoon with sweating and body aches, but it made them absurdly happy. The sweats and smell of trash did not prevent them from laughing happily, their hard works to conserve the environment were paid off.



Image 2. Athaya and AJT team at the F2WL music concert.



NADIA'S DETERMINATION

“You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think”. change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.

~A.A Milne, Author of Winnie the Pooh.

“Aisha, can Sanda replace me for delivering the presentation?” asked Nadia in Sundanese on the phone at that time. One day before the D-day, Nadia was appointed to represent her friends in delivering the presentation in front of the invited village officials and policy makers. She said that all the materials she prepared had been sent to Sanda. “Why Nad?”, asked Aisha, who had helped Nadia prepare the presentation materials she needed for the past week. “I’m nervous when speaking in front of the adults, I’m worried that I can’t speak Indonesian fluently,” replied Nadia in Sundanese.

We heard the good news that Nadia eventually delivered the presentation in front of the village head, sub-district officials, representatives of several related agencies such as the Department of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Department of Education, and also BPBD. We went to Nadia's house that afternoon, just to talk. We wanted to know how she gained her courage to finally be willing to convey her aspirations in front of the village officials.

Not only blockbuster movies, we thought that good stories from simple places like Gununghalu Village also need to be given legs, so they can run around and inspire those who haven't had the chance to come to visit the place. The distribution of good stories must continue, so that people can learn from the stories.

The road to Nadia's house is right in front of her high school, Madrasah Aliyah Al-Fatah. Don't imagine the road like in Jakarta. The area where Nadia lives has uneven landscape. It's located on a flat terrace which ends in a cliff and slope. The road to her house is up and down like we have a tour around the temple.

Across the road to her house, Nadia's school building appears so tall as it stands on the cliff on the opposite side of the road. The children who have just finished the Qur'an recitation were seen walking out of the school building along a downhill concrete walkway. Some wore black pecis, some wore kufi caps, while the girls wore fluttering wide hijab.

We always love the rural atmosphere in the afternoons. The fog began to fall halfway down, the air was cold and wet, the children looked fresh and tidy, suggesting that they had taken a bath and finished the Qur'an recitation. The food vendors have sprung up around the site. The delicious aroma of freshly cooked fritters aroused our appetite to warm our stomach. We always want to have snacks, hot coffee, and friends to talk in a place like this.

We parked our motorbikes in front of the *batagor* (fried meatball and tofu) stall, Nadia was waiting for us there because we didn't know the way to her house yet. Her smile greeted us warmly, her friendly eyes with beautiful lashes and clean rosy skin, everyone who first met Nadia will never doubt it for a second that she is a Sundanese girl.

Hearing Nadia's words, our ears were like being showered with clear flowing water. She spoke with a heavy Sundanese accent, using the highest level of language that refined her already delicate language. Some of my friends who used to speak Sundanese at the campus were reluctant when they wanted to talk.

Nadia's house is spacious. It is located under the cliff. We arrived at her house after walking down the downhill road next to the *Batagor* stall. From the terrace in front of the house, we can see the broad rice fields and the roof of the *surau* (prayer hall). You can imagine sitting there during sunset. Nadia's mother who was pregnant greeted us with a friendly smile and served us a big plate of steaming fried tofu. "It's still hot", she said. Nadia was only with her mother that afternoon, her father was still working in the workshop.

In a simple living room decorated with a wallpaper depicting roses, Nadia told about the big flood that hit this area some time ago. The Montaya Bridge, which once stood firmly near her father's workshop, was washed away. Garbage and rocks overflowed into the streets. The floodwater entered her father's workshop, it reached the height of an adult's knee. Nadia was so scared.

But fear was not the last feeling that came to her mind. Nadia wondered why such a big flood occurred, and why there was so much rubbish being washed ashore. She hypothesized that God does not generate trash, human does. The water should be absorbed by the underground roots, if the trees on the slopes are not cut down carelessly, and garbage is dumped in its place.

As a result, Nadia was eager to talk to the Gununghalu Village officials. Can something as simple as garbage be discussed seriously, like we talk about the construction of mosques and bridges? It was uncommon for the youths in Gununghalu Village, especially the girls, to talk about the village issues with the adults. Indeed, no one has ever prohibited them to have a discussion, but so far, it has hardly been seen that the youths have been involved in discussing the village issues. Most of those attending the meeting were men.

“Even the invitation for community service announced via a loudspeaker in the mosque are intended only for adult men and women,” said Nadia protesting the residents' habit that afternoon.

The situation was different when Save the Children came. Nadia learned that the disasters are not just a problem for the adults to deal with. The children's life in the village must be considered. If the people recklessly cut trees or litter, it is not only those who suffer the consequences, but also the children. If a disaster strikes the village because of the adult mistakes, the children are the most vulnerable group whose safety needs to be considered.

Save the Children helped facilitate the formation of the Regional Children's Forum in Gununghalu Village. A total of 15 children from various schools and villages in Gununghalu Village were gathered together with the facilitators of the Children's Forum from the sub-district. The structure of the core board of the Gununghalu Village Regional Children's Forum began to be formed.

A few days later, the first training for the Children's Forum was held. The core board of the Gununghalu Village Regional Children's Forum and several children and youths from assisted schools were invited to take part in the CDST (Community Digital Storytelling) training. CDST is an interesting

technique to educate children to collect information from the surrounding community and then assemble it with various digital media to be re-presented in the form of a story.

Save the Children, which has fought for children's rights for more than a hundred years, continues to explore new ways to help listen to and convey children's voices to the public. They believe that children have the right and ability to be actively involved in the development. This is not the case that they are not old enough or do not have sufficient insight, but rather the unavailability of learning opportunities to use child-friendly and youth-friendly methods and means of expressing opinions.

CDST is a technique taught by Save the Children to children and youths to express their voices in the form of visual narrative stories. During the four days of training, the children and youths were provided with a variety of information related to disaster preparedness, then they were asked to observe and collect information related to hazard, vulnerability and capacity in the village where they live. This is a fun way to learn to be more aware of disaster preparedness in their own area. Save the Children is intensively implementing programs based on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Safe Education Unit (SPAB). With the financial support from Google, they held a series of programs in several villages in West Java to increase public awareness of the importance of actions related to disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation.

In order to collect sufficient evidence and present it as interesting information, the children and youths were equipped with photography skills and methods to record videos using a camera, cellphone, or any other limited equipment. CDST is a flexible and adaptive method to the local area where the people live. Limited equipment should not prevent the process of gathering valuable information from being communicated to the public.

After gathering sufficient information and evidence, the children were trained to use basic software to edit, compile a free narrative and create a storyboard, then process the information they had into a meaningful story in the form of visual media representing their voices.

With this simple and attractive method, the children found a way to convey their aspirations to the policy makers, so that they can make more balanced decisions that pay attention to the best interests of the children.

On the last day of the training, the facilitator from Save the Children asked who would be willing to represent their friends to share their work to the village officials.

All the youths were silent. No one had the courage to take the chance to speak. Nadia felt the same anxiety, but this was an opportunity that didn't come twice. Her concern over potential disasters in the village found an opportunity to be voiced.

Nadia worked up the nerve and she took this precious opportunity. Together with Septia, one of the youths from the neighboring village, Nadia volunteered to represent their friends to present their work in front of the village officials in the Workshop on Preparing the Community Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Integrating the Action Plan into Child-Centered Village Development Planning. This workshop was not only attended by the village officials such as: the Village Head, Karang Taruna, BPD, Hamlet Head, but also the representatives of related agencies at the Regency level, such as: PRB Forum at the Regency level, Department of Education, Village Community Empowerment Agency, DP3AKB, Social Department, Madrasah Education Section of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the sub-district head, and BPBD at the Regency level.

This was not an easy task for Nadia. Throughout the history of the Babakan village, this might be the first time for the children to voice their voices. Together with Septia, she prepared her presentation. They collected photos and videos, arranged a sequence of messages to be conveyed, then created an attractive display using PowerPoint software. They prepared all the material without any significant obstacles, until the final test began. Nadia realized that she was not fluent in Indonesian.

Since childhood, Nadia has spoken in soft Sundanese with her family, friends, at school and neighbors in the village. She understands Indonesian, but can't speak it fluently. This was a multi-layered challenge, she must fight the fear of speaking in front of the adults with various official positions, and must speak Indonesian fluently.

In the afternoon before the D-day, Nadia's fear intensified, she was nervous and tempted to give up. Her self-confidence shifted to anxiety. She contacted Sanda, her classmate, then asked Sanda to replace her. Her mind was almost made up, she sent all the presentation materials to Sanda and then called Aisha to cancel her presentation.

“Why don't the three of you deliver the presentation?”, suggested Aisha, giving a solution when Nadia called her.

Since she accompanied the participants of CDST training, Aisha knew that Nadia was eager to talk to the village elders. It's too bad if her determination ends in vain. Aisha is well aware that many children in Indonesia face the same anxiety when they have to express their opinion in front of adults. The culture in some areas is not very supportive of this kind of thing. Don't imagine the children in Jakarta who go to international schools with various projects in English. It means most Indonesian children that live in the

rural areas. Every spark of spirit to express opinion shall be maintained, so that the fire of spirit never stop burning. It is hoped that the children's participation will be given more attention.

Aisha's suggestion had a point, although Nadia still had to grapple with anxiety that had not completely disappeared. The flash image of the flood destroying the bridge blew her mind like the wind. Many residents have had difficulty getting to their rice fields since the flood washed away the bridge. If flooding hits again the area, it is not impossible that her father's workshop will be affected. If it is not her who voices the opinion, who else? Her nervousness and fear were no reason to stop being involved. Nadia dragged her courage out of the cage.

Having desperately arranged words to say, Nadia managed to complete the task very well. Assisted by Septia and Sanda, the three of them replayed the video made by the youths during the CDST training, conveying the hazards in their respective villages and presenting their opinions to reduce the risks that may occur due to disasters. That day, Nadia and her friends managed to mark an important moment in the history of Gununghalu village. A historic monument regarding the existence of children's voices has been successfully built amidst the overwhelming number of adult opinions.

“Dispose of garbage in its place, clean sewers regularly, don't build houses on the riverbank, don't build houses on the edge of cliffs, don't build ponds or plantations on slopes near houses, leave the cliffs sloping and don't cut them upright so they don't collapse, make terraces if you want to build a house”, sentence by sentence flowed more smoothly as Nadia began to feel confident that her voice was valuable and worthy of being heard.

Nadia also expressed her hope that the village officials should disseminate information about disasters to all residents, hold a clean-

up movement which she gave a unique name: Geberbusa (gerakan beberes sebulan sekali/monthly cleaning movement), promote reforestation, provide final disposal site to manage waste, and educate the community to recycle existing waste.



Image 1. Sanda, Nadia, and Septia are conveying the child's voice in front of Gununghalu Village officials.

From this activity, Nadia learned that she has to have a voice if she wants to be heard. People cannot listen to hope without words. Talking provides a bridge so that our thoughts are understood by others.

"34% of the population of West Java today are children who are still in school, 20 years from now they will be our leaders when we are very old. So if at this time we don't involve children and don't prepare them to be leaders, we don't involve them and don't prepare them to be leaders in various dimensions, then get ready in the future we have unqualified leaders," said Mrs. Inge Wahyuni., S.KM., MPP, MT, Head of the Fulfillment of Children's Rights in West Java Province DP3AKB who has been actively accompanying the activities of the Children's Forum in West Java Province.

It takes the awareness of all parties to start doing something long before a disaster occurs. And Nadia realized that her action could not stop here.

"We have to work together to reduce disaster risks, otherwise it won't be resolved," said Nadia at the end of her story that afternoon. Her

eyes stared at the far line of the twilight in front of the house which began to separate the green rice fields from the soon reddening sky.

It is not language that keeps us from taking an action, but courage. And courage is not the absence of fear, but rather our willingness to keep going when we remember that something else is more important than our fear.

"Later, when Nadia becomes the student council member and the board of Children's Forum, she will invite her friends to continue to act".

JABAR MAPPING COMPETITION, A PROPOSITION IN THE FORM OF A COMPETITION

People's participation is the essence of good governance

~Narendra Modi, Prime Minister India 15th.

Over the past year, Save the Children has been persistent in building a community- and school-based information system related to weather and climate. In the midst of a sudden pandemic restricting the movement of people, the organization has the agility to use various means so that disaster resilience and knowledge related to climate change adaptation can continue to be improved in the community.

Do you know why?

The global warming affects life around the globe. Unfortunately, studies on disaster risk reduction related to weather and climate change are only at the macro-, meso-, and micro-levels. This means that most of the studies are at the central level, the number of studies at the regency level is limited. The studies on disaster risk reduction related to weather and climate change should be performed at the site level, the lowest grass roots layer.

In fact, when the weather presents hazards, those at the community level will be directly affected. Fishing boats will be staggered by waves, acres of agricultural areas will be submerged in water, crop yield will fail, the students will run in panic as their school roof is blown away by the wind.

Besides, when the disasters due to climate change such as a big wave, windstorm, or flood eventually occur, it is the community who first respond to

help their affected neighbors. Thus, sharing knowledge about weather and climate change democratically with the community should be an idea whose urgency is worrying our nights.

Other question that needs to be asked when you insist for not involving the local residents in the disaster risk reduction program is:

“Who knows best in detail about the surrounding environment if not them?”

It is a wise idea to start involving the community to willingly provide information about their environment so that more accurate, detailed, and up-to-date information can fill the information gaps held by the government.

This means that the upheld spirit is participation. The data is obtained by the community, collected by the community, and for the community. It is a democratization of information which can then be processed into knowledge that empowers the community.

Save the Children grasps this idea. In collaboration with the Indonesian Open Street Map community, Save the Children through the Disaster Preparedness program for Disaster Resilient Cities and Communities funded by Google held the JaBar Mapping Competition, a digital mapping competition using the OpenStreetMap (OSM) platform with the aim of adding to complete spatial data in West Java Province. They held the competition in three assisted regencies: Bandung Regency, West Bandung Regency, and Tasikmalaya Regency.

This competition called on the residents to collect spatial data related to the exposure of assets around them so that the existence of infrastructure such as buildings, markets, houses, or roads in their neighborhood can be completely mapped. This kind of information will be highly needed as basic data in disaster risk reduction, especially in the preparation of disaster risk assessment, contingency plan, development planning, and disaster management planning in

the areas. Without an exposure map in place, it would be hard to quantify the risk to assets in the areas.

At the same time, this kind of mapping also greatly supports the availability of geospatial information in Indonesia. Currently, the Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) is mandated to organize spatial data in the country. The non-ministerial government agency under and directly responsible to the president is in charge of carrying out government tasks in the field of geospatial information. You can imagine how heavy their burden will be if they have to work alone to collect and coordinate geospatial data from all over Indonesia. With their limited resources, it is likely that the generation of spatial data from all over Indonesia will take a long time at a cost that is sure to burden the planning budget.

By learning from the good practices previously carried out by Save the Children in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, the collaboration by calling on the residents to voluntarily collect the spatial data is a brilliant idea. In collaboration with several agencies such as UNOCHA, U-Inspire and Pramuka in early 2020, Save the Children has assisted the Covid-19 Task Force to coordinate volunteers to map Response Actions taking place in the community. As a result, in just two months, more than 6.000 actions were carried out by communities from Sabang to Merauke in response to the pandemic in Indonesia. Thousands of people voluntarily contributed to collect spatial data related to response actions to the pandemic. Without their participation, it is impossible to imagine how long it would take to map the information from all the regions in Indonesia.

JaBar Mapping Competition promoted the same spirit. Save the Children called on all the communities to work together in a participatory manner to collect spatial data from their own areas. If we do this consistently, our geospatial data is gradually becoming complete. This is crucial in the context of disaster risk reduction.

“The response to the handling and distribution of aid during the 2016 Yogyakarta earthquake disaster could be carried out easily due to the availability of complete geospatial information on the Jogja area,” said Aji Putra Perdana from the Center for Topographical Mapping and Toponym (PPRT) of the Geospatial Information Agency (BIG). “UNOCHA or United Nation Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs praised the completeness of geospatial data facilitating the response to the disaster. They compared this situation with the difficulty in responding to the disaster when the earthquake hit Pakistan due to the lack of geospatial information available in the region,” continued Aji who is a member of Participatory Toponym and Geospatial Verification Functional Position.

We often only consider the importance of geospatial information when an emergency occurs. However, the process of gathering geospatial information shall be carried out and validated at all times long before a disaster occurs. This information is important not only during the emergency response, but also for the purposes of development planning including the preparation of a contingency plan for an area so that the risk of damage and casualties due to the disaster can be minimized.

A series of activities of JaBar Mapping Competition has started from September to November 2020, with five important stages of activities including: Registration, Webinar or training, Competition, Assessment, and Announcement. Obviously, Save the Children carries a mission of education and empowerment in all of its activities. This competition was not just an event to find winners. It contained an agenda to increase the capacity of residents related to disaster preparedness. That's why before the mapping competition started, Save the Children held training to equip the participants with good mapping skills. The goal was that the data generated by the participants has sufficient quality, so that in the end it can be used by anyone who needs it.

The competition is open to the public and participated in by three groups of participants, namely the groups of children aged 15-17 years old, youths aged 18-24 years old, and general public aged 25 years and over. Out of a total 54 active participants, 62% are a group of youths aged 18-24 years who are currently in college. And interestingly, although not a lot, 6% of the total active participants are high school students aged 15-18 years. In addition, another interesting fact is that this competition is not only attended by men, 31% of the total participants who are actively contributed are women. This means that people with diverse backgrounds have considerable enthusiasm to contribute to the information gathering process when there are parties willing to facilitate the process.

Every human being has a mental mapping, which serves an individual to acquire, code, store, recall, and decode information about the relative locations and signs regarding the spatial environment. The concept was introduced by a geographer named Roger Downs collaborating with his partner, a psychologist named David Sea in 1973. The mental mapping is the main tool used by humans to identify spatial images and differences between the physical environment and the subjective environment around them.

Save the Children believes that everyone with a good mental mapping can perform the mapping properly if they are trained and told how to do it.

“What we are doing through the JaBar Mapping Competition is to encourage people with a mental mapping, but no spatial education background to contribute to collect the data. By understanding this, we believe that spatial data collection can be performed by everyone in a participatory manner,” said Petrasa Wacana, DRR Manager at Save the Children.

During the two weeks of data collection, the participants had mapped 760,326 buildings, 625 km of roads and 293 parks. This is a remarkable evidence of the spirit of facilitated participation. We can imagine if this effort is not only carried out for two weeks but is continued by the government and citizens on a regular basis. In just a few months, a large number of areas can be mapped. The wealth of Indonesia's geospatial data will be more complete and accurate from day to day.

Citizen science is rising now. We can optimize this citizen science so that it can fill in the contexts that cannot be answered remotely. Locality context is crucial to fill the gaps in the information obtained through satellite imagery. We do not only need the information about buildings and roads in the area, but also the local information, such as the slope of building's roofs, a fully permanent or semi-permanent buildings, or quality of bricks used for buildings. Of course, the detailed information can only be obtained if we use the grassroots sensor in the area, namely humans. For the purposes of this kind of information, information is collected from bottom to top, not the other way around, so as to save energy and complement the information held by the government.

In the end, one of the challenges to be faced is how the citizens adapt to the existing changes, especially in terms of using technology and how to combine the sophistication of technology with the local wisdom.

It's not the era to perform the task with top-down approach. A bottom-up approach generally answers the needs, including spatial data collection carried out by involving community participation. It is an empathy-based data collection process.

“Save the Children believes that in the development process, the provision of empathy-based spatial data will be much more efficient. Not to mention when the production process is carried out

cooperatively, we are not only obtaining data, but also building awareness and increasing collective knowledge of local communities about their own areas so that in the end, they can contribute to build the disaster resilience. This is a lovely and reasonable process,” said Fredy Chandra, DRR & Resilience Advisor-Save the Children.

The next task of the organizers and stakeholders is to standardize the data generated by the community, so that when similar methods are replicated elsewhere, the results obtained remain in accordance with the same data quality standards.

Since the beginning of the activity, there has been a continuous full coordination between BNPB, BPBD of West Java Province, BPBD of the three regencies, LPBI NU, U-Inspire, and Pramuka to support this activity.

“This is a good practice, if possible, we will institutionalize or upscale it for other purposes. BNPB under the Directorate of Mapping is preparing the NSPK (Norms, Standards, Procedures, and Criteria) for participatory mapping, so that it has a good response to strengthen cooperation so that the mapping related to disasters can be carried out jointly by all stakeholders,” said DR. Abdul Muhari, S.Si., MT as PLT Director of Disaster Risk Mapping and Evaluation of BNPB.

“The Directorate of Mapping of BNPB is ready to work together to replicate the good practices that you are doing. In essence, this is an initial step for future cooperation,” continued Abdul Muhari when giving a presentation in the webinar on The Use of Spatial Data in Development Planning with a Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Perspective held by Save the Children in November last year.

The main point of the events such as JaBar Mapping Competition is not just looking for winners. But how do we build the capacity of citizens on the ground level to utilize the information from the data generated at the most

practical level, namely to save lives and protect their risky assets. With this method, we help the citizens turn information into valuable knowledge to increase their own safety and resilience.

Disaster risk reduction efforts can only be carried out using the Penta Helix model, it cannot be handled exclusively by one party. Community involvement plays a vital role, which is often ignored. Our perspective in seeing the local residents as a mere object that need assistance when a disaster occurs must be changed into partners that can be empowered.

Disaster is everyone business.



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