



Save the Children

POST DISASTER RECOVERY ASSESSMENT IN CENTRAL SULAWESI



RESEARCH BRIEF
August 2022

Theme:
HUMANITARIAN

Context:
POST-DISASTER
RECOVERY

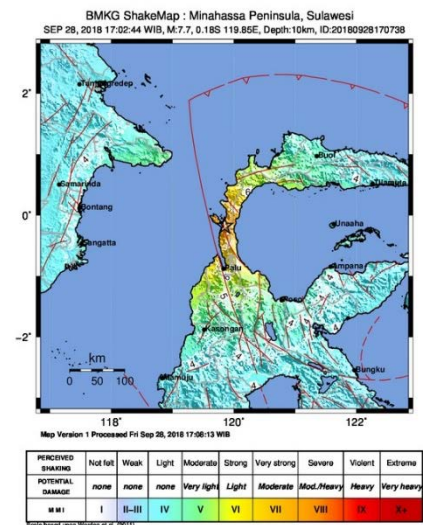
KEY FINDINGS

- The affected communities are not fully recovered – with aspect such as physical and economic recovery are lacking the most.
- Climate Change and COVID-19 are further exacerbating the impact of the disaster and claimed to be slowing down the recovery progress.
- Child well being has been affected by the slow progress of recovery. Main problems include indicative child labour, violence against children, and barriers in accessing health and education.
- Children living in non-fully recovered household in physical and economic dimension are the most vulnerable – leading to higher risk to experience violence, dropping-out of school, and child marriage.
- Social networks, particularly relationships among community members, and with village government are well-established after the disaster. Discrimination is claimed to be lack existed after the disaster leading to stronger social support.
- There are potential options for future Save the Children Indonesia programming in the affected communities in Central Sulawesi in the area of improving community resilience (and disaster preparedness), livelihood and child poverty, and child protection.

CONTEXT

On 28 September 2018, Central Sulawesi was struck by a 7.4 Magnitude earthquake. Epicentre in north Donggala, the earthquake has triggered a near-field tsunami, major liquefaction, and landslides, affecting Palu City 170,000 displaced people were temporarily housed in 400 localities, with an economic loss of US\$1.3 billion.^{1,2}

Responding to the disaster, under the coordination of the Indonesian government, multiple stakeholders deployed humanitarian responses. As of 2019, there were over 180 humanitarian agencies responding to the disaster, including Save the Children Indonesia – whom project concluded in October 2021. Despite these, it is indicated that the recovery process has not been fully completed. The extended target by the provincial Government (Governor decree on 19/2019) to 2024 is among the indications. Aiming to further understand the current state of post-disaster recovery in Central Sulawesi - including the status of children well-being, Save the Children Indonesia conducted a post-disaster recovery assessment in Central Sulawesi. The study aims to provide evidence for informing future humanitarian program.



Source: BNPB, 2018

THE ASSESSMENT

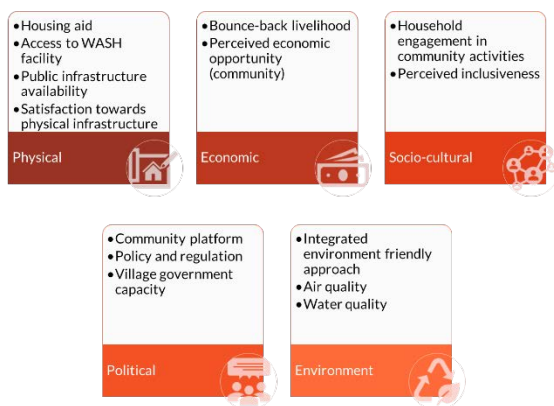


Figure 1 Recovery Dimensions

The assessment was conducted in April – June 2022. Applying a mixed-method approach, data were collected in three districts – Palu, Sigi and Donggala – through household survey, Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interview. The total participants in this assessment were 1639 – including community members (adult and children), CSOs and village leaders, and local government. Specific objectives are to: 1) observe the current process and outcome of recovery experienced by the affected community; 2) identify factors determining the individual or community post-disaster recovery; and 3) identify the opportunities and challenges faced by various actors

in achieving post-disaster recovery. Such data could inform the program and policy development. In this study, the state of recovery was assessed by looking at five dimensions of recovery - physical, economic, political, environment, and socio-cultural. The components measured in each dimension are composed of variables at both household and community level.

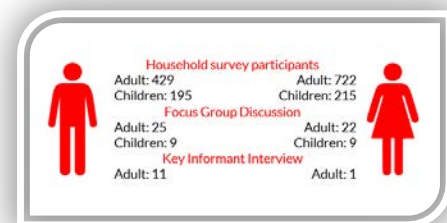


Figure 2 Study Participants

¹The Governor of Central Sulawesi (2019) *Post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction plan*. Available at: <https://www.idih.sultengprov.go.id/peraturan/PERGUB%20NOMOR%2010%20TAHUN%202019.pdf>.

²The World Bank (2019) 'Project appraisal document on a proposed loan in the amount of US\$150.00 million to the Republic of Indonesia for the Central Sulawesi Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project'. Available at: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/290171561255279818/pdf/Indonesia-Central-Sulawesi-Rehabilitation-and-Reconstruction-Project.pdf>.

The affected communities are not fully recovered

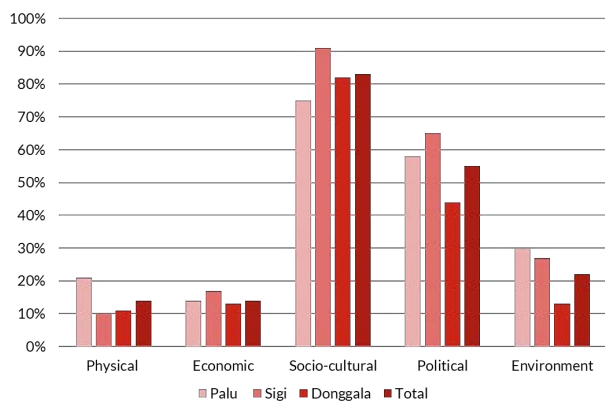


Figure 3 Percentage of household that are fully recovered in each dimension

The recovery state in Central Sulawesi is still far from the expectation. Being measured in five dimensions of recovery, physical and economic recovery were the two dimensions that are left behind. Across the areas, the proportion of households who have been fully recovered in either physical or economic recovery were less than 15%. Public facilities infrastructure is one of the most prominent problems, in which nearly 75% of households reported inadequate availability and/or functionality of the infrastructure. This includes road, schools, health facilities, and other public service facilities – problems potentially leading to barriers for children to access basic rights and services

In contrast, socio-cultural recovery is found to be a dimension that is recovered the most – 82% of household are fully recovered in this aspect. Eighty-five percent of households reported the availability of community-based platform or social network group in their village (79% in Palu, 92% in Sigi and 86% in Donggala). The participants stated that the social platforms were mobilized for humanitarian activities (response and recovery) by the NGOs. These include aids delivery and capacity building in disaster preparedness, and livelihoods after the earthquake and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comparing the three districts, while Palu is advancing in physical recovery dimension, the district is left behind in economic, socio-cultural and political dimensions. Lacking in economic and socio-cultural recovery in Palu (consider in urban area) indicates a classical problem in urban areas – where lacking of social support and potential wider gaps of economic

“There are supposed to be two bridges connecting permanent residential areas (with public facilities)... but the bridges are not constructed yet... [...] Children should walk for about two hours to school (because of it) [...] they can not go (to school) during flood rob...”

FGD community members - Donggala

opportunities between the subgroup of population. Meanwhile, the status of Central Sulawesi’s capital cities might benefit Palu in the advancement of physical recovery compared to other two districts. In contrast, as rural areas, Sigi and Donggala are advancing in socio-cultural recovery, while left behind in physical recovery. In Donggala, where a certain level of political friction is identified, community’s trust to district government is also decreasing, hence they rely more on village government and local community network – 91% of households in Donggala perceived the village governments are in good capacity.

Physical Recovery is left behind and correlates with other recovery dimensions

Despite being one of the main focuses of recovery in Central Sulawesi, physical recovery is slower than expected. In addition, in some cases, mistargeting of beneficiaries are also reported. This is reported worse for stimulant fund – which amount is depending on the level of damage. In turn, the community assume it leads to several consequences, including (1) delayed in receiving permanent housing - Provincial government has also extended the deadline for delivering housing aid to 2024; (2) community distrust to district government – nearly 60% of household perceived local government has not been transparent in recovery program; (3) poorer living conditions – including

physical housing condition, living environment and access to economic opportunities and public services; and (4) stronger community support among those affected by the disaster.

Physical recovery is positively correlated with social recovery (Coeff=0.13). This means, the state of physical recovery was found to be better in the community with established social support and inclusion (high household engagement in community-based activities and lack of discrimination). While the data are not able to explain the causal relationships between both, the participants claimed that the community groups have been their biggest supporter during the aftermath of the disasters and the recovery process. Not only in the immediate response post disaster but also in the recovery process, including in working hand-in-hand in self-funded public facilities construction – such as temporary bridge.

In addition, the study also found a positive correlation between physical recovery and environmental recovery (Coeff=0.22). A possible explanation of this is the improved housing conditions (including access to WASH facilities, satisfaction towards physical housing conditions) are existing in environmental positive neighborhood (green space availability, good air and water quality). While to some extent it indicates comprehensive recovery at both household and community level physical recovery, at the other end, it may also indicate that people living in poor housing conditions are even at the bigger health risks due to poor environment conditions.

Climate Change and COVID-19 Pandemic are further Exacerbating the Poor Living Conditions

The 2018 earthquake and liquification – as part of climate change impact – have put the affected communities in a poor living condition. While being recovered from the aftermath of the disaster, the community are continued affected by long-term impact of climate change. At present, 40 villages across Central Sulawesi are at high-risk status of climate change impact.³ In addition, nine districts are at risks of flood and landslide, including Palu, Sigi and Donggala.

In Donggala, rob flood are still existing from time to time, and have disrupted the daily activities.

This includes economic activities, and children access to school. The community members also noticed environmental changes such as increased

number of mosquitos. This potentially leads to increased incidence of vector borne disease. Further, with only 45% of households having improved WASH facilities (source of drinking water and toilet), the community is even at the higher risk of infectious diseases – one of the main contributing factors of stunting.

Meanwhile in Sigi, disrupted irrigation system and scarcity of water have been challenging. There were only 50% of households in Sigi who have improved access to water and sanitation facilities. In combination with the flood wiping out plantation areas, the farming activities in Sigi has not been fully recovered.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not solely a global health problem, but further has a long-term impact on the society. In the context of post-disaster area, this has created a double burden for the affected communities. This mainly related to the economic/livelihood recovery (bounced-back), and education. People living in Palu (urban areas) are indicated to be more affected by the social

“... not all of us have received permanent housing... let alone [access] to water... water is scarce and 80% of us are farmers... with no water then it is impossible (to resume to farming activity)”

FGD community members – Sigi

“Flood... (is a problem)... when the water arisen (rob), we can not go (anywhere), and we live far away from everything [...] There are more mosquitos now, everywhere... (it was) not like before the earthquake”

FGD community members - Donggala

³ Ditjen PPI, Ministry of Environment Health. 2022. <http://ditjenppi.menlhk.go.id/admin/berita-admin/obrolan/3041-sulawesi-tengah.html>

restriction as it leads to decreased urban economic activity, hence loss of job. In this condition, woman takes an increased role to fulfil the household needs through small enterprise. Meanwhile, in Donggala and Sigi, homestead farming is one of the strategies that have been considered effective in supporting household's nutrition needs, including for children. Other phenomena that worth notice is across the three districts, the pandemic have expedited digital transformation in all sectors of live – a potential platform for future interventions. Despite the potential, barriers reported include poor infrastructure (network), unaffordable internet quota, and digital technologies literacy – factors that have also been challenges in home-schooling during the pandemic.

The low recovery state has affected children well-being in the affected communities

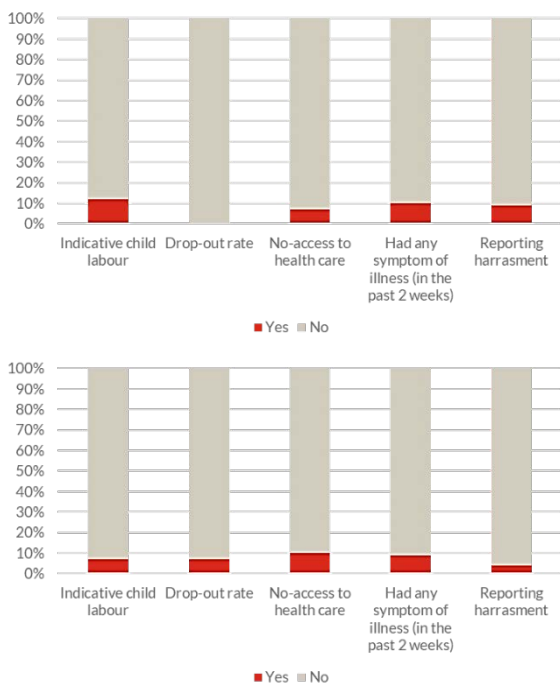


Figure 4 State of household and physical recovery among children with indicative problems in child well being

Child wellbeing in the affected communities was examined through access to education and health, and child protection (vulnerability to violence against children, including indicative child labour). Economic and physical recovery are indicated to affect child well-being. As seen in Figure 4, problems related to achieving child well-being are concentrated among households that are not fully recovered in these two dimensions. As such, 100% of children who dropped out from school are those living in a non-fully recovered household and community in physical dimension – emphasizing difficulties of access to public facilities in the affected communities. Additionally, the affected community also perceived slow physical recovery (permanent housing) has contributed to the increased number of child marriage. Out of 340 children across the three districts, the school drop-out rate is 5%. Further, alarming problem arisen in indicative child labour, in which 44 children (approximately 13%) are engaged in working/economic activities – 12 in Palu, 14 in Sigi, and 18 in Donggala – mainly in agricultural sector. Household's economic condition is indicated as potential root causes of the two phenomena, as the drop-out and working children are concentrated among family with no financial savings. Meanwhile, access to health care have been shown to be challenging, with only as low as 33% of the children who experienced any health symptoms, received treatment from primary health care providers (puskesmas, midwives, clinic). Adding to the problems related to child well-being, 1 in 12 children reported a life-time experience of any form of violence – with nearly 70% of them reported verbal violence, mostly happening at school and own home.

13% of Children are involved in labour, with an average working hour of 6 hours/day



Community disaster preparedness and resilience are low

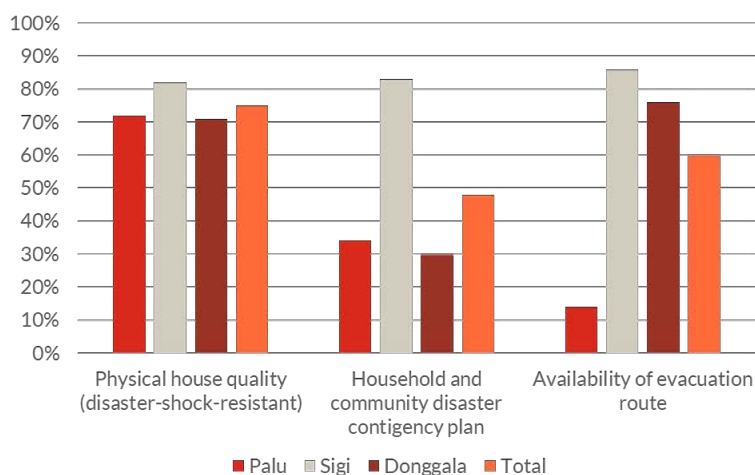


Figure 5 Proportion of household fulfilling each component in disaster preparedness

future disaster was 57% (38% in Palu, 85% in Sigi, and 56% in Donggala).

As seen, the level of disaster preparedness in Palu are found to be the lowest for all components. Extreme disparities were found in proportion of household with knowledge and availability of evacuation route within the community – 15% in Palu vs over 75% in other two districts. With higher population density in Palu (urban areas) compared to Sigi and Donggala, this can potentially be impacted on number of potential affected community in the future disasters. Further, across the three components, the availability of household and community disaster contingency plan require more attention – less than 50% of households reported having disaster contingency plan. In contrast, nearly all households reported know about climate change and its potential impact to future disaster (99% of households across the 3 districts).

Lack of Community Participation and Transparency in Aid Management are Seen as the Biggest Challenges in Recovery Process

Community participation in recovery state is inadequate. For example, only as low as 5% of household who said that they are actively involved in either permanent housing planning and/or construction. For some, the current permanent resident is seen as non-liveable, with limited space or inadequate access to WASH and public facilities. The lack of community participation in recovery state (including in aid delivery) has potentially contributed to community distrust to local government. They believe that the beneficiaries' data to be not community-verified and lack of transparency – hence leading to mistargeting of aid delivery. In some villages, this is worsened by a self-reported level of severity for stimulant fund beneficiaries, and the desynchronize data between village and district level.

In addition to the above challenges, coordination across levels and between actors are seems to be also challenging. From the community perspective, the aids or programs from NGOs are seen to be concentrated in certain locations and created disparities. However, the community perceive NGOs to be very helpful in both immediate response and recovery process. There are gaps that are filled in by NGOs by collaborating with local CSOs and village government.

Despite the Current Situation, Opportunities Existed across Level for Improvement

Despite the challenges and current state of recovery, there are opportunities for improvement across all levels. At the community level, both household surveys (adult and children) and qualitative data shows that the disaster has positively impacted on social inclusivity. Nearly 100% of children

mention that no-noticeable discrimination in their community. This is applied for gender, racial and religion discrimination. This consequently leads to an established social networks and platforms that can be served as collaborator for future program.

At the district level, opportunities existed to strengthen coordination between district-village government, and non-governmental organizations. Previous collaboration between government and academic group and private sector in developing Disaster Emergency Management Plan and Disaster Contingency Plan, is an example of a collaborative achievement. Best practice during the process includes a clear roles and responsibilities among partners, and regular communication platform. The model of coordination can be further strengthened by engaging community (village leaders and community members).

As for the NGOs, there are opportunities to play role in filling in the gap in the recovery process. Community's trust to NGOs and wide gaps in economic recovery and low community resilience (including disaster preparedness) – particularly those leading to poorer child well-being, are areas that can be filled in by NGOs. Community's trust to NGOs are one of the potential resources in ensuring active engagement.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING

Based on the findings, there are opportunities for Save the Children for future programming, particularly in the post-disaster areas in Central Sulawesi. These includes:

1. *Disaster preparedness, and climate change resilience*

- Integrating local knowledge into disaster risk reduction training and drills, and community preparedness plan by promoting active community participation
- Improve and promote the integration of climate resilience into village planning and activities – this could also impacted on child's health and wellbeing through improving access to water and better waste management to prevent infectious diseases

2. *Livelihood and Child Poverty – by supporting livelihood resilience, options include:*

- Capacity building (both hard skills and soft skills) for young people (and other households' member) as preparation to enter for job-market. This may include supporting digital transformation for small enterprises that are growth during the pandemic
- Financial inclusion can also be supported through providing support to village saving and loan mechanisms.
- Public-private partnerships business model to support small-enterprise and/or community-based enterprises

3. *Child protection*

- Strengthening community-based child protection program and its integration with district system. This is based on the high rate of indicative violence against children, including child labour and child marriage
- Improving household, community's and other related stakeholders knowledge on child's right and participation, which may include positive parenting.

MORE INFORMATION



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