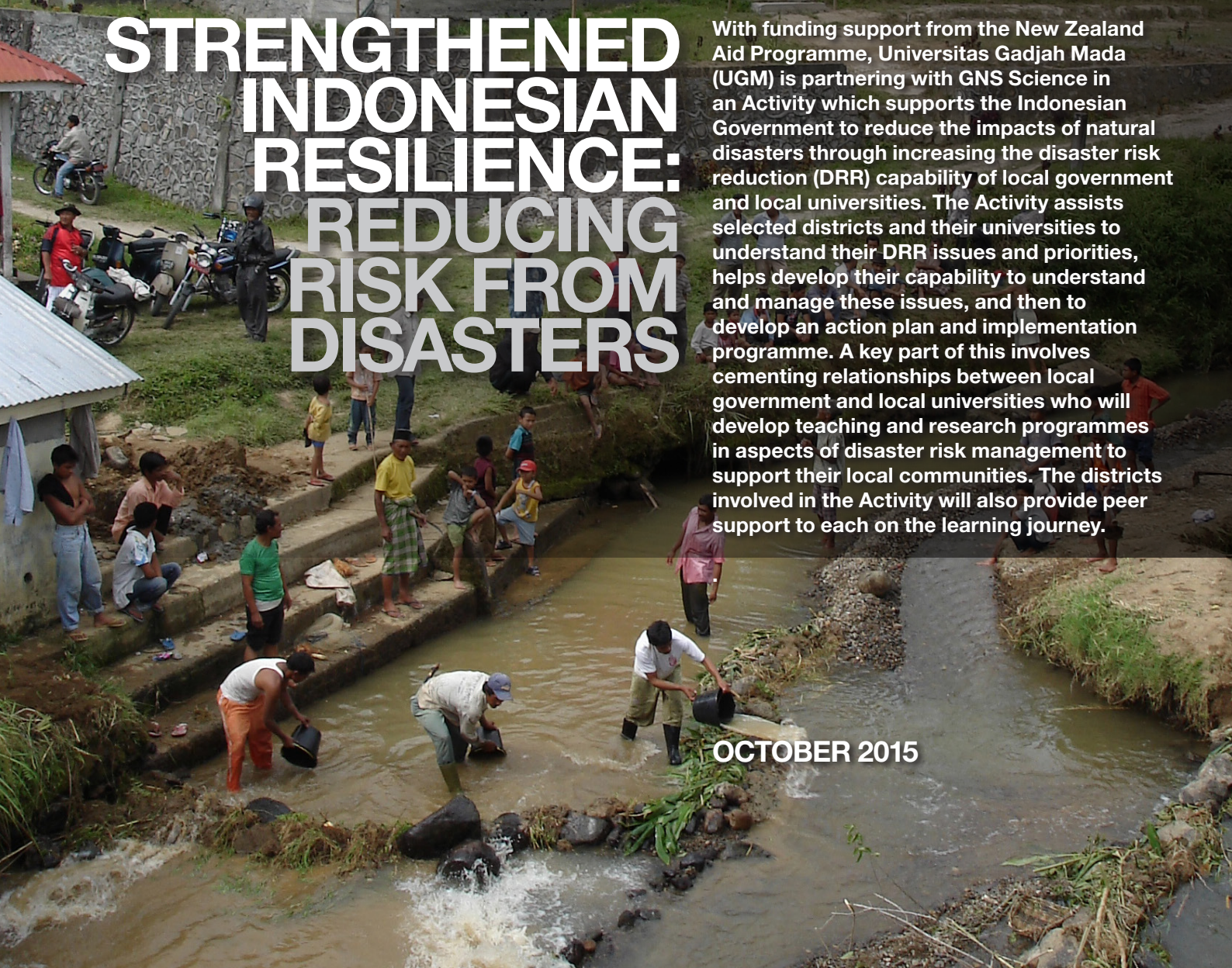




STRENGTHENED INDONESIAN RESILIENCE: REDUCING RISK FROM DISASTERS

With funding support from the New Zealand Aid Programme, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) is partnering with GNS Science in an Activity which supports the Indonesian Government to reduce the impacts of natural disasters through increasing the disaster risk reduction (DRR) capability of local government and local universities. The Activity assists selected districts and their universities to understand their DRR issues and priorities, helps develop their capability to understand and manage these issues, and then to develop an action plan and implementation programme. A key part of this involves cementing relationships between local government and local universities who will develop teaching and research programmes in aspects of disaster risk management to support their local communities. The districts involved in the Activity will also provide peer support to each on the learning journey.



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DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN INDONESIA

Indonesia is a large archipelago with a population of over 200 million people. Natural disasters are frequent and often result in loss of life, livelihoods, property, and infrastructure, and can cause widespread environmental damage.

The overall goal of the Indonesian government is to reduce losses (economic, human, infrastructure, etc.) from natural disasters. One important means of reducing such losses is to strengthen community resilience and reduce natural hazard risk through effective risk reduction measures.

What is Risk Reduction?

Successful risk reduction in practice includes consideration of risk in all types of planning, agencies sharing responsibility for reducing risk, and communities empowered and involved in risk management decisions. Successful risk reduction practice would result in better building and infrastructure location and construction, effective warning systems and land use appropriate to the location and level of risk.

Local government has a critical role to play in reducing risk for its communities. This has been recognised by the Government of Indonesia which has allocated responsibility for managing hazards and risks to local government in recent disaster management law reforms (2007). However, the capacity and resources at provincial and district government level to plan for and implement risk reduction measures are limited and there are few professional development and training opportunities available.

FOCUS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

StIRRRD focuses on improving local government's ability to understand and manage its hazards and risks, improving institutional approaches to reducing risk and improving engagement among partners.

The Indonesian Government has recognised the need for a concerted effort to build both the capacity of local government and other agencies with a role in DRR at a local level (e.g. lifeline utilities, universities, health agencies, emergency services, NGOs). Key Indonesian Government agency partners involved in the Activity are the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) and the Ministry of Rural Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration (KDPDTT). As well as having a direct involvement in the Activity (staff time and resourcing complimentary and linked activities) they will continue the work of the programme after the 5 year NZ Aid Programme funded involvement of UGM and GNS Science.

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The Activity consists of training workshops and city/district (kota/kabupaten) centred learning support as well as training in New Zealand to learn about different approaches and solutions to similar problems. The training focuses on enabling local government (principally the local Disaster Management Agency (BPBD), Planning (Bappeda) and Public Works (PU)) and local universities to develop effective and sustainable DRR structures, plans and projects for their districts. Training covers policy and implementation frameworks for DRR as well as risk assessment, risk communication, community engagement and risk management methodologies.

Districts that have developed successful DRR initiatives are encouraged to share these projects with other districts through workshops and meetings in a shared learning environment.



FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION

A key part of the Activity is a focus on action and implementation. The DRR needs specific to each of the districts involved are identified and an action plan developed for local government and universities. Gaps in knowledge and practice are identified to focus teaching and research efforts. Selected projects identified in the action plans will be implemented through additional funding support as well as through the provision of mentoring and peer support through a DRR network of participating districts.

Examples of activities implemented as a result of the pilot programme in Palu and Padang include an expansion of the earth sciences curriculum at Tadulako University in Palu, a public education programme, research into fault structures and microzonation in Palu, improved coordination of liquefaction studies in Padang, and research on the implementation of early warning against landslides and debris flows.

The effectiveness of the programme will be assessed through the development of a local government self-assessment tool. A tool-box of methods and case studies will be developed to support the continuation of the programme after the 5 year period.

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