

An Overview of Disaster Mitigation in Local Planning and Programming in Decentralized Indonesia

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Abstract

This paper aims at presenting the situation, issues and challenges of disaster mitigation and management² at both national and regional levels in decentralized era of Indonesia. This paper found that the recent implementation of decentralization policy has significantly affected the governance of disaster issues at all levels of government. The decentralized environment caused greater complexity and highly fragmented policy and management in disaster issues. Despite recent efforts of the Government of Indonesia to promote and strengthen the role and functions of disaster management, particularly at the central level, significant gaps still exist at the regional level in various areas of disaster management, including in the financing and budgeting aspects. This paper also found that institutional or governance is the key issue that should be given serious attention to achieve credible progress and to ensure proper financing and budgeting of disaster management. This paper then identified that clearer responsibilities and minimum standards of performance in disaster management must be defined to ensure proper budget allocation for disaster management at all levels of government; DAK – the specific purpose grant can be developed further to guide or penetrate national priority on disaster management into local development strategy and budget; participatory approach is an important tool for ensuring disaster issues are accommodated in local planning, programming and budgeting; proper ‘locus’ of disaster organization and governance in the structure of regional government should be defined to ensure competence and coherence in disaster management; knowledge, skill, and capacity of regional government should be developed to manage disaster issues; stakeholders workshop should be conducted to develop agreement on the clearer responsibilities of different levels of Government and non government stakeholders in disaster management; international donors and bilateral agencies should be asked to help disaster prone regional governments in preparing Strategic Plans for Disaster Mitigation and Management.

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² Disaster mitigation defined as a collective term used to encompass all activities undertaken in anticipation of the occurrence of a potentially disastrous event, including preparedness and long term risk reduction measures. The process of planning and implementing measures to reduce the risks associated with known natural and man-made hazards and to deal with disasters which do occur. Strategy and specific measures are designed on the basis of risk assessments and political decisions concerning the levels of risk which are considered to be acceptable and the resources to be allocated. Disaster management defined as a collective term encompassing all aspects of planning for and responding to disasters, including both pre-and post disaster activities. It refers to the management of both the risks and the consequences of disasters (UNDP, Disaster Management Training Programme, Disaster Mitigation, 2nd Edition, 1994)