

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN CANTI VILLAGE THROUGH DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

In April 2024, PALUMA Nusantara facilitated a training course focused on developing a village contingency plan in Canti Village located in Lampung Province, Indonesia. As part of the Strengthening Partnerships for Community Resilience in Indonesia and Timor-Leste (SPRINT) program, the training aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills in disaster preparedness, emphasizing the importance of community resilience in facing potential natural hazards.

One of the key participants was Rifai, who serves as the Head of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Forum in Canti Village. At 50 years old and with a leadership role in his community, Rifai was well-positioned to drive positive change and ensure the lessons from the training were implemented effectively.

EXPERIENCE AND KEY LEARNINGS

Rifai described the training as transformative for both himself and the community. *“Untuk pengalaman kami sangat puas dan. kami sangat bersemangat sekali”* (“Regarding our experience, we were very satisfied and enthusiastic”). The training provided a platform for local leaders and community members to learn effective rescue and evacuation techniques, which were previously not well understood in the village. *“Yang jelas untuk menambah pengetahuan kami, terutama warga Desa Canti, untuk memahami cara penyelamatan serta evakuasi kalau seandainya terjadi bencana”* (“It clearly added to our knowledge, especially for the people of Canti Village, to better understand rescue and evacuation methods in case a disaster occurs”).

One of the most significant aspects of the training was its focus on practical knowledge that could be directly applied in the community. The introduction of a structured approach to disaster preparedness, particularly in the context of creating a village contingency plan, resonated strongly with the participants.

IMPACT AND APPLICATION

The training not only increased Rifai’s personal knowledge but also enabled him to educate others in the community. *“Perubahan pada diri saya pribadi itu jelas - dari tidak tahu menjadi tahu dan bagi warga, yang awalnya tidak tahu, sekarang mengerti bagaimana menangani bencana karena saya dapat menjelaskannya kepada mereka”* (“The change in myself was clear—from not knowing to knowing—and the community, who initially didn’t know, now understands how to handle disasters because I can explain it to them”). As a result, there is now a heightened awareness in Canti Village regarding disaster risks and how to mitigate them.



Despite the positive outcomes, challenges remain. *“Tantangan utama kami di FPRB Desa Canti berhubungan dengan biaya. Jika dana tidak tersedia inisiatif kami adalah swadaya atau mengajukan dana dari pemerintahan desa”* (“Our main challenge in the Canti Village DRR Forum is related to costs. If funds are not available, our initiative is self-help or getting funds from the village government”). Nevertheless, the training has empowered the community to take collective action, even when resources are scarce.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND FUTURE NEEDS

The community's response to the training has been overwhelmingly positive. *“Sebelum adanya program PALUMA Nusantara, masyarakat tidak tahu cara evakuasi atau tentang bencana, tetapi sekarang masyarakat menjadi peduli.”* (“Before the PALUMA Nusantara program, people didn't know how to evacuate or about disasters, but now the community has become aware”), Rifai said, emphasizing that the program has significantly increased local knowledge about evacuation and disaster management. However, the community continues to seek additional support, particularly in assisting vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities. *“Kami masyarakat sangat berharap sekali untuk terus didampingi oleh PALUMA Nusantara sehingga pengetahuan kami dapat lebih meningkat”* (“We as a community really hope to continue being accompanied by PALUMA Nusantara so that our knowledge can be further enhanced”).

Looking forward, Rifai expressed a strong desire for continued guidance and capacity-building initiatives. *“Kami selalu ingin tahu dan ingin dibimbing oleh PALUMA Nusantara. sehingga kami ke depannya lebih tahu bagaimana menghadapi situasi bencana ataupun tsunami”* (“We always want to learn and be guided by PALUMA Nusantara so that in the future we'll better understand how to face disaster or tsunami situations”).

The training in Canti Village represents a critical step towards building community resilience in disaster-prone areas. Through the SPRINT program, local leaders like Rifai have gained valuable knowledge and skills, enabling them to better prepare their communities for future challenges. While financial constraints remain an obstacle, the increased awareness and proactive attitude within the community mark significant progress in disaster risk reduction.

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