

## EMPOWERING LOCAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH DISASTER RISK REDUCTION TRAINING



In March 2024, the Strengthening Partnerships for Community Resilience in Indonesia and Timor-Leste (SPRINT) program held a crucial training session on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) management in Bandar Lampung, Indonesia. This training aimed to enhance the knowledge, capacity, and awareness of local civil society organizations (CSOs) focused on disaster preparedness. Among the participants was Rinda Gusvita, a 35-year-old female leader and the Chairman of Jaringan Perempuan Padmarini (JPP), a local CSO dedicated to empowering women in disaster-prone areas.

Rinda, a committed advocate for women's rights and community resilience, leads JPP with a strong sense of purpose. With one child and a deep connection to her community, she recognized the urgent need for better disaster preparedness among vulnerable populations. The SPRINT training provided her with the tools and knowledge she needed to advance her organization's mission.

Rinda found the training valuable for JPP and its broader network. She highlighted how the event allowed CSOs to exchange knowledge and experiences while learning from experts in the field. The insights gained are now set to be implemented in JPP's own programs. *"Pelatihan tersebut memberikan kesempatan kepada CSO khususnya JPP untuk bisa hadir dan bertemu dengan rekan-rekan dari CSO lain kemudian sharing knowledge sharing experience juga bertemu dengan para expert di sana sehingga JPP bisa belajar banyak soal bagaimana pengurangan risiko bencana yang kemudian nanti bisa diimplementasikan di program-program yang diadakan oleh JPP itu sendiri."* ("This training provided an opportunity for CSOs, especially JPP, to attend, meet colleagues from other CSOs, share knowledge, and learn from experts there. As a result, JPP learned a lot about disaster risk reduction, which can then be implemented in JPP's programs.")

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

One of the most important insights Rinda gained from the training was the introduction to the hexahelix concept. This idea, which involves the inclusion of communities as key actors in disaster preparedness, emphasized the importance of adaptive communities capable of recovering from disasters. *"Pelatihan ini memberikan informasi baru bahwa ada yang namanya konsep pentahelix yang kemudian bertransformasi menjadi konsep hexahelix dimana dalam pengurangan risiko bencana masyarakat adalah menjadi sektor yang paling penting untuk bisa disiapkan sehingga masyarakat bisa lebih adaptif bisa lebih siaga jika terjadi bencana dan bagaimana mereka bangkit dari keterpurukan setelah bencana."* ("This training provided new information about the pentahelix concept, which has now transformed into the hexahelix concept. In disaster risk reduction, the community is the most important sector to be prepared, so that people can be more adaptive and ready if a disaster occurs, and they can recover from adversity afterward.")

Rinda suggested that future training sessions could benefit from extended durations, allowing participants to explore field cases more thoroughly and learn more from CSOs that have directly experienced disaster preparedness. *“Untuk rekomendasi pelaksanaan pelatihan ini mungkin durasinya agar bisa lebih ditambah sehingga kita jauh lebih eksplorasi terhadap case-case yang ada di lapangan dan juga bisa belajar lebih banyak lagi dari CSO-CSO yang sudah menghadapi kesiapsiagaan bencana tersebut.”* (“The recommendation for this training would be to extend its duration, so we can explore more case studies from the field and learn more from CSOs that have experienced disaster preparedness.”)

The training heightened Rinda’s awareness of the proximity and reality of disasters, which prompted her to consider more targeted community programs that focus on preparing communities for self-sustainability in disaster scenarios. *“Bagi diri sendiri tentu saja ketika selesai pelatihan itu muncul awareness yang lebih tinggi muncul kesadaran juga yang lebih tinggi bahwa bencana itu ada di depan mata dan semakin nyata...jadi harus juga ini diimplementasikan di dalam program-program pada CSO sehingga kita juga bisa berkontribusi untuk pengurangan risiko bencana di masyarakat.”* (“For myself, of course, after the training, there was a heightened awareness that disaster is right in front of us and becoming more real. This awareness must also be implemented in CSO programs so that we can contribute to reducing disaster risks in the community.”)

## FINAL REFLECTIONS

The training boosted Rinda’s confidence in JPP’s ability to implement disaster risk reduction programs and motivated her to continue developing initiatives that align with mainstreaming disaster preparedness and inclusion. *“Ya tentu saja ini membuat kami lebih percaya diri bahwa kami mampu...ini memotivasi kami untuk terus mengembangkan program-program yang terkait sesuai dengan mainstreaming.”* (“Yes, of course, this made us more confident that we are capable. It motivated us to continue developing related programs in line with mainstreaming efforts.”)

Rinda reflected that the training reinforced her belief in the importance of confidence and motivation in implementing DRR programs. She plans to integrate disaster risk reduction and gender and social inclusion (GESI) issues into JPP’s future programs. *“Pelatihan ini tentu saja membuat kami semakin yakin bahwa kami harus memang percaya diri sendiri dan termotivasi untuk bisa melaksanakan program-program DRR...memasukkan issue-issue seperti GESI juga di dalam program DRR.”* (“This training certainly made us more confident in ourselves and motivated to implement DRR programs in our organization, including integrating issues like GESI into the DRR programs we will develop.”)

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