

STRENGTHENING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN KELAWI VILLAGE

In March 2024, a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) training was conducted in Kelawi Village to enhance the community's understanding of disaster risks and to prepare reduction and adaptation plans. Jahrudin, a 34-year-old local leader and member of the Kelawi Village Destana team, was one of the key participants who actively applied the training's lessons to benefit his community.

Jahrudin described his experience during the VCA training as enlightening and transformative. He noted that the training introduced him to new knowledge and perspectives, helping him understand the significance of planning before a disaster strikes. *"Pengalaman yang saya dapat dari kegiatan pelatihan VCA dari awal sampai akhir itu yang pertama seperti mendapat pengetahuan baru dan wawasan baru sehingga di diri saya dapat mengetahui apa yang telah disampaikan oleh tim dan moderator."* ("The experience I got from the VCA training activity from beginning to end was like gaining new knowledge and insights, enabling me to understand what was conveyed by the team and the moderator.")

He particularly appreciated the clear and accessible delivery of the training, which allowed him to fully grasp the concepts. This newfound understanding empowered him to share knowledge with the broader community and contribute to future disaster preparedness initiatives. *"Yang saya sukai dari pelatihan VCA ini yaitu yang pertama untuk penyampaian dari tim dan juga dari moderator itu mudah dan sangat saya pahami sehingga saya lebih tahu apa yang harus dilakukan."* ("What I liked about this VCA training was that the delivery by the team and the moderator was easy to understand, allowing me to better know what actions to take.")

IMPACT

One of the most significant impacts of the training is how Jahrudin applied the knowledge to his personal life and community. He expressed that, before the training, he lacked awareness of disaster preparedness. Now, he feels better equipped to educate others and to take proactive steps in preventing disasters. *"Setelah saya mengikuti pelatihan VCA itu dan alhamdulillah ada perubahan yang terutama perubahan untuk diri saya sendiri sehingga awalnya saya tidak paham saya tidak mengetahui bagaimana cara untuk pencegahan penanggulangan bencana dari situ saya memahaminya dan ada perubahan saya bisa mengetahui dan memahami dari kegiatan tersebut."* ("After attending the VCA training, there were changes, particularly in myself. Initially, I didn't understand disaster prevention, but now I know and understand better what needs to be done.")



Despite these positive outcomes, Jahrudin highlighted some challenges, particularly the limited availability of team members and the geographical spread of Kelawi Village, which makes coordination difficult. He recommended simplifying the language used during the training to ensure that it is easily understood by all participants. *“Untuk yang akan saya rekomendasikan saat kita melakukan pelatihan untuk ke depannya yaitu dari segi penyampaian bahasa dalam materi yang saya rekomendasikan agar lebih menggunakan bahasa yang mudah dimengerti dan dipahami oleh masyarakat saat mengikuti pelatihan selanjutnya.”* (“For future training, I would recommend using simpler language that is easier for the community to understand.”)

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The community's response to the initiatives post-training has been positive. People who were initially unaware of disaster preparedness are now showing interest and even offering suggestions on how to improve future activities. *“Untuk tanggapan masyarakat itu sendiri mereka juga memberikan tanggapan yang baik karena mereka yang awalnya belum mengetahui sehingga kita jelaskan itu mereka juga dapat mengetahui sehingga tanggapan mereka positif.”* (“The community's response was positive; those who initially didn't know were able to understand after we explained it to them.”)

To sustain these efforts, Jahrudin suggested that additional follow-up support and extended training sessions would be beneficial.

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