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THE RISK OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN DISASTERS AND MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS IN INDONESIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021 and 2022, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Indonesia, in collaboration with Kerti Praja Foundation (YKP) and Pulih Foundation, under the coordination of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KemenPPPA), conducted a Rapid Gender-based Violence Risk Assessment and Safety Audit (RGA) in areas affected by national disasters in Indonesia. This rapid assessment aimed to identify conditions that could increase the risk of gender-based violence in post-disaster situations.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence that is caused by gender differences and results in physical, sexual, psychological harm, and/or neglect. This report is expected to serve as a reference for the government in handling disaster situations and updating policies related to disaster management."

The Gender-Based Violence Risk Assessment and Safety Audit shows that the conditions in the evacuation sites across all survey locations can increase the risk of GBV

Information was collected from 5 disaster-affected locations in 2021-2022 from 351 displaced communities and 57 evacuation site managers in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) due to the Seroja Cyclone in April 2021; the eruption of Mount Semeru in Lumajang Regency, East Java, in December 2021; the earthquake in Pasaman and Pasaman Barat Regencies, West Sumatra in February 2021; and the earthquake in Cianjur Regency, West Java in November 2022. Interviews were also conducted with 17 personnel from GBV service-providing institutions, including the Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A), Women and Child Protection Technical Implementation Units (UPT PPA), and Integrated Service Centers for Women and Child Protection (P2TP2A).

The conditions of communities in evacuation sites over the past two years, as identified through this RGA, share many similarities with the conditions after national disasters in previous years, such as the earthquake, tsunami, and liquefaction disasters in Central Sulawesi in 2018.

The findings of the RGA indicate that efforts to reduce the risk of GBV still need to be taken more seriously and systematically by various parties involved in the disaster response.

This rapid assessment was conducted using a mixed methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection. Quantitative data collection aimed to determine the magnitude of GBV risk based on the availability of public facilities, infrastructure, protection efforts, women's leadership, and access to GBV services. Qualitative data collection was conducted to delve deeper into the aspects of women's protection from women's perspectives.

KEY FINDINGS

- The condition of the evacuation tents, access to clean water, toilets, and bathrooms at the evacuation sites has not met the minimum standards for the prevention and management of GBV in emergencies.
- Not all Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have access to clean water.
- Inadequate lighting on the path to the toilet and the absence of locks on the bathroom doors.
- The involvement of women in managing evacuation sites and distributing humanitarian aid is still uneven.
- The availability of spaces that accommodate the specific needs of women and children is still far from adequate.
- Breastfeeding rooms, women's meeting rooms, and child-friendly spaces are still very rare.
- The unavailability of services for victims of Gender-Based Violence, referral mechanisms, including health services at the evacuation site.



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IMPACT

The substandard conditions of IDP camps limited involvement of women in decision-making, and the lack of services for gender-based violence survivors and referral mechanisms in disaster-affected areas contribute to increased vulnerability and risks for women, children, and other vulnerable groups:

- An unsafe environment in IDP camps can increase the risk of gender-based violence and sexual assault.
- The lack of private spaces for married couples in IDP camps increases the risk of sexual violence.
- Unmet needs of women.
- The vulnerability of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups is increasing.
- An increase in teenage pregnancies or unintended pregnancies.
- An increase in births in post-disaster settings, which can increase the burden on women and families.
- An increase in the spread of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, due to the lack of accessible healthcare services within the first 72 hours.
- Persistent depression and stress among women.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of the Gender-Based Violence Risk Assessment and Safety Audit, it is crucial to take concrete steps in managing IDPs in disaster situations:

- Sustained advocacy for concrete actions based on the findings of gender-based violence risk assessments and safety audits, and ensuring monitoring of gender-based violence prevention and response.
- Using minimum standards for the prevention and response to gender-based violence in refugee management.
- Ensuring the availability of accessible gender-based violence services within the first 72 hours and establishing referral mechanisms in refugee settings.