

Preface

Indonesia is one of the most natural disaster-prone countries in the world. The archipelago lies on volcanic fault lines and faces a wide range of natural hazards including tropical flooding, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and drought.

A series of tragic natural disasters have stricken Indonesia over the past few years, which have not only brought sadness, due to loss of lives and damage to properties and vital infrastructures, but also caused trauma to the people affected. Poor communities and vulnerable groups, including women and children, are often the most to suffer the impact of the disasters. The fatal impact of the recent series of disasters have indicated that more work needs to be done by the different stakeholders, including government, civil society and local communities, in order to reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters.

The active involvement of local communities in reducing the risk of disasters through reducing their vulnerabilities and strengthening their resilience is of a paramount importance. Through its Community Based Disaster Management programme, Oxfam aims to support and empower communities living in disaster prone areas in Indonesia to work together to reduce the impact of disasters that may affect them. It is hoped that through Oxfam's work, these communities will strengthen further their coping mechanisms toward natural disasters.

Oxfam is very pleased to work in partnership with IDEP for the development of this simple step-by-step guide on how the community groups can work together to identify what make them vulnerable to natural disasters and come up with action plans, and implement activities than can make them more resilient to these disasters. I hope our partner communities will find this manual useful and practical. This manual should build on the local knowledge on disaster management and risk reduction.

On behalf of Oxfam GB¹ in Indonesia, I would like express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to IDEP for making this manual a reality. I am very delighted to see this manual published, disseminated, and read by the Indonesian people.

Last but not the least, lets all support the Community Based Disaster Management work in Indonesia, firstly by reading this manual.

Sincerely yours,



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¹ Oxfam GB is a member of Oxfam International. Oxfam International is a confederation of 13 organisations working together with over 3,000 partners in more than 100 countries to find lasting solutions to poverty, suffering and injustice.