

## Training Manuals

Volunteers and community members of PMI may not have professional degrees in the field of disaster management but are people with invaluable qualities such as motivation, human relationships, local knowledge and experience. Training can fill gaps to develop and enhance their abilities. From standard operational procedures during emergencies to guides for participatory tools such as VCA (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) and ICBRR (Integrated Community Based Risk Reduction), PMI has created numerous technical manuals for its team members. Training manuals for trainers have also been developed to help conduct regular training and open the door to new volunteers. Most importantly, training has helped in building coordination and a sense of togetherness among team members for their mutual benefit.



## The Way Forward



PMI has a vast network of over 1 million volunteers. They are trained and developed in various specialties with a diversity of functions, including *Korps Sukarela* (KSR or volunteer corps), *Tenaga Sukarela* (TSR or skilled volunteer corps), Medical Action Team, Satgana and SIBAT, just to name a few. PMI will continue the training and development of this large human asset and incorporate awareness of the impact of climate change and the variety of approaches used in adaptation measures into revised training materials. In addition, for 2009-2010, PMI plans to expand the Disaster Preparedness in Schools project into the provinces of DKI Jakarta, West Sumatera, South Sulawesi, North Sulawesi, Aceh, Bengkulu, Bali, Jambi, DI Yogyakarta, West Java, West Sulawesi, Central Java, Nusa Tenggara Timur and Nusa Tenggara Barat.

PMI's community projects contribute to the government's developmental phase, especially in the local government level. Community projects involve strong participation from local government, not only with regards to gaining their support for the project activities, but also in terms of planning and implementing activities which could directly and/or indirectly strengthen the development of local government.

A close working relationship which benefits both the PMI and the local government is often developed between both parties. Government departments often spare their resources for PMI, and in some cases, PMI projects are handed over to local government when project is completed. PMI aims to continue working hand-in-hand with the local governmental bodies to benefit the community.

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Climate  
Change  
Adaptation | Volunteer  
Community  
Participation

## Background

In a country as large as Indonesia, it is inevitable that climate impact scenarios show a high variation among different regions. A scenario-driven approach focused on adapting to future climate involves large uncertainties in defining vulnerability, which changes constantly with time, reflecting social, economic, cultural and political circumstances. Rather than being future oriented, vulnerability is therefore better examined based on actual experiences. By working with the people at a grass-roots level to locate the existing risks and understand how communities cope with them, future risks can be introduced and assessed. Being fully engaged in systemic assessments or investigation, the vulnerable people also become participants in creating the solutions.

No one is yet able to anticipate the exact impacts of climate change at the local scale. In this regard, the immediate goal of climate change adaptation is empowering the vulnerable communities and supporting their capacity to alter their own situation in better preparedness and risk-reduction. Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI (Indonesian Red Cross) with Red Cross and Red Crescent partners in Indonesia and other partner organizations has been working with individuals and communities at the grass-roots level to encourage participation of community members and volunteers. By working *with* the vulnerable rather than working *for* the vulnerable, activities are based on mutual-trust, full-understanding, engaged-participation and a sense of self-ownership, thus increasing the chance of sustainability and success.



## Disaster Preparedness in Schools



Incorporating disaster preparedness in schools presents a unique opportunity. Schools are omnipresent even in the poorest regions, and this provides a chance of working with the future generations to be better prepared for disasters. PMI's "Begins with Me" campaign which started in late 2006 aims to promote the concept of disaster risk reduction among school children. PMI peer educators guide students to share information on hazards, mitigation measures and preparedness plans. The activity influences those beyond the classroom by encouraging the trained students to pass on information to their friends and families. In addition to developing policy and strategy for peer education, PMI has distributed awareness handbooks to the selected schools in West Jakarta and Yogyakarta. PMI also plans to incorporate climate change adaptation into the existing disaster preparedness manuals, recognizing that they share a common interest in reducing the vulnerability of communities.

## SATGANA/SIBAT

People who perceive themselves to be vulnerable are more likely to cooperate in relevant disaster preparedness initiatives than those who do not. Greater participation of community members by sharing knowledge, identifying priorities, and deciding on outcomes helps strengthen project implementation. PMI's community-based projects have been mobilizing teams of volunteers who originate from the people and work for them.

The Satgana teams are volunteer-squads within PMI specially developed and trained to respond to disasters and provide emergency services to the affected population. Coming from a wide range of backgrounds, including students, community leaders and doctors, the teams are recruited from local communities and given specific training in relief activities such as **evacuation, first aid and field kitchens**. **Coordinated by the PMI branch, the team can be mobilized anywhere in the country as demonstrated during the 2004 tsunami operation. Another group of volunteers within PMI is SIBAT (Siaga Bencana Berbasis Masyarakat) or community-based action teams that take responsibility for facilitating the implementation of risk reduction activities. SIBAT is owned by the community and members function as guides and advisors who are aware of the specific local vulnerabilities and needs related to risk reduction.** A team of **20** men and women **is** usually recruited to **serve as SIBAT for each village, and usually act as the first responder and first assistant in disasters. When massive flooding occurred in early 2008 in Jakarta as an example of intensified climate change-related hazards, the SIBAT teams, along with the Satgana teams, were mobilized to assist the affected population to evacuate to higher ground, to set up field kitchens and to distribute relief items.**

