

# Community Leadership in Humanitarian Innovation and Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Documentation of Impacts and Good Practices of the IDEAKSI Programme in the Special Region of Yogyakarta 2021–2025

Pradytia Putri Pertiwi, Ph.D | Duma Hardiana Manurung, M.Sc | Juniati  
Rahmadani, MPH | Fadhliah Sofiyana Noor Saprowi, S.Psi | 2025



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NETWORK



# List of Abbreviation

<b>ADRRN</b>	The Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network
<b>APMCDRR</b>	Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>BAPPEDA</b>	Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah (Regional Development Planning Agency)
<b>BNPB</b>	Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (National Disaster Management Authority)
<b>BonHargo</b>	Kebon Tirtohargo (Tirtohargo Garden)
<b>BPBD</b>	Badan Penanggulangan Bencana Daerah (Regional Disaster Management Agency)
<b>CDP</b>	Center for Disaster Preparedness
<b>CIQAL</b>	Center for Improving Qualified Activity in Life of People with Disabilities
<b>CLIP</b>	<i>Community-Led Innovation Partnership</i>
<b>COVID-19</b>	CoronaVirus Disease 19
<b>CSR</b>	<i>Corporate Social Responsibility</i>
<b>DIFAGANA DIY</b>	Difabel Siaga Bencana Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta (Disaster Preparedness Volunteers with Disabilities)
<b>DIFGANDES</b>	Difagana Emergency System
<b>EWS</b>	<i>Early Warning System</i>
<b>FDTB</b>	Forum Disabilitas Tangguh Bencana (Disability-Resilient Disaster Forum)
<b>FGD</b>	<i>Focus Group Discussion</i>
<b>FPRB</b>	Forum Pengurangan Risiko Bencana (Disaster Risk Reduction Forum)
<b>GKJ</b>	Gereja Kristen Jawa (Javanese Christian Church)
<b>IDEAKSI</b>	Ide Inovasi Aksi Inklusi (Ideas, Innovation, and Inclusive Action)
<b>KSB</b>	Kelompok Siaga Bencana (Disaster Preparedness Group)
<b>KT Ngudi Makmur</b>	Kelompok Tani Ngudi Makmur (Ngudi Makmur Farmers Group)
<b>KT Prima Gadung</b>	Karang Taruna Prima Gadung (Prima Gadung Youth Organisation)
<b>KWT</b>	Kelompok Wanita Tani (Women Farmers Group)
<b>LP Artha Gading</b>	Lumbung Pangan Artha Mandiri (Artha Mandiri Food Barn)
<b>NGO</b>	<i>Non-Governmental Organisation</i>
<b>ODDP</b>	Orang dengan Disabilitas Psikososial (Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities)
<b>PB PALMA</b>	Penanggulangan Bencana dan Pelayanan Masyarakat (Disaster Management and Community Services)

<b>PKK</b>	Pemberdayaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga (Family Welfare Empowerment)
<b>PNPM</b>	Programme Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat (National Programme for Community Empowerment)
<b>PPDMS</b>	Pusat Pemberdayaan Disabilitas Mitra Sejahtera (Disability Empowerment Center Mitra Sejahtera)
<b>PRB</b>	Pengurangan Risiko Bencana (Disaster Risk Reduction)
<b>SHG</b>	<i>Self Help Group</i>
<b>TAKSI KENCANA</b>	Taman Edukasi Inklusi Kesiapsiagaan Bencana (Inclusive Disaster Preparedness Education Park)
<b>YEU</b>	YAKKUM Emergency Unit

# Summary



The IDEAKSI Programme, as part of the global Community-Led Innovation Partnership (CLIP) initiative, has successfully demonstrated how community-led innovation can strengthen disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response systems that are inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of at-risk groups. Implemented by the YAKKUM Emergency Unit (YEU) in the Special Region of Yogyakarta since 2021, the programme has supported local innovators in developing and scaling up community-based solutions to address disaster risk, climate change, and other socio-economic challenges.

Through funding support, capacity building, and the facilitation of strategic networks, IDEAKSI has driven more than 24 innovations across four core areas: disaster preparedness and climate adaptation, food security, environmental management, and education and social inclusion. This initiative has not only reshaped the way communities perceive and respond to disaster risk, but has also opened up opportunities for women, persons with disabilities, older people, and youth to take active roles as local leaders.

Key findings from this study show that local leadership, when supported through mentoring and experiential learning, can help transform emergency response systems to better address the needs of most-at-risk groups. Communities that previously played a passive role as aid recipients are now actively engaged in planning, implementation, and advocacy for disaster management policy. The programme has also enhanced community capacity in identifying local risks, designing context-specific solutions, and strengthening networks with multi-sectoral stakeholders. In many instances, local innovators have succeeded in translating grassroots practices into systemic interventions that are formally recognised and more widely replicated.

In addition to enhancing the technical dimensions of preparedness and climate adaptation, IDEAKSI has contributed to reinforcing social cohesion, community economic empowerment, and the inclusion of marginalised groups. The meaningful participation of women, youth, older adults, persons with disabilities, and other most-at-risk groups in decision-making and programme implementation reflects a shift towards more equitable and just disaster governance. The development of inclusive infrastructure and information systems that are sensitive to vulnerability has also improved the accessibility and effectiveness of services.

One of the critical lessons from this programme is that sustainable and impactful innovation often emerges from existing local practices and is driven by individuals or groups with long-standing commitment and involvement in their communities. Peer-

to-peer learning has proven to be an effective mechanism for accelerating knowledge exchange, strengthening the confidence of innovators, and fostering cross-community collaboration that enriches local approaches. Nonetheless, challenges persist, particularly regarding the integration of innovation into formal policy frameworks, securing long-term funding, leadership succession, and technological adaptation.

This study recommends that the localisation efforts advanced by IDEAKSI be reinforced through the formal recognition of local innovators' roles in regional and national disaster and humanitarian systems. It is also essential to encourage the integration of local innovations into village development plans and government programmes, and to broaden access to funding through mechanisms such as Village Funds, Special Autonomy Funds, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and climate finance. Furthermore, building the capacity of village authorities, providing inclusive spaces for dialogue, and developing participatory risk data systems are key strategies to ensure the long-term impact and sustainability of community-based innovations.

# Background



Over the past decade, Indonesia's disaster management and humanitarian response systems have undergone significant changes influenced by various factors, including global trends in localisation, the adoption of the cluster approach in disaster coordination, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (Pujiono Center, 2021). The call for localisation intensified during the 2018 Palu disaster, when the Government of Indonesia issued National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) Regulation No. 6 of 2018 on the Reception of International Assistance in Disaster Emergencies. This regulation instructed international organisations wishing to provide aid to coordinate with BNPB, register with the relevant ministries, and conduct all activities through local partners.

Since the issuance of this BNPB regulation, the landscape of disaster management and humanitarian response has increasingly recognised the leadership of local organisations, including at-risk groups such as persons with disabilities and older people. A study by Pertiwi & Margaretha (2022) showed that Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), when supported through capacity building, can act as local humanitarian actors—providing real-time disability data and using that data for evidence-based advocacy to influence policies and practices at both local and national levels. Greater participation has also enabled OPDs to contribute to the delivery, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes, thereby improving the quality of inclusive disaster response interventions. A similar approach was applied in the Palu disaster response by the YAKKUM Emergency Unit (YEU) between 2018–2020, where persons with disabilities were actively involved (Corneal et al., 2021).

Despite such progress, a study by the Pujiono Center (2021) on Indonesia's humanitarian landscape identified several gaps that hinder the effectiveness and inclusiveness of disaster response. Key challenges include the limited participation of most-at-risk groups in decision-making, a lack of inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR) policy integration at the local level, and inadequate disaggregated data, which impedes evidence-based planning. In addition, local organisations often face difficulties accessing direct funding, poor coordination among stakeholders leads to programme duplication, and knowledge-sharing mechanisms to replicate best practices are lacking. The absence of sustained capacity strengthening programmes for local actors and difficulties in adapting to climate change further exacerbate community vulnerabilities. Therefore, there is a pressing need for strategies that strengthen local leadership, improve policy integration, increase access to direct funding for local organisations, and establish knowledge-sharing systems that facilitate the replication of community-based innovations—making humanitarian responses in Indonesia more effective, inclusive, and sustainable.



The IDEAKSI Programme is part of the Community-Led Innovation Partnership (CLIP)—a global initiative aimed at promoting community-led solutions in addressing humanitarian challenges, ensuring that crisis-affected communities play a direct role in designing, developing, and implementing solutions for their own needs. The programme is funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and jointly managed by Elrha, the Start Network, and ADRRN, with implementing partners in Indonesia (YAKKUM Emergency Unit/YEU), the Philippines (CDP), and Guatemala (ASECSA via the Start Network Hub).

At its core, CLIP aims to create humanitarian response systems that are inclusive, dignified, sustainable, efficient, and effective by supporting locally driven solutions developed by communities experiencing crises. The programme critiques the top-down approach to humanitarian aid and instead builds local ownership, fosters innovation, and promotes continuous learning to create long-term, impactful change. Through CLIP, community-led innovations are developed, tested, and scaled, enabling the resulting best practices and lessons to inform broader humanitarian strategies and policies.

In Indonesia, CLIP is implemented by YEU through the IDEAKSI Programme, which supports local innovators and community organisations in developing and scaling up solutions for disaster resilience. The programme promotes inclusive, community-based disaster preparedness through a range of innovations including flood early warning systems, climate-resilient agriculture, inclusive evacuation planning, and circular economy models—all of which are integrated into local policies and governance. IDEAKSI operates on the core principle of community-led innovation, ensuring that solutions emerge from within communities themselves, rather than as externally imposed interventions that often lack contextual relevance.

Since its launch in January 2021, IDEAKSI has progressed through two phases of implementation, expanding from Yogyakarta to other regions across Indonesia. In the first phase (2021–2023), the programme supported nine local innovators in Yogyakarta, focusing on the development and refinement of DRR and climate adaptation solutions. The second phase (2023–2025) saw significant expansion, involving 15 new innovators in Yogyakarta, two in Central Sulawesi, and six others in Jakarta and East Nusa Tenggara, in collaboration with Church World Service (CWS) Indonesia. This expansion has allowed IDEAKSI to reach more vulnerable communities, particularly those affected by climate change, urban flooding, and economic instability.

To support the emergence of humanitarian solutions rooted in local leadership and inclusivity, IDEAKSI in Indonesia follows a four-stage innovation process that is structured yet remains adaptive:

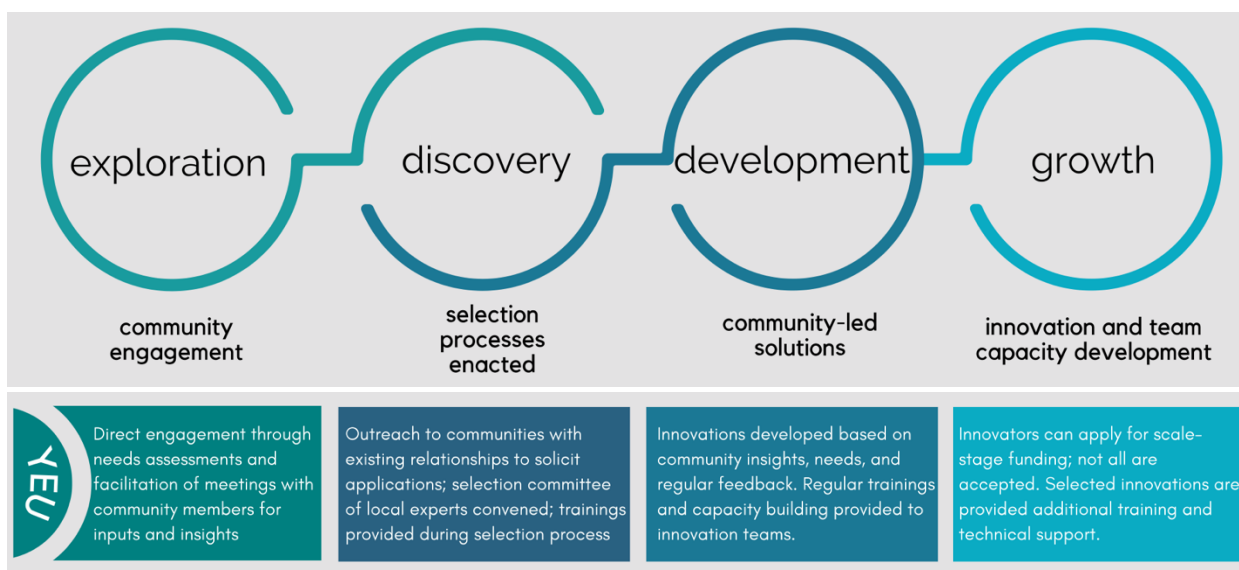


Figure 1. The IDEAKSI Programme Model in Indonesia (Source: Caralytas, 2023, p.16)

The IDEAKSI model provides both financial and non-financial support to local innovators (Figure 1). The programme offers grant funding to initiate or expand community-based initiatives, while also equipping participants with capacity-building training in disaster preparedness, social entrepreneurship, and inclusive development. Innovators also receive technical guidance, networking opportunities, and policy advocacy support—ensuring that the solutions developed are sustainable, scalable, and embedded within local governance structures. Through this approach, IDEAKSI promotes community-level leadership, enabling local actors to take on greater roles in disaster preparedness and response.



**Figure 2.** Scope of Innovations in the IDEAKSI Programme

The various innovations supported by IDEAKSI in Yogyakarta (Figure 2) reflect the diverse and pressing challenges faced by communities in disaster-prone areas. There are four thematic areas covered by the 24 innovations implemented by YEU in Yogyakarta:

- Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response:**  
Innovations in this category focus on strengthening early warning systems, emergency response, and inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR). The approaches used ensure that most-at-risk groups—such as persons with disabilities, older adults, and those living in poverty—have access to disaster preparedness information and services.
- Food Security, Agriculture, and Climate Change Adaptation:**  
This theme centres on food security and adaptation to climate change,

particularly in addressing water scarcity, soil degradation, and shifting weather patterns. The programme introduces climate-smart agriculture and sustainable food systems to improve yields while reducing dependency on external resources.

c. **Waste Management and Environmental Sustainability:**

Several IDEAKSI innovations are focused on waste management using circular economy principles, transforming household waste into economically valuable resources. These initiatives help reduce environmental pollution while creating community-based livelihood opportunities.

d. **Inclusive Education and Disaster Awareness:**

IDEAKSI also supports a range of community-based educational innovations that use creative approaches—such as performing arts, digital technology, and experiential learning—to raise public awareness of disaster risks.

This document presents an overview of the impact of the innovations supported by the IDEAKSI programme, while also summarising good practices and the challenges encountered during implementation. The findings aim to provide concrete recommendations to support the replication of community-led innovations and to strengthen inclusivity, accountability, and accessibility within humanitarian programming. The resulting recommendations are intended to serve as an evidence-based advocacy tool to promote the sustainability of community-driven innovation.

# Method



This study explores the achievements, good practices, lessons learned, and contributions of the IDEAKSI Programme in strengthening inclusive humanitarian systems and landscapes in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, with a particular focus on its impact in fostering local community leadership and ensuring the inclusion of at-risk groups in disaster management.

The documentation of good practices and lessons from the IDEAKSI Programme addresses the following questions:

1. How has the IDEAKSI Programme contributed to strengthening inclusive humanitarian systems and landscapes in the Special Region of Yogyakarta?
2. What has been the impact of the IDEAKSI programme in:
  - Promoting local community leadership in inclusive humanitarian and disaster management programmes?
  - Ensuring the inclusion of at-risk groups such as persons with disabilities, older people, women, and children in humanitarian and disaster management programmes?
3. What good practices can be replicated to encourage local leadership in inclusive humanitarian and disaster management programmes in other regions?
4. What are the challenges and lessons learned that can inform policy recommendations to support local leadership in inclusive humanitarian and disaster management programmes?

This study adopts the Seven Dimensions of Localisation framework by the Start Network (Van Brabant & Patel, 2018), which highlights seven key aspects:

1. Funding, emphasising the importance of direct financial support to local actors.
2. Capacity Strengthening, which includes the enhancement of local organisations' technical and operational skills.
3. Partnership, stressing equitable relationships between international and local organisations.
4. Participation, ensuring that affected communities are actively involved in decision-making.
5. Coordination and Leadership, promoting the role of local actors in disaster governance mechanisms.
6. Policy Influence and Advocacy, aiming to increase local capacities to influence humanitarian policies; and
7. Visibility and Recognition, ensuring fair representation of local organisations in public communications and humanitarian policies. This framework guides both the development of research instruments and the data analysis process.

The study employs a descriptive case study approach (Yin, 2018) to provide an in-depth depiction of localisation practices within IDEAKSI. Data collection methods include document review, perception surveys, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions (FGDs). Data were collected from various stakeholders, including local innovators, programme target communities, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), humanitarian practitioners, government representatives, and the programme implementation team at YEU. A total of 152 individuals participated in the documentation of good practices and learning, which are detailed in Table 1.

Tabel 1. Tabulation of the number of study participants based on consultation activities

Activities	Participant with Disabilities			Participant without disabilities			Total
	Male	Female	Others	Male	Female	Others	
FGD OPDs	5	2	-	-	-	-	7
FGD Stakeholder	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
FGD Inovator	2	-	-	15	15	-	32
Interview Government	-	-	-	7	4	-	11
Perception Survey	10	10	-	39	41	-	100
Total	17	12	-	63	60	-	152

# Good Practices and Lessons Learned





# Community Transformation: Outcomes and Contributions of IDEAKSI

Over its four years of implementation, the IDEAKSI programme has had a profound and far-reaching impact, promoting sustainable, inclusive, and community-led solutions across multiple sectors. Beyond simply providing technical and financial assistance, IDEAKSI has facilitated community transformation—empowering previously passive communities to become key actors in developing solutions to the challenges they face. The programme has shifted how communities perceive and respond to humanitarian challenges, fostering awareness of their capacity to innovate and drive sustainable change.

The impact and contributions of IDEAKSI can be identified in at least three key areas, each of which is outlined below.

## *Strengthening Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Climate Change Adaptation*

IDEAKSI has transformed the approach of many communities from being reactive to becoming more proactive in disaster preparedness and risk reduction. The programme equips communities with the knowledge and tools necessary to protect themselves before disasters strike. The introduction of structured evacuation plans, community-based early warning systems, and the reinforcement of housing infrastructure has successfully reduced vulnerability to earthquakes, floods, and landslides. Data from the perception survey (Table 2) among communities targeted by the innovation programme shows that 90% of respondents feel prepared to face disasters after participating in the programme. Notably, 39% reported that they have already put into practice what they learned through the innovation initiatives.

Table 2. Perception survey on disaster preparedness

Question	Answer Option	Responses (people)	Responses (percentage)
<b>To what extent do you feel more prepared to face disasters after participating in the disaster/climate crisis programme by [Innovator's Name] and YEU?</b>	Not prepared	0	0%
	Slightly prepared	1	1%
	Fairly prepared	9	9%
	Prepared	51	51%
	Prepared and have already put it into practice	39	39%
	<b>Total</b>	100	100%

Examples can be found at innovation sites—for instance, in Padukuhan Nganjir, the area of the Karang Taruna Prima Gadung innovators, which is exposed to the risks of landslides and earthquakes. Previously, the community had no emergency response plan; now, disaster training and simulation exercises have become part of their routine. Meanwhile, the installation of a flood early warning system (EWS) in Dusun Papringan, Caturtunggal Village—located along the banks of the Gajahwong River—has significantly improved response times and reduced potential losses from the annual flood threats. One resident described the change: “In the past, when an earthquake struck, we were confused about where to go. Now we know the evacuation routes and how to save ourselves quickly.”

IDEAKSI's impact also includes faster humanitarian action and emergency response, enhancing community disaster preparedness through efficient food distribution and support for search and rescue operations. One of the key initiatives in the programme is the mobile community kitchen, which has served 5,610 meals during a maritime accident search and rescue (SAR) operation in Bantul. A member of the Murtigading Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Forum (FPRB) highlighted the importance of this initiative, saying: “We were able to serve warm meals to thousands of people every day—this is proof that our tradition of mutual support is still alive.” In addition to food assistance, the SAR operations facilitated through the Murtigading Mobile Kitchen innovation, supported by IDEAKSI, have played a crucial role in improving disaster response coordination, further reinforcing the programme's commitment to community-led resilience.

### **Story of Innovator – Mulyana (FPRB Murtigading)**

*"Our main achievement was supporting joint operations with the national search and rescue agency (Basarnas) during two search efforts for missing fishermen—on 10–12 July 2024 at Baros Beach, and again during a SAR operation on 12–14 September. We also provided food support for the flag-raising ceremonial team. In total, our services have spanned a full month, reaching 5,610 meals/individuals."*



### **Photo story from communities – Hardiyo (FPRB Gunungkidul)**

*"When a landslide occurs, how can our friends with disabilities evacuate themselves? For other types of disasters, there might still be a chance—but landslides happen suddenly, as we saw in Jlantir. That's why it's crucial for persons with disabilities to have the capacity, knowledge, and skills to at least evacuate themselves. Imagine me, as a wheelchair user, facing a sudden landslide—what could I possibly do? This is a major challenge for us living in the northern region, which is highly vulnerable to landslide hazards."*

In the field of agriculture and climate adaptation, IDEAKSI has introduced cost-effective and resource-efficient farming techniques that not only reduce the impacts of climate change but also enhance productivity and food security. One notable example is the implementation of Smart Irrigation Systems (fog irrigation) in Padukuhan Ngoro-oro, which has revolutionised water management by reducing irrigation costs by up to 40% and enabling farmers to cultivate more frequently.

A farmer from the community described the change: *"Previously, we had to walk long distances to fetch water. Now, water is right there in our fields. This isn't just about farming—it's about giving opportunities to everyone, including the elderly and those with physical limitations."*

Aligned with this, IDEAKSI's focus on environmental sustainability through waste management has brought about a fundamental shift in how communities handle

waste—transforming it from an unmanaged problem into a valuable resource that supports both economic and ecological benefits. Households are now implementing more structured waste separation practices, compost production has increased, and reliance on chemical fertilisers has declined. In Padukuhan Bolang, the site of the Ngudi Makmur Farmers Group innovation, for instance, farmers now use organic compost produced through the integration of goat manure to enrich their soil—reducing environmental degradation while also cutting production costs. One innovator remarked: *“We used to spend a lot on expensive chemical fertilisers, but now we use organic fertiliser made from our own waste—it’s cheaper and more environmental friendly.”*



**Photo story from communities – Sukarto (KWT Wanita Karya Panggang)**

*“The Budigalon programme has brought many benefits to us. Initially, its goal was to address drought, but it has also helped in managing plastic waste—especially single-use mineral water bottles that pile up during the dry season. With Budigalon, this waste can be repurposed, reducing environmental pollution. Additionally, the outputs of the Budigalon system are valuable for families. The water spinach grown meets household vegetable needs, while the catfish cultivated provides extra nutrition and can be used as an additional protein source. In fact, the harvests can even be used to provide supplementary food for older adults.”*

Through their disaster education innovations, PPDMS and Bon Hargo have not only succeeded in increasing the knowledge of persons with disabilities as their primary target group but also raised awareness and sparked interest among the wider community through their educational activities. For example, PPDMS reported that schools initially not included in the programme have shown interest and are now seen as potential sites for future educational initiatives—a development that PPDMS considers one of their greatest achievements. They also indicated that future efforts will focus on expanding the programme to schools beyond the original target group.

Similarly, in Bon Hargo, local fishing enthusiasts operating near the innovation site have become interested after noticing the tsunami evacuation signs and have taken the opportunity to learn about evacuation routes in the event of a tsunami. A local resident shared: *“When people walk past or come here to fish, they often ask, ‘What is this sign for?’ I tell them, ‘Feel free to read it.’ Then they realize that if there’s a tsunami, at least people nearby will know what to do. At the very least, it says ‘20 minutes, 20*

*metres'—that's about the time and distance it takes for a tsunami to arrive, so we know how to get to safety. Anyone who comes here ends up reading it and learns that a tsunami can hit within 20 minutes, and the beach is really close to this area."*



**Photo story from communities – Eko (PPDMS Nglipar)**

*"Foto itu bermakna bagi saya, karena saya yang membuat desain putpatcamat (putar cepat cari selamat). Saya ingin anak-anak SD bisa, eee anak2 sejak dini bisa mengenal bencana."*

### **Economic empowerment through social innovation**

One of the most significant achievements of IDEAKSI is economic empowerment through social innovation, where the programme has supported local enterprises that combine economic benefits with social and environmental responsibility. Projects such as maggot cultivation, community-based irrigation businesses, and waste management initiatives have enabled communities—particularly most-at-risk groups such as women, persons with disabilities, and older adults—to earn independent incomes while addressing pressing local challenges.

For example, in Padukuhan Watugajah, waste collection and recycling activities have not only provided a stable source of income for older people and housewives but also significantly improved local environmental cleanliness. One innovator described this transformation by saying, *"Waste, which used to be a burden, has now become a source of income for us"*. This shift towards self-reliance demonstrates how the IDEAKSI programme has successfully reduced dependence on external aid while fostering long-term economic growth.



### **Story of Innovator – Nining (KWT Melati)**

*"Our greatest achievements encompass several key aspects that have made a real difference to our community. First, we have successfully increased the income of housewives, providing them with better economic opportunities. Second, the environment around Watu Gajah is now much cleaner, thanks to improved waste management efforts. Third, farmers in our area have started to reduce their reliance on chemical fertilisers, which has had a positive impact on soil fertility and the sustainability of agriculture. Fourth, we've been able to support the nutritional needs of older people, persons with disabilities, and young children through the outcomes of this programme. In addition, we've also created employment opportunities for older adults by involving them in the waste-sorting process at our warehouse."*



In addition, the Lumbung Pangan (LP) Artha initiative, which focuses on community-based food storage systems and financial support, has helped households cope with the economic impacts of drought. By implementing a community-based rice saving and loan scheme, vulnerable families now have a financial safety net, reducing their dependence on volatile market prices. This programme also places a strong emphasis on inclusivity by involving women, youth, and persons with disabilities in decision-making and resource management, reinforcing the importance of equitable economic participation.

One of the key outcomes of this economic empowerment is increased financial independence for high-risk groups such as women, older adults, and persons with disabilities. With more inclusive economic opportunities, these groups are less reliant on government assistance or unstable informal employment. For instance, the waste management initiative in Watugajah has generated income for older adults who previously had no access to stable jobs. This has contributed to improved household welfare, better access to education for children, and stronger economic resilience in times of crisis.

Moreover, community-based economic empowerment has also strengthened the local economy by creating sustainable business models. Through support for community-driven agriculture and irrigation enterprises, IDEAKSI has helped farmers in areas like Kalurahan Girijati to increase their cropping index, even during the dry season. This sustainable agricultural system has led to higher yields, broader market access, and improved farmer resilience in the face of climate change. The long-term implication is stronger local food security and enhanced economic competitiveness in rural areas.



**Photo Story from communities – Jumbidi (KT Ngudi Makmur Girikarto)**

*"This photo, all the ones with the pots, is very meaningful to me because I've been able to share them with all the residents, especially in Padukuhan Bolang. I've distributed pots, fertilisers, and seeds—both liquid and solid fertilisers—with the intention that our group and our efforts will be remembered. We hope that all residents will use the pots to grow plants around their homes, as a way to remember our group. They've already started to benefit from our group's initiatives. I hope people will continue to use the pots and grow plants around their houses—it could even help support their household economy. That's the intention of our group.*

*We also distributed some chilli plants in polybags to the residents, to help ease their financial burden a little and again, to keep our group in mind. We haven't been able to give much just yet—only a little, as much as our group can manage for now. But in the future, when things grow and improve, we'll be able to give more to the community. So the ultimate goal of our group is to contribute to the well-being of our community, not just our members."*

Furthermore, the impact of economic empowerment through IDEAKSI is also evident in the implementation of a circular economy which brings environmental benefits. Many communities have adopted improved waste management practices, ranging from household waste separation to the production of organic fertiliser from waste. For example, maggot cultivation and organic composting programmes have transformed how communities perceive waste—what was once seen as a burden is now viewed as a resource with economic value. The implications of this shift extend beyond a cleaner environment

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<sup>1</sup> A circular economy is a system or economic model aimed at generating economic growth by maintaining the value of products, materials, and resources in the economy for as long as possible, thereby minimising the social and environmental harm caused by the linear economic approach (Mies & Goat, 2021).

### *Inclusive development through the empowerment of at-risk groups*

Beyond its economic and environmental contributions, IDEAKSI has also been a pioneer in ensuring inclusivity and accessibility across various development initiatives. The programme ensures that at-risk and marginalised groups—such as women, youth, older adults, and persons with disabilities—can actively participate in decision-making and programme implementation.

Data from the perception survey (Table 3) found that 40% of participants reported being consistently involved in activities; 29% were involved in most activities; and 19% were involved in some. However, 9% felt they were only occasionally included, while 3% stated they were never involved at all.

Table 3. Perception survey on community participation

Question	Answer Options	Responses (people)	Responses (percentage)
<b>To what extent have you been actively involved (e.g. giving opinions, hands-on participation) in the disaster/climate crisis innovation programme by [Innovator's Name] and YEU?</b>	Never actively involved	3	3%
	Only occasionally actively involved	9	9%
	Actively involved in some activities	19	19%
	Actively involved in most activities	29	29%
	Always actively involved	40	40%
		<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

Examples of community and at-risk group involvement can be seen in the increasing participation of women in leadership and governance structures, while inclusive initiatives for persons with disabilities have successfully challenged existing stigma. One innovative approach has been through the Yogyakarta Inclusive Theatre, which uses performances and storytelling as educational tools for disaster preparedness, involving actors from the disability community. One actor proudly stated, "We want to show that persons with disabilities can contribute to disaster education. We're not just spectators—we're part of the solution." This initiative demonstrates how creative



approaches can raise broader public awareness and promote more inclusive participation. Communities have also started to feel that their presence is truly acknowledged—what in Javanese is known as “diuwongke.”



**Photo story from communities – Supriwiarti (SHG Unggul Jiwa)**

*“In my opinion, our friends who have joined others feel happy—they feel recognised, diuwongke (respected), appreciated. Yes, sometimes there are people who speak bluntly or joke a bit excessively, but that also becomes a way for us to learn to accept others. Even when the words are unpleasant, we learn to build resilience, becoming stronger and less overly sensitive in social interactions.”*

On the other hand, the active involvement of persons with disabilities through DIFAGANA DIY has been pioneering in ensuring that early warning and disaster evacuation systems are inclusive for people with disabilities. Through the IDEAKSI programme, they have developed approaches that enable those most at risk—including wheelchair users, deaf individuals, and people with visual impairments—to access disaster information and safe evacuation routes. Preparedness training that actively involves persons with disabilities has led to the development of more responsive evacuation guidelines, while early warning systems are now designed to be more accessible, using features such as audible alarms and effective visual signals.

This initiative has transformed communities that were once seen solely as aid recipients into actors with the capacity to protect themselves and contribute to emergency response, ensuring that their needs are adequately accommodated.

This is further confirmed by the perception survey, in which 82% of respondents felt that their needs had been taken into account. Specifically, 63% stated that these considerations were not only a matter of commitment but had been put into practice. Meanwhile, 13% felt the consideration given was sufficient, and 5% felt that the programme gave little or no consideration to their specific needs.

Table 4. Perception survey on the accommodation of specific needs of at-risk groups

Question	Pilihan jawaban	Jawaban (orang)	Jawaban (persentase)
<b>To what extent does the disaster/climate crisis innovation programme by [Innovator's Name] and YEU take into account the specific needs of at-risk groups, such as persons with disabilities, older adults, and children?</b>	Not considered	2	<b>2%</b>
	Slightly considered	3	<b>3%</b>
	Fairly considered	13	<b>13%</b>
	Considered	19	<b>19%</b>
	Considered and implemented	63	<b>63%</b>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

#### **Story of innovator – Doddy Kaliri (DIFAGANA)**

*Our greatest achievement is the realisation of the vision we had from the very beginning. Before joining the IDEAKSI programme, we had several discussions about developing an application or platform that could meet the need for information and education on disaster risk reduction (DRR), with persons with disabilities as the primary target. This group faces particular vulnerabilities, and access to DRR information and self-evacuation methods is still very limited for them. For example, a wheelchair user should be able to understand the disaster risks in their area and how to evacuate safely. After entering the IDEAKSI competition, we developed this idea into a concept note—and thankfully, it was successfully selected for implementation.*



A community group that continues to face significant stigma—people with mental health conditions or psychosocial disabilities (ODDP)—has also played a role in the IDEAKSI programme through TAKSI KENCANA, an initiative that empowers individuals with mental and psychosocial disorders through psychosocial activities based on agriculture, alongside disaster preparedness training. This programme has created a supportive environment in which individuals with psychosocial conditions can engage in structured agricultural activities, such as farming. These activities not only enhance

their economic independence but also support their mental health by providing routine, a sense of purpose, and positive social interactions.

In addition, TAKSI KENCANA integrates disaster risk reduction (DRR) by ensuring that individuals with psychosocial disabilities understand emergency procedures and inclusive evacuation routes. The programme has introduced evacuation plans tailored to their specific needs, along with preparedness training that helps participants recognise warning signals and follow safety procedures during a disaster. One of the programme's major achievements has been the reduction in relapse rates among participants, thanks to the stability and support provided by the community. One participant shared their experience: "Through these farming activities, I feel more seen and like I have a place to contribute. I used to feel isolated, but now I know there's a community that supports me." The success of TAKSI KENCANA demonstrates that economic empowerment, mental health support, and disaster preparedness can be effectively integrated into a single, inclusive programme.



**Photo Story from communities – Laila Novariana (SHG Unggul Jiwa)**

*"Indeed, when I joined, I felt noticed. There was a time when my mother and I both had a relapse at the same time, and our friends took care of us. We were even admitted to Gracia Hospital, they took us there, stayed with us, and handled everything—like the BPJS (health insurance) issue, even when it expired, they got it sorted with the local government. Their care was truly remarkable. I have to keep participating because I need to contribute. I am the one who is needed, the one who is cared for, because whenever there's an event, I'm always the one who represents. Thank you to YEU, may Allah reward you."*

Finally, one of the most profound contributions of IDEAKSI has been transforming the role of at-risk groups from passive programme recipients to active decision-makers in the planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction (DRR). This transformation is clearly evident in Kalurahan Kepuharjo, where a village disability committee was formed with support from IDEAKSI and Yayasan Ciqal as the innovator. This committee serves as a platform for persons with disabilities, their caregivers, and local leaders to discuss, exchange knowledge, and collaboratively develop disaster preparedness plans that directly accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities.

Ciqal's innovator reflected on this change during the FGD, highlighting how the initiative has fostered better collaboration between community members and village stakeholders:

*"Together with the village authorities, persons with disabilities, their parents, and community leaders from Kepuharjo, we have been able to work inclusively to discuss, learn together, share experiences, and build a joint commitment to mainstreaming disability issues and ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities."*

Before IDEAKSI, persons with disabilities were rarely involved in emergency planning discussions and were often viewed only as a group requiring special assistance, without direct consultation regarding their actual needs. The establishment of the inclusive disability village committee has ensured that their perspectives are heard, respected, and integrated into the village contingency plans.

#### **Story of innovator – Tutik (Ciqal)**

*The greatest success we have achieved is that now the Kepuharjo village government has a comprehensive disability database, which includes names, addresses, and whether individuals with disabilities have personal documents and are receiving social assistance. This information has been integrated into a disability information system that can be accessed by the village government or community groups. With this data, persons with disabilities are now starting to be involved in various activities. On the other hand, the village government now has a better perspective on disability, as evidenced by the establishment of accessibility improvements following the IDEAKSI programme.*



Inclusive development is also related to ensuring physical accessibility for the convenience of persons with disabilities, allowing them to actively participate in innovation programmes. For example, the construction of an inclusive bathroom at the Sanggar Edukasi PRB Inklusi Bon Hargo innovation site. This facility was built thanks to the support of Difagana and the government through special funding. The goal is to ensure that all participants, including wheelchair users and other persons with disabilities, can participate in training without physical barriers. Although the access routes are still limited, further development is planned to ensure that the entire area can be reached. Additional facilities, such as waste bins, have also been provided as part of efforts to create an inclusive-friendly environment.

Another example is the renovation of the refugee shelters for the Mount Merapi eruption by the Merapi Disaster Response Team (KSB Merapi), funded by the PNPM Mandiri programme. Initially, these shelters were not disability-friendly, but they have now been equipped with accessible toilets and sliding doors to facilitate access. These shelters are not only used for disaster-related needs but have also been utilised

by the community for various social activities. This innovation has raised awareness among various parties, including the village government, community leaders, and volunteers, about the importance of inclusive public facilities. It has also encouraged the formation of inclusion cadres who actively oversee the development of inclusive infrastructure, such as social warehouses, community kitchens, and inclusive posts. In addition to collaborating with the Social Services Office, the community has partnered with local businesses and tourist transport associations to strengthen the inclusive disaster response system that is responsive to the needs of at-risk groups.

## The Journey to Leadership: Stories from Innovators

Although the IDEAKSI programme promotes local leadership, there is no standard conceptualization of "how should local leadership look like?". Interviews with the YEU management team highlight that local leadership is not just about structural positions or administrative authority, but rather about active participation in decision-making, identifying challenges, and creating inclusive solutions. YEU also emphasises that local leadership should have a broad impact, not only within their own group but also in influencing larger policies.

*"...local leadership here is not just about being leaders who can make decisions, who can identify challenges that they map out together, but also about positioning themselves as a group at risk (emphaty)" – YEU Management Team*

*"If they can demonstrate this, and they also build networks, ultimately, they can influence the structure of their lives." – YEU Management Team*

This leadership concept has not yet been communicated to the innovators. However, the activities carried out by YEU, particularly in phase 1, prepared the innovators by equipping them with skills to identify problems and develop innovations that address those issues with the principle of inclusivity. Along the way and based on YEU's reflection on the importance of linking innovation with the ecosystem that supports disaster risk reduction, humanitarian response, and climate change, partnerships with relevant stakeholders began to be developed. Therefore, capacity building was provided to innovators to encourage them to build networks with village governments, relevant agencies, academics, and the private sector, so that their innovations could become more sustainable and integrated into existing policies.



### **Story of innovator – Ifa (Teater Inklusi)**

*"The IDEAKSI programme is designed to enhance our capacity to lead inclusive activities and incorporate various approaches that focus on the development of skills, knowledge, and values necessary to create an environment that supports diversity and collaboration, such as: inclusive leadership training, collaborative-based learning, design thinking, inclusive problem-solving, building self-awareness and empathy, mentoring and coaching, platforms for sharing ideas, and the implementation of solutions. Overall, the IDEAKSI programme aims to prepare us to become leaders who are not only innovative but also capable of creating inclusive and sustainable initiatives."*



The next section outlines how the innovators perceive their journey to becoming leaders, the extent to which they assess their leadership achievement.

### ***The Meaning and Journey of Becoming a Leader***

For the innovators in the IDEAKSI programme, becoming a local leader is not merely a "title," but a significant responsibility in bridging the needs of the community and driving tangible change. The innovators view leadership as a role of change agents in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and inclusivity, particularly in supporting at-risk groups such as people with disabilities and older adults. As community leaders, they not only provide guidance in existing programmes but also create spaces for interaction that help reduce psychosocial stress for the most at-risk groups. In carrying out this role, they collaborate with healthcare providers, the government, and various other organisations, ensuring that all parties work together towards a more resilient community.

In addition to being facilitators, the innovators also see leadership as an effort to shift the community's mindset towards self-reliance. They aim to create a community that is prepared to face disasters without relying on external aid. Local leadership also requires close cooperation with the government, in areas such as socialisation, policy advocacy, and raising community awareness. One of the key aspects of being a leader is ensuring justice and equality for all, particularly for people with disabilities, by advocating for independence and support in policies, as well as collaborating with various organisations to strengthen the position of people with disabilities in society.

According to the innovators, a local leader is not just someone at the forefront, but also someone who supports, is open, and inclusive of all groups. They emphasise the importance of involving people with disabilities in various village activities, eradicating

stigma, and ensuring that the village recognises and accommodates their needs in local policies. The innovators also recognise that true local leadership is volunteer-based—leaders do not just make decisions but also "ngopeni" (care for), "momong" (guide), and work together with the community in equal solidarity.

**Story of Innovator (Audio) – Cristiana Riyadi (Lumbung Pangan Artha Mandiri GKJ Kemandang, Tanjungsari)**

*"The success achieved by LP ARTHA in drought anticipation efforts in Kemandang village lies not only in the rice or paddy savings and loan system, the buying and selling of agricultural products, agricultural processing, and coaching, but also in the active involvement of various layers of society, including women, youth, people with disabilities, and the elderly, regardless of religious background, which can also be described as interfaith. The programmes we run focus on the principles of inclusivity, diversity, and empowerment for all community members. Overall, LP Artha has succeeded in creating an inclusive system where all these groups can actively participate in drought anticipation efforts. This success demonstrates that with good collaboration and empowerment based on diversity, communities can overcome the challenges of drought and achieve sustainable food security."*



Figure 3. Visualisation of the journey to becoming a leader

When reflecting on their position in the journey to becoming a local leader (Figure 3), the innovators expressed diverse views, but on average, they indicated that they were around the middle of the journey (~60%). A few innovators stated that they had reached or were approaching the final stages of the journey. This was understood by the innovators as recognizing that the journey to becoming a local leader is not an instant process, but rather one filled with challenges, learning, and the courage to continue developing. Many innovators started from scratch—lacking knowledge about disaster management, inclusivity, or programme and community management. They received information and training, but initially, they were still in a "learning by doing" phase due to limited human resources, time, skills, and backgrounds. The lack of cohesion within the group also posed an initial challenge, making them only able to carry out what could be managed with their available capacity. Nevertheless, their enthusiasm to continue educating the community remained, even if it was not yet in the form of performances or stories, but rather through other media such as pamphlets.

Over time, the innovators began to find their own leadership styles. They learned that ideas often emerge in urgent situations, and building networks with the government, community leaders, academics, and other communities became a key step in strengthening their innovations. Although only a portion of the members were active and the community's understanding of disaster management remained limited, innovators began to see change—stigma against most-at-risk groups was gradually improving, and the inclusive approach was becoming more accepted. DRR was not only applied in residential areas but also in agricultural lands, creating a broader impact. Older adults, who had previously been less involved, were now beginning to accept these changes, though further refinement was still needed in collaboration with various stakeholders.

#### **Story of Innovator – Wisnu (KT Prima Gadung)**

*"Due to the various advantages within IDEAKSI, the first is that we receive monitoring or expert teams regarding the innovations we will implement. The second is that we gain collaboration networks, such as with the government and NGOs. The third is that we receive training to enhance our capacity as leaders in the community, and the fourth is that we receive funding, which is crucial for us as sufficient funding is required to carry out these activities."*





Leadership also emerges from various groups. The leadership and empowerment of women's groups is particularly visible and has shown significant impact, especially in the areas of economic empowerment and food security within the community. For example, the women involved in the KWT Wanita Karya have introduced simple yet inclusive innovations, which not only target the welfare of older adults and people with disabilities but also help reduce household expenses and plastic waste. Their programme has successfully provided regular supplementary food for most-at-risk groups. KWT Melati has also made a substantial contribution through activities that have had a wide-reaching impact—from increasing the income of housewives, reducing the use of chemical fertilisers, to creating a business ecosystem based on waste management involving the elderly and youth. This cross-generational collaboration is evidence that women's leadership can drive sustainable change with an approach that touches various aspects of community life.

In Padukuhan Nganjir, the leadership of young people in KT Prima Gadung has become the main driving force in improving disaster preparedness. Through the training and simulations they initiated, the community has become more responsive and organized in facing disasters such as landslides and earthquakes. This effort not only improved the technical capacity of residents but also strengthened collective awareness of environmental protection and respect for local cultural values. Although it initially received limited response, the sustainable and community-oriented approach has yielded positive results.

#### **Story of Innovator – Joko (Karang Taruna Prima Gadung)**

*"The first is that we received funding, and with this funding from IDEAKSI, we were greatly supported in carrying out activities in Padukuhan Nganjir. This has certainly accelerated our ideas in Nganjir to address landslides and long-tailed macaque pests. We also gained relationships and expanded our network to better prepare for disasters. We received various training, going from not knowing anything to becoming more aware and sensitive to the conditions in Padukuhan Nganjir."*

However, advocating for the process of inclusivity in innovation also comes with its challenges. Innovators' reflections emphasise that the inclusion of persons with disabilities in DRR and humanitarian response faces both structural and practical challenges. Many persons with disabilities are not accustomed to being involved in the development process at the village level, so they tend to feel hesitant or afraid to participate in innovations. Therefore, Ciqal, which works closely with persons with disabilities, highlights that the process of forming disability groups must be gradual,

accompanied by consistent support and considerable effort. Despite these challenges, the results started to show when they began to voice their needs and advocate for other persons with disabilities in their area.

There are also practical and ethical challenges related to direct participation, especially for individuals with severe disabilities or complex health conditions. For example, PB Palma involved an elderly stroke survivor weighing more than 90 kilograms in an evacuation simulation, which raised technical and safety concerns. Situations like this challenge assumptions about inclusion and push the search for alternative methods to capture the voices and experiences of those who cannot participate directly. In practice, innovators use approaches through caregivers or close individuals who understand their conditions, realizing the need for more ethical, safe, and inclusive facilitation techniques.

SHG Luhur Jiwo, in supporting persons with psychosocial disabilities, faced additional complexities that required a sensitive approach. Innovators explained how unstable mental health affected participation. When their mood was good, they could work well, but when unstable, their performance drastically declined, or they were unable to participate at all. Facilitators must be sensitive to these conditions and able to adapt their approach, such as allowing for breaks or providing emotional support. To address communication difficulties, they created simple, culturally relevant educational tools, such as hand fans with disaster preparedness messages, which proved effective in conveying information to this group.

The innovators also highlighted the significant challenges of reaching highly marginalised or hidden groups in society. Many of them have never attended meetings or public activities due to various barriers, including stigma and logistical issues. This requires more creative facilitation strategies, such as home visits or personal interviews. In seeking solutions to these challenges, innovators shared the exchange of experiences between organisations like Difagana, FPRB, PB Palma, and Ciqal, to develop more effective and contextually relevant approaches in facilitating the participation of high-risk groups.

### **Story of Innovator – Hari (SHG Luhur Jiwo)**

*Tantangan terbesar kami adalah kondisi ODDP yang tidak stabil, tentunya dengan ketidakstabilan mereka itu akan berpengaruh pada keterlibatan mereka dalam kegiatan ataupun programme. Contohnya, pada programme pertanian mereka hanya hadir saja, tidak ikut dalam proses penanaman, apabila pas panen mereka juga tidak berkegiatan. Kemudian juga dalam kegiatan simulasi dan kebencanaan yang lainnya ikut kegiatan simulasi, tetapi karena kondisi mental ODDP mereka ya hanya duduk-duduk saja.*



### **Recognition from the ecosystem and formal structures**

The government views local leadership as a key element in building community resilience to disasters. Community leaders have a deep understanding of the specific risks in their areas and can respond quickly and effectively before external assistance arrives. One senior official at BNPB emphasised that local leaders are not merely policy implementers, but also innovators and decision-makers in community-based disaster response.

***"We cannot generalize disaster responses. Every village, every community has its own characteristics and ways of dealing with crises. If leadership is only concentrated at the national level, there will always be gaps in the response."* – Senior Official at BNPB**

However, based on interviews with BPBDs in various regions where IDEAKSI is implemented, many groups of innovators face challenges in obtaining official support. As stated by a participant from one of the BPBDs in the IDEAKSI working area:

***"Many local leaders already know what their communities need, but they are hindered by slow and rigid funding mechanisms. Village disaster funds are often allocated only for infrastructure, not for enhancing community capacity or emergency preparedness."***

The government views IDEAKSI as an initiative with significant potential to strengthen local leadership and promote community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR), with various achievements already demonstrated through the innovators' successes. The programme is seen as capable of filling the gap in the government's top-down approach by enhancing the role of communities in disaster innovation. Several officials from BNPB, BPBD, the Social Services Office, and BAPEDA have praised how IDEAKSI supports the emergence of more independent community leaders, particularly from

most-at-risk groups such as persons with disabilities and women. The participatory approach implemented in IDEAKSI is also recognised for helping to enhance the capacity of local leaders, enabling them to be more confident in advocating for policies and engaging with local governments.

However, several challenges remain, particularly in integrating IDEAKSI initiatives with broader government policies and structures. An official from BNPB pointed out that innovations from IDEAKSI need to be more closely connected with national programmes such as the Disaster-Resilient Villages (Destana) and Disaster-Ready Villages (KSB). *"If this initiative could be better connected with government programmes, its impact could be much greater and more sustainable,"* he said. Furthermore, there are concerns about the sustainability of funding for community innovators after the programme ends. The government recommends that IDEAKSI strengthen collaboration mechanisms with local governments to ensure that the innovations and leadership developed can continue to be supported through village budgets or social assistance schemes.

Response to these challenges, several innovators have successfully gained recognition from the government and stakeholders for their contributions to community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR). DIFAGANA DIY, through the development of the DIFGANDES application, received an invitation to participate in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), a prestigious regional forum. There, they presented best practices in inclusive DRR, including inclusive early warning systems and evacuation plans that are disability friendly.

Additionally, SHG Luhur Jiwo's TAKSI KENCANA programme won the "Inspirational Woman No. 2" award in Sleman, while their programme linking agriculture and DRR was recognised as the winner of the Local Leader Award at the Asia Pacific Local Leaders' Forum for Disaster Resilience (ALL4DR) at APMCDRR. PB PALMA developed a color-coded evacuation system, which has been adopted by BPBD, while Teater Inklusi received government support to use the arts as a medium for DRR education. Other successes include the Gempita Waste Bank, which won first place in the Yogyakarta City Waste Bank Community competition, strengthening their role in waste management and community-based disaster preparedness. The KWT Melati group in Watugajah has also been registered as a Climate Programme Village<sup>2</sup> and successfully secured village funding for waste management and food security programmes for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

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<sup>2</sup> A national programme aimed at enhancing community adaptation to climate change. This programme is managed by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK).

### **Story of Innovator – Dani (SHG Luhur Jiwo)**

*"Keberhasilan terbesar dari kegiatan ini adalah, pertama, tujuan utama kami terkait masalah kekambuhan anggota telah benar-benar berkurang secara signifikan. Kedua, pemahaman tentang Pengurangan Risiko Bencana (PRB) yang sebelumnya sangat minim kini jauh lebih baik—anggota sudah memiliki bayangan tentang langkah yang harus diambil jika terjadi bencana. Bahkan di rumah, jalur-jalur evakuasi sudah disiapkan sesuai dengan pelatihan yang kami terima. Ketiga, di Taman Kanak-Kanak (TK) kami mengembangkan budidaya sayuran. Sebelum programme ini, penghasilan kami masih rendah, tetapi kini meningkat hingga lima kali lipat dari sebelumnya. Keempat, kegiatan ini telah mendapatkan pengakuan dari pemerintah Kabupaten Sleman, memungkinkan kami membangun jejaring dengan BPBD, TAGANA, dan berbagai pemangku kepentingan lainnya. Saya pun terpilih sebagai 'Perempuan Inspiratif' peringkat kedua di Sleman. Selain itu, programme TK yang mengintegrasikan pertanian dan kebencanaan juga mendapat pengakuan sebagai programme PRB terbaik kedua di tingkat Asia-Pasifik."*



## **Challenges and Lessons Learned**

The innovators, mentors, and stakeholders reflect on the challenges and lessons learned during the two phases of the IDEAKSI programme implementation. Below is an overview of the various challenges faced, followed by the key learnings from those experiences.

### **Multidimensional challenges**

The IDEAKSI programme has faced various challenges in its implementation, ranging from technical constraints, difficulties in engaging the community, financial limitations, to issues related to long-term sustainability. Furthermore, broader challenges include efforts to shift the community's mindset towards inclusivity and disaster preparedness.

One of the main challenges faced by many innovators is the continuity and sustainability of initiatives, particularly in leadership regeneration and securing long-term funding. Regarding the regeneration of farmers, many young farmers face difficulties in continuing agricultural work, mainly because the ageing farming population in their communities is less inclined to pass on knowledge and leadership roles to the next generation. The lack of interest from young people in agriculture is exacerbated by the perception that farming is a physically demanding and low-paying job, despite its critical role in food security and disaster preparedness. For example, the Ngudi Mulya farmer group stated that their biggest challenge is, of course, the



regeneration of millennial farmers to continue the legacy of elderly farmers. Many young people are reluctant to enter the agricultural sector, so the responsibility for this sector continues to rest with older farmers. As a result, the Ngudi Mulya farmer group has integrated technology into their innovation and created a new group called the Kelompok Tani Ngudi Mulya Milenial, with the hope of sustaining the efforts and interest in farming among the younger generation of farmers.

Meanwhile, KT Prima Gadung faces geographical challenges, as their hilly location makes landslides a constant threat, requiring ongoing disaster preparedness. Additionally, the community there also faces another issue: the increasing invasion of long-tailed macaques into residential and agricultural areas, causing damage to crop and residents' homes. This has prompted them to seek long-term solutions to mitigate the negative impact on daily life and food security.

#### **Story of innovator – Sardjito (Ngudi Mulya)**

*"The biggest challenge for us in this innovation is, firstly, the regeneration of millennial farmers who will continue the legacy of elderly farmers. Then, we need an independent water source for agricultural irrigation, as we are currently sharing water sources for other essential activities. For the best learning, a dream can be achieved, and it is not impossible if we can work well together and involve all elements in the group, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and others with physical limitations."*



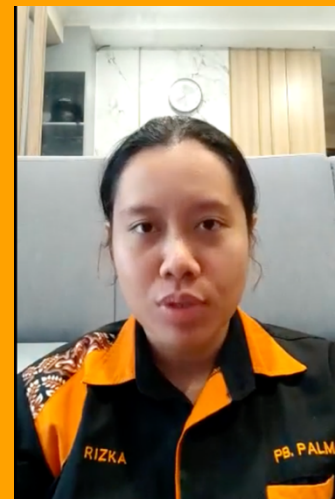
Another major challenge is the adaptation of technology and the retention of knowledge. For example, FPRB Gunungkidul successfully developed an integrated website to document DRR activities, but maintaining and updating the platform has been an ongoing challenge. Many members of the Disaster-Resilient Disability Forum (FDTB), who were initially trained to conduct accessibility surveys, have forgotten how to use the technology or have changed their phones, leading to gaps in participation. Furthermore, ensuring the relevance of educational materials is also a continuous challenge, as knowledge of disaster preparedness evolves rapidly. The IDEAKSI team must regularly update their training modules to stay aligned with the latest developments, which makes keeping the knowledge-sharing system up-to-date and effective difficult. Despite these challenges, a key lesson learned is the power of collaboration. Members of FPRB Gunungkidul and FDTB have worked together with local government agencies, such as the Gunungkidul Communications and Information Department, to integrate their website into the local government server,

ensuring the platform's sustainability and reducing the financial burden for its maintenance.

Community participation and behaviour change also pose significant challenges. In the KWT Melati group in Padukuhan Watugajah, despite efforts to promote organic farming and waste management, many farmers are reluctant to switch from chemical fertilisers to organic alternatives. Additionally, waste collection efforts have been hindered by the lack of infrastructure, particularly the absence of dedicated vehicles for waste transport, forcing the team to use their personal vehicles. Furthermore, some people from outside the community still dispose of waste irresponsibly in Watugajah, undermining the cleanliness efforts of the local community. However, the key lesson from this experience is the importance of community education and perseverance. Through consistent approaches and ongoing education, more and more residents are starting to understand the importance of waste management and organic farming, so this initiative is gradually gaining wider support.

#### **Story of innovator – Rizka (PB Palma)**

*"The biggest challenge, of course, is when we have decided to work in synergy with others in our community—how to gather and engage them to be enthusiastic about our programme so that it runs smoothly. It's not something that happens just once or twice; there are often obstacles in bringing people together. For example, free time is usually only on weekends, while we need speakers or activities that take place outside of weekends. On weekdays, volunteers and congregation members sometimes face difficulties, but thank God everything works out well. One good practice was when we managed to create a flood preparedness video, which involved local residents, the river community, and a direct trial of the early warning system (EWS) we had set up. There were elderly people, children, and persons with disabilities involved, so it became a product that could be shared and watched by many people. It serves as a guide, showing the steps to take if we need to evacuate during a flood—this is the emergency response system that must be followed from start to finish, and especially, it highlights the coordination that took place."*



In some cases, unexpected environmental and operational challenges arose, requiring adaptation and innovation. For instance, a goat farming initiative faced an outbreak of disease that led to livestock deaths, forcing the group to improve animal care practices and establish an early warning system to prevent the spread of the disease. Similarly, a fish farming project encountered rapid water contamination, which required regular water replacement, incurring both cost and time. However,

both initiatives demonstrated resilience by adapting to the emerging challenges and implementing preventive measures to reduce risk.

Financial limitations also became one of the biggest barriers for various IDEAKSI initiatives. Many groups faced difficulties in securing funding, hindering their ability to expand or sustain their activities. For example, Gempita Waste Bank struggled to expand their Multifunctional Waste Transport Vehicle (MAS MUL) innovation, as limited funds made its benefits inaccessible to all members, creating unintended social inequality within the community. In response to this challenge, Gempita considered innovating the MAS MUL to be stored at multiple homes and used simultaneously, which would reduce social jealousy.

Additionally, groups such as PB Palma and FPRB Murtigading faced initial scepticism from both internal and external stakeholders regarding the feasibility of implementing their programmes, particularly given the financial and logistical challenges in running an inclusive early warning system (EWS) and DUGEM. However, consistently proving their concept and establishing strategic partnerships became key lessons in overcoming these doubts. For instance, PB Palma's collaboration with the local river community in installing the inclusive EWS ultimately gained broader recognition and support from external stakeholders.

Unique challenges arose in projects involving persons with disabilities, especially in ensuring meaningful participation despite varying ability levels. In TAKSI KENCANA, which focuses on disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities, one of the biggest hurdles was ensuring consistent involvement from individuals with psychosocial disabilities (ODDP). Their fluctuating mental health conditions made their participation in agricultural training, disaster simulations, and emergency response drills unstable from day to day. The team ultimately developed creative ways to engage them, such as using simple visual aids, like fans with printed disaster preparedness messages, which helped them remember crucial information. Similarly, church-based inclusivity projects faced challenges in translating the abstract concept of inclusion into something that could be understood and applied by the community. A breakthrough occurred when facilitators used everyday language and practical examples, helping both church members and the wider community to see inclusion as a concept that could be translated into concrete actions, not just ideology.

Logistical challenges, such as coordinating tight schedules and building community acceptance, were also frequent. Many IDEAKSI innovators are not full-time project managers, but volunteers with personal jobs and responsibilities, making it difficult to coordinate schedules and ensure regular participation. This was clearly evident in the Yogyakarta Inclusive Theatre project, where actors came from various non-theatre



backgrounds, making rehearsals and performances challenging due to conflicting schedules. Similarly, securing public participation in certain projects was often difficult, as communities were initially hesitant to join new initiatives. However, through demonstrating tangible benefits, many projects eventually gained broader acceptance within the community, showing that the sustainability of the programme is heavily reliant on trust and active community involvement.

#### **Story of innovator – Syaiful (Bon Hargo)**

*"The biggest challenge, perhaps, is the human resources and the cohesion of our team/group in adjusting to the timing of activities together. It is quite difficult because everyone has a lot of activities and they are all busy, so we have to coordinate schedules around each other's commitments. The best lesson learned was introducing the programme at the studio, socialising it with the community in various ways, and also collaborating with various agencies and meeting with different IDEAKSI communities in Yogyakarta and Sulawesi that have already been running."*



#### ***Lessons learned of IDEAKSI***

The implementation of the IDEAKSI programme in Indonesia provides a wealth of references regarding the results and processes of testing a community-based, inclusive leadership model. Key lessons have been collectively identified by the stakeholders involved in the IDEAKSI programme as a form of reflection focused on improvements for the future.

A key lesson from the IDEAKSI programme, as highlighted by YEU, is that innovation is more effective and sustainable when innovators have prior experience or involvement in similar initiatives in their daily lives. This underscores that local ownership and direct experience are critical factors in community-based innovation. When initiatives are built upon existing knowledge and practices, they require less time for adaptation, gain community acceptance more quickly, and are more likely to sustain beyond initial funding. Many of the most impactful projects in IDEAKSI have been led by individuals or community groups who had previously worked in related fields, providing them with a deep understanding of local challenges and established relationships within their communities. As a result, the solutions they developed were more practical and easier for the community to accept.

### **Story of innovator – Andi (PPDMS Nglipar)**

*"Our greatest achievement is that the idea we initially thought was limited to the disability community has actually been developed further, even receiving better responses than we expected. For example, schools that were not initially part of the target programme became interested, and in the future, we plan to expand to schools that we hadn't targeted yet. I believe that in the future, we can reach other places as well. Therefore, what we have developed will become much broader."*



For example, innovators involved in organic farming, waste management, and disaster risk reduction had previously implemented small-scale versions of their ideas before receiving support from IDEAKSI in the form of tools, guidance, and funding to scale up. The KT Ngudi Makmur group has successfully produced organic fertilisers, reduced dependency on chemical fertilisers, and promoted sustainable farming practices. Their innovation not only improved soil health but also increased crop yields. Meanwhile, the KWT Melati innovators in Watugajah integrated organic farming with waste management, converting organic waste into compost to support food security and nutrition for the most at-risk groups, such as the elderly and persons with disabilities.

These innovators demonstrate that community-based agricultural solutions can be sustainable if rooted in existing local practices. Their experience and understanding of farming challenges helped them develop their innovations more effectively through the IDEAKSI programme. A representative from YEU emphasised, *"We found that when an innovation is rooted in the daily work and experiences of the innovators, it is much more likely to be sustainable even after the programme ends. The community sees it as a natural extension of something they already trust and rely on."*

Additionally, local knowledge and previous experience can significantly streamline the time required to develop, test, and refine innovations. Many of the most successful IDEAKSI projects moved quickly from concept to implementation because innovators already had a basic understanding of what works and what doesn't. In contrast, groups that were less familiar with their area of innovation often faced a longer learning curve and operational barriers. This was evident in cases where beginners in a field had to spend extra time learning technical skills, navigating bureaucratic requirements, or convincing sceptical community members to adopt new practices.

Another lesson is that capacity development is a crucial bridge in building sustainable leadership, enabling local innovators to grow from community-based initiatives into

recognised DRR leaders. Many innovators initially had limited resources and technical knowledge, but through structured training, ongoing mentorship, and learning from fellow innovators, they acquired the skills needed to advocate for their communities, engage with policymakers, and expand the impact of their programmes.

This formal capacity development was supported by the presence of peer mentors, whom the innovators identified as playing a key role in accelerating learning and strengthening leadership pathways among innovators. The innovators felt that there was a technical and knowledge gap between them and the technical mentors, requiring facilitators and learning spaces to understand each other. By integrating capacity development with peer mentoring, IDEAKSI has enabled innovators to build legitimacy, network with government agencies, and access additional funding.

### **Peer-to-Peer Learning Sessions: A Good Practice in Strengthening the Capacity of Local Innovators**

One of the strategies that has proven beneficial and has been repeatedly mentioned by innovators emerging from the IDEAKSI approach is the implementation of peer-to-peer learning sessions. These sessions provide a platform for local innovators to share experiences, exchange good practices, and refine their approaches based on feedback from fellow innovators. More than just a knowledge-sharing opportunity, these sessions help build the confidence of local leaders, encourage cross-sector collaboration, and allow communities to expand their solutions in DRR and humanitarian action.

For many of the innovators involved, taking on a leadership role has been a new and challenging experience. Some are community farmers developing smart irrigation systems, while others are community-based emergency response teams pioneering inclusive preparedness. Many have technical skills but lacked experience in public speaking, advocacy, and strategic planning. The peer-to-peer learning format creates a safe and supportive environment where innovators can present their ideas, receive constructive feedback, and strengthen their communication skills.

An innovator from the PKK group reflected on the benefits of this session, saying, *"This presentation not only boosted our confidence but also provided valuable insights. We used to think our project was just a small initiative at the local level, but after sharing with others, we realised its potential. This helped us secure village budget allocations to support our programme."*

In addition to building capacity, these sessions play a vital role in fostering collaboration. One of the main challenges in community-based innovation is the tendency of groups to work in isolation, often tackling the same problems without sharing knowledge. These learning sessions help address that isolation, allowing innovators to exchange ideas and learn from each other's mistakes and successes. For example, the Ngudi Mulya farmer group, which has successfully developed a smart irrigation system to address water shortages during the dry season, shared their experience with another community facing similar issues. Through discussions and site visits, the second group learned how to adapt the irrigation technology to suit their crops and land conditions, significantly reducing the trial-and-error period they would have otherwise faced.

Another breakthrough came from PB PALMA, which developed a simple yet effective system to identify at-risk residents during floods. By using a colour-coded evacuation system, they helped emergency response teams prioritise assistance for persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and the elderly. After sharing this innovation in a peer-to-peer learning session, other communities modified the system by adding a manual list, ensuring that most-at-risk groups could still be monitored even if the digital system was unavailable. Cross-community adaptations like this demonstrate how local knowledge sharing can accelerate the adoption of best practices and enhance disaster preparedness on a wider scale.

In addition to technical improvements, these sessions also helped innovators understand the importance of expanding their projects beyond their own communities. Many local initiatives start as small-scale pilot programmes, but without a clear expansion strategy, they fail to have a broader impact. These sessions introduced innovators to practical strategies for securing funding, advocating for policy support, and gaining wider community backing. The Inclusive Theatre group, which uses theatre performances to educate the community on disaster preparedness, initially operated on a small scale. However, after presenting their initiative in a learning session, they were invited to perform at a provincial-level event, which led to funding opportunities and further invitations, helping them expand the reach of their programme.

The success of these peer-to-peer learning sessions is largely due to their interactive and participatory format. Unlike conventional training programmes that are top-down, where external experts dictate solutions, these sessions allow local leaders to take charge of their own learning. The discussions are rooted in real-life field experiences, making the lessons learned more practical and directly applicable. One of the key takeaways from these sessions is that innovation does not need to start from scratch; rather, communities can build upon what others have already developed, adapting and refining solutions to fit their own context.

The long-term impact of this knowledge-sharing approach is evident in how many innovations have gained recognition from local governments and other institutions. In some cases, such as the LP Artha Gading initiative, village governments allocated budget support after seeing the effectiveness of the programme through knowledge-sharing events between communities. This shows that when local innovators are given the opportunity to present their work in the right forum, they can influence policy and secure the resources needed to sustain their initiatives beyond the initial project cycle.

Ultimately, the success of peer-to-peer learning sessions within IDEAKSI highlights the power of community-driven capacity building. By fostering confidence, strengthening collaboration, and accelerating the adoption of best practices, these sessions have proven to be a vital tool in scaling community-based innovation. Expanding this approach and formalising it as a sustainable part of humanitarian and DRR programmes can further enhance the sustainability and impact of community-based efforts, ensuring that local solutions continue to evolve, spread, and strengthen resilience across communities.

Another key lesson from IDEAKSI is that community-based innovation develops more effectively when there is strong ownership and long-term commitment from the innovators. Projects led by individuals with personal involvement—whether due to professional background, life experience, or long-term engagement in a particular issue—tend to be more durable and sustainable. For example, the TAKSI KENCANA initiative, which focuses on disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities (ODDP), is led by individuals who have previously worked with most-at-risk groups. Their deep understanding of the challenges faced by ODDP allowed them to effectively tailor their approach, such as using simple visual communication tools like hand fans with printed disaster preparedness guides, making the information more accessible. Strong ownership ensures that these initiatives remain inclusive, adaptive, and practical, even after the initial funding cycle ends.

A similar pattern is seen in waste management and agricultural innovation. Groups such as KT Ngudi Makmur and the KWT Melati Watugajah organic farming initiative are led by community members who were already involved in organic farming and waste recycling before joining IDEAKSI. Because they are not outsiders introducing new concepts, but rather local figures reinforcing existing practices, they find it easier to gain community trust and promote the adoption of innovations. In contrast, projects

introducing entirely new concepts without strong local involvement often face more obstacles and take longer to gain community acceptance.

# Conclusion and Recommendation





The IDEAKSI programme has demonstrated that strengthening the capacity of local actors, particularly at-risk groups such as persons with disabilities and women, can be an effective strategy in enhancing disaster risk reduction systems and humanitarian response in Indonesia. In line with the localisation trend reinforced by BNPB Regulation No. 6 of 2018, IDEAKSI has proven that when community organisations gain access to resources, training, and strategic networks, they are capable of becoming leaders in more inclusive disaster responses based on real needs at the grassroots level. Indirectly, YEU, through the IDEAKSI programme, has influenced the landscape of inclusive disaster response and humanitarian aid by providing an evidence-based model.

Innovators in IDEAKSI have not only generated community-based solutions but have also begun transforming into leaders that align with their own perceptions and expectations. Several of them have received recognition from the government and other stakeholders, whether through awards, integration into national and regional policies, or through additional funding that supports the sustainability of their innovations. This process shows that IDEAKSI is not just an innovation programme, but also a model for developing local leadership, enabling communities to take on a greater role in disaster systems and inclusive development. Therefore, this transformation must be maintained so that the leadership built can continue to develop sustainably.

The design of the IDEAKSI programme model has proven to be relevant and applicable in various community contexts across Indonesia, covering a range of innovator groups, from more established NGOs to informal and grassroots community groups such as farmer groups and PKK. However, to ensure the sustainability of this model, more adaptive and responsive mentoring is needed to address the specific needs of each innovator. With a flexible approach and ongoing support, IDEAKSI can continue to serve as a platform for communities to develop their capacity, strengthen leadership, and create innovative solutions that have a tangible impact on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Indonesia.

Recommendations to ensure the effectiveness of the IDEAKSI model and the expansion of the impact of innovations:

No	Stakeholders	Recommendation
1.	YEU and IDEAKSI Project partners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The IDEAKSI model needs to account for the growth process of innovators, considering the readiness and development within the ecosystem. This means that it is not only the innovators who grow, but also the stakeholders who are prepared to work alongside the innovators, especially with the goal of integrating/adopting innovations into mainstream disaster management systems, humanitarian response, climate change, and inclusion.</li> <li>2. Adaptive and sustainable mentoring for each innovator, as they have different growth paths in achieving the leadership they perceive. Therefore, the mentoring model must be more flexible and needs-based, ensuring that innovators receive the appropriate support at various stages of their development.</li> <li>3. Regarding recommendation 2, it is important to strengthen the role of peer mentors as supplementary support to technical mentors to bridge the knowledge gap and facilitate interactions between innovators and technical mentors.</li> </ol>
2.	Government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate local policies that enable the recognition of local leaders/innovators within systems to actively contribute to inclusive disaster management or humanitarian response efforts.</li> <li>2. Facilitate the recognition of the role of innovator groups at the local level so that they can be officially integrated into disaster management systems at the district/city and national levels, for example, through involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) forums, BPBD, development planning consultations (musrenbang), or other coordination platforms.</li> </ol>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Facilitate the openness of integrating innovations from local communities into flagship and regular programmes led by the government, such as Disaster-Resilient Villages (Kampung Siaga Bencana) or Disaster-Resilient Villages (Desa Tangguh Bencana).</li> <li>4. Encourage the integration of local practices and innovations into the village's medium-term development planning document (RPJMDes) as an effort to ensure sustainability, legitimacy, and continued support for community initiatives. This includes formal recognition of best practices that have proven effective in disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of at-risk groups.</li> <li>5. It is essential for village and sub-district governments to provide open, safe, and inclusive forums or listening spaces. These forums must truly give space for at-risk groups to voice their aspirations and needs, and ensure that these voices are a primary consideration in village policies and programmes.</li> <li>6. Provide training and mentoring for village and sub-district officials to enable them to facilitate inclusive, participatory, and responsive planning and decision-making processes that address the needs of at-risk groups, including women, persons with disabilities, youth, and the elderly.</li> </ol>
3.	Other stakeholders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate the recognition of local innovators within systems for inclusive disaster management or humanitarian response to enable active contribution.</li> <li>2. Promote the model of local leadership as an alternative approach to disaster management and humanitarian response to build a new paradigm in ensuring community empowerment and inclusivity in at-risk areas.</li> </ol>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Facilitate funding for inclusive innovation through various schemes, such as Village Funds, Special Funds, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes, or climate change financing schemes. These funding schemes are expected to support the replication and expansion of the impact of community innovations that have proven to be relevant and impactful.</li> <li>4. Build an inclusive and participatory risk data system at the local level by actively involving the community. The data generated should reflect the real conditions and needs of all community groups, particularly those who have been historically underrepresented, to serve as a basis for more targeted policy planning and interventions.</li> </ol>
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