Other news: Resilient Australia Awards 2014

On 16 October 2014, the NSW winners of the Resilient Australia Awards 2014 attended a ceremony at Parliament House, hosted by the Ministry of Police and Emergency Services, recognising innovation in emergency management and community safety.

Among the winners at the awards was Dr Filippo Dal’ Osso, who joined our research team in July this year. Filippo attended the ceremony as part of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group, and School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney team, who were the winners in the Local Government Category. The award was won for their Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources (COVERMAR). COVERMAR developed and tested the first multi-hazard tool in Australia to assess the vulnerability of buildings and critical infrastructure to extreme marine inundations caused by storm surges, tsunamis and sea level rise.

Also at the awards ceremony was Hayley Brooks, a Masters of Social Work Student who has been working with the team since July as part of her professional placement. Hayley was involved in a project in her role where she works at the Physical Disability Council of NSW, who developed the website “I’m Okay: Emergency Readiness for People with Disability”, which received a highly commended award. The website provides useful tools and resources for people with disability, to assist them in making plans in order to be emergency ready in disasters or emergencies such as flood, bushfire, fire and storms.

All winners at the ceremony were congratulated by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Stuart Ayres MP. “The awards recognise the hard work and dedication of NSW volunteers and organisations, and the significant contribution they have made in protecting lives and in building a more resilient community”.

Disability Inclusive Project Link

The research has been funded by the Australian Development Research Awards Scheme (ADRAS).

13 October
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2014

Resilience is for life.

On 13 October the United Nations Office For Disaster Risk Reduction celebrated the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2014. The theme this year was ‘resilience is for life’, which highlights the need for a more inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction for older people. Importantly the day raised awareness of the contributions older people can make in planning and understanding disaster risk and how they can help build resilience in their communities.

For more information please go to their website at: http://www.unisdr.org/2014/iddr/1/VhIzrCCLeE

Project Partners

The Centre for Disability Research and Policy (CDRP) at the University of Sydney is working collaboratively with Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) to explore how people with disability can be included in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities in Indonesia. The two year research project is funded by the Australian Development Research Awards Scheme (ADRAS).

Summer 2014

Issue 2

DIDRR News

Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

Capacity Building in Indonesia

By Citra A. Satiriti, ASB Project Officer

From July to September this year, ASB conducted capacity building Work Package 4, on the application of the Washington Group Questionnaire, to identify at-risk community to disaster in three research areas of Klaten, Bantul and Ciamis. This training aimed to increase the understanding of Disabled People’s organisations (DPOs) in using the Washington Group short-set of questions, as an international standardised tool for disability data collection and how to relate these questions to disaster risk reduction (DRR). Capacity building also included a field practice component where DPOs could apply their new learning to a real setting.

The most challenging part of the capacity building process was introducing the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) definition of disability, because it was new to the DPOs in Indonesia, as most of them are still using Indonesian categorisations of disability from the Ministry of Social Affairs. After field practice DPOs’ understanding of the ICF definition of disability was improved, especially seeing that disability from a functioning point of view is closely related to DRR, particularly in terms of accessing information and evacuation.

Learning could also be observed from the field practice. Firstly, finding the people with disability in the community was the hardest component. Initial data from the Government was not always reliable; DPOs were paired with a local social worker who was familiar with the community and the area geographically. Snowball sampling was used in the field practice, combined with the Government data, to find people who were not yet listed. Snowball sampling is a technique used by researchers to identify populations, which may otherwise be hard to locate. The sampling worked like a chain referral process, where assistance was requested from an interviewee to help identify others who may be living with disability in the area. Some of the field practice areas were also geographically difficult to access, bringing a different set of challenges for the DPOs. Some houses were located on a hill with a rocky and slippery road, making it quite difficult for DPOs with visual or mobility difficulty to access them. In these situations, the village social workers helped their mobility.

The second area of learning observed from the field practice was the DPOs’ sensitivity to disability, which helped in building relationships with respondents, especially for people with mental health or intellectual difficulties. DPOs were not only collecting data, but their presence was also encouraging for respondents, who saw the DPOs as role models. The collaboration between village social workers and DPOs was a success. They built working relationship, sharing tasks and ensuring the field practice survey ran well. They also helped each other in difficult situations. Above all, they learnt from each other during the process.

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“After hearing the respondent’s house, I was nervous. But when I came out of their home, there was a sense of pride. I learnt how to be a good surveyor and can add this to my knowledge and experience”

DPO representative from the Ciamis district

“I am happy that I am able to learn how things are perceived and experienced by persons with disabilities everyday”

Village social worker from Bantul district
A Welcome from the Country Director, ASB Indonesia Office

Name: Dr Alex Robinson  Role: Country Director, ASB Indonesia Office

Education: Alex’s educational background is in development studies with a particular focus on Southeast Asia. His PhD research was conducted in Indonesia and examined poverty reduction initiatives that sought to improve access to information and markets for farmers and rural small-scale producers.

Work Background: Alongside Indonesia, Alex has worked in Sri Lanka, Haiti and the Philippines with responsibility for design and oversight of a range of institutional donor funded programmes, including, disaster response and rehabilitation, livelihoods, education and disaster risk reduction (DRR). In terms of DRR, Alex is particularly concerned with the delivery of large-scale practical DRR solutions. In 2012, Alex was instrumental in founding the Disability Inclusive DRR Network (www.didrrn.net) in response to the lack of attention paid to disability by DRR actors and the lack of participation of people with disability in DRR Policy and practice.

Summary of Role within the ADRA Project: Alex co-designed the project with Prof. Gwynyth Llewellyn and is responsible for overseeing the ASB team working in Indonesia. Within the project ASB is responsible for delivering research components in-country and the capacity building of DPOs in Indonesia. Alex is also actively involved in the consultations on the development of the post-2015 international DRR framework, or HFA2 as it is commonly referred to, as part of the project.

What are you most looking forward to working on this project? There are so many stand-out features of this project, it's hard to single out just one. The opportunity for practitioners, and particularly for Indonesian colleagues here, and academics to work closely together is both exciting and important. Also, the potential for this project to have a real positive, and global, impact towards making DRR disability-inclusive post 2015 is hugely significant. Perhaps most of all, its been especially rewarding to provide the opportunity for people with disability from Indonesia to be actively involved in HFA2 consultations both nationally and internationally.

"On balance, over the last ten years the DRR community has fallen short in ensuring those most at risk are accounted for. Th [removed Due to character limit]

Dr Alex Robinson

Stephanie Kusama Rahardja—ASB Indonesia Office

Role: DPO representative; DRR trainer; data collector  Education: Currently studying diploma of graphic design

Organisation and work background: Stephanie is the leader of Gerkatin Yogyakarta office, a national organisation for Deaf people’s welfare. She is active in awareness raising activities for Deaf culture through advocacy and art performance. Stephanie has also graduated as a certified sign language teacher for hearing people in Indonesia.

Summary of role within ADRA Project: Stephanie has been active in lobbying on disability-inclusive DRR. She performed parrainement during the 4th session of the Global Platform in Geneva, followed by a special invitation to speak in the High-Level panel discussion in UN headquarters, New York during the International Day for Disaster Reduction, 2013. In her speech, she reflected on the absence of information for persons with disabilities to save themselves. During the speech she also highlighted the different forms of media used to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge on managing disaster risks. The speech underscored the notion, that participation in disaster risk reduction was every person’s right.

"I want to share DRR information with Deaf people, therefore they can help themselves, their friends and family in case of disaster.”

Stephanie Kusama Rahardja

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Stephanie profile Continued.......

What are you most looking forward to working on this project? Being able to help deaf people learn and act safely in case of disaster. Many Deaf people do not have knowledge and information on disaster risk reduction. Therefore, I hope I can help them to actively participate in DRR.

I am also looking forward to field practice to identify people with disability. Hopefully the information we collect will be useful and will benefit in future programming between Gerkatin and local disaster management agencies.

The team would like to thank Fahrunnisaa Kadir, ASB Project Officer for helping with and translating Stephanie’s profile

Students opportunity to learn about disability inclusive DRR

Earlier this year, the Australian Government announced the successful grant recipients of their New Colombo Plan, which funds universities to provide scholarship opportunities for students to undertake study and internships in the Indo Pacific region. The University of Sydney were pleased to receive funding, which will support students to participate in a short-term interdisciplinary field school in Jakarta, Indonesia in January 2015.

Five occupational therapy students from the Faculty of Health Sciences will have the opportunity to participate in this program, through a Faculty of Health Sciences Abroad unit of study, which emphasises interprofessional collaboration in a cross-cultural context.

During this three-week field learning experience, students will participate in a field visit to ASB’s office in Jogjakarta, where they will be provided the opportunity to develop their knowledge about ASB’s collaboration with Disabled People’s Organisations. The expertise provided by ASB will help students develop their understanding of the barriers people with disabilities face relating to DRR, and the methods used to overcome these challenges, by increasing the capacity of people with disabilities, enabling them to become active participants and advocates in disaster risk reduction.

Michelle Villeneuve, Associate with the Centre for Disability Research and Policy is organising this field experience, which includes interdisciplinary team collaboration around issues of inclusion and transport.

This unique opportunity will increase the students professional competence for collaborative work in cross-cultural contexts, and importantly also raise an awareness of the need for disability inclusive disaster risk reduction in Indonesia and on their return home to Australia.

Identifying resilience in people with disabilities

As part of the project, the team has developed a disability inclusive disaster risk reduction mapping tool. The tool is unique, being the first of its kind, allowing people with disabilities to self-assess their resilience to natural hazards, promoting their active participation in disaster risk reduction activities in their communities.

Design of the tool has been informed by disaster risk reduction and disability research and enshrines principles and guidelines for DRR contained within international frameworks including the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk (UNISDR), and the Sendai Statement to Promote Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilient, Inclusive and Equitable Societies in Asia and the Pacific.

The tool includes questions that encompass the main factors known to affect the resilience of individuals to natural hazards, as well as accounting for specific challenges, people with disabilities may face before, during and after disasters.

By completing this self assessment, a ‘risk profile’ is generated, which summarises an individual’s vulnerabilities, but most importantly highlights an individual’s capacity and abilities to respond to a range of natural hazards. This summary will provide individuals an opportunity to consider what options are available, that will increase their individual resilience to natural hazards.

In January 2015, the team will be travelling to Jakarta where representatives of a number of Disabled Person’s Organisations will receive training on how to use the tool, with an opportunity to practice their data collection skills. The aim of this training is to have a team of skilled data collectors, who will work in Indonesia to train people with disability on how to use the tool, increasing the reach of disability inclusive disaster risk reduction far beyond the scope of the two year project.
DIDRR News

A Welcome from the Country Director, ASB Indonesia Office

Name: Dr Alex Robinson  Role: Country Director, ASB Indonesia Office

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“In balance, over the last ten years the DRR community has fallen short in ensuring those most at risk are accounted for. There are positive signs that this is now changing. This project provides an important and exciting opportunity to contribute to keeping the momentum going for more inclusive-DRR post 2015.”

Dr Alex Robinson

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Role: DPO representative; DRR trainer; data collector  Education: Currently studying diploma of graphic design

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Stephanie is also active in the role as DRR trainer and facilitator, not only for the deaf, but for the wider community. Stephanie was also involved in the capacity building and support data collection for the research component of this project.

Stephanie’s profile is continued on page 3

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Stephanie profile Continued........

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COVERMAR Project Link
I’m Ok, Emergency Readiness for People with Disability Link

For more information please go to their website at: http://www.didrrn.net/

The research has been funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian Development Research Awards Scheme under an award titled “Promoting the inclusion of people with disability in disaster management in Indonesia”.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Australian Government. The Commonwealth of Australia accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage or injury resulting from reliance on any of the information or views contained in this publication.

DIDRR News
Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

Capacity Building in Indonesia
By Citra A. Satitri, ASB Project Officer

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The most challenging part of the capacity building process was introducing the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) definition of disability, because it was new to the DPOs in Indonesia, as most of them are still using Indonesian categorisations of disability from the Ministry of Social Affairs. After field practice DPOs’ understanding of the ICF definition of disability was improved, especially seeing that disability from a functioning point of view is closely related to DRR, particularly in terms of accessing information and evacuation.

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