

# Coordinated Assessment Preparedness in Indonesia

## IASC Needs Assessment Task Force Mission Report

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### Background

An IASC mission was undertaken from 13-17 February 2012 to support the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Government of Indonesia (GoI) in assessment preparedness. The IASC Mission was requested by OCHA-Indonesia, in response to interest expressed by the BNPB (the Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency) to improve the in-country capacity for strong post-disaster needs assessments.

The IASC mission introduced the IASC-approved MIRA to HCT and the GoI and explored ways in which it might bring the Government, UN Agencies, NGOs, and others together towards the joint identification of needs in a sudden-onset emergency. The IASC Team comprised members of the IASC Needs Assessment Task Force, including ACAPS, ECB (represented by Save the Children), OCHA, UNICEF, and WFP. A member of the WASH Rapid Assessment Team (from Oxfam GB) was also an integral part of the mission. *Please refer to the mission agenda in Annex 2 for more detail.*

The Indonesian context is marked by the existence of a significant number of government and non-government initiatives around assessments, which would benefit from being better coordinated. The Indonesian national disaster management agency (BNPB) shows strong leadership and sees itself very much in the driver's seat around disaster management, welcoming the support of the international community, while also keen to emphasize that it often has the capacities and resources to respond on its own. As such, the mission focused on introducing the MIRA approach in a way that was relevant first and foremost to the Indonesia context. The recommendations presented to the government and humanitarian stakeholders at the conclusion of the mission indicate ways in which the MIRA can enhance rapid needs assessments in Indonesia when international assistance is required after disasters but also when international assistance is not required and the response can be carried out with national resources. The goal in the Indonesian context has been to strengthen rapid assessment capacity of the BNPB in dealing with disasters of all magnitudes in a way that ensures compatibility with INGO/UN (IASC) systems when international assistance is requested.

### Mission Outputs

- Coordinated Assessment Preparedness in Indonesia – IASC NATF Mission Report
- Coordinated Assessment Preparedness in Indonesia – IASC NATF Mission Recommendations to the Indonesia HCT (Annex 1)
- Workshop on Coordinated Assessments in Indonesia - Agenda and Summary Report (Annex 2)
- Enhancing Rapid Assessment Capacity in Indonesia – IASC Mission presentation to the BNPB (Annex 3)
- IASC Coordinated Assessment Preparedness in Indonesia - IASC NATF Mission Recommendations for the IASC NATF (Annex 4)

## Mission Objectives and Outcomes

### **Objective 1: Familiarizing the Indonesian Government, Humanitarian Country Team, Cluster Leads, donors and NGOs on the MIRA approach and other components of the IASC Operational Guidance.**

**This was achieved through a two day workshop and a meeting with the BNPB and Government of Indonesia line ministries.** Over 50 participants from the BNPB, GoI line ministries, NGOs, PMI and UN contributed to the exploration of how the MIRA approach could be adapted for Indonesia. The MIRA approach was introduced, and discussions were held on the review of secondary data, community level assessments, and joint analysis (*please refer to the workshop report in Annex 2 for more details*). The Workshop agenda provided an effective platform to engage buy-in and to introduce broad key concepts of the MIRA. The exploration and discussions of existing practices in Indonesia, and group work around the MIRA, were useful in engaging participants and making the MIRA immediately relevant to their assessment needs and challenges. Components of the MIRA were introduced step by step, from broad to specific, over three separate sessions, thus facilitating the absorption and digestion of a large quantity of information. It was clear from the workshop that the application of the MIRA approach in Indonesia (with required adaptation) would be beneficial to improving how initial rapid assessments are conducted.

### **Objective 2: Working with Indonesia HCT, GoI, and other stakeholders to identify steps and approaches to customizing the MIRA approach to Indonesia, building on existing systems, processes and tools.**

**This was achieved through team work by the IASC mission following the Workshop and through close liaison undertaken by the IASC Team and OCHA-Indonesia with the Government.** The presentation of key recommendations at a meeting with the BNPB and Government of Indonesia line ministries allowed the Government to immediately respond to the recommendations made and to consider buy-in into activities to move the process forward (*please refer to the presentation to the BNPB in Annex 3 for more detail*). This was seen as positive and opening the door for further engagement with the Government.

### **Objective 3: Undertaking mapping of existing capacities and resources within the government, UN Agencies, NGO and donors, and subsequently developing plan for further capacity development and identification of areas in need of additional partner support.**

**The workshop enabled the IASC team to gather elements for the mapping of different assessment tools and practices, although *due to the short time frame of the mission* this represented only an initial (and not exhaustive) understanding of capacities present in Indonesia.** While it was not possible to obtain a complete understanding of who is carrying out what activities with regard to disaster assessment, it was clear from the workshop that an active assessment environment exists in Indonesia and that this could benefit from further coordination. Currently, assessments are carried out by multiple agencies, using multiple tools and methodologies with limited joint sharing of field data collection, resulting in challenges of duplication, overlap and gaps in comprehensive needs analysis. In addition, there is confusion over the collection of qualitative and quantitative data in the initial post-disaster time frame. There is also limited utilization of pre-crisis data and knowledge of the impact of past disasters and lessons learned from previous responses for initial planning. It also appears that the actual objectives of humanitarian assessment vary across stakeholders from activity programming to enabling resource mobilization to beneficiaries' registration.

**Objective 4: Identifying work to be undertaken to outline Standard Operating Procedures for implementing a MIRA, including roles and responsibilities.**

**As an output of the mission, the Government of Indonesia agreed on the need to develop a guideline on initial rapid assessment, based on an adaptation of the MIRA approach to its context.** The current Indonesian regulatory framework refers to location, resources and damage (although the government assessment tool does collect information on needs). There remains the need to clarify the scope of assessments (damage and casualties, versus needs) and to ensure a clearer distinction between qualitative and quantitative information sources. The BNPB, during its response to the presentation of the IASC Team, recognized the value of including “needs” in its current assessment process.

**Objective 5: Supporting the development of appropriate systems for handling data capture, data management and to support analysis and output of findings.**

**Due to time constraints of the mission, it was impossible to devote sufficient time and resources to explore considerations of data capture and management.** While it was not possible to address this objective during the mission, the mission team agreed that the most appropriate time to explore the development of shared systems of data capture, management, and analysis is in conjunction with the development of guidelines and standard operating procedures for secondary data collection, the community level primary data package and guidance on joint analysis.