

Report on EERI Reconnaissance Trip to Palu, Indonesia (11/13/19-11/22/19)

Theme: Short-term displacement, long-term relocation, 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami

Venue: Palu, Donggala Regency, Sigi Regency, Jakarta, Bandung (Indonesia)

EERI dispatched a field reconnaissance team to Palu, Indonesia, between November 13 and 22, to investigate short-term and long-term population displacement after the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami. The mission was supported by their Learning from Earthquakes (LFE) program. In addition to identify current status and future outlook of displacement and relocation, the research goals also included to “learn from Indonesian’s experience in managing and planning for this large displaced population, in a complex hazard environment (EERI 2019)”. The team included: Robert Olshansky, Professor Emeritus of University of Illinois (Leader); Kanako Iuchi, Associate Professor of IRIDeS, Tohoku University; and Ghazala Naeem, Disaster risk management consultant and architect. The team worked in a close collaboration with Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) (Dr. Rahma Hanifa) and Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) (Andri Mardiah). Supports were increasingly provided on site, for example by UNDP-BAPPENAS, Universitas Tadulako, and U-Inspire.

After a kickoff meeting with BAPPENAS in Jakarta, the team traveled to Central Sulawesi to explore damages caused by tsunami, liquefaction, and fault rupture. The team also observed the current living environment of the affected population in temporary shelters (both tents and temporary shelters) and in original communities. The team also confirmed permanent residences currently under construction by government in the designated relocation sites. In addition to the field investigation, the team had various meetings and conversations with the stakeholders, including Government (BAPPENAS, Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning (ATR), Ministry of Public Works Public Housing (PUPR), PUPR Taskforce, BAPPEDA (Palu City Donggala, Sigi, Parigi Moutong), BPBD Donggala), Academia (The National Center for Earthquake Studies (PuSGen), University of Indonesia (UI), Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Universitas Tadulako (UNTAD), United Nations (UNESCO), and active local community members.

To conclude this trip, the team presented 7 key findings and issues in relation to short-term displacement and long-term relocation as preliminary findings for further discussion. This expert panel was coordinated by ITB in Bandung. BAPPENAS and BNPB had participated in the meeting to share their visions and reflect on the team’s findings. A report on the EERI reconnaissance trip to Palu, Indonesia, will be available online in a few months and several webinars are planned to be held in the near future.

Reported by Kanako Iuchi (Human and Social Response Research Division)

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Fault movement affected community road to bend, Donggala Kodi



Mud flows developed by liquefaction damaged houses, Petobo



Irrigation may have triggered liquefaction, Jono Oge



A mosque affected by landslides and tsunamis, Palu Bay



Conversations with the local residents, Boya



Attendees of the expert meeting at Bandung Institute of Technology