Aceh is prone to natural disasters and regularly experiences floods, earthquakes, and landslides. Following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2004, UNDP worked to reduce vulnerability and promote resilience through Making Aceh Safer through Disaster Risk Reduction in Development (DRR-A). This project was designed to make risk reduction a routine part of development in Aceh by equipping government and communities with the skills and knowledge for disaster preparedness, mitigation and emergency response.

Together with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Provincial Government, DRR-A has accomplished key results in risk reduction through a coordinated strategy, establishing gender-sensitive community-led initiatives, enhancing the capacity of the Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Centre (TDMRC) in Banda Aceh, and fostering a culture of safety in Aceh through public awareness and formal education system.

**Results**

**Institutional Arrangement and Policy Framework**

The project has advocated for the integration of disaster risk reduction into development and governance. DRR-A also supported the notion that risk reduction is 'everybody’s business' through the establishment of a provincial multi-stakeholder forum. The project engaged the local government and communities in the development of a policy framework, planning, data collection and budgeting while adhering to gender-sensitive approach.

The following regulations have been put in place to strengthen risk reduction.

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Local Regulation/Qanun No. 5/2010 on Disaster Management</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Qanun No. 6/2010 on the Establishment, Organizational Structure and Management of the BPBA</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Governor Regulation No. 43/2010 on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Governor Regulation No. 5 1/2011 on Provincial Disaster Management Plan for 2012-2017</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Governor Regulation No. 48/2010 on Local Action Plan on DRR for 2010-2012</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Governor Decree No. 360/6a/2011 on the establishment of the Disaster Risk Reduction Coordination Forum</td>
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DRR-A supported the newly established Aceh Disaster Management Agency (BPBA) to put in place plans and procedures that strengthen disaster management and enable appropriate, effective and integrated preparedness and response measures. The following plans were developed:

- Five-year provincial disaster management plan.
- Standard Operating Procedures for Flood and Tsunami Early Warning Systems.
- Flood Contingency Plan.
- Emergency Operations ad Coordination Plan.
Gender-sensitive community-based DRR

Community-based organizations were empowered to identify local risks, vulnerability, enabling them to plan for and initiate solutions collectively. To date, significant results include:

- Establishment of DRR Forums in 10 pilot villages throughout Eastern, Western and Central Aceh.
- Community Action Plans formulated in each village to guide preparedness and response initiatives according to needs identified by men and women.
- Disaster Management Plans drafted and endorsed by village leaders in five villages.
- Forums linked with their district Disaster Management Agencies (BPBD), which will strengthen a bottom-up process and increase the likelihood of integrating community-based activities into district planning.
- Women accounted for a third of forum members and two of the forums are women-led, ensuring women's needs are considered in decision-making and planning.

Disaster Risk Reduction Research Centre

Through UNDP's technical assistance, TDMRC – Syiah Kuala University is now able to provide science-based research, information and knowledge to enhance risk reduction activities benefitting the people of Aceh and regional networks. Significant achievements of TDMRC include:

- Launched a Master's Degree Programme on Disaster Science with 71 registered students.
- Recognition from central and provincial governments of TDRMC as a think tank of disaster science and mitigation.
- Disaster Risk Management and Information System prototype has been designed to provide statistical disaster information.
- Risk maps have been developed at the provincial level and for the districts of Aceh Barat and Aceh Tamiang as a reference for disaster management planning and review of spatial plans.

Public awareness and education

DRR-A collaborated with the Department for Transportation, Communication, Information and Telecommunications, and Education Department to enhance DRR public awareness. The focus was to reach the greater public and create a ‘culture of safety’ in Aceh through media and education.

- DRR curricula for elementary schools, junior high and senior high schools formulated and 2,460 teachers in 11 districts trained.
- Education module for Islamic boarding schools developed and piloted.
- Governor's Instruction No.2/INSTR/2012 on the integration of DRR into the provincial education system endorsed.
- Public Awareness Coordination Committee set up to coordinate gender and cultural sensitive DRR messaging to the public through local media.
- Six hazard-specific modules developed and trained to 24 master trainers, with a replication of training to 288 community facilitators in four districts.

Cultivating a culture of safety: Elementary school children learn about disaster risks and how to protect themselves, for younger generations.

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