

# Evaluation of regional government policies in handling post-earthquake disaster

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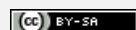
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## ABSTRACT

Disasters have had a huge impact both physically, psychologically and socially, the magnitude of the impact caused by these disasters means it is necessary to develop communities that have the ability to organize, learn and adapt in facing disasters. The aim of this research is to identify and describe the evaluation of the impact and behavior of the community on economic conditions after the earthquake disaster and to find out the local government's public policy in handling this case. Using qualitative methods with a case study approach, literature study, and secondary data processing from various social elements. Apart from that, data collection was carried out by interviewing sources who felt the direct impact of the earthquake disaster. The research results show that the impact of the post-earthquake disaster felt by the community is generally in the "severe" classification. The socio-economic conditions of the community cover several aspects, starting from geographical conditions that are in disaster-prone zones, health conditions are very worrying after the disaster. The conclusions of this research show that the consequences of the earthquake disaster are considered quite large, which has an impact on the regional economy. Damage to infrastructure combined with a backlog of logistics in supply warehouses means that goods that should be distributed cannot be carried out properly.

### Keywords:

evaluation; policy; local government; post-disaster

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## INTRODUCTION

The damage caused by earthquakes increases with rapid population growth and increased settlement in earthquake-prone areas (Rusydi et al., 2017). Natural disasters such as earthquakes that occur in and around the area not only result in loss of life, but also environmental damage and property loss. The same thing is also explained by Abarquez and

Mushed, where a disaster is said to be a serious disruption to the functioning of a community or society that results in widespread losses and impacts on humans, materials, the economy and the environment, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to overcome it. using their own resources (Agustino, 2016).

The earthquake not only destroyed people's houses, but also health facilities, education, roads and bridges. Therefore, if calculated roughly, losses are estimated to reach IDR 4 trillion in each area affected by the earthquake. For example, an earthquake measuring 5.6 magnitude rocked Cianjur Regency, West Java, Monday (21/11/2022). As a result, around 58 thousand houses were damaged and 600 people died. Apart from economic losses, disasters also have social impacts on society. From a sociological perspective, disasters are often understood based on human or community perceptions, and on what they feel regarding emotional experiences of events that could threaten their survival (Pramono, 2016; Prihatin, 2018). Disasters have had a huge impact both physically, psychologically and socially. The magnitude of the impact caused by these disasters means it is necessary to develop communities that have the ability to organize, learn and adapt in facing disasters (Setiawan & Pratitis, 2015).

This research tries to see what impacts are felt by disaster victims both from social and economic aspects. In this research, the author describes the causes of disasters in terms of geographical conditions, impacts caused directly and indirectly as well as several community economies. This research identifies and describes the evaluation of the impact and behavior of the community on post-disaster economic conditions in the region and determines the local government's public policies in handling these cases. This research also identifies and describes the evaluation of the impact and behavior of the community on post-disaster economic conditions in the region and determines the local government's public policies in handling these cases (Daswati et al., 2020).

To be able to evaluate local government policies after an earthquake disaster, the meaning of evaluation, policy and post-disaster must first be understood. Evaluation is measuring and improving an activity, such as comparing and analyzing the results of an activity. William A. Mehrens and Irlin J. Lehmann explain that the meaning of evaluation is a process of planning, obtaining, and providing information that is very necessary for making decision alternatives.

The purpose of Evaluation is to check how accurately a person's competence skills have been determined, and to find out what difficulties the person is experiencing in his work so that he can make a diagnosis and offer remedial possibilities, as well as to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of methods, media and other resources in carrying out an activity. The steps in the evaluation activities include: (1) Determining the evaluation topic, so that you know what will be evaluated, (2) Planning an evaluation activity that can determine the success of the program, (3) Establishing the way or method of evaluation that will be used, (4) ) Carrying out the evaluation, processing, and analyzing the data from the evaluation results, (5) Determining the success of the evaluated program based on the criteria that have been set, and (6) Compiling recommendations for the next program based on the evaluation results (Setiawan & Pratitis, 2015).

The first step is to identify and determine the evaluation topic. This involves a clear understanding of the aspect or element of the program to be evaluated. By determining the evaluation topic, the objectives and focus of the evaluation can be more focused. The next step is to design evaluation activities that can determine the success of the program. Once the evaluation topic is determined, the next step is to design evaluation activities. These activities must be designed in such a way that they can effectively assess the success of the program in accordance with previously established objectives.

The next step is to determine the method or evaluation method that will be used. Choosing an evaluation method or method is a key step. This includes selecting instruments, techniques, and approaches that are appropriate to the evaluation objectives and characteristics of the program being evaluated. Methods can be surveys, interviews, observations, or a combination of several approaches. The next step is to carry out an evaluation, process and analyze the evaluation data. This stage involves carrying out the evaluation in accordance with the plan that has been designed. After the data is collected, data processing and analysis is carried out to gain an in-depth understanding of program performance. This process includes statistics, trend mapping, and interpretation of evaluation results.

The next thing that must be done is to determine the success of the program which is evaluated based on predetermined criteria. With the results of evaluation and data analysis, it is determined whether the program is successful or not. This assessment is carried out based on previously determined evaluation criteria. Program success can be measured based on goal achievement, impact, efficiency, or other relevant parameters. And the final step is to prepare recommendations for the next program based on the results of the evaluation. The evaluation results are used to develop recommendations for the next program. These recommendations may include necessary improvements, strategy adjustments, or even suggestions for further changes in program implementation. The goal is for the program to continue to develop and improve in accordance with evaluation findings. This evaluation process forms a cycle where the evaluation results can provide input for further program improvement and development. According to Lasswell and Kaplan, policy is a tool to achieve goals where policy is a projected program regarding goals, values and practices. The steps for policy making are as follows: (1) Problem Identification (2) Determination of Alternatives, (3) Selection of Alternatives (4) Implementation of Alternatives, and (5) Evaluation of Policy (Fachrudin, 2015).

Post-disaster, often referred to as recovery, is the activity of returning infrastructure systems to minimum operating standards and long-term effort guidelines designed to return life to normal circumstances and conditions or to a better condition after a disaster. According to Law Number 24 of 2007 article 1 states that recovery is a series of activities to restore the condition of the community and environment affected by a disaster by re-functioning institutions, infrastructure and facilities by carrying out rehabilitation efforts (Gerungan, 2020). The repair process prioritizes the basic needs of communities affected by disasters, such as housing, sanitation facilities, the needs of affected communities, then continues with infrastructure improvements that support the recovery of the regional economic sector affected by disasters (Rahim et al., 2023). From the explanation above, researchers are interested in conducting research on evaluating local government policies in post-earthquake disaster management.

## METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with various phenomenologies. The discussion in this article will also try to explain the phenomenon of post-disaster looting in the region (Moleong, 2014). The focus of research in this paper is regional communities affected by disasters and how government policies respond to post-disaster economic conditions. The informants in this research were people affected by the disaster. In addition, data collection was carried out through interviews, focus group discussions (FGD) along with scientific findings, so that the research results became more accurate and systematic (Arent et al., 2023). (1) list of interviews, interviews are carried out directly with selected informants who are deemed able to provide answers in accordance with the data required

based on the research problem proposed, (2) observation guidelines, observations are needed to see directly what the phenomenon of post-disaster looting is like. The research data is then analyzed based on the principles of qualitative data analysis which starts from the process of sorting raw data obtained from the field, grouping data, analyzing data and interpreting the data obtained (Pahleviannur, 2022).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The earthquake that occurred caused deep sorrow and worry, not only for people living in earthquake-prone locations but also for people living nearby. The cause of the earthquake may also be related to the presence of faults in the earth, this is in accordance with what the BMKG said. However, several experts expressed the opinion that it was not just the fault that triggered the earthquake. Fault contours also open up opportunities for earthquakes that have not yet been discovered. The area is lowland, but there are also wavy to steep plains in other parts. The earthquake caused casualties and injuries, as well as damage to infrastructure and buildings (Rahim et al., 2023).

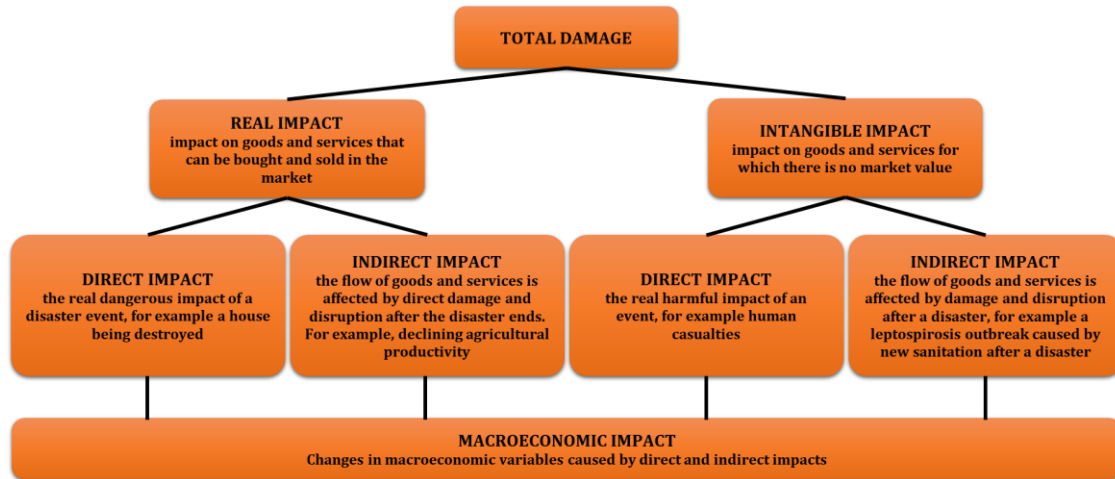
Based on Law Number 24 of 2007 concerning disaster management, disasters are grouped into three categories, namely; (1) natural disasters are disasters caused by events or a series of events caused by nature, including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods, droughts, hurricanes and landslides, (2) non-natural disasters are disasters that caused by an event or series of non-natural events which include, among other things, technological failure, modernization failure, epidemics and disease outbreaks; and (3) social disasters are disasters caused by events or series of events caused by humans which include social conflicts between groups or between communities, and terror (Gerungan, 2020).

The government is a group of people who are given legal authority by the local community to regulate interactions that occur in social interactions. While efforts to carry out all government functions and activities are called governance. Normatively, the existence of the government is one of the three important elements for the establishment of a modern state, in addition to the people and territory. By the people concerned, a government organization is given power (*power*) to run the government to serve the interests of the people as one of its main tasks. In carrying out these duties, a government must be based on applicable laws and regulations in order to achieve order in the implementation process. This is one of the characteristics of a modern government that differentiates it from a traditional government organization whose reference is not the rule of law but power or strength (Prasetyo et al., 2018).

Various natural disasters that occurred in Indonesia and various other countries in the world have given rise to experiences regarding disaster response and recovery efforts. Disaster response and recovery efforts involve relationships between the government and aid organizations, as well as the community (Samad et al., 2020). The earthquake that struck left deep sorrow for the victims (Daswati et al., 2020). Natural disasters such as the earthquake that occurred in Cianjur and its surroundings not only resulted in loss of life, but also environmental damage and property loss. Meanwhile, according to Burrito, there is a correlation between social impacts and economic losses (Modica & Zoboli, 2016). The economic condition of the population is a situation that describes human life which has economic value. Economic conditions are studied through three variables, namely livelihood, income and ownership of valuables (Setiawan & Pratitis, 2015).

The consequences of an earthquake are various damages or have impacts that result in damage, including: macroeconomic impacts of natural disasters, real impacts, intangible impacts, socio-economic impacts. From the impact or consequences of this damage, we can carry out earthquake impact evaluation activities and then we can find out the economic

condition of the people affected by the earthquake. AusAID divides the macroeconomic impacts of natural disasters into two groups, namely real impacts and intangible impacts. The two groups below will influence changes in macroeconomic variables (McKenzie et al., 2005). This can be seen in Figure 1 below regarding the Macroeconomic Impact of Natural Disasters.



**Figure 1.** Macroeconomic impact of natural disasters  
Source: AusAID, 2005

Most of the effects of natural disasters are direct and real impacts, whether large or medium scale disasters, this should be the government's attention in providing initial supplies for victims. The Cianjur disaster location is one of the areas in West Java that was hit by a disaster this year, and adds to the long list of disasters that will occur in West Java in 2022, where this area is one of the economic centers in West Java, this has implications for good logistics supplies either within the city or supply of goods and services to surrounding districts. Damage to infrastructure coupled with a backlog of logistics in supply warehouses means that goods that should be distributed cannot be carried out properly.

On the other hand, this earthquake caused the electricity supply and banking network to be completely paralyzed, so that people were unable to carry out banking transactions or simply withdraw cash from automated teller machines. This resulted in almost a vacuum in buying and selling transactions for almost a month after the disaster. Daily necessities shop owners are also almost certain to close their shops after the disaster, apart from prioritizing saving themselves and their families to the safest evacuation locations, they also choose to secure their merchandise. Disasters tend to affect culture, livelihoods and reasoning on a local scale in the socio-economic context, economic losses caused by disasters which can be directly observed are losses, damage and destruction of housing and business sectors, not only resulting in losses in output that cannot be produced (Setiawan & Pratitis, 2015).

Apart from real impacts, there are also intangible impacts. Providing assistance to victims of natural disasters is a special concern for several international humanitarian organizations, but sometimes there are obstacles to this process. As an example. Third world countries often experience difficulty in assimilating aid supplied by developed countries (McKenzie et al., 2005). Apart from that, evacuating disaster residential zones can create serious problems, namely increasing the number of homeless people. Third, poverty tends to exacerbate various difficulties caused by natural disasters (Fachrudin, 2015).

According to data released by BNPB, the earthquake that occurred in Cianjur was an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 on the SR, which occurred on November 21 2022. 53 thousand houses were seriously damaged and the number of victims who died as a result of

the earthquake was 334 people. The number of refugees currently reaches 114,683 people from 41,166 families. Meanwhile, the impact of damage includes damage to residential areas, public facilities, government facilities, community-owned buildings, health facilities, economic facilities and damage to other infrastructure.

From this data, it can be seen that there was a significant reduction in population after the disaster, where most of the densely populated areas were disaster locations. The government has ensured that residents' houses damaged by the earthquake will be rebuilt using earthquake-resistant housing models. BNPB estimates that tens of thousands of houses affected by the earthquake will be completed in June-July 2023.

The impact felt by society in general is in the "severe" classification. The socio-economic conditions of the community cover several aspects, starting from geographical conditions that are in disaster-prone zones, health conditions that are very worrying after the disaster, and residential conditions of residents. Apart from that, the livelihood conditions of residents after the disaster are quite worrying, for daily logistics needs they are forced to rely on government assistance, because the electricity network is cut off and this means that the victims are unable to access Automated Teller Machines to simply withdraw cash to buy daily necessities. .

Logistics backlogs in supply warehouses mean that goods that should be distributed cannot be carried out properly. While assistance from outside seems slow, one of the obstacles is that several road accesses to the victim evacuation sites were also damaged due to the disaster. Apart from that, there is confusing information from the government regarding the justification for picking up food ingredients at mini markets with certain labels. This phenomenon occurs because limited supply and high demand make post-disaster food a commodity that is a source of life for the community.

An earthquake in Indonesia could potentially cause a loss of up to 3% of our GDP, 30 Billion US Dollars. If we remember in Aceh, when the tsunami created a disaster, the cost was 4.5 billion dollars. Yogyakarta, when it experienced an earthquake, lost 30% of its regional GDP (Samad et al., 2020). The greater the escalation and number of victims and infrastructure resulting from a disaster, the more extensive the economic impact will be. But once again this only happens in the short term after the disaster (Rahim et al., 2023).

Disaster victims explained that the effects of natural disasters did cause significant losses to their businesses, but these were only temporary. After the disaster, the residents did not immediately leave their place of business and residence, but remained with other refugees in front of their place of business. One way to do this is to protect their assets and survive. After the disaster, the turnover of local businesses decreased drastically, but in the fifth, sixth and subsequent months, the turnover had returned to normal.

Mitigation can be carried out in the form of physical development or increasing capabilities in dealing with disasters as well as government preparedness in organizing appropriate and accurate actions so that the community is prepared to face disasters. Therefore, if the government has implemented this planning but there are limited disaster technology tools and natural disasters that are difficult to predict, then it is necessary to have a scientific development pattern that is oriented towards disaster mitigation. Furthermore, if a disaster occurs, the government must be alert in providing quick response in the rescue process as well as evacuating the victims and providing for the victims' emergency needs. Thus, after a disaster occurs, treatment continues to be provided in the form of allocation of financial assistance, not only from the regional government but also from various parties who participate in providing assistance to rebuild areas affected by natural disasters, namely earthquakes (Muksin et al., 2023).

On the other hand, after the disaster, there were also those whose business turnover fluctuated. However, in the first month, significant changes were felt in the business carried out by several residents, and as conditions gradually recovered, the residents also returned from their evacuation locations. So that the economy is slowly but surely recovering. From then on, the business or enterprise or source of livelihood of these residents returned to normal. After the disaster, several consumers from outside the city then started coming back looking for superior products from the region, so that sales conditions or turnover and income from residents or sellers have now started to return to normal and are running as usual.

## CONCLUSION

The research results show that the impact of the post-earthquake disaster felt by the community is generally in the "severe" classification. The socio-economic conditions of the community cover several aspects, starting from geographical conditions that are in disaster-prone zones, health conditions are very worrying after the disaster. The conclusions of this research show that the consequences of the earthquake disaster are considered quite large, which has an impact on the regional economy. Damage to infrastructure combined with a backlog of logistics in supply warehouses means that goods that should be distributed cannot be carried out properly.

Regional governments should pay more attention to disaster mitigation aspects. Namely by issuing a disaster mitigation education policy to the community. So that when a similar disaster strikes again. Society, government and other sectors have taken preparedness steps, so that post-disaster panic, chaos and other social disasters no longer occur.

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