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Resettlement following the 2010 Merapi Volcano eruption

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Abstract

The 2010 Merapi eruption resulted in almost 400,000 internally displaced persons and around 2,200 families lost their houses. The rehabilitation and reconstruction was carried out by relocating victims of the affected area into safer zones in the Rekompak project scheme (REhabilitasi dan ReKOnstruksi Masyarakat dan Permukiman berbAsis Komunitas, Community-Based Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Society and Settlement). Since the project was ended in 2014, several issues related to resettlement's sustainability might arise. Therefore, this research aims at assessing the present condition of the new resettlement including infrastructures and facilities after the end of the project and at analyzing the inhabitants' perception of the resettlement existing condition. We analysed the results of 46 questionnaires and conducted key informants interviews in two sub-villages (Kuwang and Plosokerep). The study shows that there is no significant modification on infrastructures and facilities, most of the inhabitants consent the current condition, yet some of them upgrade the quality of their residents.

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1. Introduction

Merapi volcano is one of the most active volcanoes worldwide, with more than 70 eruptions since 1548 (Voight et al., 2000). The volcano is located 30 km north of the inner city of Yogyakarta (Fig. 1). There are at least 9.6% of the world population who are living in volcanic hazard prone areas and most of the areas are placed in developing countries (Tilling, 2008).

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Until 2010, there are more than 1.3 million of inhabitants living in the area with radius of 20 km from the summit (Mei, et al., 2013). In the latest eruption on 2010, the pyroclastic flows had caused damages on more than 2,200 houses either severely, medium or light damaged (Jenkins, et al., 2013). Since the 2010 eruption, changes in the extent of volcanic disaster-prone areas (KRB) was conducted by the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (CVGHM), especially KRB III (the most risky area and may not be used as residential areas) along the Gendol River on the southern slope of Merapi Volcano (Figure 1). As a result, more than 2,200 families had to be moved from their previous houses. This resettlement is organized in rehabilitation and reconstruction phases.

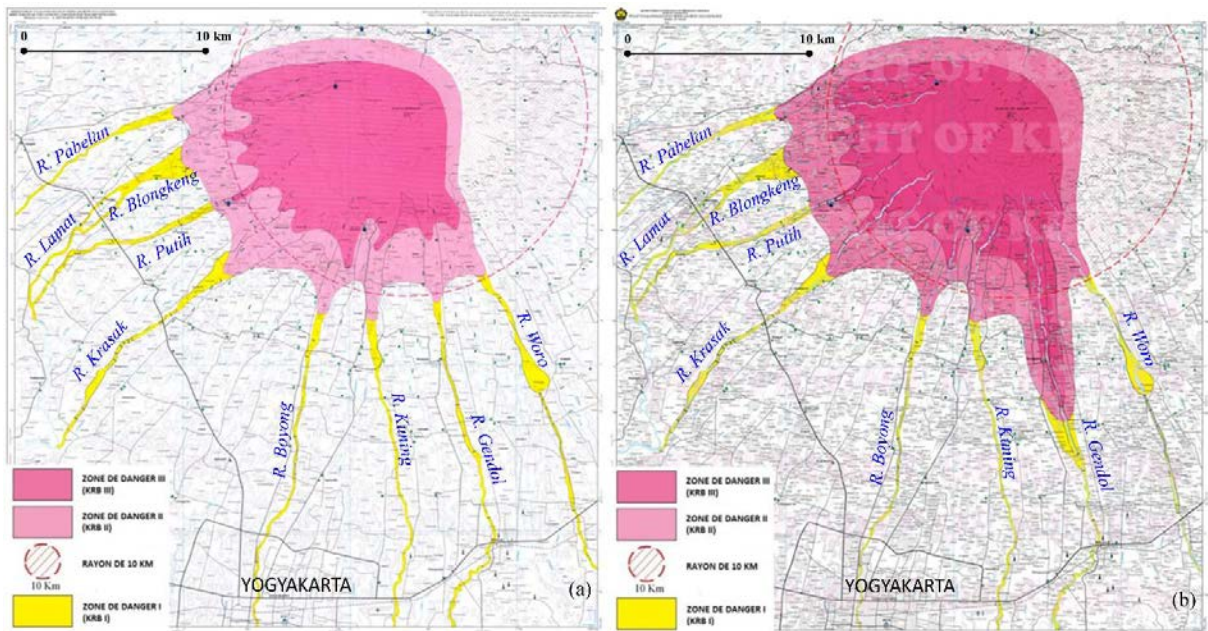


Fig. 1. Changes in Disaster-Prone Areas (a) before and (b) after the eruption in 2010

Referring to the Regulation of Head of Indonesian National Disaster Agency (BNPB) number 5 in the year 2011 on the Action Plan of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Post-Disaster Merapi eruption in 2010, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of settlements carried out by relocating residents of KRB III to safer areas. Rehabilitation and reconstruction in Merapi was implemented through schemes REKOMPAK. A total of 2,516 residential fixed housing (Hunian tetap or Huntap in Indonesian) units have been constructed in different locations around Merapi area. With the end of the program, in the end of 2014, there are several raised questions about livelihood of the people who relocated to Huntap.

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