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## Community Empowerment through Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in Social Sector of Kuala Krai, Kelantan, Malaysia.

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### Abstract

An enormous flood occurrences on the December 2014 has paralyzed almost the entire East-coast of Malaysia, in particular, the district of Kuala Krai, Kelantan. Among others, the utmost affected sector is social which relates to community-based (health; housing; education & cultural heritage) activities. This sector requires a comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction for ‘Build Back Better’ Agenda. The objectives of this paper are: to investigate the damages and losses in social sector; to identify the critical needs of Kelantanese relating to damages and losses; and to establish a strategy of the community empowerment. A-five-month of data collection was conducted through literature search, interviews and workshop. Damage, Loss and Needs Assessment (DaLNA methodology) criteria were used to assess the damages and the losses. To underpin the findings, a semi-structured interview was carried out with seven (7) organisations that were involved in 2014 flooding: Kelantan State Government, Department of Social Welfare, National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) of Malaysia, Public Works Department, Health Department, Mercy Malaysia and the local communities. The qualitative data were analysed using Atlas.ti Version 8.0. Findings revealed that a total of RM63.6 million of damages and losses were deliberated in the social sector of Kuala Krai. As such, the critical needs of Kelantanese are identified as housing; health; education and cultural heritage. Apparently, for community empowerment, the development of Integrated Community Centre (ICC) has been recognised as a potential immediate solution. The ICC will be used as a multipurpose centre comprising: transit centre (housing); disaster mobile clinic (health); training & education (education) and religious centre (cultural heritage), in the event of flood. The research outcomes would provide a well-prepared and resilient community in combating disaster events in future. This is inspired by Sendai Framework: Priority 4 - Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

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## 1. Introduction

In December 2014, heavy rain falls caused massive inundation in major areas of Malaysia especially in the East-coast states (Kelantan, Pahang, and Terengganu). This unusual and unexpected phenomenon has generally disrupted the livelihood of local communities affecting basic people's well-being such as health, housing, security, access to food, water, and other life commodities are affected [1]. The worst hit state of Kelantan has impacted around 42, 163 victims with total losses of RM200 million [2].

### 1.1. Flooding in Kuala Krai, Kelantan

Located in one of the east-coast states of Malaysia, Kuala Krai is the second largest province after Gua Musang Province. Kuala Krai, Kelantan consists of 2,329 square km or 910 square miles, neighbouring to Machang Province (North); Gua Musang (South); Jeli Province (West) and Terengganu State (East) [3]. The topography features in the East, West, and South of Kuala Krai, Kelantan Malaysia is mountainous whereas in North is valley landscape. Figure 1 shows the rivers in Kelantan and in Kuala Krai Province, it is indicated that there is a meeting point of two main rivers (Sungai Galas and Sungai Lebir) [4]. Approximately, the maximum annual rainfall of Kelantan can reach up to 1750 mm during the monsoon season (November until January). However, flood event in 2014 had been triggered by the worst monsoon rain has been recorded in the history of the state by The National Security Council [5].

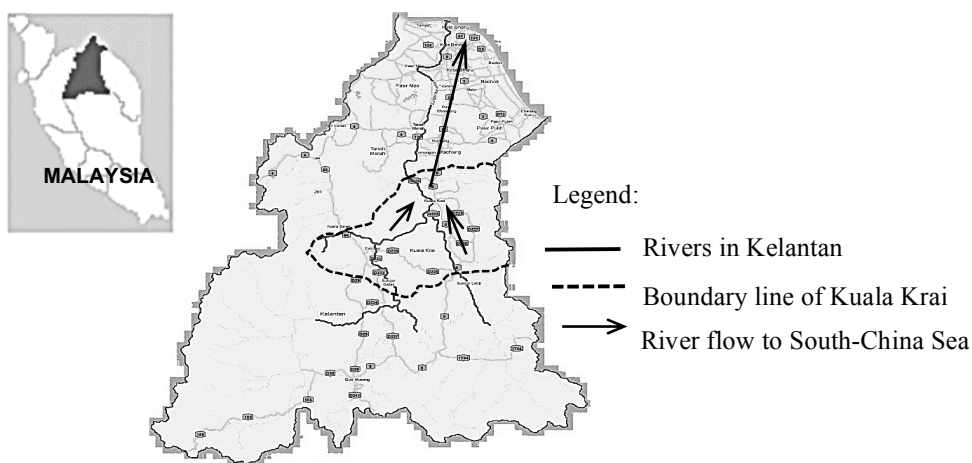


Fig. 1. Maps of rivers in Kelantan, Malaysia.

Disaster events like flood occurrences in Kuala Krai have led an impact, among others in the social sector. It has affected subsectors such as housing, health, education, cultural heritage including direct impact (physical destruction with total 14 deaths in Kelantan alone) and indirect impact (people displacement of 158,476 victims; demographic changes; insecurity and secondary health effects) [6], [7]. Following the 2014 flood occurrences, the federal and state governments are required to establish the amount of damages and losses affected, in order to determine the local communities' critical needs to restore the damages to its original condition. Hence, the objectives of this paper are in three-folds, (1) to investigate the damages and losses in social sector; (2) to identify the critical needs of Kelantanese relating to damages and losses; and (3) to establish a strategy of the community empowerment.

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