



ILO Jakarta  
**Special** Edition  
on **ILO's Mt. Sinabung Recovery Support Programme**

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After the volcano:

## Turning the disaster **into opportunity**

**MT. SINABUNG** in Karo District of North Sumatra erupted on 29 August 2010 which caused displacement of 12,000 people. Soon after, the volcanic activities decreased and increased again in September 2013 causing displacement of 15,000 people. Since then, the volcanic activities decreased to Alert Level 2 in the end of September 2013. In October 2013 the volcanic activities increased again up to Alert Level 3 on 3 November 2013. In response to the crisis, local government then called for a state of the emergency. Noting that the volcano was more active, its status was raised to Alert Level 4 in December 2013.



Until today, Mt. Sinabung continues to experience high volcanic activity since 4 January 2014. The eruption of smoke is followed by volcanic ashes, small materials and pyroclastic flow to 4-5 km to southeast. Volcanic tremors continue. Ashes and volcanic materials with diameter of 2-6 cm are damaging the crops in the affected areas. As the eruption activities continued more intensively from January onwards, more people sought refuge to a number of internal displaced persons (IDPs) hosting facilities in the district. ●

# FACTS & FIGURES



Sitting on the Pacific Ring of Fire, Mt. Sinabung is one of the 127 active volcanoes in Indonesia.

Eruption of Mt. Sinabung since 2010. Since 2013, the status has been raised to Alert Level 4.


It became active in 2010 after more than 400 years of dormancy.



Three villages destroyed, around 40 villages have been affected.



More than 15,000 displaced.



Around 370 households from the three villages have been relocated to the relocation area of Siosar.

# PROJECT OUTPUTS

MAIN OUTPUT:



COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE 2013-2014 MT. SINABUNG ERUPTION **RECOVER** WITH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND ENHANCED RESILIENCE.

OUTPUT

1



LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE THE CAPACITY TO **COORDINATE** POST-DISASTER EARLY RECOVERY AND RECOVERY MEASURES.

OUTPUT

2



LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE THE CAPACITY TO **PLAN AND IMPLEMENT** POST-DISASTER RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.

OUTPUT

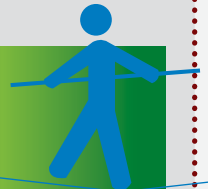
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**RAPID RESTORATION** OF LIVELIHOODS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

OUTPUT

4



**RISK-REDUCTION PRINCIPLES** INCORPORATED IN RECOVERY MEASURES.

# Restoring livelihoods rebuilding economic opportunities

TO support the recovery in Karo District, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has formulated a joint programme named “The Mt. Sinabung Recovery Support Programme” (SIRESUP).

Supported by New Zealand’s International Aid and Development Agency (NZAID), the Sinabung programme is aimed at contributing to the post-disaster recovery of the affected regions and the affected communities are recovered with sustainable livelihoods and enhanced resilience. Implemented for 2.5 years, the Project has ended in March 2017. 🌱

## FOCUS OF SIRESUP PROGRAMME

- Strengthening capacities of national and local authorities to coordinate post-disaster early recovery and recovery measures;
- Strengthening capacities of national and local authorities to plan and implement post-disaster recovery measures;
- Restoring livelihoods and developing economic opportunities of the affected population; and
- Ensuring risk-reduction principles are incorporated in recovery measures.



## The ILO’s support to the recovery of livelihoods after the volcano

IN line with the mandate of the ILO to promote decent work for all men and women, the Sinabung programme has carried out the following activities:

1. Supporting a livelihood concept, strategy and implementation, with specific targets and strategies or the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees;
2. Creating income generation projects;
3. Restoring agricultural-based livelihoods; and
4. Improving the capacity of micro and small enterprises started by the IDPs through provision of financial education and entrepreneurship training including women and youth.

To enhance the sustainability of livelihoods in the Karo District, the ILO has applied comprehensive approaches in local economic development, replicating the successfulness of the ILO’s previous post recovery programme in the Mentawai Islands under the ILO’s Mentawai Islands Livelihoods Recovery Project and ILO’s Policy Guidance on the Promotion of Decent Work in the Rural Economy.

The approach has applied various ILO’s well-tested tools including Financial Education, Community-Based Enterprise Development (C-BED), Training Package on Managing Agricultural Cooperative (My.Coop), product and services marketing, including some skills and vocational trainings. Since the project is aimed to mainstream women and youth issues, trainings such as Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GET Ahead) and Youth Rights at Work (YRW) have been utilised during the project intervention. 🌱





# People of Karo are motivated to shift from agriculture sector to small industries and services



*The eruption of Mt. Sinabung has changed the lives of people of Karo. They are no longer able to rely on the agricultural sector that has been passed to generations over the years. Volcanic ashes and dusts have ruined the quality of the harvests. As a result, they are forced to change their mind-set in order to look for other livelihood options and income alternatives. They have to start focusing on small businesses and services, utilizing local commodities with added values. Ir. Muliya Barus, M.Si, the former Head of Manpower Office of Karo District, shared his views and involvement about the impact of the ILO's Sinabung Recovery Support Programme (SIRESUP) as well as the commitment of the local government for the future:*

### What are the impacts of the ILO-Sinabung Project to the people of Karo?

The main priorities of the District Government of Karo, North Sumatra, are to enhance agriculture and tourism sectors. Karo District has been blessed with fertile, productive lands as well as beautiful sceneries that should be developed and enhanced. As a result, the agriculture sector has also been the main livelihoods and source of incomes passing to generations over the years.

Due to the eruption of Mt. Sinabung since the year of 2010, people of Karo could no longer rely on farming and agriculture sectors. The agriculture sector has lost its competitiveness. They need to shift their focus to small industries and services. The skills, entrepreneurship and business enhancement trainings provided by the Project have motivated people to be more economically active in business development.

The Project has enhanced the entrepreneurial spirit and skills of the people of Karo. As a result, I have witnessed a change of mind-set and focus. They are now being more active and creative in turning potential commodities and skills into businesses as ways to improve their lives and support their families. This, in turn, will reduce unemployment and create more job opportunities.

### How does the Project support the programmes of the government in improving the livelihoods of Karo District, particularly during and after the disaster?

On behalf of the local government, we would like to thank the ILO for its programmes and activities that have triggered a change of mind-set and focus. Through its skills, entrepreneurship and marketing trainings, the ILO provided options and income alternatives for local communities affected by the disaster. The ILO also provided means to add valuable added values to local communities through its modules and tools.

In addition to the capacity building for local communities, the ILO has supported the capacity building for government staff from relevant offices such as Manpower office and Cooperative office. It is hoped that government would be able to take ownership, replicate and continue the skills, entrepreneurship and access to finance and to expand these programmes for wider coverage.

### What is the plan of the local government to boost business development and entrepreneurship in Karo District?

We are now developing partnership and collaboration among relevant governmental offices to continue

promoting local entrepreneurship. In collaboration with the District Handicrafts Council of Karo (Dekranasda), we are now building a market centre to promote the products of the light-meal businesses and productions. We continue, for example, promoting local light-meal products using local commodities from surrounding areas affected by the eruption.

We also collaborate with the District Tourism Office on how to build a network with local entrepreneurs and to promote them as part of the tourism activities. In addition, to provide better and wider access to the financial institutions, we have developed a cooperative in the relocation area of Siosar. It is hoped that the cooperative is able to improve access to finance as an effort to expand entrepreneurial programmes in Karo District.

### What is your hope for the future?

I hope that the entrepreneurial spirit and skills of local communities continue to enhance. More and more people are empowered to start and improve their businesses for developing and strengthening local economic development. The most important thing is how we are able to manage existing potentials by adding valuable added values. In addition, through this entrepreneurship programme, I hope that we have something unique from this area that can be sold as part of the tourism attraction. 🌸

*“Through its skills, entrepreneurship and marketing trainings, the ILO provided options and income alternatives for local communities affected by the disaster.”*



## Rebuilding local communities and economy through skills and business development

TO compliment the agricultural sector recovery and enhance the sustainability of livelihoods in Karo District, North Sumatra, the ILO has focused its livelihoods recovery interventions on the development of management and business skills through various training programmes, which include trainings on micro-enterprise development, marketing and post-production processing.

“Through introducing various ILO tools on local economic development and rural development/economy, we intend to develop a combination of hard skill and soft skill trainings. We hope that the participants not only learned how to improve their technical skills, but they would also be equipped with knowledge on how to do proper administration, marketing and financial calculation,” explained Aidil Azhari, the ILO’s Local Project Coordinator for Sinabung Recovery Project.

The vocational training of selected local participants was a core objective of the Sinabung Recovery Project. In collaboration with relevant partners, a total of 50 participants were selected for the vocational training based on motivation and capacity. The participants were

selected for one of three trades: Motorbike repairing, sewing and light meals product making.

The three identified skills were selected based on the results of the need assessments conducted by the ILO at the beginning of the programme. The motorbike repair and sewing trainings were chosen to provide skills in an area where many Karo residents do not possess basic knowledge. The trainings offer marketable skills that are needed to fill in the gap between the demand and supply of motorbike repairing and sewing skills.

Meanwhile, considering the abundance of natural resources in Karo District, the main goal of the light meals trainings is to help the community move forward by equipping the residents with the necessary training and tools which would enable them to further explore the development of these resources.

The trainings have combined 25 percent theoretical training and 75 percent hands on training. This combination is important for the development of the participants after the training has completed, as the participants would be able to use their theoretical knowledge and theory books to

“In fact, the participants have really enjoyed the training program. They are committed to the programme, can follow instructions, and have had no difficulty in learning.



**Udin Suryana,**  
ILO's Facilitator

solve problems and further develop their repairing skills.

The main challenge encountered during the trainings are the difficulties in following instructions and disciplinary issues, such as inconsistent attendance from participants. However, after realizing the benefits gained from these trainings, the commitment level from participants increased.

As a result, new entrepreneurs and new businesses have been born and developed in Karo District, particularly in some affected areas. 🌸



## Yuni Astuti: Sewing dreams for a better life after the volcano

An opportunity to take a skill training and a simple sewing machine can be the key to a woman's strength to rise from the disaster and empower herself and her family.

**LOOKING** at the lines of kebayas (an Indonesian traditional dress), blouses and skirts in her living room waiting to be picked up by her customers, no one would imagine that Yuni Astuti, a mother of a 10-year-old daughter just learnt how to sew less than a year ago. She was one of the sewing training's participants conducted by the ILO through its Mt. Sinabung Recovery Support Programme" (SIRESUP) in mid of 2015.

After the eruption of Mt. Sinabung in 2013, Yuni and her family were forced to leave their village and abandon their coffee plantation. For three years, they had to live in the camp in Kabanjahe working odd jobs to make a living. She interested to take a sewing training so that she could



Marjiati br Sembiring Meliala:

## Stirring up for success with a light-meals

*By utilizing local commodities, Marjiati br Sembiring Meliala has risen from a disaster to a business woman. She cooks for success to support her family and to contribute to the welfare of her communities.*

**THE** disaster and business lost she had been experiencing do not prevent Marjiati br Sembiring Meliala, 42 years old, to share her new skills in light-meals production and business to other women in the affected areas of the Mt. Sinabung in Karo

District, North Sumatra. She has been actively taught other women groups how to produce vegetable sticks using local natural resources such as purple potatoes, broccolis, corns, carrots, pumpkins and so forth.

"I like cooking and I welcomed the opportunity offered by the ILO to join the light-meals training for 6 days. Together with other 19 participants, we learnt how to make sticks using potatoes and purple potatoes," she said.

The ILO through its Mt. Sinabung Recovery Support Programme" (SIRESUP) provided a series of trainings, combining skills, entrepreneurship, financial education, marketing trainings as well as after training support. "So far I have around eight flavours using local commodities. Despite selling the vegetables as they are, by transforming them into a product with added values like this, I can earn more," she explained.

earn a better income, yet she had no money to pay for the fee.

"It is true that you should never give up. When I thought I had to give up my dream, I received an offer from the ILO to participate in the sewing training for 20 days. I was very nervous during the training as I knew nothing about sewing, making patterns, cutting fabrics and body measurements," Yuni retold her experience joining the training.

Her determination has now yielded a result. She can support her family and earn IDR 1 million every month. During holiday seasons, she can earn double. In addition to a sewing machine, she is also equipped with a hemming machine as part of the after training support from the ILO. To learn new designs and trending models, she now likes reading fashion or woman magazines or browsing online fashion sites.

At 33, she continues to think about how she can improve herself and business. "I have the skills and knowledge needed to build my sewing business and I am also active in cooperative as a treasurer as I am aware that as an entrepreneur we need to have a better access to financial institution," she said with a big smile. ❀

## meal business

Orders have now poured not only from surrounding areas like Kabanjahe and Brastagi, but also from the capital city of Jakarta due to mouth-to-mouth promotion. Her products named Sinabung have been sold in cafes, hotels, restaurants as well as the handicraft centre in Brastagi, a well-known tourism site in Karo District.

She can now earn IDR 3-4 million per month that she spends to help her husband, Martin Sitepu, supporting their family and sending their only daughter to a high school in Medan, the provincial capital of North Sumatra.

"I never thought I would be a business woman like today. Farming was used to be my whole life and the source of livelihoods that we only knew how to do. I wish that I can further expand my business and be able to buy more modern equipment so that I can fulfil the poured orders and expand my business," she continued. ❀



**Basmadi Kapri Peranginangin:**

**"I can laugh now and no more despair"**

*The eruption of Mt. Sinabung has changed the life of Basmadi Kapri Peranginangin. The disaster has ruined his village and livelihoods, but he has now risen with new hopes and dreams with his new business.*

**THE** eruption of Mount Sinabung in 2013 had changed the lives of Basmadi Kapri Peranginangin and his family as well as the rest of villagers. They could no longer work on their farms due to damages caused by volcanic ashes. They also had to move out to a displacement camp in the capital city of Karo district, Kabanjahe, for approximately one year.

In May 2016, he learned about the ILO's youth programme through the joint ILO-FAO-UNDP Programme supported by New Zealand's International Aid and Development Agency named "The Mt. Sinabung Recovery Support Programme" (SIRESUP). The youth programme recruited youths from the affected villages to be trained as participants in motorbike repair training. In addition to the technical training, the programme also provided

a training on financial education and entrepreneurship.

After the completion of the training, Basmadi received an After Training Support (ATS) in the format of basic tools and business assistance. He is now able to expand the services of his motorbike repair service and triple his earning to IDR 3.5 million per month.

"With the knowledge and tools given by the ILO, I am now skilled to provide various services. I am now capable of unpacking and packing the motorbike engine and repair other parts of the engines that I was not able to do before," said this 27-year-old man.

Not only more skilful, Basmadi is also more finance literate. He prepares his own financial plan so that he can expand his business and buy additional tools and spare parts. "I can even save now. I save the majority of my income of IDR 2.5 million every month that I will use for my daughter's needs and to continue expanding my business in the future. I once felt unsure about the future, but now I am excited to plan my future. I can laugh again and no more despair," he concluded, proudly. ❀

# Providing better access to finance to support rural entrepreneurship

**BETTER** access to the financial institution such as cooperative is urgently needed by local communities and rural businesses affected by the eruption of Mt. Sinabung. Communities affected by disaster in Siosar have started the initial steps of enhancing their cooperative's services to support the improvement of the local economic development as well as the emerging rural entrepreneurship.

Most of these emerging rural businesses still face the same challenges: capital and access to the financial institution. Most of these businesses are not yet eligible to get bank services or bank loans. As small home industries, they cannot meet the requirements needed by the banks. Therefore, the District Manpower Office of Karo have taken some actions by building a partnership with financial institutions like banks and cooperatives.

"We encourage them to join the cooperative. As members of the cooperative, they will have access to the cooperative's saving and loaning as well as marketing programmes so that they can improve and expand their businesses," said Eva Susanti Lumban Gaol, Head of Empowerment and Human Resources Quality Development Section of the District Manpower Office of Karo. ✪

Pagalang Sembiring Pandia:

## Expanding rural entrepreneurship through cooperatives



"**WE** need to have a way out of the disaster. After the completion of the ILO's series of skills and entrepreneurship trainings, the ILO has also offered an activity to revitalize the cooperative. We need to have the cooperative to support

*"We need to have the cooperative to support the enhancement and sustainability of the rural businesses that have been initiated and developed."*

the enhancement and sustainability of the rural businesses that have been initiated and developed," said Pagalang Sembiring Pandia, the Head of Siosar Cooperative.

The cooperative was established in 2014, but it had been in active until the year of 2015. The ILO has initiated an activity to revitalize the cooperative and begun to

provide an assistance in the format of daily needs and products in 2016. With this, the cooperative started to open a daily shop for its members, in addition to the save and loan programme.

To date, the cooperative members have grown from 21 to 132 members. "With more services and activities provided, the cooperative has attracted more members. And, we continue to find business ideas to expand the services and scopes of the cooperative," he said.

For the future, according to Pagalang, the cooperative is now planning to have a grocery shop. The shop is now the process of the development. "We would ask members to sell their harvests and business products through this grocery shop. The profits gained can also be enjoyed by all members," he said.

In addition, a market is now being built by the government in Siosar and some kioks would be given and managed by the cooperative. The cooperative will also develop mushroom farming that will be supported by the District Agricultural Office of Karo and University of Medan. ✪

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# Moving forward and ensuring the sustainability

**CONTINUOUS** support and facilitation are needed for local communities to strive for success. The strong commitment shown by the Manpower Office of Karo District has played an important role in ensuring the successfulness and the sustainability of the skills and entrepreneurship development activities under the ILO's Mt. Sinabung Recovery Support Programme (SIRESUP).

To continue the training and facilitation programme after the end of the ILO-SIRESUP programme, the District Manpower Office of Karo has adopted the ILO's training modules and replicated the trainings programmes. This year, for example, the District Manpower Office would conduct similar series of trainings using its own budget and targeting more participants.

In addition, the local government has also developed partnership and collaboration among relevant governmental offices to continue promoting local entrepreneurship. In collaboration with the District Handicrafts Council of Karo (Dekranasda), a market centre would be built to promote the products of the light-meal businesses and productions.

"We also collaborate with the District Tourism Office on how to build a network with local entrepreneurs and to promote them as part of the tourism activities. In addition, to provide better and wider access to the financial institutions, we have developed a cooperative in the relocation area of Siosar. It is hoped that the cooperative is able to improve access to finance as an effort to expand entrepreneurial programmes in Karo District," said Ir. Mulia Barus, M.Si, the former Head of Cooperative, Industry and MSEs Office of Karo District.

Local authorities, particularly at the village level, play an important role in ensuring successful rural development and local economic development for the communities. Their supports are the key to sustained rural entrepreneurship and business development.

As the Head of Regional Development Agency of Gungpinto Village, one of the villages affected by the eruption of Mt. Sinabung in Karo District, North Sumatra, Martin Sitepu has greatly welcomed local economic activities in his village through light-meals production and businesses using local commodities. The village's authorities as well as community leaders have strongly supported the

*"We cannot depend on agriculture anymore. We need to find new, innovative ways so that local communities can get back to work and get their lives back."*



**Agus Sitepu**  
Village Secretary of Suka Meriah Village

entrepreneurship development in their village.

Similarly, Agus Sitepu, Village Secretary of Suka Meriah Village, one of the three destroyed villages, emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship as means for local communities to gain their lives back.

To continue enhancing employment opportunities and expanding entrepreneurial opportunities, both Martin and Agus said that they would further collaborate with relevant district offices on manpower, cooperative and other offices. "Through these collaborations we hope to continue improving ourselves and our businesses," they both concluded. 🌸

## Eva Susanti: Supporting the local communities to reach out for success

**EVA** Susanti  
Lumban Gaol, Head of Empowerment and Human Resources Quality Development Section of the



District Manpower Office of Karo, is one of the governmental staff of the District Manpower Office of Karo who have actively involved in training, facilitating and assisting local communities in the affected areas of Mt. Sinabung. She participated in all trainings for trainers of the programme covering entrepreneurship training, financial education for family training and business enhancement training.

She also participated in the distant training on cooperative called My.Coop provided

by the ILO's International Training Centre (ITC) in Turin, Italy. As a master trainer, she further trained targeted beneficiaries, providing them with entrepreneurship, financial and technical skills.

"I found the ILO's modules are participatory and applicable. The contents are also easy to understand by our participants from various educational background. In addition, the after training support and facilitation have strengthened the bond between facilitators and participants. This kind of relationship help me to better understand and assist the local communities as their success is my success," she stated.

Eva continued to coach and provided assistance as part of the after training

support programme. "After the training support and facilitation play an important role in ensuring that the beneficiaries are able to apply what they learnt in trainings to their businesses and lives. It is also an effort to continue motivating and encouraging the beneficiaries that there is always hopes and other alternatives after the volcano," added Eva.

As a result of the continuous facilitation and support, new entrepreneurs have been born and new businesses have been developed in affected areas of Mt. Sinabung. The beneficiaries have witnessed increased income and improved lives. They are also able to support their families and even plan to continue expanding their businesses. 🌸



ILO-Siresup Programme

# Highlights in Pictures

