

Collaborative Governance in Flood Management in Sumedang Regency

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Abstract: *This study aims to examine the implementation of collaborative governance in flood control in Sumedang Regency. The research method used is a case study with data collection techniques through interviews, observation, and documentation. The research respondents consisted of representatives from local government, communities, and the private sector involved in flood management in Sawahdadap Village and Cisurupan Seda, Cimanggung District, Sumedang District. The results of the study show that collaborative governance has been implemented in flood management in Sumedang Regency through aspects of the collaborative governance dimension, which include initial conditions, institutional design, facilitative leadership, and collaborative processes. However, there are several obstacles to its implementation, such as differences in perceptions, uneven accountability and responsibility, and limited financial and human resources. Therefore, there is a need for more systematic and integrated efforts to increase collaboration between related sectors and the community in handling floods in Sumedang Regency.*

Keywords: Collaborative Governance; Flood Management; Local Government.

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Introduction

Disaster is an unpredictable event that can happen at any time. Disasters can occur as a result of natural events such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, and tsunamis, or as a result of human actions such as fires, explosions, riots, and terrorism. Disasters can threaten human safety and livelihoods, damage the environment, harm property, and leave psychological impacts that are difficult to overcome (Djali, 2013; Gupta et al., 2018).

One type of disaster that often hits various regions in Indonesia is flooding. In the last 10 years, hydrometeorological disasters (floods, flash floods, landslides, and tornadoes) have dominated disaster events every year. Extreme weather and changes in environmental conditions have contributed to an increase in disasters in our country, Indonesia (Rikin, 2020).

The results of the graph obtained by BNPB in 2021 state that floods are ranked first as the most frequent disasters in Indonesia, namely 1,288 incidents, or 42.1% (Dihni 2021). In 2022, in semester I, from 1 January to 30 June 2022, floods are still ranked first as the most frequent disasters in Indonesia, with a total of 747 incidents. This number is equivalent to 38.78% of the total natural disaster events in Indonesia (Annur 2022).

Of course, the flood disaster caused a lot of losses to society, both material and moral. Therefore, it really needs good efforts from the government and all existing elements to deal with the flood problem (Angrelia et al., 2020). This is because if no proper countermeasures are carried out, then, of course, the flood problem will continue to be a routine disaster every year (Sabir & Phil, 2016).

Sumedang Regency has the 14th rank of disaster potential in West Java Province. This is because Sumedang Regency has 162 disaster-prone points

and has a high risk status in the type A category (Nugraha et al., 2020). Sumedang Regency and its surroundings have regional physiographic characteristics in the form of hills and basins, which often experience flooding. Almost all sub-districts in Sumedang Regency are prone to flooding. During the rainy season, floods and puddles of varying heights occur. The latest is the flash flood that occurred in Sawahdadap Village and Cisurupan Village in Cimanggung District, Sumedang Regency (Fathoni et al., 2020; Li et al., 2022).

Flood management by the Sumedang District Government or other regional governments would need to reformulate the concept of inter-governmental cooperation among stakeholders, including government, community, and business actors. Therefore, there is a need for collaborative governance or *collaborative governance* for flood prevention, which allows each *stakeholder* to play an active role according to their portion (Dewi, 2012; Laforge et al., 2017).

It is appropriate that the government of Sumedang Regency is always on standby while at the same time empowering existing resources to deal with floods, including by involving the community and the business world (corporate) within the framework of *collaborative governance*. An understanding of *collaborative governance* is also very important for all levels of society because *stakeholders* often work alone in dealing with disasters due to a lack of support from the community (Mukti & Efendi, 2020). This is compounded by the condition of the people who often act as *customers* and only demand maximum service from the government without being aware of the

importance of their role and participation (Danar, 2020).

Collaboration is a response to changes or shifts in the policy environment. These shifts can occur in the form of an increasing number of policy actors (Rusmawan et al., 2023), issues that are becoming more widespread or difficult to detect, limited government capacity while institutions outside the government are increasing, and people's thinking is becoming more critical. When this shift occurs, the government must act immediately to resolve or overcome what is currently an issue. However, the government still has to adjust and keep itself relevant to the surrounding environment. By collaborating with private parties and communities that have an interest in and are affected by existing policies or public problems (Qalby, 2018; Giggundu, 1994),

One proof of the success of collaborative governance in dealing with floods was revealed in research by Neise & Diez (2018) in Jakarta and Semarang. They show how the participation of private companies is very contributive in reducing flood risk. Likewise, Sunarharum (2016) revealed that collaborative governance can overcome various obstacles in society, such as: a) differences in perceptions between the government and the community regarding flood management; b) limited technical literacy and knowledge of affected communities; and c) limited government capacity in formulating targeted policies for mitigation. Comparative research by Ghozali et al. (2016) regarding flood management in Ayutthaya (Thailand) and Samarinda (Indonesia) also shows that collaborative governance is very helpful for the government to measure flood risk, including the level of vulnerability and adaptive capacity of the community.

Based on the review of the problems above, this study seeks to examine the collaborative governance implemented by the Sumedang Regency Government in dealing with floods. This study aims to identify collaborative practices carried out in handling floods in Sumedang Regency, as well as to analyze the successes and obstacles encountered in its implementation.

The benefit of this research is that it can contribute to the development of better and more effective flood management in Sumedang Regency. The results of this research are expected to be a reference for local governments, communities, and the private sector in developing more integrated and collaborative flood management policies and programs. In addition, this research can also be a source of information and inspiration for researchers and practitioners in the field of developing and implementing collaborative governance in handling natural disasters in other areas. Thus, this research can make a positive contribution to the development of flood management and disaster risk reduction in Indonesia in general.

Method

The research method used in this study is a descriptive research method with a qualitative research approach. The definition of qualitative research methods according to Sugiyono (2011) Qualitative research methods are research methods based on the philosophy of postpositivism, used to research on natural object conditions, (as opposed to experiments) where the researcher is the key instrument, data collection techniques are carried out by triangulation (combined), data analysis is inductive/qualitative in nature, and the results of qualitative research emphasize meaning rather than

generalization. The researcher chose to use a descriptive research method with a qualitative approach. It is hoped that more complete, in-depth, and meaningful data and information will be obtained, so that the research objective is to study collaborative governance implemented by the Sumedang Regency Government in dealing with floods.

Result And Discussion

To find out in more depth about the collaboration carried out by the Sumedang District Government in tackling flood disasters, it is necessary to describe it by analyzing the influencing dimensions, namely initial conditions, institutional design, facilitative leadership, and collaborative process (Ansell and Gash, 2007; Tefft et al., 2021).

Initial Conditions

The flood problems that exist in each area are, of course, caused by different factors, which of course require different handling. In this case, the author conducted research on handling flood problems that occurred in Sumedang Regency by taking case studies from Sawahdadap Village and Cisurupan Village, Cimanggung District, Sumedang Regency. In this case, the author made direct observations of the field and conducted interviews with various parties who were deemed competent to provide information related to the collaborative governance process in handling the floods that were there.

The cause of flash floods is strongly suspected to be the impact of damage to ecosystems in the upper reaches of the river, such as opening new land or planting inappropriate plant species in areas with a slope of more than 40 degrees (source: inisumedang.com). The steep topography of the land and intensive anthropogenic

activities such as agriculture (cassava, sweet potato, and red ginger) result in a high risk of landslides and increase runoff, resulting in flash floods. The second cause of the flooding that occurred in the area was caused by the Sawahdadap and Cisarupan areas, which are low areas, causing the area to be easily inundated when the rainy season arrives.

Institutional Design

There is no Disaster Risk Reduction Forum (FPRB), so the collaboration that occurs must involve agencies from several elements that are directly responsible, and their institutional design is related to the impact of the disaster that occurred, plus several elements and agencies outside the government involved, including the village government, which is a village affected by the disaster, and the affected communities in the village. The collaboration process that occurred consisted of several institutions formed to be involved in flood disaster management. The parties involved in the collaboration included government elements, in this case the regional government, TNI-Polri institutions, village governments, the private sector, and the community. They were also involved in collaborating on countermeasures. flood disaster in Sumedang Regency. Participation means there is active involvement in the process of organizing the activity in question. This involvement is carried out based on the role and position of each actor who has an interest. In terms of flood prevention that occurred in Sumedang Regency, it was carried out in accordance with: 1) Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 24 of 2007 concerning Disaster Management; 2) Regulation of the Head of BNPB Number 10 of 2008 concerning Guidelines for the Emergency Response Command; and 3) Sumedang Regency Regional Regulation

No. 3 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of Disaster Management.

The participation of every stakeholder makes collaboration work well. However, in this case, the involvement of the private sector does not only rely on one or two companies; disaster is a humanitarian matter, and disaster is a shared affair, so the cooperation of every individual, institution, or group is needed. In dealing with the disaster. There are several community and youth organizations that have participated in seeking and providing assistance after the disaster.

Facilitative Leadership

The element of leadership in collaboration is not only intended for government leaders or leaders of organizational institutions or agencies, but anyone can become a facilitative leader as long as he or she can mobilize, facilitate, and encourage the success of the goals of the collaboration itself (Emerson and Nabatchi, 2015; Donahue & Zeckhauser, 2011). Anyone who can be a driver and facilitate, as well as a liaison and lead actors or stakeholders in collaboration, can be called a facilitative leader. In facilitative leadership, facilitation is provided without disturbing the rights of stakeholders; the role of the facilitator is to ensure the integrity of the consensus-building process itself (Emerson et al., 2012). Leadership is essential for establishing and maintaining clear ground rules, building trust, facilitating dialogue, and pursuing common interests.

Flood management in Sawahdadap Village and Cisurupan Village, Cimanggung sub-district, Sumedang Regency The Regional Secretary can be called a facilitative leader, considering his position in flood prevention as Regional Secretary and EX Officio Head of BPBD,

namely as agencies and institutions that deal with flood problems, so that the collaboration process is in establishing communication and liaison between government, the private sector, academia, and society. Placement of the Regional Secretary as an Ex Officio official facilitates the implementation of coordination because he has a higher position, so giving orders to echelon II B officials, Heads of Service, and Regional Government Agencies can only be carried out by the Mayor, Regent, and Regional Secretary, so there must be an Ex Officio official. In terms of disaster management, coordination is required quickly and orders are given commando so as to build collaboration with other stakeholders. Facilitative leadership is needed so that the Head of the BPBD/EX Officio Agency is obliged to always provide assistance and handle floods that occur and take the time to sit down to discuss with relevant stakeholders. Others to share understanding and even provide direction related to disaster management that occurred in Sawahdadap Village and Cisurupan Village, Cimanggung sub-district, Sumedang Regency.

Collaboration Process

The collaboration process that took place was centered on the Sumedang Regency Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD), where coordination with both the village and the private sector was held by the Sumedang Regency BPBD. In this case, the disaster management process, especially floods in Bekasi City, is very much being handled by the Sumedang Regency BPBD, NGOs, and factory owners around Cimanggung District.

In the process of cooperation carried out by all stakeholders, it was found that some wanted to be planned to overcome the flood problems in

Sawahdadap Village and Cisurupan Village, Cimanggung District, Sumedang Regency, namely related to community relocation, where it was hoped that the people in the area could be moved to a safer area. from the potential for flooding, especially for the people in Sawahdadap Village and Cisurupan Village, in this case because the area is a fairly low area and is flowed by rivers, which causes the area to be easily affected by flooding, especially during the rainy season. However, in this regard, the problem is that in this case, of course, it requires a very large amount of money, considering that the residents will definitely not give up the price of their houses and land cheaply, so based on the author's analysis, it is likely that this will be difficult to realize.

The second is widening the tributaries so as to allow for a smoother flow of water, thereby reducing the possibility of flooding, especially in the area of Sawahdadap Village and Cisurupan Village, Cimanggung District, Sumedang Regency. Observations seen by the author both times flanking the area tend to be dirty and have a lot of garbage accumulation. In this case, if people's thinking about being able to protect the environment can be improved and the tributaries are enlarged, then there is a possibility that flooding can be overcome. According to the author, this is more relevant than the first option because the funding is not too large and is considered to be maximized. BPBD has prepared cooperation with other agencies, but this cannot be carried out due to obstacles related to flood management options in Tanjungsari Village. However, regarding the cooperation that will be carried out by the BPBD, it will be carried out immediately after the options discussed by the BBWS have been determined. This is considering the need for efforts to reduce

the impact of flooding that occurred in the area.

The governance of collaboration in handling floods in Sumedang Regency is also not without obstacles. These obstacles include:

- a. The emergence of different perspectives and perceptions among stakeholders, which in turn creates sector egos and a lack of trust in the performance and business of other stakeholders, This point of view is related to the issue of the priority scale for who will receive assistance from the program to be implemented.
- b. Uneven accountability/responsibility. Stakeholders implementing the program are the Activity Implementation Team (TPK) and the community. TPK, together with the community, is responsible for the management, implementation, and supervision of grants from the district government.
- c. The availability of financial resources is still weak. Stakeholders, both government and non-government, still depend on government funds to carry out their activities.
- d. Limited availability of human and technical resources. The lack of stakeholder and technical/expert personnel hampered program implementation. This is due to the accumulation of tasks carried out by limited personnel; not infrequently, the program is postponed.

Conclusion

Based on the information provided, it can be concluded that the Sumedang Regency Government's cooperation in dealing with flood disasters can be influenced by several dimensions. These dimensions include initial conditions, institutional design, facilitative leadership, and collaborative processes. Based on the initial conditions, it can be seen that the main cause of the flood disaster in the study area is damage to the ecosystem in the upstream area, such as opening new land or planting inappropriate plant species on areas with a greater slope than 40 degrees, as well as steep land topography and intensive anthropogenic activities such as agriculture. In terms of institutional design, there is no specific forum for disaster risk reduction in the study area, making collaboration in dealing with floods involving many stakeholders from various institutions, including the government regions, TNI/Polri institutions, village governments, the private sector, and affected communities. The collaboration process involves the establishment of several institutions to deal with flood disasters, and the participation of each stakeholder is based on their respective roles and interests. Regarding facilitative leadership, it is underlined that every individual can become a facilitative leader as long as they can mobilize and facilitate collaborative processes to achieve common goals in managing disasters. In the study area, there are several community organizations and youth groups that have participated in providing assistance since the disaster occurred.

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