

Strengthening Community Resilience through Humanitarian Assistance: A Disaster Relief Initiative in Bengkelang Village, Aceh Tamiang Regency

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ABSTRACT

This condition requires the involvement of various parties in post-disaster handling and recovery efforts, including universities through community service activities. The Community Service Activities (PkM) of the 2026 Disaster Scheme carried out by the Universitas Terbuka aims to help meet the basic needs of people affected by disasters in Bengkelang Village, Aceh Tamiang Regency. The methods used include identifying community needs, coordinating with the village government, procuring aid, and distributing aid to affected communities. The assistance distributed was in the form of generators, water tanks, stoves, bathroom equipment, mats, blankets, sarongs, cooking utensils, and the Qur'an. The results of the activities show that the assistance provided is able to support the fulfillment of basic needs of the community, increase comfort at evacuation sites and temporary shelters, and strengthen the social resilience of the community in facing post-disaster situations.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country that has a high level of disaster vulnerability due to complex geographical, geological, and climatological conditions. Located at the confluence of the world's three main tectonic plates, namely Eurasia, Indo-Australia, and the Pacific, Indonesia is vulnerable to various types of natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods, landslides, and extreme weather. In addition, global climate change has also increased the frequency and intensity of hydrometeorological disasters that have a direct impact on people's lives. This condition requires mitigation, emergency response, and recovery efforts involving various stakeholders in an integrated manner.

Disasters not only cause damage to infrastructure and economic losses, but also have an impact on the social, health, educational, and psychological aspects of society. Vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly, and low-income communities are often more impacted by limited access to basic resources and services. Therefore, post-disaster management does not only focus on physical recovery, but also needs to pay attention to meeting basic needs and strengthening the capacity of the community to be able to rise and adapt to the conditions faced.

Aceh Tamiang Regency is one of the areas in Aceh Province that has a potential disaster risk, especially floods affected by high rainfall, watershed conditions, and other environmental factors. In recent years, a number of villages in this region have experienced the impact of disasters that have resulted in disruption of community activities, damage to public facilities, and a decline in the quality of life of affected residents. One of the areas that needs attention in post-disaster recovery efforts is Bengkelang Village, whose community needs support in meeting basic needs and accelerating the process of recovering socio-economic life.

Universities have a strategic role in supporting disaster management through the implementation of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education, especially in the aspect of community service. Through service activities, universities can contribute directly to helping communities affected by disasters through various humanitarian programs, disaster education, community empowerment, and the provision of assistance in accordance with field needs. The involvement of universities is also a form of implementation of academic social responsibility in supporting the development of a society that is resilient to disasters.



Figure 1. Observation and Discussion with Bengkaleng Head Village

The Open University as a public university that has a range of educational services throughout Indonesia is committed to actively participating in humanitarian activities through the 2026 Disaster Scheme Community Service Program. This program is designed as a response to the needs of people affected by disasters by providing assistance that can support the fulfillment of basic needs during the recovery period. The assistance distributed includes generators, water tanks, stoves, bathroom equipment, mats, blankets, sarongs, cooking utensils, and the Qur'an which are expected to help people in carrying out their daily activities more properly and comfortably.

Community service activities in Bengkelang Village not only aim to distribute humanitarian aid, but also to strengthen social solidarity and build collaboration between universities, village governments, and local communities. Through this synergy, it is hoped that the post-disaster recovery process can take place more effectively and sustainably. Therefore, this article aims to describe the implementation of the 2026 Disaster Scheme Community Service Program of the Universitas Terbuka in Bengkelang Village, Aceh Tamiang Regency, as well as analyze its benefits and contributions in supporting the resilience of communities affected by disasters.

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

The Community Service Activities (PkM) of the 2026 Disaster Scheme were carried out in Bengkelang Village, Aceh Tamiang Regency, using a participatory and collaborative approach. This approach was chosen to ensure that the programs implemented are in accordance with the needs of the communities affected by the disaster and involve various stakeholders in each stage of the activity. The implementation of the program involves the Universitas Terbuka service team, village government, community leaders, volunteers, and beneficiary community groups.

The first stage is needs assessment. At this stage, the service team coordinates with village officials and the local community to obtain information about the condition of the post-disaster area and the urgent needs needed by the community. Data collection was carried out through field observations, interviews with village officials, and discussions with affected residents. The identification results showed that the community needed assistance related to basic needs, sanitation, energy, household supplies, and spiritual needs.

The second stage is program planning and aid procurement. Based on the results of the identification of needs, the service team prepares an activity plan and determines the type of assistance to be distributed. The priority assistance includes generators, water tanks, stoves, bathroom equipment, mats, blankets, sarongs, cooking utensils, and the Qur'an. All assistance is selected based on the level of urgency and its benefits in supporting community activities during the post-disaster recovery period.



Figure 2. Distribution for Assist Bengkaleng Villagers

The third stage is the implementation of aid distribution to beneficiary communities. The distribution of aid is carried out directly in Bengkelang Village by involving village officials as implementing partners. The distribution process is carried out in an orderly and transparent manner to ensure that aid is received by people in need. In addition to handing over assistance, the service team also communicates and interacts with the community to understand the conditions faced and provide moral support to affected residents.

The fourth stage is monitoring and evaluating activities. Monitoring is carried out to determine the effectiveness of the distribution of aid and the level of its utilization by the community. The evaluation was carried out through discussions with the village government and community representatives to obtain input related to the benefits of the program and the further needs that are still needed. The results of the evaluation are the basis for measuring the success of the program and compiling recommendations for the next service activities.

The data obtained during the implementation of the activity was analyzed using a qualitative descriptive method. The analysis was carried out by describing the process of implementing the activity, the type of assistance provided, and its impact on the beneficiary community. This approach is used to provide a comprehensive overview of the contribution of the Universitas Terbuka's 2026 Disaster Scheme Community Service Program in helping to recover social conditions and meet the basic needs of people affected by disasters in Bengkelang Village, Aceh Tamiang Regency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of the Community Service Program (PkM) of the 2026 Disaster Scheme of the Universitas Terbuka in Bengkelang Village, Aceh Tamiang Regency, is going well in accordance with the plan that has been prepared. The activity began with coordination between the service team, the village government, community leaders, and representatives of residents affected by the disaster. This coordination aims to ensure that the assistance provided is in accordance with the needs of the community and can be distributed effectively and on target. The support from the village government also facilitated the entire series of activities carried out.

Based on the results of the identification of needs, people affected by disasters face various limitations in meeting their basic daily needs. Damage to household facilities and disruption of access to basic services cause people to need assistance that can be used directly to support daily activities. Therefore, the Universitas Terbuka distributed assistance in the form of generators, water tanks, stoves, bathroom equipment, mats, blankets, sarongs, cooking utensils, and the Qur'an as a form of response to previously identified needs.

The distribution of generators provides significant benefits for the community, especially in meeting the needs of electrical energy in emergency conditions. The availability of electricity is essential to support various community activities, including lighting at night and the use of other supporting equipment. The presence of generators helps reduce the impact of limited electricity supply that often occurs after disasters so that people can carry out their activities better.



Figure 3. Discussion and Picture with Villagers

In addition, water tower assistance contributes to increasing public access to clean water availability. Clean water is the main need that often becomes a post-disaster problem due to disruption of water distribution facilities. With the existence of a water tower, the community has more adequate water storage facilities so that daily needs such as cooking, washing, and maintaining personal hygiene can be fulfilled more optimally. This condition also supports efforts to prevent various diseases that have the potential to arise due to poor environmental sanitation.

Assistance with stoves and cooking utensils is a form of support that is urgently needed by the community. Many affected families have suffered damage or lost household appliances due to the disaster. With the availability of stoves and cooking utensils, people can prepare food independently without having to rely entirely on ready-to-eat consumption assistance. This shows that the assistance provided is not only emergency, but also supports the continuity of household activities during the recovery period.

Assistance in the form of mats, blankets, and sarongs also provides great benefits in improving the comfort of the community. The equipment is used as a sleeping mat, support for rest, and daily needs during the recovery period. For people who are still living in temporary shelters or houses that have been damaged, the assistance helps create more decent and comfortable conditions. Fulfilling basic needs such as adequate resting places is an important part of supporting the physical and psychological health of people affected by disasters.

In addition to physical needs, this program also pays attention to the spiritual aspects of the community through the provision of the Qur'an. In post-disaster situations, spiritual support has an important role in helping people cope with psychological distress and build optimism for recovery. The Qur'an distributed is not only used as a means of worship, but also as a source of mental and spiritual strengthening for the community. These findings suggest that post-disaster recovery approaches need to pay attention to the balance between material and non-material needs so that the recovery process can take place comprehensively.

Overall, the Community Service activities of the 2026 Disaster Scheme of the Universitas Terbuka have a positive impact on the people of Bengkelang Village. This program not only helps meet the basic needs of people affected by disasters, but also strengthens social solidarity between universities and communities. The success of the activity shows that collaboration between higher education institutions, village governments, and communities can be an effective model in supporting post-disaster recovery efforts. Therefore, similar programs need to continue to be developed with a wider scope, including disaster mitigation education activities and community economic empowerment to increase community resilience in facing future disaster risks.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Community Service Program (PkM) of the 2026 Disaster Scheme of the Universitas Terbuka which was carried out in Bengkelang Village, Aceh Tamiang Regency, has run well and provided real benefits for people affected by the disaster. This activity is a form of implementation of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education, especially in the field of community service, through the provision of assistance tailored to the needs of the community in the affected locations.

The results of the implementation of the activity show that the assistance distributed, in the form of generators, water tanks, stoves, bathroom equipment, mats, blankets, sarongs, cooking utensils, and the Qur'an, is able to help the community in meeting basic needs during the post-disaster recovery period. The assistance supports access to electrical energy, the availability of clean water, household needs, sanitation, and the spiritual needs of the community.

This activity also proves that the process of identifying needs carried out in a participatory manner is able to produce assistance programs that are more targeted and in accordance with community conditions. The collaboration between the Universitas Terbuka, the village government, community leaders, and local residents is an important factor in supporting the smooth implementation of activities and the effectiveness of the distribution of aid to beneficiaries.

In addition to having an impact on meeting physical needs, this program also contributes to strengthening the social and psychological resilience of the community. The support provided not only helps the community in dealing with emergency conditions, but also increases the spirit of togetherness, solidarity, and optimism in undergoing the post-disaster recovery process. This shows that a humanitarian approach that pays attention to material and spiritual aspects can provide more comprehensive results.

Based on the results of the activity, it can be concluded that the Community Service Program of the Universitas Terbuka Disaster Scheme has an important role in supporting the recovery efforts of people affected by disasters. Therefore, similar activities need to be carried out in a sustainable manner by integrating disaster mitigation education programs, community capacity building, and local economic empowerment to build a more resilient, independent, and ready society to face various potential disasters in the future.

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