



**MERCY
CORPS**

WOMEN AS AGENTS OF FLOOD RESILIENCE

**CASE EXAMPLE FROM THE BRIGE
INDONESIA PROGRAM: IKA YUDHA**



WOMEN AS AGENTS OF FLOOD RESILIENCE

ABOUT BRIGE

Launched in 2015 through support from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP), the Building Resilience through the Integration of Gender and Empowerment (**BRIGE**) Program aimed to strengthen Mercy Corps' capacity to respond to gender-specific vulnerabilities in the face of natural disasters and climate-related shocks and stresses. BRIGE tested approaches in three countries – **Niger, Nepal and Indonesia** – to serve as a source for wider learning on how to integrate gender and social inclusion into resilience programs.

In Indonesia, BRIGE partnered with the Zurich Flood Resilience Measurement Program to strengthen gender integration to improve resilience to flooding in Semarang City in Central Java.






BUILDING FLOOD RESILIENCE IN INDONESIA

Mercy Corps' BRIGE program aimed to empower women as agents of resilience, thereby increasing the coping capacities of households and communities to manage the impact of natural disasters and climate-related shock and stresses.

Since 2017, BRIGE worked with communities in the flood-prone city of Semarang, Central Java to build their resilience to flooding. BRIGE recognized women's potential as agents of resilience and chose to work with PKK women's groups to build their capacity and realize this potential. Furthermore, the program linked these women's groups with champions to inspire ways in which to build flood resilience in their communities. Ika Yudha is one of these champions.



“You must start from yourself if you want others to contribute because behavioral change is not as easy as a turn of the hand.”

Ika Yudha
local champion for waste bank



Ika Yudha always had big dreams of environmental sustainability starting from something every person makes: waste.

With a degree in public health, Ika was determined to do something for her community. In 2012, using her own funds, she founded a waste bank, named Resik Becik¹, conveniently located in the courtyard of her house in the community of Krobokan. The waste bank gradually attracted

public attention and won several recognition awards. Resik Becik gathers waste from approximately 400 customers who regularly deposit inorganic waste in exchange for cash. The waste then gets sorted and repurposed; particularly paper and plastic material which can be used for making handicrafts to be sold. Other types of inorganic waste are sold back to waste collectors. "I enjoy making handicrafts, and the reason I use waste as my main material is that it will have a positive impact on the environment. Waste is a

¹ Resik Becik means clean and good in Javanese language.



Ika trains women to make handicrafts from a plastic waste



Resik Becik's member making a handicraft with guidance from Ika Yudha

minor and often overlooked thing by humans. However, if we fail to manage it, there will be major problems", Ika said.

One of those problems is that waste is a contributor to flooding, since it blocks drainage pathways during heavy rains. Initiatives to better manage waste therefore contribute to improving flood resilience.



a bowl made from plastic waste



More than turning trash into cash

Ika realizes her activities are small contributions toward a larger goal: environmental sustainability. Through BRIGE, she came to realize that her work also contributes to building flood resilience. Her ambition for the waste bank was to change people's perception of waste; that it could be something beneficial. As such, the Resik Besik waste bank is meant to offer a positive take on utilizing waste.

Over time, the waste bank's success has even reached beyond Krobokan. For example, Ika engaged women inmates in making handicrafts from recycled waste to be sold. Despite these achievements in using waste for economic benefit, Ika realized that more needs to be done to change people's behavior towards waste.

Ika has ambitious plans for the future of her waste bank. She is inspired by other waste bank initiatives that offer customers social services in exchange for the waste they bring. "I want to provide more beneficial incentives than money, such as health insurance, just like what has been done by Dr. Gamal and his waste bank in Malang, East Java", Ika said.





women sorting out the waste to convert into a recyclable raw materials for making a handicraft



WOMEN AS CHANGE AGENTS

BRIGE has created a new alliance for change by bringing together Ika and the PKK women's group in Krobokan. This has given Ika the opportunity to involve this group of women in her endeavor to reach more people and achieve her vision. The women's group and Ika have agreed to do a pilot project in which they will target one neighborhood in Krobokan, get all the households in that neighborhood to sort their waste, and then take their waste to Resik Becik. After that, they plan to scale this initiative to other neighborhoods in Krobokan. Together the women of Krobokan are leading their community to be more sustainable and flood resilient.



Ika Yucha with one of her innovative product that made from waste

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About Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action — helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within.

Now, and for the future.



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