

The Role of the Ministry of Home Affairs Through the Disaster Resilient Subdistrict Program (KENCANA) as a Disaster Mitigation Effort in Supporting National Security

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Abstract

Indonesia faces high disaster risk due to its geographical position in the ring of fire and tropical climate. Disaster mitigation is a strategic necessity to maintain social stability and national security. The Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri) launched the Disaster Resilient Subdistrict Program (KENCANA) to strengthen subdistrict capacity in facing disaster threats. Through a literature review, this article examines the role of Kemendagri in implementing KENCANA and its contribution to risk mitigation and national security. The results of the study show that Kemendagri's active involvement in training subdistrict heads and cross-sector coordination increases the effectiveness of mitigation and local resilience, which has an impact on strengthening national security. Challenges in implementation were found in limited resources and coordination, which can be overcome by increasing human resource capacity and multi-stakeholder collaboration

Keywords: Disaster Mitigation, National Security, Ministry of Home Affairs, Disaster Resilient Subdistrict, KENCANA



INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as an archipelagic country located in the strategic Pacific Ring of Fire, is highly vulnerable to various natural disasters, both those originating from geological activities such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis, as well as hydrometeorological disasters such as floods and landslides due to its tropical climate and diverse topography. Data on disaster events in Indonesia in 2024 recorded 3,472 disaster events that had a significant impact on people's lives and infrastructure. These disasters caused enormous losses, with 8,136,271 people affected and displaced, 540 people dead, and 63 people missing. In addition, 11,531 people were injured as a result of these disasters. In terms of physical damage, the disasters in 2024 caused damage to 81,947 infrastructure units, including 80,304 damaged houses, 612 educational facilities, 415 religious facilities, 82 health facilities, 89 offices, and 445 bridges. (IRBI, 2024).



Source: IRBI 2024

Figure 1. Map of Provincial Disaster Risk Index for 2024

The high level of disaster vulnerability requires intensive and sustainable mitigation efforts, not only at the technical level of disaster management in the regions, but also as a strategic issue that needs to be integrated into national security policy. Natural disasters have the potential to disrupt social stability, damage vital infrastructure, disturb public order, and hamper national development. In this case, the Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri) plays a central role as the

coordinator of regional government policy that regulates and supervises the implementation of Minimum Service Standards (SPM) in disaster management. Strengthening the role of sub-district heads, who are at the forefront of mitigation at the sub-district level, is a major focus.

As a form of innovation, Kemendagri launched the Disaster Resilient Sub-District Program (KENCANA) to accelerate the achievement of SPM at the sub-district level by optimizing the functions and authorities of sub-district heads and all elements of society in their respective areas. KENCANA serves as a center for integrated and sustainable coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness, prevention, and emergency response. The success of this program is expected to reduce disaster risk, accelerate emergency response, and strengthen national resilience and security. A regional and collaborative approach between local governments, security forces, communities, and the private sector is key to successful mitigation at the local level.

The urgency of this research arises from the importance of thoroughly assessing the role and effectiveness of the Ministry of Home Affairs in promoting the KENCANA program at the sub-district level, as well as the obstacles and efforts to overcome them. This research also looks at the contribution of KENCANA's work in supporting national security, which has not been comprehensively revealed. The placement of subdistricts as the center of mitigation is in line with the mandate of Law Number 24 of 2007 and Government Regulation Number 17 of 2018, which emphasize the role of subdistrict heads in the implementation of local government authority. Thus, this program is expected to be not only administrative in nature but also part of social resilience that coexists with active community participation. In addition to supporting national policies, effective disaster risk mitigation through the KENCANA program is also in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the goals of sustainable cities and climate change mitigation. This program can serve as a best practice model for building the resilience of subdistricts as the foremost unit of government.

Problem Statement

1. What is the role of the Ministry of Home Affairs through the KENCANA Program in disaster mitigation at the sub-district level?
2. What are the factors that hinder the implementation of the KENCANA Program?
3. How can these obstacles be overcome so that the KENCANA program can effectively support national security?



Research Objectives

This study aims to analyze the role of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the KENCANA Program as a disaster mitigation effort while evaluating the obstacles and solutions to the implementation of the program so that it can contribute optimally to national security.

Research Benefits

Theoretically, it provides a framework for integrating disaster mitigation with national security. Practically, it serves as a policy recommendation for the Ministry of Home Affairs, subdistrict officials, and related partners in optimizing KENCANA.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Role Theory

According to Koentjaraningrat (in Sumartono, 2022) and Soekanto (2005), a role is a pattern of behavior and obligations in a social position that regulates interaction and coordination within an organization. In disaster mitigation, the role of the Ministry of Home Affairs as a policy coordinator and facilitator of the KENCANA program is vital, especially in strengthening the role of the sub-district head as the spearhead of risk mitigation.

Disaster Resilient Sub-District Program (Kencana)

This regionally-based program was designed by the Ministry of Home Affairs to accelerate the achievement of Minimum Service Standards (SPM) in disaster sub-affairs by optimizing the function of sub-district heads in disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response. KENCANA promotes a collaborative and community-based approach as the foundation of regional resilience (Directorate General of Regional Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2025; Harahap, 2025).

Disaster Management Theory

Disaster management is a series of cycles of mitigation, preparedness, emergency response, and recovery (UNISDR, 2009). KENCANA focuses on the non-structural mitigation phase through strengthening computer capacity and community-based coordination.

National Security Concept

National security encompasses both traditional and non-military threats, including natural disasters that can destabilize social and political stability. Disaster mitigation is an important



aspect of the non-military dimension of national security (Buzan, 1991; Smith, 2013).

Previous Studies

Previous studies have confirmed the success of village/subdistrict-based mitigation efforts through multi-stakeholder synergy and local capacity building. The main obstacles are limited resources and coordination, which require attention for program sustainability (Salman, 2023; Prawestari, 2025; Samsuddin et al., 2024).

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a literature review method that aims to analyze the role of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri) through the Disaster Resilient Subdistrict Program (KENCANA) as a disaster mitigation effort and its contribution to supporting national security. This method was carried out by collecting, reading, and analyzing various official documents, government policies, scientific articles, research reports, and other secondary sources relevant to the research theme. The literature study approach was chosen to provide a comprehensive overview of the KENCANA program from various academic and practical perspectives.

Data was collected from documents from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), related ministries, and various recent journals and articles discussing disaster mitigation, the role of subdistricts, and national security policies. All data obtained was then reduced, presented, and analyzed descriptively and qualitatively to explain how the KENCANA program is implemented and its impact on strengthening regional resilience and national stability.

The analysis technique used refers to the content analysis and interactive model of Miles and Huberman, which involves three main stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and data verification so that the research results can be academically and practically accountable. With this method, the study is expected to provide an in-depth understanding of the strategic role of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the effectiveness of the KENCANA program as one of the disaster mitigation instruments in Indonesia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Strategic Role Of The Ministry Of Home Affairs In The Kencana Program

The Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri) plays a central role as coordinator and facilitator in the implementation of the Disaster Resilient Subdistrict Program (KENCANA). As the



institution responsible for fostering regional government, Kemendagri specifically optimizes the role of subdistrict heads as the spearhead of disaster mitigation in their respective areas. Sub-district heads are empowered to become the main liaison between the regency/city government and the community, as well as leaders in disaster risk management.

Kemendagri provides technical guidelines, training, and regulatory modifications to accelerate the achievement of Minimum Service Standards (SPM) in disaster management at the sub-district level. With the use of the SiKencana digital application, the Ministry of Home Affairs also facilitates real-time monitoring of risk mapping and disaster data management, so that responsive and coordinated services can be implemented to the fullest extent possible.

The ministry also collaborates with various parties, ranging from the Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD), security forces, to local communities, so that KENCANA implementation is based on cross-sector collaboration. This is important because disaster mitigation is oriented towards community resilience, which cannot be achieved without the involvement of many elements (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2025; Directorate General of Regional Development, 2025; Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, 2025).

Implementation Of The Kencana Movement At The Subdistrict Level

This program involves strengthening various basic disaster services, such as:

1. **Disaster Vulnerability Information Services:** Subdistrict heads and officials actively disseminate early and accurate information to the community about potential disaster risks in their area. Optimizing the Subdistrict Leadership Coordination Forum (Forkopimcam) as an effective means of disseminating information and coordinating between institutions (Bekasi District Government, 2025; Kembaran Banyumas, 2025).
2. **Prevention and Preparedness Services:** Providing disaster mitigation education, evacuation training, organizing emergency response simulations, and providing mitigation infrastructure are the main tasks of the sub-district. This improves the community's ability to recognize risks and prepare for disasters. These activities build sustainable local resilience (Harahap, 2025; Malang Regency, 2025).
3. **Emergency Response and Evacuation Services:** Subdistrict teams, assisted by security forces and volunteers, organize rapid and coordinated emergency responses when disasters occur. The sub-district head acts as the field commander who activates the disaster management command structure and ensures that evacuation and social protection are carried out properly (Directorate General of Regional Development, 2025).



The KENCANA program in several regions, such as Bogor and Malang Regencies, has demonstrated an increase in community independence in disaster mitigation, not only physically but also mentally and socially. Collaboration between the government, NGOs, the business world, and the community is key to creating a resilient disaster ecosystem.

Contribution Of The Kencana Program To National Security

Effective disaster mitigation contributes significantly to national security. Unmanaged natural disasters can cause enormous physical and economic losses, disrupt social stability, and trigger social and political conflicts.

KENCANA enhances the resilience of sub-districts as the smallest administrative units closest to the community. Thus, disaster preparedness and mitigation become preventive measures that reduce potential security disturbances. The resilience of these regions contributes to national stability by:

- Reducing the number of casualties and damage to critical infrastructure
- Accelerating local economic recovery and preventing social unrest
- It increases public trust in the government through effective disaster services
- It builds social capacity and local institutions that are resilient to non-traditional threats (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2025; A'raf, 2015; Iskandar, 2019)

This program is also part of a non-military national security strategy that maintains the long-term safety and resilience of the nation.

Factors Hindering The Implementation Of The Kencana Program

Although KENCANA has a good design and strong policy support, its implementation faces several major obstacles, namely:

- **Budget and Resource Constraints:** Many subdistricts face limitations in terms of funds and trained human resources for the implementation of mitigation and preparedness activities. This hinders the organization of training, simulations, and the provision of optimal mitigation facilities (Samsuddin et al., 2024).
- **Suboptimal Coordination Between Institutions:** The involvement of various parties is often not integrated smoothly. Overlapping functions and limited communication between subdistricts, BPBD, security forces, and communities hamper the effectiveness of mitigation (Popang, 2025).



- Lack of Public Awareness and Participation: Communities in some areas lack understanding of the importance of mitigation and preparedness, resulting in low participation in mitigation programs (Salman, 2023).

Efforts To Overcome Obstacles To The Implementation Of The Kencana Program

To overcome these obstacles, various strategic steps have been and need to be taken:

- Strengthening Human Resource Capacity: Through tiered training and certification for sub-district heads and sub-district officials so that they have adequate technical mitigation competencies (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2025).
- Optimizing Budget and Resources: The central and regional governments need to strengthen program funding with clear budgetary policy support. In addition, collaboration with donors and the private sector also needs to be enhanced (Samsuddin et al., 2024).
- Strengthening Coordination and Communication: Developing formal coordination mechanisms through the Forkopimcam forum and utilizing information technology for rapid communication and integrated coordination are priorities (Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, 2025).
- Increasing Community Awareness and Empowerment: Mitigation education campaigns, participatory community involvement, and strengthening disaster-resilient communities need to be intensified so that communities are encouraged to become independent mitigation agents (Harahap, 2025; Bekasi District Government, 2025).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Disaster Resilient Subdistrict Program (KENCANA) implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs is a strategic innovation in local disaster risk mitigation that has a positive impact on national security. Strengthening the role of subdistricts and subdistrict heads is crucial. By overcoming implementation obstacles, the program will strengthen community resilience and national stability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand disaster mitigation training and outreach in subdistricts.
- Increase the budget allocation for KENCANA implementation.
- Strengthen coordination and partnerships between institutions and communities.
- Apply technology for continuous monitoring and evaluation.



- Actively involve communities in community-based mitigation.

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