

**Mount Merapi Recovery Program in Indonesia**  
**Final Report as at 14 August 2011**

**1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Program Name</b>	Mount Merapi Recovery Program in Indonesia
<b>AusAID Reference Number</b>	37919/47
<b>NGO Name</b>	<i>Save the Children Australia</i>
<b>Delivery Organisation's Name/s</b>	<i>Save the Children in Indonesia</i>
<b>Date Project Commenced (Contract Signed)</b>	18 January 2011
<b>Expected date of completion</b>	14 July 2011
<b>Report covers activities implemented in the period</b>	January 2011 to July 2011

**1.1 Introduction**

On 26 October 2010, Mount Merapi volcano, located north of Yogyakarta city in Yogyakarta Province erupted several times, emitting clouds of gas and volcanic ash up to one mile high. The eruption affected Sleman district in DI Yogyakarta Province and Magelang, Klaten and Boyolali districts in Central Java Province. The National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) has confirmed that the eruptions have killed 324 people<sup>1</sup>, hospitalised more than 500 and caused the displacement of 362,642 people as per 15 November ([www.bnpb.go.id/](http://www.bnpb.go.id/)) in both Yogyakarta and Central Java Province.

Save the Children undertook a rapid livelihoods assessment of the communities in Magelang District (Annex 1), and this assessment is part of a broader Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) joint livelihoods assessment. The assessment identified that agriculture is the mainstay of the affected families, employing 43% of the economically active population in Magelang. The Agriculture and Food Security Department (BPPKP) reported up to 80% of food and cash crops in Magelang district have been destroyed. Land covered by volcanic ash cannot be cultivated, therefore, subsistent farmers cannot rely on their own farms for staple food. As a result, many poor farmers who depend on day to day labour have lost their jobs. The longer-term implications include the inability of farmers to provide food for their families, or have sufficient income to provide healthcare or education for their children.

During project implementation, Save the Children established partnerships with three partners:

1. Loh Gesang/ Nawakalam to provide technical support and assistance on agriculture intervention. Since Save the Children in Indonesia can only give sub-grant to an organization with legal entity; therefore, Save the Children formed an agreement with Nawakamal, Loh Gesang's founder organisation.
2. Rumah Pelangi to assist on community mobilization activities.
3. PT Pos Indonesia (Indonesian government post company) to assist on cash grants disbursement (both un-conditional and conditional cash grants).

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<sup>1</sup> "Death Toll in Merapi Eruption Climbs to 324", Jakarta Globe, 25 November 2010

## 1.2 Project Description

### 1.2.1 *Program Goal and Purpose;*

#### **Program goal:**

To support volcano eruption-affected families recover their livelihoods through a self-driven early recovery process.

#### **Purpose:**

To enable volcano eruption-affected families of Magelang District, Central Java to recover their livelihoods and meet their basic food and non-food needs.

### 1.2.2 *Major Development Objectives;*

#### Objective 1

*3,700 families have re-established their livelihoods and met their essential food and non-food needs.*

The BNPB announced that the Government of Indonesia welcomed international assistance for the recovery phase. In proposal development, most of the response focused on Sleman District, Yogyakarta due to its accessibility, however, Save the Children focussed its efforts on Magelang District, Central Java Province as an area severely impacted but received very little support. The impact of continuous ash fall mixed with acidic rain devastated the people's livelihoods. Save the Children teams found that people were unaware of the danger of ash falls and had never experienced such large scale destruction. Families returned to villages declared as safe, however due to prolonged lack of economic activity and basic income-generation options, this severely affected displaced families who had used their minimal savings.

This was similarly experienced by families in Gulon village, Salam sub-district, however, they were not evacuated and they were excluded from the government's early recovery scheme even though their livelihoods were equally affected by volcanic ash and flash floods. Families lost their income, and there were limited opportunities for people to earn money and meet their day-to-day needs. As a result, a lack of resources meant they faced extremely difficult situations and required direct support to help them maintain their financial independence and provide for their families.

#### Objective 2

*Children from most vulnerable families still have access to education.*

The impact of Mount Merapi's eruption left families with lost income and assets. The lack of income has increased vulnerability to food security and also increased the potential for out-of-school children and potential child labour in Magelang District, Boyolali District and Klaten District of Central Java Province, and Sleman District of DI Yogyakarta Province.

#### Objectives 3

*37 community groups are enabled to employ alternative farming techniques to ensure minimum food reserve for household consumption in light of future disasters.*

This objective aimed to support the volcanic eruption-affected families by providing them with economic asset development assistance to improve their economic conditions by providing them with poly-bags and knowledge on alternative farming techniques.

### ***1.2.3 Brief description of key components***

This project provided assistance to volcanic eruption affected families through immediate economic relief to enable them to restart their livelihoods. Details of activities, outputs and outcomes can be found in the log-frame. In summary this intervention comprised of three main components:

1. Un-conditional cash grants to increase purchasing power of affected families so they could afford to buy urgently needed items in the local marketplace<sup>2</sup>
2. Conditional cash grants for the most vulnerable households were provided (10% of target beneficiaries) ensuring children had access to education.
3. Economic asset development assistance was provided to improve economic conditions, through the provision of materials and knowledge on alternative farming techniques.

This intervention addressed the needs identified in the livelihoods assessment. The program was implemented for 6 months starting on 15 January 2011 and activities were conducted in Magelang District, Central Java Province (see map Annex 2)

A total of 3,700 of the most vulnerable families (14,800 beneficiaries) received a Rp 890.000 (or AUD 109.29<sup>3</sup>) cash grant and were targeted using the following criteria: Families with female-headed households, families with children under 18 years of age or pregnant mothers, families who had lost their source of income (cattle, farming, informal sectors), families whose land had been damaged by the volcano eruption, families whose breadwinners lost their jobs, and finally, families with no other source of income. 10% of the most vulnerable households were identified and received an additional Rp 450.000,- (or AUD 55.28) cash grant in two instalments over the project period. This assistance was offered to economically inactive (due to old-age) single parents and parents supporting children in full-time education. 87% of the beneficiaries are returnees. The remaining 13% were not evacuated and they were therefore excluded from the government's early recovery scheme, yet their livelihoods are equally affected by volcanic ash and flash floods. Close monitoring was conducted to prevent possible corruption, for example when registering beneficiaries. Save the Children established a "customized cash transfer" service agreement with the post office which allowed us to put in place additional verification document. The risk of corruption by non-beneficiaries was reduced as payment were made directly to instruments controlled by the beneficiaries themselves.

## **2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS AND ANALYSIS**

### **2.1 Overall Activity Rating/ Major Development Objectives**

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<sup>2</sup> The majority of village level markets in the areas affected by the Mt. Merapi eruption are not currently able to supply all food items needed by the local population. Of those goods that are available (e.g. vegetables), many are 3-4 times the original price.

<sup>3</sup> Initial budget was AUD109.80 for unconditional cash grant and AUD 54.90 for conditional cash grant. However, because of currency rate changes between AUD to USD and between USD and IDR, therefore the amount for both cash grant are changed as the cash grants were disbursed to beneficiaries using IDR.

**2.1.1 Table:** *What is the NGO's self-evaluation of the overall success of the activity? To what extent have the Major Development Objectives, as described in the original project proposal, been achieved to date? [Use the NGO Rating Guide to rate the achievement of these major objectives]*  
*Please insert brief comments to clarify or further explain the rating (Optional).*

Overall Activity Rating	Rating
	4.67

Major Development Objectives	Rating
1. 3,700 families have re-established their livelihoods and met their essential food and non-food needs.	5
2. Children from most vulnerable families still have access to education.	4
3. 37 community groups are enabled to employ alternative farming techniques to ensure minimum food reserve for household consumption in light of future disasters.	5

**2.1.2 Narrative:** *Provide a narrative outlining key achievements/progress toward objectives and purpose of the project*

The AusAID Mount Merapi Recovery Project was not a standalone project. It was implemented simultaneously with other early recovery projects in the same sub-district (Dukun sub-district) but with different villages, which are Early Recovery Programs funded by OFDA/USAID and food distribution projects funded by Food for Peace/USAID. Some AusAID project areas also received assistance on WASH interventions provided by OFDA project and also on food distribution provided by Food for Peace project (Annex 3).

AusAID Mount Merapi Recovery Project areas were in Keningar village, Kalibening village, Paten village, Mangunsuko village, Sewukan village (all are in Dukun sub-district), and Gulon village, Salam sub-district. All AusAID project areas received hygiene promotion/behaviour interventions funded under the OFDA project. However, some villages received further assistance on water supply work (repaired water supply piping, repaired water springs, or even established water springs). Those villages are Paten village, Keningar village and Sewukan village. In addition to this, Mangunsuko village received food supply assistance from Food for Peace project.

The AusAID Mount Merapi Recovery Project was implemented for 6 months, from 15 January 2011 to 14 July 2011. While the OFDA project was initially designed as a 6-month project, from 1 January 2011 it has been extended for another 3 months to be completed by 30 September 2011. Food for Peace project was initially designed as a 6-month project, but due to delayed activities, this food supply project was extended 7-months to be completed by 31 August 2011.

#### Objective 1

*3,700 families have re-established their livelihoods and met their essential food and non-food needs.*

## Activities under Objective 1

### 1. Program socialization meetings

The socialization of the unconditional cash grant was first held in Dukun sub-district office, attended by representatives from 7 villages (5 of them are part of AusAID project) and later Save the Children conducted program socialization meetings in 6 villages (5 villages from Dukun sub-district and 1 village from Salam sub-district). Socialisation events were conducted in the evening for high attendance opportunities. Throughout these socialization events, Save the Children explained that the recipients would be to women in families, assuming that the financial manager of the family were most likely to be the women, and that Save the Children would try to implement this as blanket distribution. Since the number of beneficiaries did not exceed Save the Children's limitation, Save the Children was able to conduct this as a blanket distribution except at Mancasan hamlet, Gulon village, Salam sub-district (there are 74 households in this hamlet, but only 71 households received cash grant disbursement).

### 2. Data collection and verification

Most of the data collection activities were done by Save the Children's partner – Rumah Pelangi. Data collection started a few days after the socialization event at Dukun sub-district office. Beneficiaries were asked to submit photocopies of their family card and ID cards to their head of hamlets, who then submitted to Rumah Pelangi, and then to Save the Children.

Data collected was highly unreliable where family cards and ID cards were expired, their addresses were invalid and their names had been misspelt. Some beneficiaries could only present one form of identification (ID card or their family card). With highly uncertain data, Save the Children hung identification lists in the hamlets or sign boards for further data verification steps. Beneficiaries were asked to write "Justification Letters" to express their concerns and to correct any administrative errors and further opportunity to add their names to the beneficiary list. After these verification steps, Save the Children had four days to follow up any complaints that had occurred.

### 3. Cash grant disbursement

Cash grant disbursement was done between 9 – 31 March 2011 and we partnered with PT Pos Indonesia (Indonesian government post company) for the cash grant disbursement (and also for conditional cash grant disbursement).

The agreement between Save the Children and PT Pos Indonesia was made in the early stages of the project and this helped Save the Children shape its activities. The Indonesian Government provided small cash grants in the past and distributed their cash grants through PT Pos Indonesia.

For this cash disbursement, Save the Children provided coupons to beneficiaries 2 or 3 days before the disbursement days through their head of hamlets, while lists of beneficiaries were provided to PT Pos Indonesia 3 days before the disbursement days. On disbursement days, PT Pos Indonesia arrived at each

hamlet in the morning and Save the Children, Rumah Pelangi and Loh Gesang – Nawakamal assisted the distribution activities. .

Table 1: Cash grant beneficiaries list

Village	Beneficiaries (household)
Keningar	184
Kalibening	873
Sewukan	746
Mangunsuko	491
Paten	932
Gulon	474
Total	3,700

#### 4. Use of cash grant

Use of cash grants scheme was as follows:

- Rp 500.000- used for household needs: groceries, school fees, etc.
- Rp 390.000- use was agreed by members of women's group depending on the group's action plan such as savings and loans, buying seeds, buying livestock, etc.

#### 5. Assistance for group activities

Save the Children staff provided assistance to the women's groups and monitored group activities related to cash grant management for non-agriculture activities. For agriculture activities, assistance is provided by Save the Children's partner – Loh Gesang – Nawakamal. Most of the women's groups have conducted the community action plan on using the cash grant.

Group activities conducted by the women's group are mostly saving and loan programs, and livestock/cattle ownership. Most of the women's groups already have a mechanism for a saving and loan program, livestock/cattle ownership and purchasing hand tractors.

##### A. Saving and loan program

###### a. 'Arisan' (tontine)

*Arisan* (Indonesian term) is a form of 'group savings or tontine' common among women in Indonesia. One group would consist of 5-20 members. Every month, each member would deposit an agreed amount of money and everybody gets their turn to withdraw the money until the cycle is completed. When a member is faced with an emergency, it can usually be negotiated that she gets her turn first. There is no interest in this group savings and usually uses a very simple bookkeeping.

###### b. Saving and loan

A cash grant is given to the women's group to be used as capital for lending to members in need of funds and interest is normally charged.

Interest for this saving and loan is varied and is based on group's agreement:

- 10% per single loan for a loan term of 10 months and is payable for 10 consecutive installments.
- 3% per single loan for a period of 3 x 35 days.
- 5% per single loan for a loan term of 10 months with 6 installments.

In June 2011, Save the Children provided training for the women's groups for their Saving and Loan program, particular focus given to training on book-keeping skills as requested by the women's groups themselves.

B. Livestock/ cattle ownership

a. Cattle fattening

The women's group will purchase young and/or small cattle (i.e. cow, buffalo), raise it to be bigger/fatter and then sell it. The group will appoint somebody (could be one of the women's group member or somebody else not part of the group) to raise the cattle. Usually they will purchase male cattle. Profit sharing from cattle fattening is varied:

- 50% profit for the cattle raiser and 50% profit for the owner (women's group)
- 55% profit for the cattle raiser and 45% profit for the owner (women's group)
- 60% profit for the cattle raiser and 40% profit for the owner (women's group)
- 70% profit for the cattle raiser and 30% profit for the owner (women's group)

b. Cattle breeding

Cattle breeding is another livestock/cattle ownership strategy where female cattle are purchased to be bred. This activity is usually conducted cows and goats with the aim of using the cattle as a form of savings. If the cattle reproduce, the baby cow or goat will be given to the members. Usually the young cattle are not for sale.

C. Purchase hand tractor to be rented

A woman's group purchased a hand tractor with business idea to rent it. This women's group manage the hand tractor rental and profit sharing is 30% of rental fee for the hand tractor operator, 30% rental fee for hand tractor maintenance, and 40% of rental fee for the women's group.

Group activity	No. of women's groups conduct the activity
Alternative farming/ container gardening	57
Livestock/ cattle ownership	28
Livestock/ cattle ownership and purchase hamlet's needs	4
Buy land for hamlet hall	1
Livestock/ cattle ownership and saving and loan program	6

Saving and loan program	9
Saving and loan program, and purchasing hamlet's needs	3
Home industry	1
Home industry and livestock/ cattle ownership	1
Purchase hand tractor	1
Purchase rice thresher, livestock/ cattle ownership, saving and loan program	1
Saving and loan program, purchase hamlet's needs, and renovating a mosque	1

Save the Children conducted meetings with stakeholders, i.e. local government leaders (village heads, hamlet heads), the management of the women's groups and women's groups members. These meetings aimed to get information on progress of non-agricultural activities, as well as identify challenges faced by the women's groups. These meetings were used to find solution(s) for those challenges and to develop follow-up plans for group activities. Village level meetings were conducted to inform beneficiaries about the program to avoid misinterpretations. Save the Children has conducted 40 meetings up to the 7th of June 2011.

From these meetings, the women's groups expressed their intention to continue and expand their existing activities, whether they are agricultural activities or non-agricultural ones. They are eager to have their existing activities become part of the village-level working plan. This is a long-term plan extending further from Save the Children's assistance in order to make the village self-reliant for village-level activities. These groups plan to present their activities to the village government for support.

On July 2011, the village government has approved to have their group activities – organic farming program and saving and loan program – become part of the village-level working plan and budget.

## Objective 2

*Children from most vulnerable families still have access to education.*

### Activities under Objective 2

#### 1. Socialization meetings on conditional cash grant

Rumah Pelangi held discussions on the conditional cash grants and the criteria for beneficiary eligibility was altered resulting in minor disbursement schedule delays.

#### 2. Preparation for conditional cash grant

Preparation for conditional cash grants was done in February – March 2011. Activities consist of data collection, beneficiaries targeting, public announcement at community level, collecting confirmation reference letters for school attendance, and meeting with targeted beneficiaries for conditional cash grants.



### 3. Conditional cash grant disbursement

The conditional cash grant was disbursed in two instalments. The first instalment was done together with the unconditional cash grant between 9-31 March 2011. Once the first instalment was received, the selected beneficiaries would get an additional Rp 225.000 as the conditional cash grant component. One month after receiving the first instalment, beneficiaries were to submit a report on how they used the conditional cash grant as the requirement for the second instalment.

Since the number of beneficiaries for conditional cash grants was considered relatively small (370 households), the second instalment for all beneficiaries was scheduled and conducted on the same day (25 April 2011).

Table 2: Conditional cash grant beneficiaries list

Village	Beneficiaries (household)
Kalibening	104
Sewukan	82
Mangunsuko	63
Paten	121
Total	370

### 4. Use of cash grant disbursement

Findings show that 24.2% of this additional cash grant was used for buying school uniforms, while 18.03% was used to pay tuition fees (only for Sr. High School level), and 9.9% was used to purchase books.

#### Objective 3

*37 community groups are enabled to employ alternative farming techniques to ensure minimum food reserve for household consumption in light of future disasters.*

#### Activities under Objective 3

##### 1. Establish community groups (women's groups) and action plan

The expected outcomes of Save the Children socializing events were the revitalization or the establishment of women's groups and the drafting of the Action Plan by the women's groups. Each of women's group often had more than one action plan. Some focused on alternative farming activity using poly-bags, and the others were non-farming activities. For these action plans, people would have to contribute some money from their unconditional cash grant.

57 additional community groups (women's groups) were established instead of only 37 groups. These groups represented 35 hamlets and 3,700 households from 6 villages.

Table 3: Number of community groups (women's groups)

Village	Hamlet	Women's groups	Number of household	Description on community action plan
Keningar	1	1	184	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home industry-produce cassava crackers</li> <li>• Alternative farming with poly-bags</li> <li>• Livestock/ cattle ownership</li> </ul>
Kalibening	9	15	873	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative farming with poly-bags</li> <li>• Livestock/ cattle ownership</li> <li>• Community saving and loan program</li> <li>• Purchasing of hand tractor</li> </ul>
Paten	7	13	932	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative farming with poly-bags</li> <li>• Livestock/ cattle ownership</li> </ul>
Mangunsuko	5	8	491	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative farming with poly-bags</li> <li>• Livestock/ cattle ownership</li> </ul>
Sewukan	6	9	746	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative farming with poly-bags</li> <li>• Livestock/ cattle ownership</li> </ul>
Gulon	7	11	474	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative farming with poly-bags</li> <li>• Community saving and loan program</li> <li>• Livestock/ cattle ownership</li> <li>• Home industry (only 1 committee)</li> </ul>
TOTAL	35	57	3,700	

## 2. Alternative farming training

### a. Alternative farming training for program staff

On 9-10 February 2011, Nawakamal – Loh Gesang conducted alternative farming/container gardening training for Save the Children program staff and Rumah Pelangi staff. Contents of training included:

- Concept of organic agriculture using container/ poly-bags, followed by trying to plan using poly-bags.
- Organic farming, composting and pest control.
- Healthy food which raw material harvest from our owned garden.

### b. ToT agriculture training for cadres

The first ToT agriculture training was conducted by Save the Children's partner (Nawakamal-Loh Gesang) for cadres (members of women's groups) coming from Keningar village and Kalibening village on the 11-12 March

2011. Total participants for the first training were 19 participants, representing 16 women's groups from 12 hamlets.

The second ToT agricultural training was for participants coming from Mangunsuko village, Sewukan village, Paten village and Gulon village. This training was conducted from 21 March until 13 April 2011 to 57 participants, representing 38 women's groups from 24 hamlets.

Training participants agreed to conduct agriculture training with assistance from Nawakamal – Loh Gesang to other groups' members and to apply the new knowledge they got from the training.

### c. Composting training

Until end of May, almost all women's groups had received composting training at both household and group level. For these composting activities:

- the group committee provided buckets for their members to make liquid compost.
- Other groups preferred to have communal composting areas voluntarily managed by the group committee and their members. The other members used the compost and also practiced the composting method.

Compost training was provided to representatives from women's groups in 6 villages (Kalibening, Keningar, Mangunsuko, Paten, Sewukan and Gulon) on how to sort waste, and how to make compost. Compost training was conducted in two batches with a 81 participants, representing 57 women's groups from 37 hamlets.

### d. Solid waste disposal training

By the end of June, solid waste disposal trainings were rolled out to 81 participants in women's groups - Activities covered by this training included:

- Waste management as part of the environmental management system and as an integral part of the sustainability of organic farming – in this case by using poly-bags and utilizing garden.
- Revisited composting techniques to strengthen their knowledge and to practice.

Overall, there were 157 cadres from women's groups who received both agriculture training and compost training. On average 2-3 members of each women's group received training. Later, they disseminated their knowledge to other women's group members at each respective groups, and total number of meetings at group level (whether regular meetings or for training) was 91 meetings and number of participants were 2,802 people.

## 3. Distribution of poly-bags

Since the poly-bags vendor was not able to directly deliver 16.650 MT of poly-bags (for 3,700 beneficiaries @ 4.5 kgs poly-bags) in one shipment, we decided to split the poly-bag distribution. The first distribution for all 3,700 beneficiaries was to provide them with 1 kg poly-bags. Distribution was done on the first and second week of March 2011. The poly-bags were delivered to the women's

groups (57 groups) and Loh Gesang – Nawakamal, assisted in the distribution of poly-bags to families.

Some beneficiaries are not able to absorb 1 kg poly-bag because they do not have enough space to put these poly-bags, and this was especially at Gulon village. A few elderly cash grant beneficiaries refused poly-bags because they were too old for farming activities. Non- cash grant beneficiaries expressed interest in learning alternative farming practices with the poly-bags.

The women's groups decided to share their poly-bags with the interested families. At the end, 3,723 households received poly-bags.

Save the Children distributed the second poly-bag delivery in May 2011 to the women's group at hamlets assisted by Loh Gesang – Nawakamal. A total of 12.95 MT poly-bags were distributed in the second batch of poly-bags.

#### 4. Usage of poly-bags

Assisted by Loh Gesang – Nawakamal, the women's groups planted seeds. There are 3,719 households (out of 3,723 households who have received poly-bags) or 99.89% of total beneficiaries have planted the seeds they bought using the cash grants. Seeds purchased were vegetables (caisim, cauliflowers, cabbage, other greens vegetable, tomatoes, etc.), herbs (green onion, celery, etc.) and chilies. Loh Gesang – Nawakamal and trained cadres also provided technical assistance for the beneficiaries on plant maintenance i.e. give liquid organic fertilizer (from composting process prepared by the beneficiaries themselves), watering, and pest control using natural pesticides (made from plant)

#### 5. Monitoring and technical assistance

Data was collected on the families who planted in poly-bags. Some families consumed harvested crops grown in poly-bags.

Response from the beneficiaries on alternative farming/ container gardening using poly-bags included:

Challenges:

- It was difficult to collect soil to fill the poly-bags.
- Pests are rather difficult (or it took some time) to exterminate if using natural pesticides.
- More effort to make houses in order to protect the plants from chickens, ducks, etc.

Advantages:

- Organic vegetable that they have harvested tasted better and fresher.
- Beneficiaries can save their money. Money allocated for purchasing vegetables can be allocated for other needs.
- Beneficiaries can now recycle household waste usually disposed of as compost.

On visiting the women's groups, beneficiaries received technical assistance on plant maintenance. Data on types of plant planted (i.e. whether they are green

vegetable, medicinal plants, etc.), the groups' cultivation patterns, and also assess the groups' activities were collected.

Cultivation patterns conducted by the groups:

- Poly-bags are placed in a racking system, and are maintained by the family (when space is very limited).
- Poly-bags are placed in a racking system and also in gardens with more space. Some of groups' members also plant using an intercropping system, where in one poly-bag several types of plants are planted, i.e. spinach and mustard greens (*caisim*).

When a racking system is used they are covered with a plastic mesh or roof screen and with bamboo fences to protect their plants from chicken and other animals.

#### 6. Network among the beneficiaries

In order to improve beneficiary capabilities on technical issues related to agriculture with a clear understanding of “what you plant is what you will have at your dining table”, there is a need to still provide technical assistance for agriculture. This required the establishment of a network of inter-hamlet, inter-village cadres within the village and between villages, so that the technical assistance given was more operational with a broader scope. In addition, the network between these cadres will become a place for them to foster mutual learning (as learning communities) and as a message centre for the residents in each hamlet or group. This cadre network workshops aimed to lay the foundations for the learning process in the future. In order to do this, villages were split into two clusters – those located north of Senowo river and those south of Senowo river. Workshops were conducted by June 2011.

#### 7. Create a simple module “From garden to dining table” and a tutorial DVD

Preparation of a simple module and tutorial DVD was based on the evolving needs of the cadres who had attended the training and also based on their experiences after giving agricultural training to their groups. The module “From garden to dining table” was developed as a simple and practical guide highlighting a) the concept of healthy food b) cultivating the garden c) composting techniques and d) pest control (manual on natural pesticide).

The first DVD raises awareness efforts and provides technical guidelines on compost techniques for garden cultivation. The second DVD is about the importance of managing our environment in relation to compost households waste. Both DVDs have been distributed to the women's groups.

#### 8. Lessons learned on agriculture intervention from the perspective of beneficiaries

The activity was completed successfully, and the result is part of Annex 4.

## 2.2 Significant Project Outputs

### 2.2.1 Table:

Significant Output	Performance Indicator	Achievements during reporting period and Lessons Learnt	Aggregatable Benefits
1. 3,700 families received un-conditional cash grants	<p>37 community groups are formed to facilitate community action plan in utilizing the cash grant.</p> <p>3,700 families have received a one time un-conditional cash grant of AUD 109.8 through post office/ bank transfers and have a higher purchasing power.</p>	<p>57 community groups (women's groups) are formed.</p> <p>3,700 families have received a one time un-conditional cash grant of AUD 109.29 (IDR 890,000,-) through post office.</p>	<p>57 community groups representing 3,700 families.</p> <p>Through the women's groups, beneficiaries utilize cash grants they had received for saving and loan program and income generating activities, i.e. livestock/ cattle ownership.</p>
	At least 70% families use the cash grant to access agricultural assets, improve production capacity and improve household dietary diversity.	IDR 200,000- from the total amount of cash grant received by each beneficiary were allocated to access agriculture assets, improve production capacity and improve household dietary diversity. Therefore 100% families used 22.47% of the received cash grant for this purpose.	<p>Use of cash grant scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rp 500,000,- used for households needs</li> <li>• Rp 390,000,- managed by women's group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rp 200,000- for accessing agriculture assets, improving production capacity and improving household dietary diversity.</li> <li>- Rp 190,000- for non-agricultural activities i.e. saving and loan program, livestock/ cattle ownership, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	37 women's groups are capacitated to take lead in the early recovery process.	Representative from 57 community groups (women's groups). received agricultural training and non-agricultural training.	157 cadres representing 57 women's groups have received agricultural training and composting training, and they disseminated their knowledge to other women's groups members (2,802 members).
2. 370 most vulnerable families	370 families have received an additional cash grant of AUD 54,90	370 families have received conditional cash grant of AUD 55.28 (IDR 450,000.-)	For both instalments, there were 576 school children assisted (age 6 – 18 years old).

are supported with additional cash grant to ensure that their children attend full time education	to support children's education.	through post office into two instalments @ IDR 225.000	
3. 3,700 families received poly-bag and practical training on alternative farming.	100% families received 4.5 kgs of poly-bag each for alternative farming.	87.19% families received 4.5 kgs of poly-bag each for alternative farming, and they are from 5 villages at Dukun sub-district. There are 12.11% families at Gulon village, Salam sub-district who received 4.3 kgs of poly-bag each.	16.65 MT poly-bags have been distributed to 3,723 families (additional 23 families from Gulon village). This was because the community at Gulon village shared their poly-bags with other 23 families who are not receiving cash grant.
	At least 70% cash grant beneficiaries attend the alternative farming training.	79.97% cash grant beneficiaries attended the alternative farming training.	157 cadres attended the training provided by Loh Gesang – Nawakamal, while the other 2,802 received it from these cadres who disseminated their knowledge through meetings and trainings.
	At least 50% training participants have demonstrated their ability in planting one crop using alternative farming techniques.	100% training participants have demonstrated their ability in planting crops using alternative farming techniques.	3,719 households who have received poly-bags planned crops using alternative farming techniques, while those who attended the trainings were 2,959 people.
	Meeting held at village level to support community plans in farming.	Regular meeting at each women's group has been done once a week since the March 2011.	40 village meetings were done up until June 2011 (there were 6 villages received assistance from AusAID project).

Note:

Lessons learned will be reported in a separate document and will be submitted at the end of September 2011.

## 2.2.2 Emerging Issues & Narrative

### I. Emerging Issues

#### A. Issues on conditional cash grant disbursement

1. Instead of explaining that beneficiary's eligible for conditional cash grant are only for the most vulnerable households with children at school age and the beneficiaries number cannot exceed 10% of total population of that village, the explanation was that conditional cash grant will be given to households who have children at school age. Because of this incorrect information, the disbursement schedule was delayed.
2. Several hamlet leaders added beneficiary numbers by reducing the amount of additional cash grants received by beneficiaries. Reasons of their decision were:
  - Hamlet leaders tried to avoid potential conflicts among community members. Households which met the criteria of conditional cash grant was bigger than the allocated number of beneficiaries.
  - Some other hamlet leaders planned to disburse the conditional cash grants to all households who have children at school age and are categorized as poor families.
3. Conditional cash grant was disbursed to 370 households and there were 576 school age children benefiting from this intervention. Conditional cash grant was done in two installments. However, before the second installment, Save the Children was informed that one beneficiary in Mangunsuko sub-village was not be able to meet the criteria for the conditional cash grant, as her daughter just drop out of school a few days prior to the second installment because of pregnancy.

#### Steps taken

For issue no. 1: We conducted socialization meetings to revise the previous incorrect information.

For issue no. 2: Save the Children conducted meetings in all hamlets to re-iterate the purpose of the conditional cash grants and its criteria. Hamlet leaders agreed not to deduct the cash grant amount. One village reduced the cash grant amount and increased beneficiary numbers. Save the Children requested that the hamlet leaders make sure that this deduction was based on an agreement made by all eligible conditional cash grant beneficiaries.

For issue no. 3: A replacement beneficiary was then selected by the head of sub-village to take her second installment of the conditional cash grant, and the replacement beneficiaries redeemed her coupon at Dukun sub-district Post Office on 29 April 2011.



## B. Issues on poly-bags

1. Some beneficiaries were not able to absorb the 1 kg poly-bag because they did not have enough space to put these poly-bags. A few elderly cash grant beneficiaries refused poly-bags because they are too old for farming activities. Non-beneficiaries expressed interest in the alternative farming techniques.
2. Some beneficiaries are not able to absorb the second batch poly-bag (which is another 3.5 kgs) due to a lack of space.

### Step taken

For issue no. 1: Based on the meeting conducted by the women's groups, they decided to share their poly-bags with the families who showed interest in using the poly-bags. 3,723 households received poly-bags.

For issue no. 2: Members of women's group made plans for the poly-bags that cannot be absorbed and planted, i.e.:

- Prepare a piece of land in the hamlet as a communal place to grow together and manage together. The land is managed by 4 to 8 families.
- Make a storied structure to place the poly-bags.
- Some poly-bags are stored before being finally used in the future after the current poly-bags are no longer can be used.

## C. Change in beneficiaries targeting for cash grants disbursement

In the proposal, initial estimates were that 70% of beneficiaries are returnees, while the remaining 30% were not evacuated and were therefore potentially excluded from the government's early recovery scheme, even though their livelihoods were equally affected by volcanic ash and flash floods. Based on the initial plan, there would have been 2,600 beneficiaries coming from Dukun sub-district (representing 70% beneficiaries) and 1,100 beneficiaries coming from Salam sub-district (representing 30% beneficiaries). However, during data collection, it became clear that the number of households coming from 5 villages at Dukun sub-district is 3,226 households (already 87% of targeted beneficiaries. All community members from these 5 villages were affected by volcanic eruption. We consulted with village and hamlet leaders and based on a series of consultations, we learned that beneficiary selection had a potential to create conflict among community members. As a result, and given the widespread effect of the volcanic eruption in the area, we decided to distribute the cash grant intervention under Specific Outcome 2 as a blanket distribution. So now, 474 households (13% of proposed targeted beneficiaries) from Gulon village, Salam sub-district received the cash grants.

## D. Issue on group action plans

There are nine groups who changed the group action plan and the planned cash grant allocation. Some hamlets used the cash grant to repair public facilities such as hamlet hall, road and mosque. In some groups, there were indications of mistrust of the group committee by their members, particularly regarding the saving and loan programs. For this reason, they agreed to use the cash grant for other activities out of savings and loan program.

There are some groups that do not conduct a savings and loan program because they are afraid that members will not return the borrowed money.

#### Step taken

Save the Children conducted reorientation meetings for those nine women's groups to explain to them that actually the program is for the benefit of their families and is not intended for the interests of the hamlet or village in general. They explained to us that for every public facility improvement activities at the hamlet or village, they will be required to pay dues (i.e. to buy building materials). By setting aside a little cash from this grant, they can save money originally meant to pay the fee and this money will then be used for family purposes.

#### E. Issues on Saving and Loan program

Each women's group has implemented the activities originally planned, however preliminary M&E data show that the saving and loan program has not been fully implemented yet:

- In some groups, only a limited number of members borrowed money, and there was a general fear in the inability to repay the loan.
- In other groups, mutual mistrust between group committees and group members hampered the development of this activity. There is a deep concern from group members regarding the misuse of group funds by the committee, as well as a lack of comprehensible and diligent transaction records. In other instances, it is the committee itself that believe groups' members will not repay the loan.

All the above issues contribute to the inability for a successful revolving fund. Some groups who have actively lent the money to their members, have received interest for the money borrowed, and therefore the money revolves and grows; while for those who are not able to do this, the amount of money they have remains same.

#### Step taken:

The women's groups have asked Save the Children to provide them with additional assistance on saving and loan activities by conducting training, particularly in bookkeeping. In June 2011, Save the Children provided training for the women's groups for their Saving and Loan program, particular focus given to training on bookkeeping skills as requested by the women's groups themselves.

#### F. Food poisoning at Mangunsuko village on 10 – 11 May 2011

On Wednesday, 11 May 2011, around 11 am, a Save the Children staff member received information that 21 people including 2 toddlers and 6 university students from the Mangunsuko community got food poisoning from food provided at the meeting. They were checked at Puskesmas, some at community center by the paramedic from Puskesmas, but two of them were brought to the hospital (RSUD Muntlan Kabupaten Magelang) because their condition was worse than the others – but now all of them have returned to their home.

The snacks were purchased from an external source and currently, the District Health Office is still checking the snacks and it is expected that the result will be issued 2 weeks after sent to the laboratory (which will be on 25 May 2011).

The Program Manager and some of our program staff went directly to Mangunsuko village and apologized to the head of village and would reimburse any medical expenses. This reimbursement was done on 13 May 2011. Since Mangunsuko village is funded by both AusAID and Food for Peace/USAID, the reimbursement related to this food poisoning incident was paid using both budgets – Rp 970.000,- (or AUD 107.34) which is 50% of total reimbursement.

When the staff were at Mangunsuko village, there were 2 policemen (1 from Polres – district level police office and the other one from Polsek – sub-district level police office). The Program Manager and the Program Assistant was questioned as a routine measure but also because this was the third food poisoning incident in Magelang district in the last month. Based on our follow up meeting with the police, head of village and head of hamlets, and the Puskesmas (sub-district level health center), it is expected that there will be no further issues on this incident.

The incident has been published at Detik.com which is an Indonesian news portal: <http://www.detiknews.com/read/2011/05/11/182908/1637622/10/puluhan-peserta-save-children-di-magelang-keracunan-makanan?9911022>  
Save the Children also sent press release to the same portal on 12 May 2011: <http://m.detik.com/read/2011/05/12/180101/1638556/10/save-children-siap-tanggung-biaya-rawat-warga-merapi-yang-keracunan?>

## **II. Report on sustainability**

Village government have agreed to include the women's groups' activities – organic farming program and saving and loan program – into the village-level working plan and budget.

Loh Gesang – Nawakamal has expressed their commitment to continue giving assistance to the beneficiaries even though the project has ended. This was proofed in July and August 2011, when the project has finished they were still giving the assistance. The reason is because the project has initiated behaviour change at the community and household level.

### ***FURTHER ANNEXES/ ATTACHMENTS:***

- Annex 1 – Rapid Livelihoods Assessment Report for Magelang District
- Annex 2 – Magelang district map
- Annex 3 – Program areas - list of villages and donors-revised (to be submitted)
- Annex 4 – Final report Loh Gesang – Nawakamal (to be submitted)
- Annex 5 – Preliminary Financial Report for AusAID Mt Merapi Recovery Program in Indonesia (to be submitted)
- Annex 6 – Final Evaluation Report for Merapi Early Recovery Program (to be submitted)
- Annex 7 – Lessons learned report (to be submitted)

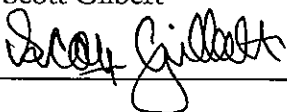
### 3.0 DECLARATION

*The following declaration must be made by an appropriately Authorised Officer of the Non Government Organisation.*

I declare:

- this report is complete and accurate;
- the funds allocated to the Program were used in accordance with Agreement #37919, Services Order #47, and the Program Proposal, including any variations to the proposal approved by AusAID.

Full Name: Scott Gilbert

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Position in NGO: Director of Emergency Programs

Date: 16 August 2011