

Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) Papua Province; Safer Access Framework Experience



Our context

The PMI Papua office is one of 33 PMI offices at Provinces level. The office was first established in 1963. Nowadays, the PMI Papua office has 16 branches in 34 districts of the Province.

As one of the humanitarian actors in Papua, PMI Papua Province has been providing various services to the general population of Papua, these to include Blood Donor, Medical transport, Community Based Health and responding to emergency by providing assistance. Since 2006, together with the ICRC and Dian Harapan Hospital, PMI Papua have been implementing Cataract surgery and distribution of spectacles to the general population of the centre highland areas.

Papua is the biggest province in Indonesia. In 1963, Papua province was integrated to Indonesia. Since then, some of the area of the province, in particular the center highland of the Province, considered as prone to security instability, inherited from past conflict.

This situation has impact on the general development of the areas. General public has difficulties to access health services and education, as health and education personnel often left the area due to security reason.

How our safety and perception were affected

Going to the center highland of Papua, PMI team are often faced authorities' check points and other check points. From time to time the team are stop and need to face suspicion from the gate keepers. This is to include when the authorities

insisted that the team need to be escorted, while it is very important to maintain perception from communities and other related stake holders on the neutrality of the services.

In the center highland of Papua, PMI Papua through our local PMI branch has been providing Health services to the community, in particular to transport sick people from their houses to the nearest medical facility by ambulance. In 2013, three volunteers were shot when they are requested to transmit a sick person. Two volunteers were badly injured and one dead.

During the assignment operation, the volunteers were driving in an ambulance without Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) Emblem. They are mobilized by using the Health Office ambulance that is similar with an ambulance belongs to the authorities. During that month, the situation was tense as there are accusation of attack from the authorities to certain group in the highland of Papua.

What we did and learned

We coordinate with PMINational Headquarter to provide assistance for the wounded volunteers. Although during the particular event the three volunteers were not insured, PMI NHQ has provided funds to support the recovery of the injured volunteers and to the family of the dead.

• We review our preparation stages when deploying our team in particular when working insecure areas. Proper situation and context analysis of security is now part of the preparation. External coordination with related stakeholders in our services



area is highly important (including with local government, military, police, religious leaders and community leaders). Based on the circumstances, it is important to have the existence of PMI Papua are well-acknowledged among all stakeholders within the Papua Province.

- The importance of Use using of the PalangMerah Indonesia emblem properly for visibility and reducing risk. (On vehicles, and uniform of the volunteers).
- Conducting dissemination sessions, including to share about PMI activities.
- In certain areas that are considered as prone to security instability, stakeholders and gatekeeper mapping is highly important. This will enable PMI Papua to conduct dissemination sessions to all related stakeholders and gatekeeper in the area.



For more information, please contact: Arifin Muhammad Hadi, Head of Disaster Management, Email: arifin_mhadi@pmi.or.id, arifinmuhammadhadi@gmail.com

www.pmi.or.id