Panel 2.2: Building Disaster Resilience and Response

Community Empowerment Issues in Mount Merapi Disaster Site

Communities in Mount Merapi disaster site require a series of empowerment programs thoroughly covering the activities of counseling, training and mentoring. Actually, after the eruption of Mount Merapi, they had an opportunity to redevelop their economic potential of agriculture and animal husbandry, because market demand for agricultural products and livestock is still large. A number of communities’ economic institutions such as farmers’ groups, livestock groups, cooperatives and small business groups have also sprung up. In addition, many empowerment programs were provided by governments, NGOs and universities. However, the economic condition of people affected by the disaster has not been well-developed. Among things that make the program less significant is the absence of mentoring activities, especially in terms of production and marketing. Moreover, synergy, coordination and cooperation between development actors to conduct community empowerment program in the disaster site is still weak.