

HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS & GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: A PORTRAIT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN INDONESIA AND TIMOR LESTE

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Abstract

Humanitarian logistics becomes an interesting topic of study in logistic science. Nevertheless, researchers have not paid much attention to cross-country relations in reinforcing the humanitarian logistics. Meanwhile, Van Wassenhove (2006) states that responses from international aid agencies are needed to deal with humanity logistic reinforcement. This paper studies human logistics in relation to global governance, through a case study on the international cooperation between Indonesia and Timor Leste.

This research used a descriptive qualitative method. This research used literature study, supported with secondary data from various reports, news on mass media, books, and scientific journals. The author elaborated these data sources and then analyzed and displayed data, and drew conclusion.

The result of research shows that Indonesia and Timor Leste has good international cooperative relations in humanity field. This relation is established well through Indonesian Red Cross and Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste (CVTL). These two neighboring countries have similar disaster typology, and thus need cooperation in disaster management. Further cooperation reinforcement will be needed in humanitarian logistics in these two countries in the future.

Keywords

Humanitarian Logistics; Disaster; Global Governance; Bilateral; Logistics

INTRODUCTION

Humanitarian logistics is an area of interest developing in logistic science. Oloruntoba and Gray (2006) state that this humanitarian logistic focuses not only on humanitarian aid expected to help overcome the disaster in the next decades, but also on humanitarian supply chain constituting the research phenomenon interesting to study. Van Wassenhove (2006) says that humanitarian logistic reinforcement needs international aid agency's response.

International cooperation in humanitarian area is often associated with global governance. Nevertheless only very few researchers have studied this topic. Sugiono (2004) states that *global governance* relates to collective action process and strategy intended to solve global problems or cross-border problems.

The cooperation in humanitarian logistic reinforcement in this cross-country bilateral relation can be studied from the relationship between Indonesia and Timor Leste. Timor Leste has historical proximity to Indonesia. Indonesian government has accepted Timor Timur (now Timor Leste) as the part of Republic of Indonesia Unitary State as the 27th province on July 17, 1976. However, then on August 30, 1999 Timor Timur preferred being apart from Indonesia and became an independent state, called Timor Leste. Nevertheless, the bilateral relation between these two countries is very good until today.

Some cooperation has been established between Indonesia and Timor Leste in such areas as humanity. Cooperation in this humanity area is very important to reinforce humanitarian logistic in both countries. Geographically, Indonesia and Timor Leste have similar disaster typology, hydrometeorological one. This disaster relates to flood, landslide, tornado, etc. Therefore, these two countries need to strengthen their bilateral relation in humanitarian logistics.

LITERATURE REVIEW

What is disaster?

Experts define disaster in some ways (Geale, 2012; Quarantelli, 1998; Baikie, 1994; and Parker, 1992). Parker (1992) defines disaster as a natural or man-made unusual event, including the event due to technological system failure, exceeding human response capacity, resulting natural environment damage, economic loss, disruption, injury and/or loss of life. Similarly, Quarantelli (1998) states disaster as a natural or man-made event affecting life, property, and livelihood or industry negatively and frequently resulting in permanent change in society, ecosystem, and human environment.

Blaikie (1994) states that "*disasters occur when hazards meet vulnerability*". On the other hand Geale (2012) states that disaster needs coordinated multidisciplinary responses. It is important to ensure that the necessary aids arrive at appropriate place and time, including transportation, food and water, and medical supply.

Humanitarian Logistics

Some experts have studied humanitarian logistics (Banomyong, et.al, 2019; Mangan and Lalwani, 2016; Thomas and Kopczak, 2005; and Barbarosoglu, et.al, 2002). Banomyong, et.al (2019) interpret humanitarian logistics as a common term for a variety of disaster management operations, including disaster development and response phase. Thomas and Kopczak (2005) suggests that humanitarian logistics is planning, implementing, and controlling activities from flowing and storing the stuffs efficiently and effectively, supplying the goods and providing related information from original point to consumption point, aiming to relieve the vulnerable people's sorrow.

Humanitarian logistics is a supply chain process focusing on material and resource storage, maintenance and distribution among those affected during disaster-related emergency Mangan and Lalwani, 2016). On the other hand Barbarosoglu, et.al (2002) state that humanitarian logistics focuses on planning the transportation and distribution of first aid material, food, equipment, and rescuer personnel from supply point to destination point in a disaster and displacing those affected to the healthcare service center safely and quickly.

Global Governance and Humanity

Humanity grows very fast from its origin in early nineteenth century to its popularity in recent global life (Barnett, 2011). International cooperation in humanity area is often associated with *global governance*. Messner (2003) defines *global governance* as a political order developing as the response to globalization, constituting an institutional mechanism or medium in cooperating with various actors, either state or non state, aiming to solve problems arising due to globalization.

On the other hand, Finkelstein (1995) states that the objective of *global governance* is to govern (*governing*) without sovereign authority and relation beyond national borders. Subandi (2016) says that *global governance* is the form of non-authoritarian international government that prioritizes humanitarian values and interests. These international specific issues are raised based on human sustainability in the present and the future.

METHODS

This research used a descriptive qualitative method. This research used literature study, supported with secondary data from various reports, news on mass media, books, and scientific journals. The author elaborated these data sources and then analyzed and displayed data, and drew conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Cooperation between Indonesia and Timor Leste in Disaster Management

Indonesia and Timor Leste have similar socio-cultural characteristics. These two countries are bordering each other, thus needing strong cooperation, particularly in humanitarian and disaster management areas. This cooperation can reinforce humanitarian logistic between both countries. Geographically, Timor Leste borders on Indonesia. Both countries have similar disaster typology, hydrometeorology. It can be seen from flash floods occurring in Indonesia, Nusa Tenggara Timur or East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) and Nusa Tenggara Barat or West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), and flood and landslide occurring in Timor Leste in April 2021. Allan (2021, April 5) reported that these natural disasters eight life tolls in Dili, Timor Leste. Indonesia's Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics (thereafter called BMKG) states that this disaster resulted from extreme weather due to tropical cyclone moving close to Sawu Strait located in the south of NTT and the north of Timor Leste.

Cooperation between Indonesia and Timor Leste is also established by BMKG in disaster management. Kurniawan (2017, April 27) reported that 14 (fourteen) Timor Leste delegations visited BMKG to study disaster management and early warning system. These Timor Leste delegations were the representatives of Social and Solidarity Ministry, Disaster Management Agency, Internal Affairs Ministry, Police, and International Organization for Migration (IOM). This activity aims to improve the disaster mitigation capacity in Timor Leste and to establish stronger cooperation between the two countries.

In disaster education field, the cooperation between Indonesia and Timor Leste has been established between *Universitas Syiah Kuala (Unsyiah)* of Indonesia and *Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL)* of Timor Leste. These two universities have signed *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* on August 28, 2017, particularly in the cooperation to reinforce disaster research. Fahlevi (2017, August 30) stated that this cooperation started with training on modeling and visualization of tsunami wave propagation on August 28-29, 2017 in UNTL campus. This training was held by the Unsyiah's Integrated Service Unit (UPT) of Disaster Mitigation. This training is a part of the activity of disseminating the result of 3rd cycle- *Partnership Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)* funded by USAID and *National Academy of Science (NAS)* of United States. This program was attended by about 25 young researchers in UNTL and related institutions in Timor Leste. It is collaboration in strengthening the knowledge capacity in disaster field.

Other forms of cooperation have been conducted by Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) and *Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste (CVTL)*. Lia (2022, April 27) states that the representatives of PMI and CVTL have signed *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* on April 26, 2022, constituting a cooperation agreement between these two humanitarian organizations. This cooperation has been initiated since 2020. This cooperation between PMI and CVTL will be discussed in the following sub chapter.

Cooperation between Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) and Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste (CVTL)

Republic of Indonesia government and Democratic Republic of Timor Leste Government have close relation in humanitarian cooperation. It can be seen from the inter-organization cooperation established by *Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI)* and *Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste (CVTL)*. These two humanitarian organizations agree to strengthen cooperation in humanitarian vision. It is important recalling that humanitarian logistics needs to be strengthened by inter-organization cooperative responses in international cooperation scope. Van Wassenhove (2006) says that the challenges of humanitarian logistics are dependent not only on the type of disaster but also on the activities related to different disaster management phases, including immediate response from international aid agencies. It is dependent on the international aid appeal issued when the system or the state is incapable of overcoming the disaster.

To understand better what PMI and CVTL are, the author describes these two humanitarian organizations along with their establishment history. The history of PMI (Indonesian Red Cross or Indonesian: *Palang Merah Indonesia*) establishment has begun since before 2nd War period. Dutch Colonial Government established *Nederlands Rode Kruis Afdeling Indie* (NERKAI) on October 21, 1873, constituting the embryo of PMI. However, this NERKAI was dismissed during the Japanese colonial reigning period. Then, the struggle to establish PMI was pioneered by Dr. RCL Senduk and Dr. Bahder Djohan supported by intellectuals in Indonesia in 1932. Nevertheless, this plan was declined several times by Japanese Government.

President of Indonesia, Ir. Soekarno, instructed the establishment of PMI on September 3, 1945. Eventually, PMI was successfully established on September 17, 1945 headed by Drs Mohammad Hatta. PMI was recognized internationally by *International Committee of the Red Cross* (ICRC), and then affiliated with *International Federation of Red Cross* (IFRC) on June 15, 1950. Indonesian government strengthened PMI by issuing some regulations - Keppres RIS (United Republic of Indonesia's Presidential Decree) Number 25 of 1950 and Keppres RI (Republic of Indonesia's Presidential Decree) Number 246 of 1963, mandating the duty of PMI to give first aid to the victims of natural disaster and those of war according to content of Geneva Convention 1949.

In 2018, PMI strengthened itself as a humanitarian organization with corporation status. It is in line with the mandate of Law Number 1 of 2018 about Red Cross. This regulation was confirmed by Government Regulation Number 7 of 2019 about Red Cross. Based on the data released by PMI's official website (www.pmi.or.id), PMI has been distributed in 34 provinces, 497 regencies/cities, and 3,406 sub districts up to 2022. Furthermore, there are 250 Blood Donor Units belonging to PMI.

On the other hand, Timor Leste Government established *Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste* (CVTL) in 2000. Timor Leste Government strengthened CVTL with Decree Law Number 6 of 2005. In 2014, CVTL inaugurated the first National Headquarters building. CVTL headquarters is located

in Dili. CVTL is the 183rd member of *the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* (ICRC). The data of CVTL's official website (www.redcross.tl) indicates that CVTL has 13 branches throughout 13 municipals in Timor Leste up to 2022. It has 2,367 members, 164 staffs, and 2,858 volunteers.

Vision of CVLT is to rescue and to improve the vulnerable people's quality of life. Furthermore, the mission of CVTL is to comply with humanitarian values and voluntary spirits to relieve the sorrow of those marginalized socially and economically, by promoting their health and social-economic development and improving their capacity to be ready for dealing with and responding to the disaster.

This cooperation between PMI and CVTL is the form of cooperation between cross-country humanitarian organizations. Lia (2022, April 27) states that the representatives of PMI and CVTL agreed the *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) on April 26, 2022 in the Motaain Cross-Border Post (Indonesian: *Pos Lintas Batas Negara*, thereafter called PLBN), Belu Regency, Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). This program was attended by Secretary General of CVTL, Deputy of NTT Governor and Head of NTT PMI all at once, *International Federation of Red Cross* (IFRC), and *International Committee of the Red Cross* (ICRC). This MoU signing is the confirmation of cooperation that has been established since many years ago.

On May 15, 2020, Indonesian Red Cross or *Palang Merah Indonesia* (PMI) distributed humanitarian logistic aid to Timor Leste through *Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste* (CVTL). Rohman (2020, Mei 21) states that this activity was conducted in a series of cooperation between two humanitarian institutions in the two countries. PMI and CVTL also established cooperation in overcoming Covid-19 pandemic, constituting a humanitarian action. The humanitarian logistic aids given by PMI to CVTL on May 15, 2020 include, among others (see. Table 1):

Table 1. The humanitarian logistic aids given by PMI to CVTL on May 15, 2020

| No. | Logistic Type | Total |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Respirator mask | 500 pieces |
| 2. | Hazmat suit | 500 pieces |
| 3. | Goggles | 500 pieces |
| 4. | Face protector | 5.000 pieces |
| 5. | Sprayer | 10 units |
| 6. | Temperature measuring tools | 10 units |

(Rohman, 2020)

This cooperation is very important to the Covid-19 pandemic management in these two neighboring countries. In addition to the cooperation in humanitarian logistic aid, PMI and CVTL also developed joint action plan through a variety of activities involving the people in the borders of Indonesia and Timor Leste. This activity was implemented in Belu and Alaka Regencies in Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), Indonesia, bordering directly on Timor Leste. It included among others:

health promotion, education, and restoring family for the students in Atambua (the Capital of Belu Regency, NTT). This activity was funded by *Red Ready* from USAID in collaboration with *International Federation of Red Cross* (IFRC).

The humanitarian cooperation relation between Indonesia and Timor Leste has been established since a long time ago. For example, Timor Leste has given humanitarian logistic aid to Indonesia in disaster management in Mentawai (Sumatera Barat or West Sumatera), Yogyakarta, and Wasior (Papua Barat or West Papua). Agustia (2010, November 18) recorded that on November 18, 2010 Timor Leste Government gave humanitarian logistic aid in the form of money amounting US\$ 1 million to overcome disaster in Indonesia. This humanitarian logistic aid given was very important to relieve the sorrow of disaster victims. It is in line with Geale (2012) stating that in disaster situation, the main focus of response is on providing security, food, shelter, and clothing to the victims of disaster. It requires significant funding either internally or externally.

In 2018, PMI has initiated cooperation with CVTL in logistic simulation activity and command post implemented in Labuan Bajo, Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). Rilis and Rajendra (2018, July 19) state that this activity, in addition to being attended by volunteers coming from local PMI, also involved the participants coming from Head of CVTL stations. It is intended to improve the capacity of logistic management and emergency response command post. This training is important to reinforce the capacity in responding to disaster, related to communication, reporting, and aid distribution procedures.

CONCLUSION

Indonesia and Timor Leste have good international cooperative relation in humanitarian area. This cooperation has been established well through Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), and *Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste* (CVTL). These two neighboring countries have similar disaster typology, hydrometeorological one. This disaster relates to flood, landslide, tornado, etc. Therefore, Indonesia and Timor Leste need to cooperate in disaster management. Further cooperation reinforcement will be required in humanitarian logistics in these two neighboring countries in the future. Lastly, we acknowledge the support received from the Indonesian Education Scholarship (Beasiswa Pendidikan Indonesia/BPI, Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia in collaboration with the Education Fund Management Institute of the Republic of Indonesia or Lembaga Pengelola Dana Pendidikan/LPDP).

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