



Youth in Humanitarian Action

Inspiring young people like Indri play a crucial role in our crisis response

Overview

On the 28 September 2018, strong earthquakes rocked the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, causing severe damage to infrastructure and over 2,000 confirmed casualties. The earthquakes also triggered a tsunami that struck Palu City and beaches in Donggala. Over 1,000 more people are still missing, presumed dead. Indri Walean, 20, a youth volunteer for our Member Association, the Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association, took part in our humanitarian outreach.

Putting Young People First

Young people are at the heart of IPPF's work: not only as clients but also as advocates, peer educators, volunteers and service providers. They identify problems and find solutions, taking an active role in decision making and programme delivery. IPPF is also increasing its capacity to respond to emergencies around the world, and with that the engagement of our youth volunteers in these contexts.

A Passionate HIV Awareness Advocate

Indri is a 20-year-old university student from Palu, a large coastal town located on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia. She has been Vice-Chairman of her university's HIV/AIDS organisation for several years, and recently started volunteering with IPPA.

Youth Mobilisation

Shortly after the earthquake and tsunami, Indri received a call from IPPA to take part in the response.

'I have known about IPPA for a few years now. My organisation at



university works with IPPA to provide voluntary testing kits for HIV. So after the earthquake, the coordinator of youth volunteering at IPPA asked me to be part of the humanitarian response.'

During the IPPF humanitarian response, Indri volunteers by planning, organising and running SRH awareness sessions for youth living in displacement camps, providing counseling on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Indri also received training with IPPA on the needs of people in humanitarian settings.

“ When the earthquake struck, I was one of the victims. I saw a lot of people in distress, and even a corpse. So I immediately thought, what kind of person am I? I still have hands, have legs, I still have everything, why not help others? I realised that I have given the chance to live to help others. I know what HIV/AIDS is like. I have seen what happens regarding HIV/AIDS, I know its process. I am the same human as you. You and me, are the same. That's why I'm a youth volunteer.”