

## DISTRIBUTION OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE MIFTAHUL JANNAH ORPHANAGE AFFECTED BY FLOODS

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### Abstract

Floods are one of the most frequent natural disasters in Indonesia and have a significant impact on vulnerable groups, including children living in orphanages. Miftahul Jannah Orphanage is one of the social institutions affected by the floods, disrupting their caregiving activities, health, and the psychosocial well-being of the children. This study aims to analyze the process and impact of the distribution of humanitarian aid to Miftahul Jannah Orphanage after the floods. The method used is a descriptive qualitative approach with a case study design. Data collection was conducted through field observations, semi-structured interviews with orphanage administrators, orphanage children, and volunteers, and documentation of aid distribution activities. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify patterns of needs, benefits of aid, and implementation challenges. The results show that the distribution of humanitarian aid has a positive impact on meeting basic needs, improving environmental hygiene and health, and restoring the psychosocial conditions of orphanage children. However, challenges remain in the logistical aspects and sustainability of aid. This study concludes that needs-based humanitarian assistance, targeted at vulnerable groups, and integrating material assistance and psychosocial support, is crucial for supporting sustainable post-disaster recovery. These findings are expected to serve as a reference for the development of future humanitarian assistance and community service programs.

*Keywords : humanitarian aid, flood, orphanage, vulnerable children, community service*

### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country with a high level of vulnerability to hydrometeorological disasters, particularly floods. Geographical factors, high rainfall, changes in land use, and the impact of global climate change make floods a recurring disaster with a wide impact on various aspects of people's lives (BNPB, 2025). Floods not only cause physical damage and economic losses, but also have significant social and humanitarian impacts, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Floods are a natural phenomenon that frequently occurs in Indonesia and have the potential to cause complex social impacts, especially for vulnerable groups such as children living in orphanages. The impact of floods is not only in the form of infrastructure damage and material losses, but also threatens the physical, psychological, and social well-being of children in orphanages. In the context of such disasters, the distribution of humanitarian aid is a crucial instrument to alleviate suffering and restore basic living conditions for children in orphanages, including food, medicine, emergency shelter, and psychosocial support. The Miftahul Jannah Orphanage is one of the institutions affected by the floods and is the focus of this humanitarian activity. Children living in orphanages are a highly vulnerable group to the impacts of flooding. Limited access to resources, dependence on care institutions, and relatively sensitive psychological conditions make orphanage children require special attention in disaster emergencies. Research shows that flood-affected children are at risk of experiencing health problems, reduced quality of life, and psychological stress such as anxiety and trauma after the disaster (International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015). Miftahul Jannah Orphanage, a social institution that houses and cares for orphans and the underprivileged, was also affected by the flood disaster. The flooding surrounding the orphanage disrupted care activities, damaged facilities and infrastructure, and limited access to basic needs such as food, clean water, and sanitation. This situation demands a rapid response through the distribution of humanitarian aid that is planned, coordinated, and based on the real needs of beneficiaries. The distribution of humanitarian aid is a form of social intervention aimed at alleviating the suffering of disaster victims and accelerating the post-disaster recovery process. This assistance includes meeting basic needs, health support, and

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psychosocial support for affected victims. National studies show that the effectiveness of humanitarian aid depends heavily on targeting accuracy, speed of distribution, and the involvement of various stakeholders, including volunteers, social institutions, and the local community (Oktaviani et al., 2024). In addition to meeting material needs, health and hygiene aspects after floods are also a primary concern, especially in orphanage environments. Post-flood conditions often increase the risk of infectious diseases due to contaminated water and poor sanitation. Therefore, humanitarian aid should ideally be accompanied by education on clean and healthy living behaviors (PHBS) as a preventative measure to maintain the health of children in orphanages (Trisasmita, 2022). From an international perspective, approaches to flood victim management that focus on vulnerable groups emphasize the importance of social justice and sensitivity to children's psychosocial needs. Research in various countries shows that aid programs that consider psychological and social dimensions have a more positive long-term impact than aid that focuses solely on meeting physical needs (Yesmin & Akter, 2025). Based on this background, this article aims to examine the process and impact of distributing humanitarian aid to the flood-affected Miftahul Jannah Orphanage. This study is expected to provide an empirical overview of the role of humanitarian aid in the recovery of children in orphanages after the disaster, as well as serve as a reference for developing more effective and sustainable humanitarian programs in the future.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Flood Disasters and Their Social and Humanitarian Impacts

Floods are one of the most frequent natural disasters in developing countries, including Indonesia, and have a multidimensional impact on people's lives. According to a report by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), floods not only cause economic losses and damage to infrastructure but also seriously impact social stability and the well-being of vulnerable groups. These impacts include disrupted access to basic necessities, increased risk of disease, and a reduced quality of life after a disaster (UNDRR, 2021). Poor groups, children, and those living in social institutions such as orphanages face greater risks due to limited resources and dependence on external support systems (Wisner et al., 2014). This makes humanitarian intervention a crucial element in post-flood response.

### Vulnerability of Children and Orphanages in Disaster Situations

Children are the group most affected in disaster situations due to their physical, psychological, and social limitations. International studies show that flood-affected children are at risk of physical health problems, malnutrition, and psychological trauma such as anxiety, fear, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Peek, 2008; IJDRR, 2015). Orphanages, as alternative care institutions, face unique challenges when disasters strike. Limited operational funds, reliance on donations, and facilities often not designed to withstand disasters make them highly vulnerable to flooding. Research by Trisasmita (2022) shows that post-flooding, orphanages experience a decline in sanitation and environmental health, which directly impacts the health of the children in their care. Furthermore, children in orphanages generally have more vulnerable social and psychological backgrounds than children living with their families. Therefore, flooding can exacerbate their psychosocial conditions if not balanced with adequate support (Save the Children, 2019).

### The Concept and Role of Post-Disaster Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian aid is defined as an organized effort to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity in emergency situations resulting from natural disasters or social conflict (Sphere Association, 2018). This assistance includes meeting basic needs such as food, clean water, sanitation, health services, and psychosocial protection and support. A national study by Oktaviani et al. (2024) showed that the distribution of social assistance to flood victims will be more effective if based on a comprehensive needs assessment and involving communities and local institutions as key partners. Humanitarian aid that focuses on social institutions such as orphanages also requires a special approach. Not only material aspects need to be met, but also the sustainability of childcare and protection services. This aligns with the principle of humanitarian action, which prioritizes vulnerable groups (Sphere Association, 2018).

### Health, Sanitation, and PHBS Aspects Post-Flood

Flooding often leads to contamination of water sources and deterioration of sanitation conditions, increasing the risk of infectious diseases such as diarrhea, skin infections, and respiratory tract infections. Children living in crowded conditions and in collective care institutions such as orphanages are at higher risk of contracting these diseases (WHO, 2020).

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Research in Indonesia shows that post-flood Clean and Healthy Living Behavior (PHBS) education is an effective intervention in reducing disease risk and increasing health awareness among children in orphanages (Trisasmita, 2022). Therefore, ideal humanitarian assistance should be not only curative but also preventative through health education and the provision of adequate sanitation facilities.

## Psychosocial Support in Handling Child Disaster Victims

In addition to physical impacts, floods also have significant psychological effects, particularly on children. International research confirms that child disaster victims require psychosocial support to help them adapt and recover from traumatic experiences (Norris *et al.*, 2002). Psychosocial support can include emotional support, play and learning activities, and creating a safe and supportive environment. A 2015 study in the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* showed that community-based interventions that actively involve children can improve their resilience and psychological well-being after a disaster.

## Social Justice and Sustainability of Humanitarian Aid

Social justice is a key concern in the distribution of humanitarian aid. Unequal and non-needs-based aid has the potential to create new inequalities within affected communities. Recent research by Yesmin and Akter (2025) emphasizes the importance of a justice-based approach and prioritizing vulnerability in post-flood aid distribution to ensure a more sustainable impact. For orphanages, the sustainability of aid is also a crucial issue. Short-term assistance needs to be integrated with medium- and long-term recovery programs, such as facility rehabilitation, capacity building for orphanage managers, and support for children's education and health.

## METHOD

### Research Design and Approach

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach **with** a case study design, aiming to gain an in-depth understanding of the process and impact of humanitarian aid distribution to the flood-affected Miftahul Jannah Orphanage. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows for a contextual and holistic exploration of social realities, the subjects' experiences, and the dynamics of aid distribution. The case study is considered appropriate because the research is focused on one specific location, namely the Miftahul Jannah Orphanage, as a representation of a social institution affected by the flood disaster and requiring humanitarian intervention based on real needs.

### Location and Time of Research

The research was conducted at **the Miftahul Jannah Orphanage**, located in a flood-affected area. The location was selected purposively, considering that the orphanage experienced direct impacts from the flood, which affected caregiving activities and the living conditions of the children in foster care. Research activities and aid distribution were carried out during the **post-flood period**, encompassing the emergency response and initial recovery phases.

### Research Subjects and Informants

The research subjects consist of:

1. **The administrators of the Miftahul Jannah Orphanage**, who have a primary role in managing the orphanage and coordinating aid.
2. **Children in orphanages**, as the main beneficiaries of humanitarian aid.
3. **Volunteers and aid distribution teams**, who are directly involved in the planning and distribution of aid.

The selection of informants was carried out using a **purposive sampling technique**, with the criteria being that informants were considered capable of providing relevant and in-depth information regarding the condition of the orphanage, the children's needs, and the aid distribution process.

### Data collection technique

Data collection was carried out using the following techniques:

#### a. Field Observation

Direct observations were conducted to assess the physical condition of the orphanage after the flood, including building damage, sanitation conditions, clean water availability, and the children's daily activities. Observations also covered the humanitarian aid distribution process to assess targeting accuracy and distribution effectiveness.

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### b. Semi-Structured Interview

Interviews were conducted with orphanage administrators, volunteers, and several children (with consideration of ethical and mentoring aspects). The interviews were semi-structured to provide researchers with a guide to questions and the flexibility to dig deeper into information related to:

- The impact of flooding on the lives of orphanages
- The main needs of children after the flood
- Perceptions of the benefits and constraints of aid distribution

### c. Documentation

Documentation is used as supporting data which includes:

- Photos and videos of aid distribution activities
- Assistance inventory records
- Activity report and letter of handover of aid
- Relevant orphanage administrative archives

This documentation serves to strengthen the findings from observations and interviews.

### Types and Forms of Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian aid distributed in this activity includes:

1. **Assistance with basic needs**, such as food, drinking water, suitable clothing, and bedding.
2. **Health and sanitation assistance**, in the form of light medication, cleaning equipment, masks, soap and toiletries.
3. **Psychosocial support**, through educational activities, games, and social interactions aimed at reducing children's stress and trauma after the flood.

Determination of the type of assistance is based on the results of an initial needs assessment conducted through observation and interviews with the orphanage administrators.



Figure 1

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Condition of Miftahul Jannah Orphanage Post-Flood

Field observations indicate that the flooding that hit the Miftahul Jannah Orphanage significantly impacted the physical, social, and psychological well-being of the orphanage's residents. Physically, the flooding caused waterlogging in the orphanage, damage to several facilities such as bedrooms, kitchens, and bathrooms, and disrupted sanitation systems and access to clean water. These conditions hampered caregiving activities and increased health risks for the orphanage's children. Socially, the flooding disrupted the children's daily routines, including learning,

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worship, and play. The children experienced limited mobility and discomfort due to the environment not yet fully recovered. These findings align with previous research that found flooding directly impacts the stability of children's social lives and the care institutions (Wisner et al., 2014).

### Fulfillment of Basic Needs through Humanitarian Aid

The results of the distribution of humanitarian aid indicate that the assistance in the form of food, drinking water, clothing, and bedding was able to meet the basic needs of the children in the orphanage in the post-flood phase. The orphanage administrators stated that this assistance was very helpful in maintaining the continuity of the orphanage's operations, especially when internal logistical resources were limited due to the disaster. Meeting these basic needs plays a crucial role in preventing further vulnerabilities, such as malnutrition and decreased immunity in children. These findings support the view of the Sphere Association (2018), which emphasizes that meeting basic needs is a top priority in the post-disaster humanitarian response to maintain the survival and dignity of victims.

### Impact of Aid on Environmental Health and Sanitation

The study results showed improvements in the cleanliness and health of the orphanage environment after the distribution of sanitation and hygiene supplies. The provision of soap, cleaning tools, masks, and mild medication helped reduce the risk of common post-flood illnesses, such as diarrhea, skin infections, and respiratory disorders. In addition to physical assistance, simple yet sustainable Clean and Healthy Living Behavior (PHBS) education activities had a positive impact on increasing children's awareness of maintaining personal and environmental hygiene. Children began to practice handwashing, maintaining clean bedding, and using sanitation facilities better. These findings align with the research results of Trisasmita (2022) which stated that post-flood PHBS education contributed significantly to disease prevention in the orphanage environment.

### Psychosocial Support and Resilience for Children in Orphanages

Interviews revealed that some children at the orphanage experienced anxiety, fear, and behavioral changes after the flood, such as crying easily and difficulty concentrating. This indicates a psychological impact from the disaster experience. Through psychosocial support activities such as educational games, social interactions with volunteers, and group activities, the children demonstrated positive changes in mood and social interactions. They became happier, more active in communication, and re-engaged in learning and play. This supports the findings of Norris et al. (2002) and research in the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* (2015), which confirmed that community-based psychosocial interventions can improve children's resilience and psychological recovery after a disaster.

### Effectiveness and Challenges of Aid Distribution

In general, the distribution of humanitarian aid to the Miftahul Jannah Orphanage was deemed effective by administrators and volunteers, particularly in terms of targeting accuracy and the relevance of the type of assistance. An initial needs assessment conducted prior to distribution helped ensure that the assistance provided matched the actual needs of the orphanage's children. However, this study also identified several challenges, including limited logistical access due to flooding, delayed distribution during the initial phase of the disaster, and limited volunteer resources. These challenges are similar to the findings of Oktaviani et al. (2024), who stated that coordination and access barriers were common obstacles in the distribution of social assistance after flooding.

### Implications for Social Justice and Sustainability of Aid

From a social justice perspective, this aid distribution activity demonstrates the importance of prioritizing vulnerable groups, such as children in orphanages. Needs- and vulnerability-based assistance contributes to equitable access to post-disaster resources and prevents further marginalization.

However, the research also shows that short-term humanitarian assistance is not fully able to address the long-term needs of orphanages, such as facility rehabilitation, strengthening management capacity, and supporting ongoing education. This finding aligns with research by Yesmin and Akter (2025), which emphasizes the importance of integrating emergency aid and ongoing recovery programs to optimize and equitably impact aid. Overall, the results and discussion indicate that the distribution of humanitarian aid to the Miftahul Jannah Orphanage had a significant positive impact on meeting the basic needs, health, and psychosocial recovery of the children after the flood. The success of this program was influenced by accurate needs assessments, coordination between parties, and a holistic approach oriented towards vulnerable groups. The results of this study reinforce the literature stating that post-disaster

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humanitarian responses cannot focus solely on material aspects but must also encompass social, health, and psychological dimensions to achieve sustainable recovery.



Figure 2: Distribution of Humanitarian Aid in the Form of Foodstuffs and Supplies to Children at the Miftahul Jannah Orphanage After the Flood.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, it can be concluded that the distribution of humanitarian aid to the Miftahul Jannah Orphanage, which was affected by the flood, played a very important role in the recovery efforts of the orphanage children after the disaster. Floods not only caused physical damage and disruption to care activities, but also impacted the health, social, and psychological aspects of children as a vulnerable group. The humanitarian aid distributed proved effective in meeting the basic needs of the orphanage children, such as food, clean water, clothing, and hygiene supplies. Fulfilling these basic needs contributed to maintaining the continuity of the orphanage children's daily lives and preventing further health risks from the post-flood environmental conditions. In addition, sanitation assistance and education on clean and healthy living behaviors (PHBS) played a role in increasing children's awareness of the importance of environmental cleanliness and health. From a psychosocial perspective, the mentoring and social interaction activities carried out with volunteers had a positive impact on the children's emotional recovery. Psychosocial support helped reduce post-disaster anxiety and stress, and encouraged the rebuilding of a sense of security and self-confidence in the children at the orphanage. This demonstrates that holistic

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humanitarian interventions, not solely focused on material assistance, have a more significant impact on children's well-being. However, this study also identified challenges in aid distribution, particularly related to logistical access, resource limitations, and the sustainability of the aid program. Therefore, stronger coordination between stakeholders and integrated aid planning between the emergency response and long-term recovery phases are needed. Overall, the distribution of humanitarian aid to the Miftahul Jannah Orphanage demonstrates the critical importance of a needs-based approach, social justice, and sustainability in disaster management for vulnerable groups. The results of this study are expected to serve as a reference for the development of more effective, inclusive, and sustainable humanitarian aid and community service programs in the future.

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