Voluntary Land Donation (VLD) as a Form of Land Acquisition

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(with thanks to Indira Dharmapatni WB Indonesia/PNPM)



Motivations for using Voluntary Land Donation (VLD) include:

- Community development projects may require in-kind land contributions from the community (strengthens cooperation and project ownership)
- To stretch limited project funding where land acquisition is part of the overall project cost (government roads projects, for example)

The Voluntary Nature of Land donations may be questioned when:

- The owner of land to be donated cannot be given the power of choice and the ability to say "no" if they do not agree with the donation
- "Voluntary" is more likely when construction is not location specific.
 Because if owners object to one location, it can be built on another
 location where they agree (ex: a school can be sited in different locations
 but a reservoir for a dam might not be)
- "Voluntary" is less likely in cases of location-specific infrastructure. When
 the owner cannot say no if there is only one suitable project location for
 building, then the chance of coerced acceptance / or eventual
 expropriation is much greater

VLD is popular in Community Driven Development (CDD). Indonesia has a large WB CDD Programs (PNPM)

- National Urban and Rural Community Empowerment Programs since 2008
 - 13,000 urban wards -- 21 million people
 - 4,800 sub-districts 60,000 villages
- Water and sanitation project

4,000 rural villages, access to water for 3.5 million and to sanitation for 2 million

Fast growing portfolio

\$ 2.6 billion since 2006→ 1.5 billion during 2010-2011, high percentage of GOI contribution

These programs involve significant VLD

Types of community projects Involving Land Donation



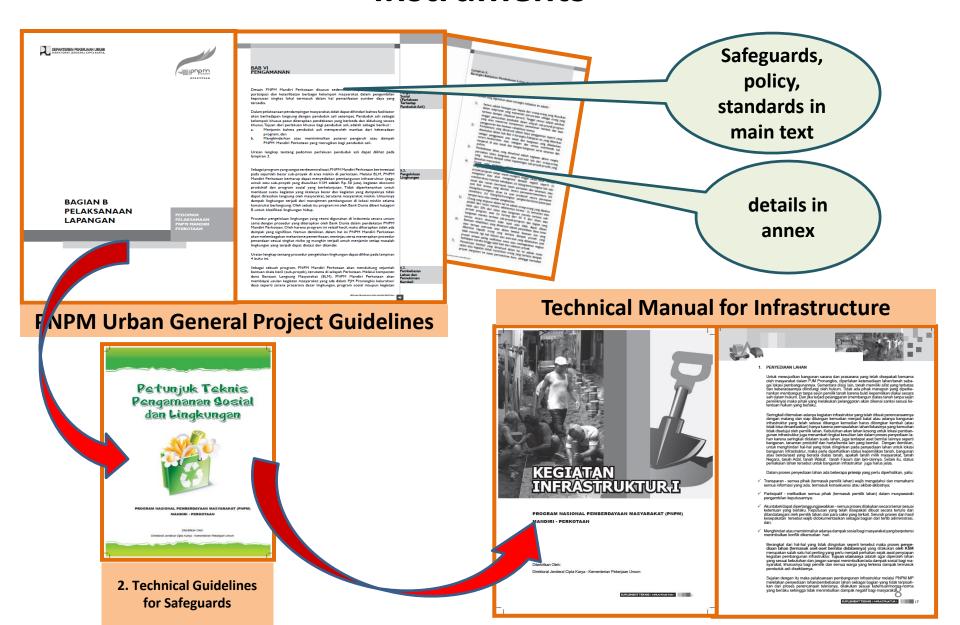
Challenges and Risks of Community VLD

- Community's understanding of VLD and its consequences (pros and cons), poorly documented land decisions can divide community
- How to ensure that "voluntary" is "truly" a voluntary decision to donate or not donate, made without coercion
- Donated by whom (clans, families, individuals) and for what (use with limitations, transit, right of return)
- How to ensure that the project provides various options/sites for project infrastructure
- Legal issues: taxes, is there a need to transfer land title?
- Lack of documentation of key decisions may lead to complaints

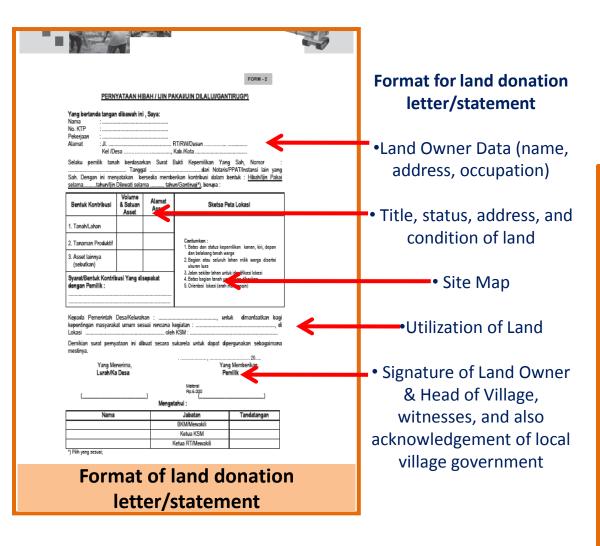
GRM (Grievance redress) in Indonesia CDD Projects

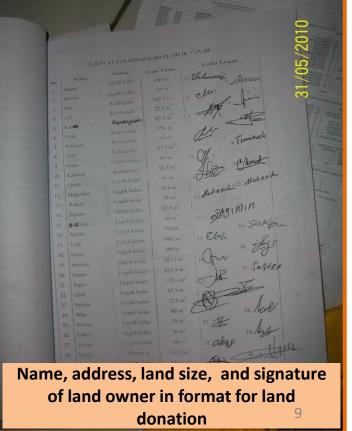
- GRM at three levels village, city, national
- Complaints box, text/phone number, email/project web
- Facilitators/consultants at local and national levels (capacity building)
- Complaints follow-up, responses recorded

Guidance through project manuals and other instruments



Format for land donation documentation provided





Facilitation, support, training

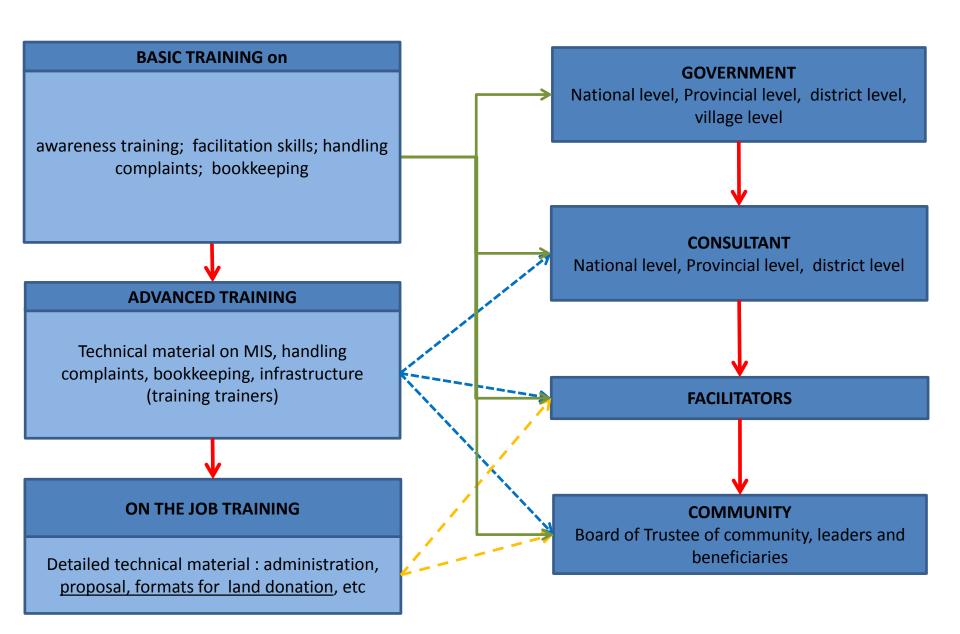
Capacity building





Project management, facilitators, village governments

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Supervision and

Oversight

Monitoring

- Web-based monitoring results (CDD project web site)
 - Regular supervision by government and donor
- Regular meetings face to face and teleconference with facilitators, local govt., beneficiaries

Limited VLD: insufficient for proposed design need



Drainage was built without proper alignment, may need to be deviated







Spring water capturing facility was built into steep cliff

Successful VLD management in Indonesia (PNPM) CDD projects depended on:

- Strong management capacity involving consultants, facilitators, and local government
- Good project socialization and capacity building programs
- User-friendly project guidelines and formats
- Easy to use complaint handling
- Willingness to process the land ownership transfer when needed (individual to community)
- Good coordination between local government and project stakeholders

Different Community VLD Scenarios

