



SEAN-CSO

# NEWSLETTER

August - September 2024

## Community-Based Rehabilitation and Reintegration

A Means to Reinforce Social Cohesion in Southeast Asia



# Opening Remarks



Esteemed colleagues and members of our network.

It's been a long time since we have not been in touch. However, this time, we are excited to be back!

Our goal has always been to inform, equip, and empower Southeast Asian civil society initiatives for regional peace.

SEAN-CSO remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a more peaceful and inclusive Southeast Asia. This month's newsletter focuses on a critical aspect of achieving this goal: **community-based rehabilitation and reintegration (CB-RR)**.

Violent extremism continues to pose a significant threat to the region's stability. However, amidst these challenges, there is a growing recognition of communities' vital role in countering violent narratives and promoting social cohesion. CB-RR programs offer a powerful approach to address this need.

By prioritising community engagement and support, CB-RR programs provide a critical lifeline for individuals susceptible to violent extremism. These programs offer a pathway away from violence, fostering a sense of belonging and equipping individuals with the skills and resources necessary to reintegrate productively into society.

Our diverse Southeast Asian communities possess a wealth of knowledge and cultural understanding. CB-RR programs leverage this local expertise, creating culturally appropriate interventions that address the root causes of violent extremism. This empowers communities to become active agents of peace, fostering social cohesion and resilience against extremist ideologies.

The following pages will explore inspiring stories and best practices in CBRRI across Southeast Asia. We will hear from individuals whose lives have been transformed by these programs and from the community leaders who are making a difference.

Together, let us celebrate the power of CSOs in the region to push a community-based rehabilitation and reintegration approach in PCVE. By supporting these initiatives, we invest in a more peaceful and inclusive future for Southeast Asia.

In solidarity,  
**The SEAN-CSO Team**



## Breaking Down the Walls, Building Bridges:

### Model for Community Dialogue



On **17th July 2024**, SEAN-CSO rolled out the first webinar for the year. Inviting PeaceGeneration Indonesia and its Agents of Peace network.

Attending as speakers are:

- **Irfan Amali**, Co-Founder & Executive Director of PeaceGeneration Indonesia
- **Lindawati Sumpena**, Learning & Product Development Manager PeaceGeneration Indonesia
- **Lufthi Noofitriyani**, Master Trainer & Agent of Peace

This webinar celebrates 17 years of PeaceGens' work in peacebuilding through community dialogue. PeaceGens' model emphasises teaching peace through self-awareness, understanding others, and conflict resolution. Mainly how to engage the community to care about peace education to start the discussion and potential collaboration related to the PCVE subject.

The Breaking Down the Walls program fosters community dialogue, particularly in school settings. Critical challenges in Indonesia include:

**Polarisation:** Political and social events contribute to polarisation among groups.

- **Limited meaningful contact:** Most Indonesians need meaningful relationships with people from different backgrounds.
- **Online filter bubbles:** Algorithms reinforce existing preferences and limit exposure to diverse perspectives.

To address these challenges, PeaceGen has developed various interventions, such as:

- **Interfaith and intrafaith dialogues:** Connecting people from different religions and within religious communities.
- **Engagement with marginalised groups:** Bringing stigmatised communities into dialogue with the public.
- **Creative approaches:** Using playful activities like board games, tournaments, festivals, and project-based learning to foster collaboration and break down prejudices.

### Framework Training and Peace Education Programs

PeaceGen uses the Kirkpatrick model to measure the impact of its programs across four levels: reactions, learning, behaviour, and results. They have achieved high satisfaction rates and observed positive changes in participants' attitudes and behaviours regarding diversity, emotional regulation, and violence reduction.

Peace Academy, an incubator with over 30 certified trainers, works with communities, institutions, and government agencies to implement the Breaking Down the Walls model.

Overall, PeaceGen's work demonstrates the power of meaningful contact and collaboration in overcoming prejudices and building a more harmonious society.

Moreover, on the subject of impact, Breaking Down the Walls program, particularly on overcoming prejudices and fostering understanding between different groups. The speaker shared a personal experience of how the program helped her reconnect with her family and find a sense of belonging. She emphasised the importance of dialogue and collaboration in building trust and breaking stereotypes.





The program's effectiveness was demonstrated through various examples, such as:

- **Batam Island:** Teenagers from the island and international students overcame their prejudices and formed connections during a camp facilitated by Peace Generation.
- **Mindanao, Philippines:** Muslim and Christian communities collaborated to teach peace values, resulting in lasting friendships and a supportive network.
- **Solo, Indonesia:** Students from different religious schools and communities learned to appreciate diversity and work together towards common goals.

The speakers highlighted the program's contribution to community resilience and social integration. She emphasised that breaking down walls is a movement that can transform communities by fostering empathy, understanding, and inclusivity.

In the Q&A sharing session, the speakers responded to questions about the challenges of implementing the program in different contexts. They discussed PeaceGen's vision for the future, which includes expanding the program to Malaysia and enabling local communities to implement peacebuilding initiatives.

If PeaceGen shares the importance of laying the foundation for Community-Based support in PCVE, our next webinar will focus on the journey of SEAN-CSO members in rehabilitation and reintegration.

## Community-Based Support, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Practical Principles:

### A Collection of Journey from The Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia

How important are community support and involvement in the reintegration process for individuals or groups exposed to violent extremist ideologies as they ease back into society?

On Wednesday, July 31st, 2024, SEAN-CSO held a webinar. We invited our notable speakers, Mira Kusumarini (Founder of Empatiku, Indonesia), Anchana Heemmina (Founder of Duay Jai Group, Thailand), and Khuzaimah S. Maranda (Executive Director of Thuma Lanao, CSO Representative from the E-CLIP Committee, Lanao del Sur, The Philippines), to share their insights, experiences, approaches, and challenges regarding the topic.





**Anchana Heemina**  
(Duay Jay Group, Thailand)

**Our first speaker,** Anchana Heemina from Duay Jay Group, shared her story, experiences, and challenges in implementing Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) for ex-combatants and combatants from insurgency groups in Southern Thailand, especially from Barisan Revolusi Nasional Melayu Patani (BRN) and Pattani United Liberation Organisation (PULO).

## Background

Anchana mentioned that the insurgency problem in Thailand's southern border provinces is historically rooted in the Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909, significantly shaping Thailand's modern border and its relationship with the substantial Melayu-Muslim population in the south.

In addition, the Thai government attempted to integrate the southern province into the broader Thai nation-state through centralisation and forced assimilation policies to occupy the region.

## What are the work in progress?

Currently, the peace process agrees to work on three goals: reducing violence, ensuring equality of participation from the people of the South before the public consultation process, and finding a political solution to resolving the conflict.

Yet, the insurgency in the South persists. Despite the ongoing peace process, violence has also increased, given the dominant influence of the military in terms of civil-military relations regarding the conflict.

**Anchana and Duay Jai Group focused on the effort of reduction of violence, more specifically, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process** to facilitate the ex-combatant to surrender and return to being a civilian.

Since its establishment in 2010, The Duay Jai Group has been providing rehabilitation programs for torture victims, knowledge and empowerment about human rights, also peace process for the ex-combatant and the community, and the reintegration program for the ex-combatant or suspected persons. In the reintegration program, the Duay Jai Group took steps to ease and return the former combatant into communities.

**First,** provide justice knowledge, starting from the arrest of the combatant to helping the family visit and monitor the condition of the suspect, as human rights abuses often occur during detention or interrogation. In some cases, suspects were tortured or even found dead while in custody.

**Second,** individual counselling and therapy this step start after the release of suspects as, in most cases, many of them have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression and feel isolated from society after their detention, which could hinder the reintegration process.

Third, provide knowledge about human rights and non-violently enrol in the peace process. Fourth, organise a role through a volunteer program and provide training to build a strong relationship with the community.

**Fifth,** provide tutoring for the community and ex-combatants to work together using Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) and Early Warning Early Response (EWER) to prevent violence outside the community.

**Sixth,** encourage involvement or familiarity with government officers; this step is essential as most former suspects are stigmatised specifically by military and police officers.



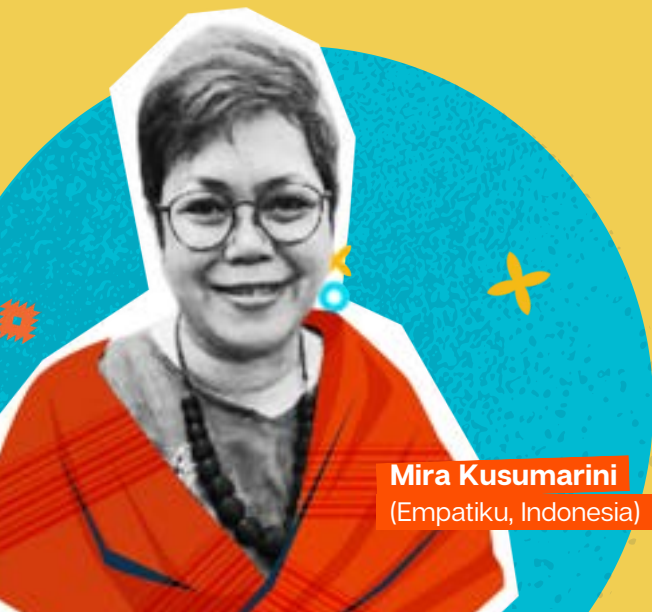
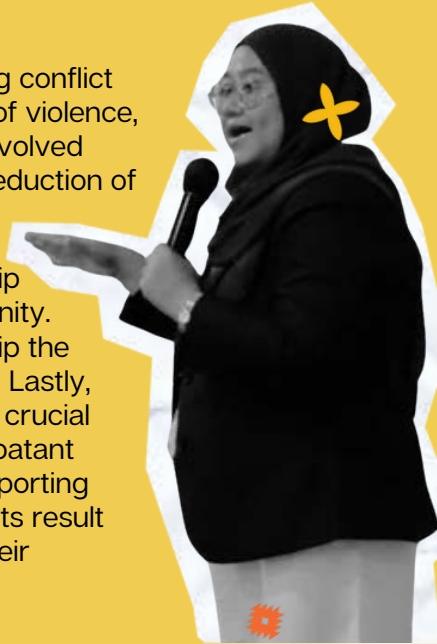


When it comes to challenges in the reintegration process, **Anchana explained that sustainability is one of the main issues that often lead to the re-enlistment of ex-combatants to violent groups.** Besides that, the continuous violence cycle also becomes a primary factor supported by special laws that have been enacted granting impunity to the government, which allows the military to carry out extrajudicial killings and unlawful executions.

## Conclusion

Therefore, to address the existing challenges, not only is it essential to promote the peace process, but it's also necessary to create a safe space or environment for ex-combatants or suspected persons for their transition back into the community.

In terms of the ongoing conflict and continuous cycle of violence, all conflicted parties involved need to work on the reduction of violence, and the particular law needs to be withdrawn to strip the military of its impunity. to be withdrawn to strip the military of its impunity. Lastly, Anchanna believes it's crucial to involve the ex-combatant and their family in supporting the peace process as its result is directly related to their reintegration process



**Mira Kusumarini**  
(Empatiku, Indonesia)

Empatiku's Models and Principles in CB-RR  
Meanwhile, the radical group offered them the support they needed to return their belief to the cause. Shortly afterwards, it was realised that the community could also be part of the problem instead of the solution. Mira said these reasons and challenges drive us (Empatiku) to see that the community is the hero in reintegration and social integration.

**Therefore, the models and principles developed by Empatiku aim to enhance and improve community resilience, as communities are critical to the entire reintegration process and efforts to prevent violent extremism.** Mira added that there are four pillars or fundamental principles in implementing community-based rehabilitation and reintegration programs.

**Our second speaker,** Mira Kusumarini from Empatiku Indonesia, discussed the models and principles she uses in the reintegration process based on her field experiences and the challenges they bring.

Mira explained that in most of her cases, she often found that many deportees, former terrorist inmates or former violent extremist offenders received social stigma, discrimination and even rejection from the local community upon their return to society.

**First,** improved awareness and understanding of the risk of violent extremism and the ability to identify early warning signs must be established.

**Second,** a case management system must be established. Within the system, cases are also managed after the dialogue or discussion process by establishing networks and partnerships with external resources for referral cases that cannot be handled at the community level.





**Third**, enhanced community social cohesion after the dialogue and reintegration process is very important to maintain trust among former inmates and community members through communal activities. Fourth, policy support and legal basis: This pillar ensures that the policy should support the mechanism from the community level at villages to the provincial level.

Mira also explained the importance of building social reintegration through restorative practices. This process offers participants the essential opportunities to listen and to be listened to, to speak and be spoken to, with the aim that all participants can learn from other perspectives and reflect on their views.

In the reintegration process, the principles of fair process need to be implemented to ensure the involvement of everyone in the community to have a clear explanation and expectation regarding decisions that will affect and influence them.

As for the social reintegration process itself, **Mira emphasises that the key message is that everyone can disapprove of the act that has been done (by former inmates or violent extremists)**, but people should not push the person away from the community. As a people or community, we must split or divide the action from the person. We can disapprove of their actions, but that should not diminish the fact that they are still human beings and part of the community.



**Khuzaimah S. Maranada**  
(Thuma Lanao, the Philippines)

Meanwhile, **our third and last speaker**, Khuzaimah S. Maranda from Thuma Lanao, shares her story, experiences and approaches in the effort of reintegration of former violent extremists in the province of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, specifically from the Dawla Islamiya Maute Group.

Khuzaimah's approach to the community-based reintegration process through Thuma Lanao takes a different route than the process in Southern Thailand, as elaborated by our first speakers, as in the Philippines, the reintegration process involves active participation and support from the government.

## Integrated Civil Society and Government Approach

The Philippines government is implementing a comprehensive, integrated, community-based national program called the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP). This program is locally implemented to address former rebels' legal status, security, and economic, social, and psychological rehabilitation needs. This Program institutionalises the "Whole-of-Nation Approach" national campaign.

Khuzaima, as the CSO representative for the province committee of Lanao Del Sur, shares that the reintegration program in her province started in 2019 with former president Duterte after the Marawi Siege, **encouraging the members of the Dawla Islamiya Maute Group to return to the holds of law with a promise of helping them to start a new life.**

Along with the influx of returnees from the Maute Group after the fall of their leaders at the Marawi Siege, the provincial government and CSO community decided to institutionalise the reintegration at the local community level.

The government was also actively involved in the reintegration process; Khuzaimah explained that the process they took started with profiling the returnees conducted by the provincial government's social welfare office.



After that, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the National Police conducted a validation to issue a clearance to give the returnees a safe pass for their movement.

Afterwards, the returnees' information is enrolled in the database of ECLIP and the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government to grant them the social development package. The provincial government is constructing the halfway house as the centre for deradicalisation programs and psychosocial activities. In addition, they are also providing social and economic provisions to the returnees to help them begin their transition.

## Ongoing Process

When discussing how the reintegration process is progressing and what has been achieved, Khuzaimah mentioned that ECLIP has successfully organised 13 groups in 13 different areas, with the participation of a local cooperative development officer and security sector representatives, to ensure that the returnees will have a sustainable life and begin their integration into the community.

The involvement of the local government and the security sector is intended to ease and ensure the transition until the returnees can fully manage independently.

The committee also ensures that the returnees, whether former rebels or former violent extremists, cases being filed against them will be resolved through the granting of amnesty to ensure they can fully be reintegrated without fear of being arrested for recurrences of cases filed against them. Based on her experiences, Khuzaimah believes and emphasises that government involvement is crucial in the reintegration process, as they are the stakeholders with the resources and responsibility to support sustainability at the community level.

Community support and involvement are crucial in the reintegration process for individuals exposed to violent extremist ideologies. Effective reintegration requires addressing social stigma, building community resilience, and ensuring that former combatants or offenders are not alienated but reintegrated through fair processes and restorative practices.

Government participation is essential to facilitate the transition by providing the necessary resources, legal frameworks, and security measures. Successful reintegration programs also focus on reducing violence, promoting peace, and ensuring sustainability through collaborative efforts between communities, governments, and external partners.

## What's Next?

We will be giving new updates on what is happening on our **offline Yogyakarta Workshop**, where we will focus on how each member country has its journey in community-based rehabilitation and reintegration.

Take a glance at our offline **Community-Based Rehabilitation and Reintegration against Violent Extremism (CRRVE)** workshop on 12-14 August 2024. It is the latest chance to meet up with our fellow members and share best practices and lessons learned from various local initiatives.

Stay tuned to our following newsletter for more details of the **CRRVE workshop!**

Follow our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and X for more up-to-date content about CB-RR!





