

# The role of social services in Finland in times of disasters

Merja Rapeli

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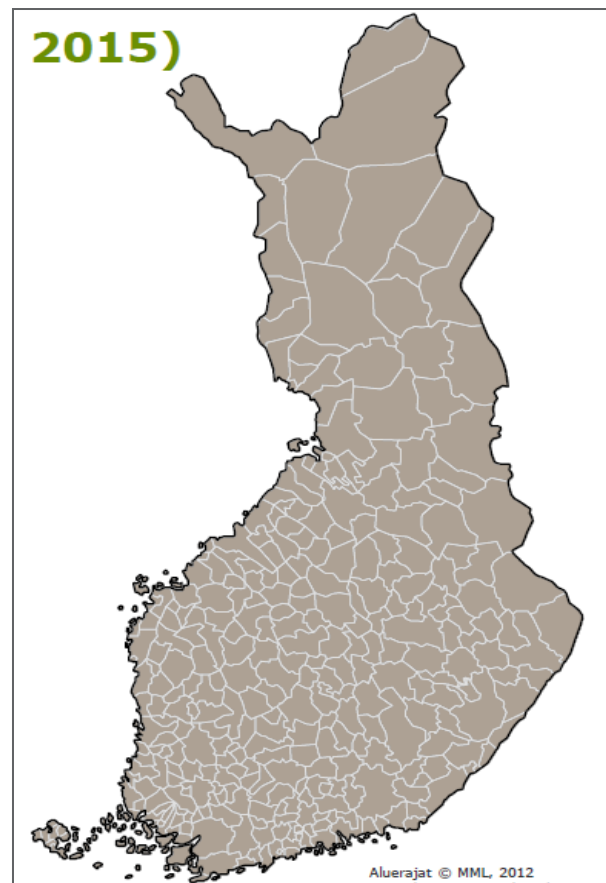


- Preparedness planning in general
- Social Services
- Social Services Preparedness Planning



# Municipalities are the core actors in disaster management

- 317 municipalities
  - play an important role in the wellbeing of the people
  - basic public services, social and health care, education and culture, environment and technical infra
  - responsible for disaster preparedness
- Regional administrative authorities (6)
  - guide and monitor municipal level disaster preparedness



# Legal Framework

- Preparedness planning mandatory for public services in all organizational levels according to emergency powers legislation
- Security Strategy of the Society guides preparedness measures
  - Multi-hazard and multi-agency approach
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (MSAH) and its sector is responsible for the population's income security and capability to function
  - Capability to provide comprehensive social security and social-, health care and environmental health care services
- MSAH: guidelines for social sector preparedness planning in 2008

# Social Services

- Organized either by a single municipality or in cooperation with other municipalities
  - Social work, family care, home care, rehab., housing and institutional care, support for transportation, mental and substance abuse care, social assistance, support in crisis situations, emergency social services..
- Approximately 30% of social services are privately produced
- Social services make subplan for the general municipal level disaster preparedness plan



# Risks

- Storms and floods
- Accidents
- Violency - shootings
- Epidemics - pandemics
- Water related events
  
- Cyber threats
- Hybrid threats
- NBC-threats
- ..





# Aircraft Accident at Jämijärvi on 20 April 2014 during a skydiving event

- 8 skydivers died and 3 were injured
- Who are the victims?
- The need for psychosocial support was great - shortcomings in the arrangements
- The Safety Investigation Authority has given recommendations to MSAH to ensure better services



150 tuoreinta Mobili Päivän lehti Lähetä viinje tai kuva Yhteystiedot Aypää Treffit

**ILTA-SANOMAT** KOTIMAA

Etusivu Uutiset Viihde Urheilu Sää ISTV Talou

150 tuoreinta Kotimaa Ulkomaat Eurovaalit 2014 Työelämä Tiede Pääkirjoitus Hullut jut

## Vakava lento-onnettomuus Jämijärvellä: Ainakin kolme kuollut



Jämijärvellä tapahtui tuhoisa lento-onnettomuus. Kuva: Lukijan kuva.

lukaistu: 20.4.2014 16:32, päivitetty: 20.4.2014 18:52

[Suosittele](#) [Jaa](#) 1,1 tuhatta

**Jämijärvellä ainakin kolme ihmistä on kuollut pienlentokoneen pudottua maahan, kertoo pelastuslaitos.**  
Maahan pudonnut pienkone kuljetti kokonaisuudessaan 8 ihmistä.

Google-maining  
**Cumulu Hotellitari**  
Vappuviikon 1  
72 €/yö. Näit  
Lähtökortit

# How did storms affect private social care institutions and services in 2013-2014? (N=797)

- 3 heavy storms in Nov-Dec 2013
- 5% had big disruptions, and 20% some consequences for the services
- Measures taken:
  - changes in providing meals, bottled water, generators were in use, evacuation, assistance from the next to kin and volunteers
- 11% reported that contingency planning was required on the service purchasers agreement





# The Study on Social Services Preparedness Planning

- The aim was to
  - map the status of social services preparedness planning
  - find out what are the interventions planned for social work in disaster contexts
  - find out what forms of social capital the interventions represent
- The method
  - document analysis of all municipal level preparedness plans of social services
- The data
  - all public sector preparedness plans concerning social work in Finland were reviewed
  - 255 of all 302 mainland Finnish municipalities' social service disaster preparedness plan documents

- 84 % of the municipalities had completed the plans
- Length mode 18 pages, ranging from 4 to 230 pages
- 77 % written or updated during the past three years, between 2011–2013



# Conclusions

- The obligation of DP-planning is fulfilled, but done in very general level
- SW is prepared for taking care of its ordinary roles and existing clients during disasters
- Deficiencies in supporting management and decision making with situational picture, alarming systems and information to the public
- Cooperation to be developed - with other authorities, NGO's and the private sector
- More exercises and training needed

