

# PROJECT FACTS

## Strengthening Access to Justice for Peace and Development in Aceh



• Total budget	: USD 5,650,856
• Available budget	: USD 5,650,856
• Project period	: 2006-2009
• Implementing partner	: National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Decentralization Support Facility
• Donor	: European Union - Aceh Peace Process Support
• Location	: Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam

### Background

The unique post-tsunami and post-conflict conditions in Indonesia's Aceh province present a particular set of challenges for access to justice, which is essential for human development. The Government of Indonesia and UNDP believe that if sound progress can be made in strengthening citizens' access to justice and the justice system at large, sustainable peace and development can and will be achieved in this province.

The Aceh Justice Project is a UNDP and BAPPENAS initiative, funded by the European Commission. It was launched in response to a comprehensive UNDP-led assessment on access to justice in Aceh conducted in 2006. The assessment examined the extent to which vulnerable and marginalized people have access to justice, and looked at the ability of formal and informal legal institutions to provide this basic human right.

### Objectives

Based on an assessment carried out in 2006, the Aceh Justice Project (AJP) seeks to increase access to justice in Aceh through:

- Improving the clarity of the legal framework in support of access to justice by developing guidelines on the jurisdiction and procedures of local customary (adat) law and working towards the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms;
- Increasing legal awareness and access to legal counsel, as well as the ability of the most vulnerable and marginalized to obtain access to justice through legal awareness campaigns, training of legal aid lawyers and the establishment of free legal aid facilities;



*Decades of conflict have exacted a heavy toll on Aceh's infrastructure.*

- Strengthening the institutional capacities of formal and informal justice delivery systems to provide access to justice, uphold the rule of law and protect human rights. In this regard, essential skills training for judges and other court staff, IT equipment for courts and a new electronic case management system will support the General Courts. Customary leaders will receive training on fair and accountable justice and documentation of cases and decisions; and
- Increasing the capacity of civil society to monitor and advocate for the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized, disseminate legal and human rights information, promote rights and ensure justice sector accountability. The project will establish a justice resource centre and a grants facility for provincial CSOs, to facilitate civil society efforts dedicated to strengthening access to justice as a basic human right for all.

### Donor:





*Improving Aceh's justice system now will help future generations.*

## Achievements

Since its commencement, AJP has:

- Developed a comprehensive set of guidelines on the jurisdiction and procedures of local customary (*adat*) law, together with *adat* leaders and the Aceh Customary Committee (*Majelis Adat Aceh*).
- Conducted assessments on how to strengthen the capacities of the law enforcement agencies to fight corruption in Aceh.
- Following a series of legal-awareness raising workshops across Aceh in 2007, conducted a legal-awareness raising campaign in eight sub-districts and 200 villages, highlighting the challenges faced by both justice providers and justice users in ensuring fair and effective access to justice.
- Established and jointly chaired (with BRR) a Joint Justice Sector Coordination Working Group that convenes on a regular basis in Banda Aceh. It ensures coordination among the justice sector actors and leadership of the Government in the justice sector.

- Began working closely with the Supreme Court of Indonesia and High Court of Aceh. It has equipped the High Court and 18 General Courts with IT infrastructure, including internet services to strengthen the effectiveness of the general court system in Aceh.
- Provided funding and organisational development training to seven civil society organisations under a small grants facility to support civil society efforts in strengthening access to justice and human rights in Aceh.
- Developed additional legal aid modules to complement the National Bar Association (PERADI) lawyers' certification training (PKPN). More than 50 individuals have received PKPN and legal aid training.
- Established and opened the Aceh Justice Resource Centre (AJRC) in July 2008, located at the Syiah Kuala University's faculty of law, to facilitate civil society efforts in strengthening access to justice. The AJRC produces legal analyses and facilitates community discussion on legal issues.

***The Aceh Justice Project is a three-year initiative that will further solidify peace, stability and respect for human rights in Aceh.***

### The Aceh Justice Challenge

*The Acehnese face a variety of justice grievances, particularly due to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and nearly 30 years of conflict.*

*Grievances include: economic grievances (including lost or destroyed property, land claims, inheritance disputes, unequal aid distribution, and the lack of assistance for vulnerable and marginalized groups);*

*violence against women; and conflict-related human rights violations (including intimidation, beating, torture, disappearances, summary executions and displacement).*

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