

PROJECT FACTS

Support to Strengthen the Capacity and Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Recovery of Communities in Aceh and Nias



- Total budget : USD 5,996,500
- Available budget : USD 5,996,500
- Project period : January 2006 – February 2010
- Implementing partner : Aceh and Nias Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Board (BRR)
- Donor : Multi Donor Fund (MDF)
- Location : Aceh and Nias, North Sumatra

Background

In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, local civil society organizations (CSOs) across Indonesia mobilized to support relief efforts, as well as to prepare for the longer-term reconstruction and recovery activities. The demand on local CSOs as implementing partners was enormous. As assessments conducted immediately following the tsunami showed, Aceh's local CSOs were severely constrained by the extensive loss of personnel and assets. Further, Aceh's history of conflict severely limited the outreach and capacities of local CSOs.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support for the capacity development of CSOs in Aceh and North Sumatra is delivered through training, exchange programmes, and the establishment of Civil Society Resource Centres in Banda Aceh and Nias. Small grants are also provided to respond to local CSO initiatives that relate to community-based monitoring of reconstruction, income-generating activities, basic social services and women's programmes. The small grants programme serves as a tool to apply the knowledge and skills gained from training and information exchanges.

While primary attention is given to community groups most adversely affected by the tsunami and earthquake in Aceh and Nias, the project also benefits community groups in the poorest, non-affected areas. The project aims to attain five key outputs:

- Institutional arrangements established and functional to facilitate consultation and cooperation among stakeholders and proponents for the enhancement of CSOs' roles in rebuilding of post-disaster Aceh and Nias;
- Civil Society resource centres (CSRCs) established and functional to serve as learning hubs for CSOs in Aceh and Nias;



Civil Society Organizations foster community discussions that support peace and recovery

- 181 CSOs have adequate community development competencies particularly in the areas of rehabilitation and reconstruction monitoring, project management, strategic planning, leadership, and gender-related issue
- CSOs are able to undertake community-based monitoring on rehabilitation and reconstruction activities and provide recommendations (including in writing) to BRR and local government authorities
- CSOs can implement small grant programme initiatives, providing service delivery accessible to 20,000 disaster-affected persons and non-affected poor households through income-generation activities, basic social services and women empowerment programmes.

Key Highlights

Coordination entities that facilitate constructive encounters between government and CSOs, along with other non-government actors, have been established in Aceh and Nias.

Donor:



Through regular meetings, CSOs can engage in dialogue with local government actors on their priority development activities. These entities comprise Provincial Coordinating Teams (PCTs) and 13 Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in Aceh, and two District Coordination Teams (DCTs) in Nias. The entities include key local government agencies such as the Aceh Provincial Board for Planning and Development (BAPPEDA), academia, community leaders and CSOs.



Discussion session in one of the Civil Society Organizations.

Civil Society Resource Centres (CSRCs) were established in Aceh and Nias to act as focal points in building the capacity of local CSOs. Utilising prominent local CSO networks with proven track records, the CSRCs have been providing training and other learning opportunities to build the capacities of local CSOs. The project has provided facilitators to the CSRCs, and has carried out Training of Trainers for facilitators on community development, organisational development and project management, leadership and strategic planning, gender mainstreaming, community-based monitoring and sustainable livelihoods. As a result, the CSRCs are now capable of providing independent training on these functional areas that are of critical importance to the improvements of the operational capacities of CSOs in Aceh and Nias.

To date, **126 CSOs have been trained by the CSRCs** with the aim of improving their organisational and project implementation capacities.



Civil Society Organizations help to ensure better livelihoods and economic growth

Guidelines and tools for community-based monitoring have been developed in consultation with government and non-governmental actors, and are geared towards enhancing the capacities for monitoring the impacts of on-going rehabilitation and reconstruction projects on their daily lives.

More than 100 local CSOs have benefitted from the small grants initiative, reaching more than 8,000 individuals and families throughout Aceh and Nias. These grants have supported community initiatives in income generation, women's empowerment programmes and the delivery of basic social services. Examples include fisheries and fishing, brick manufacturing, corn harvesting, ginger, chilli and cacao cultivation, animal husbandry, small trades, kindergartens, public toilets, water and sanitation, and the provision of scholarships.

For more information:

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