

United Nations Volunteers in Indonesia Briefing Note June 2008

Volunteerism in Indonesia

Traditions of volunteerism reflected in the spirit of “Gotong Royong - Working together” are deeply embedded in Indonesian society. United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is supporting the people of Indonesia in keeping that tradition alive, and their presence in the country is greatly valued.

UNV has been an active partner in the development of Indonesia since 1978 and close to 400 UNV volunteers have served in the country. UNV has helped to improve and provide better access to health care, shelter, resources, livelihood development and women’s empowerment. UNV has supported post-tsunami livelihoods rehabilitation in Banda Aceh with a US \$ 4.1 million project ensuring that affected communities benefit from recovery initiatives, primarily through mobilization and organization of communities, and the strengthening of the outreach capacities of Government, NGOs, and UN agencies. More than 130 UNV volunteers, both international and national, have been placed with Government and UN agencies. Three micro-capital grants were given to local NGOs to provide skills-based training in computer/internet usage and English language in addition to agricultural and soils restoration efforts. TRIBAL, a consortium of four national NGOs, supported the construction of homes, and provided trauma counseling services and entrepreneurship training.

Through the deployment of international UNV volunteers, UNV is supporting various organizations and UN agencies: UN OCHA, UNDP, WFP, UNRC/HC and government counterparts for positions which range from human rights officer to international reporting officer and head of sub-offices.

UNV Today

Following the devastating effects of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, UNV has focused its activities in Indonesia on rehabilitation and recovery in Aceh and North Sumatra. To assist the tsunami rehabilitation and recovery in Aceh and Northern Sumatra, six programmes are of UNV support being implemented in partnership with local NGOs and UN agencies:

- Promote recognition of the contribution of volunteerism to development.



- Build volunteerism for development into the programmes of UN partners, governments and civil society.
- Engage UNV volunteers and other volunteers in development.

Contribution to UNDP Practice Areas

1. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and reducing human poverty:

UNV is providing support to capacity building of local government, basic services planning by civil society organizations and communities, and delivery and monitoring in remote areas in Papua. These efforts are designed to support the UNDP People-centred Development (PDP) for the achievement of the MDGs. Local UNV volunteers have established community resource centers to enhance community mobilization, knowledge building, management and ownership and encouraged volunteer-based activities in local communities. The UNV programme will be expanded in Papua through a University Volunteer Scheme Programme, to mobilize and empower the youth. Two (2) student volunteers fully funded by the University of Spain have joined for a period of six months the Target MDG project to assist efforts towards MDGs with their knowledge and skills.

2. **Poverty reduction:** Through the partnership with the Association of Italian Volunteers, two Italian volunteers have provided technical assistance to UNDP project: Early Recovery Assistance Programme for Jogjakarta and Central Java, in improving quality products of

home-based food processing micro-enterprises, to assist affected communities in restoring their livelihoods in the immediate post-disaster period. One senior UNV from Japan has supported Asian Productivity Organization (APO), by finding the best ways to raise low levels of productivity.

3. Ensure sustainable environmental stability: UNV is supporting UNDP and the government with the implementation of a program intended to promote local economic development and local livelihoods by addressing the issues of declined mangrove coverage, conflict of land use, as well as pollution and contamination in the Mahakam Delta. A number of national UNV volunteers will be working directly with the local communities and other local stakeholders for the plantation of mangroves through mobilization of volunteers, local capacity development and community empowerment. UNV will encourage participatory decision-making processes and adaptation and mitigation to Climate Change.

4. HIV/AIDS

The new joint research programme, involving UNV, UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO), will examine the impact of HIV/AIDS on ordinary Indonesians and their families. A number of UNV volunteer field researchers will survey households affected by HIV. To help build trust, the volunteers will themselves be people living with HIV. The study will look into unemployment and loss of income in HIV-affected households, the implications for women and children in particular, plus the effects of social attitudes and stigmas. It will also examine how volunteerism can make a difference to people living with HIV. The UNV volunteers' work will feature in a report set for launch in Bali during September 2009 at the ninth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. In addition to the research programme, 16 national UNV volunteers were recruited to work across the country to strengthen the Ministry of Health's capacity to manage the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

5. Joint Programmes in NTT: UNV, alongside nine (9) other UN Agencies, will support the 'Improving sustainable livelihoods' part of the joint programme. The aim of the programme is to support Belu's government in addressing education, healthy nutrition, small-scale infrastructure, agricultural production and local economic development. UNV will encourage civic engagement in all the areas the joint programme covers.

Facts and figures

- There are currently 60 UN Volunteers in the country (40 national and 20 international UNVs).
- International UNV Volunteers in Indonesia come from Albania, Italy, Norway, Bolivia, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Kenya and the Philippines.
- Twenty Indonesian nationals are presently working as International UNV volunteers in Liberia, Sudan, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal and Congo.

International Volunteer Day (IVD) and the Stand Up Speak Out campaign 2007

A major role was played by UNDP in celebrating the Stand Up and Speak Up campaign particularly at the local level, mobilizing resources and involving a large number of indigenous



people and the youth in various provinces of the country. In Jakarta, UNV participated in an exhibition showcasing the MDGs and the work of UNV in Indonesia.

International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2007 was celebrated in Papua, Banda Aceh and Jakarta. In Papua, local communities, governments, students and district government staffs were actively engaged in the day's events. Activities in Banda Aceh supported an orphanage for tsunami victims. In Jakarta, UNV together with partner volunteer organizations, the Ministry of Manpower and UNDP shared ideas, common goals and experiences and jointly volunteered by providing direct support to a community in a very poor area of the city, as the best way to mark the commitment to volunteerism and encourage volunteer actions. About 1,000 local people received medical support and advice and participated in discussions about different issues (HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and drug abuse).

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