



Indonesia

# ERTR News

## Aceh-Nias Emergency Response and Transitional Recovery

### ■ Building the way forward

"I can and will say that I built this house. This is my own work. If it's good, it's mine. If it's not good, it's mine also." Those are the words of Haji Karim – just one of thousands of beneficiaries across Aceh and Nias who are now residing in their new home, following UNDP/UN-Habitat's timely completion of 3,315 permanent houses for tsunami/earthquake-affected families. And with only minor work to complete on housing in Geunteng Barat, Pidie, the total project is nearing its end.

The houses were built under UNDP's Aceh Nias Shelter Support Programme (ANSSP), in conjunction with implementing partner UN-Habitat. But, as highlighted in Haji Karim's quote above, there was one main element that ensured the project's success and timeliness in each location: choosing to work with the community throughout the mammoth project.

UNDP/UN-Habitat opted for a Community Action Planning (CAP) approach at locations throughout Aceh Besar, Banda Aceh, Pidie, Simeulue and Nias. It meant that beneficiaries were involved thoroughly in the entire building process – from choosing a design, choosing a supplier, taking responsibility for managing finances, and managing all phases of the construction. And every step of the system involved building to a standard building code to increase earthquake resistance.

#### MATTERS OF FACT

- **3,315** houses completed.
- Minor work on housing at the finishing stage in Geunteng Barat, Pidie.
- **13,419** land property rights certificates issued.
- **478** guardian and inheritance cases resolved.
- Water and sanitation facilities for **1,020 houses** in Pidie completed.
- **14,274** households have been identified for relocation.
- **8,000Ha** of land identified and purchased for relocation purposes.



Photo by Diella Dachlan, UN-Habitat



Pretty in pink: new home in Punge Jurong, Banda Aceh

Proud owner: a beneficiary in Deah Glumpang

As with any project of this size and nature, challenges were experienced along the way. But UNDP/UN-Habitat found that the CAP approach worked well to help solve such challenges. Faki Karim, UNDP Shelter Programme Manager, explains. "Our major challenges were land titling issues, and the issues surrounding supply-chain management and accessing materials. But I'm proud that we chose a community-based approach to building the houses, as opposed to a contractor approach. It meant that we could resolve issues at the village level, finish the project on time, and ensure that the community was involved in every step of reconstructing their new homes."

Although the housing element of UNDP ANSSP is now complete, work still continues in other areas of the programme. UNDP is continuing its WatSan projects in villages in Pidie. Work also continues across Aceh Province with Mahkamah Syariah Court, to assist with clarification on inheritance and custodian decisions in villages for land and other valuable assets.

See overleaf for details of UNDP/UN-Habitat beneficiary, Pak Fuadi.

### ERTR News

The ERTR Programme commenced activities in January 2005 in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004. It builds on the United Nations Indian Ocean Earthquake/Tsunami Flash Appeal, which was launched by the UN Secretary General in Indonesia on 6 January 2005.

*UNDP is the United Nations worldwide development network. It advocates change and provides countries with access to the knowledge, skills and resources their populations need to improve their lives.*

For the latest information on tsunami recovery efforts, visit: <http://www.undp.or.id/tsunami>

## ■ Benefiting from a community approach to construction



Family home: Fuadi with his wife and child

Before the 2004 tsunami, 37-year-old Fuadi (pictured left) shared a large, four-roomed home with his wife, three children, his sister and her family. But the wave destroyed their home, and also took away his sister's family. "We thank God that when the earthquake struck, we thought fast enough and were able to run to a hill near the village," says Fuadi.

Despite that initial trauma, things are now looking brighter for Fuadi. He and his wife and children now live in one of the 200 houses that UNDP/UN-Habitat built/restored for the community in Peurade village, Pidie district.

As well as being a beneficiary, Fuadi was also the head of KPR - a unit of 10 UNDP/UN-Habitat houses. As part of UNDP/UN-Habitat's Community Action Plan, Fuadi managed workers and materials so that all 10 houses were built. He also managed his neighbours, and worked with them to construct their own homes.

Explains Fuadi: "We found problems when material prices increased, but we decided to use our money to complete some smaller parts of the houses. Overall, my wife and I express great thanks to UN-Habitat who were willing to build our home. Without their help we couldn't have built a new house for life while also having to work for our family's livelihood."

## ■ Life through a lens in Nias

It boasts a stunning landscape and a fascinating culture, but it was also the scene of a devastating earthquake in March 2005. Now, almost two years on, UNDP is giving Nias the attention it deserves through a documentary focusing solely on the island.

The earthquake, which measured 8.7 on the Richter Scale, killed almost 800 people, damaged or destroyed 80 percent of homes in the island's two largest villages, and left 85,000 people homeless. Despite this colossal damage, Nias received little media attention. But UNDP's 26-minute documentary will capture the results achieved in rebuilding infrastructure, livelihoods and a market economy in the region.

Said UNDP Team Leader Simon Field: "The emergency phase following the tragic 2004 tsunami attracted substantial resources, while Nias has not yet received adequate resources to restore the island's economy. There is a pressing need for the public and donors to know more about the results achieved in the recovery phase. We hope this documentary will help raise that awareness."

UNDP operates in north and south Nias with its Shelter, Waste, Livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction programmes. This work will feature in the documentary, along with details of how cultural systems have adapted; how communities have been pro-active in their rebuilding; and how the tsunami and earthquake have provided a springboard to move forward, through investment in infrastructure. Interspersed through all this will be the key theme of disaster risk reduction. UNDP is working closely with BRR in this area.

Behind the lens of this project is Video Producer Ricardo Lobo (pictured below, left). He spent time in Nias working with UNDP staff, and filming at several different UNDP project sites throughout the island. These include the Gunung Sitoli port, the cultural village of Bawomataluo, and the waste site at Hilitobara. Several beneficiaries are included in the documentary, such as fishermen and market stall holders, along with local and international staff from UNDP implementing partners and government organizations, such as ILO, UN-Habitat and BRR.

Ricardo explained: "Nias is an amazing place, not only for its natural beauty but because of the kindness and resilience of its people. I was impressed by the rapid pace of the reconstruction and the disaster preparedness awareness. And the UNDP team in Nias is full of energetic people eager to get the job done."

The documentary will be ready for distribution during March.



## ■ Reviving Aceh's football spirit through a welcome donation



**Sporting spirit: Andi with a newly-donated football**

"I want to be a great striker one day," said 14-year-old Andi, while playing football with his friends and coach at the Early Age Football Club in Lhoong Raya stadium, Banda Aceh. Andi joined the football club three years ago, but was forced to stop playing when the 2004 tsunami destroyed his home and his daily routines.

But UNDP, in partnership with NIKE and MercyCorps, is ensuring 2007 gets off to a sporty start for youngsters like Andi, following its donation of 50,000 footballs across Aceh.

The donation is a way to help reduce the trauma experienced by the disaster, and revive Aceh's football spirit post tsunami. Football clubs, schools, universities and Islamic Boarding Schools (*Dayah*) in 21 districts in Aceh will benefit from the donation.

UNDP Livelihoods Programme Officer, Said Fauzan Baabud, explained: "Youth empowerment is a crucial element in post-disaster rehabilitation work. Following the tsunami, sports and recreational facilities were destroyed or left unattended. This Rp6.5 billion project is the donors' largest donation to Aceh compared with other tsunami-affected countries. The footballs have been sent from England and Holland, and they are of excellent quality."

In Banda Aceh, 2,750 footballs were distributed to 267 football clubs and schools. These were handed over during January by Simon Field, UNDP Team Leader.

Simon explained: "Sports development is an integral part of the UNDP Livelihoods programme to enable communities to return to everyday life. The football distribution complements our other activities in rehabilitating Aceh's sporting facilities."

Along with Andi, many other children and staff at the Early Age Football Club are enjoying the benefits of the donation. Club coach Saidi Bakri said: "I thank UNDP, Nike and MercyCorps for this donation, as it really supports us in improving Aceh's sporting spirit. I hope we can improve our performance in the future!"

Andi is also equally enthusiastic: "Now I can do exercise here at the club every day, and I'm so happy that my friends and I have these new footballs to practice and play with."

Distribution of the 50,000 footballs is supported by the Aceh Youth and Sport Department, and directly monitored by UNDP staff. Besides the football donation, 13,600 Nike football boots have also been donated and distributed through UNDP to 570 football clubs, football schools and football village teams throughout Aceh Province.

As part of its Livelihoods programme, UNDP also has rehabilitated 89 sports facilities in 79 villages and 48 sub districts in 12 tsunami-affected districts throughout Aceh Province. This includes 35 volleyball courts, 11 soccer fields and one basketball court.

## ■ Expanding the ability to reduce risk



**Team Spirit: Robin Willison (right) with DRR colleague Ahyoni during a field trip**

How do you develop a culture of safety in a population? How do you raise public awareness regarding hazards and preparedness? These are just some of the issues that the UNDP ERTR Disaster Risk Reduction team can now focus on more prominently, following the team's expansion.

The group now boasts six members, and over the coming months they'll be working hard to promote Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) across Aceh and Nias. Part of that process will include an orientation and planning retreat in February, during which they will focus on their work for the next six months.

Those six months will indeed be busy: a major three-year DRR project, titled Disaster Risk Reduction for Aceh and Nias (DRR – AN), has now been accepted by BRR's Technical Review team in Aceh, and work is already underway as funding is sought. The programme involves four key areas:

1. Raising public awareness regarding hazards and DRR
2. Capacity building for BRR and local government offices
3. Developing a culture of safety
4. Developing community-based DRR and an Early Warning System

Over the coming months, the DRR team will hold workshops across Aceh and Nias focusing on assisting all levels of government in developing disaster risk reduction policies, raising understanding and awareness, and incorporating DRR into their programmes.

Robin Willison, head of the UNDP DRR programme, explained: "It's encouraging to see that DRR is now set to become a significant part of the reconstruction of Aceh and Nias to safeguard local people and their development. I look forward to working hard on all aspects of the DRR-AN project over the coming months. The team's increased capacity means that we can now make a stronger impact and reach out to all affected areas."

Robin's goals are already being achieved in Nias, where BRR has begun socializing the 'How to Build Disaster-Resistant Houses' course to 101 villages in Nias. The UNDP DRR team has worked closely with BRR to ensure the course covers all relevant areas in an easy-to-follow format. BRR Nias now aims to reach all 600 villages throughout Nias using teams of skilled facilitators.

The UNDP DRR team also had more good news recently. The *Handbook on Good Building Design and Construction for Aceh and Nias*, researched and written by Robin Willison, will now be translated and distributed across Asia by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The book will contain forewords by key individuals at ISDR, and the head of BRR, Pak Kuntoro. The handbook explains the principles of good design and construction principles and materials, and illustrates good and bad practices of construction in Aceh and Nias. The book was adopted by BRR Nias, who have printed it. It has also been endorsed by Syiah Kuala University, Aceh's largest university.

**ERTR News will keep readers updated of the DRR team's progress over the coming months.**

## ■ Maintaining a commitment to gender awareness



**Raising awareness: Gender specialist Pudji at work**

Throughout the course of its ERTR programme, UNDP has stayed true to its commitment to ensure recovery programmes equally benefit men and women. And one of the key ways of achieving this has been applying gender mainstreaming throughout the ERTR programme.

Put simply, gender mainstreaming is a way of assessing the implications for men and woman of any planned action, such as policies or programmes, in any area at any level. Its ultimate goal is gender equality.

Striving to help UNDP maintain this commitment is Gender Specialist Pudji Aswati. She began working with UNDP in 2005, and her role is to raise gender awareness through gender mainstreaming in all UNDP projects. Pudji brings a wealth of gender-related expertise to UNDP that she gained over the years working with organizations including CARE International Indonesia, ADB, ILO and various CIDA-funded projects.

Pudji explains: “Aceh has its own unique challenges, and as people are working in an emergency-related situation, they’re not always focusing on gender issues. So it can be quite a challenging role! But my goal is to ensure that each person has the right to explore their potential without any gender discrimination. I encourage colleagues to raise gender awareness by conducting assessment and coordination meetings among project officers.”

To help promote and facilitate the implementation of gender mainstreaming, Pudji designed and conducted a gender awareness assessment among UNDP staff, in conjunction with Dr. Ir. Aida Vitayala Hubeis – a consultant for Capacity Building on Gender Mainstreaming. The aim of the assessment was to identify the perception and knowledge of ERTR staff on gender mainstreaming.

Staff members completed a structured questionnaire that focused on issues such as gender terminology and perceptions on women’s advancement.

Explains Pudji: “The assessment results showed that most respondents have a lack of understanding of gender mainstreaming as a development strategy towards gender equity and equality of men and women for achieving a better quality of life. They also had low knowledge on basic gender-related concepts, such as gender mainstreaming, gender stereotype, women’s empowerment, and the difference between gender and sex. Knowledge of these concepts would help anyone responsible for designing or conducting programmes or activities in relation to mainstreaming gender.”

To help improve the situation, Pudji facilitated a series of gender workshops in Aceh and Nias for staff at UNDP and its implementing partners, including AustCare, Project Concern International, Islamic Relief, MercyCorps, several local NGOs and representatives of local government in each ERTR sub-office. The series of 1.5-day workshops were attended by more than 100 individuals. Each course focused on a range of issues, including gender-related terminology discussions, examples of gender issues in daily life, and how gender mainstreaming can be integrated into programme cycles.

Pudji will continue her work at UNDP over the coming months, and is now making recommendations to UNDP based on the assessment findings. She concludes: “I hope the gender assessment raises awareness of the benefits of incorporating gender perspectives into work programmes in all departments, so there will be no discrimination of women, or inequality between men and women.”

**For more information on gender awareness and gender mainstreaming, contact Pudji: [pudji.aswati@undp.org](mailto:pudji.aswati@undp.org)**

## Supporting a desire for learning

By Vero Balderas, UNV



Meeting of minds: YDS English teachers and students gather outside LPK

It only takes a few seconds to notice the bright spark in 11-year-old Syifaus Sadri's eyes, and the big smile that follows when replying to a question about his future.

"I'm taking English lessons because I want to travel around the world and be able to speak with many people. I want to see all the places mentioned in my school books," he says.

The young Acehnese, who lost his uncle after the tsunami, is one of more than 500 students whose English language and computer lessons are being subsidized by the Lembaga Pendidikan Kreatif (LPK) centre in partnership with the local NGO Yayasan Dinamik Sistim (YDS), and with financial support from the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme.

In a province where the public schooling system has been affected by several years of war and the 2004 tsunami, quality specialized education is greatly valued.

"We operate in three locations: Seutui, Sigli and Neusu, and all our courses are accredited by the government," YDS CEO Rob Gmyrek underlines.

"Upon finishing a 16-session course, and on the condition of not missing more than two classes, upper elementary and secondary school students obtain a certificate that can later help them find good jobs."

LPK's owner, Ibrahim Saleh, adds that some of the vocational trainees have already been hired to work in parallel projects, such as the Internet and Technology Centre. Acehnese university students are also offered the chance to work as part-time teachers, and their salaries help them continue their own high-level education.

"We teach how to operate basic software programmes including Windows, Word and Excel," says teacher Muhammad Ichsan. "The duration of each class is 1.5 hours, three times a week, so that leaves me enough time to attend college and work with other NGOs."

But the micro-capital grants provided by UNV will also be used in the near future to support the rehabilitation of land damaged by the tsunami.

Adds Rob Gmyrek: "We hired a married couple from the Philippines with great experience in the agricultural field. They will soon arrive in Aceh to assess the soils and advise on which crops to grow. They will also motivate and train local farmers to help them rebuild their livelihoods."

The long-term goals of all these projects and activities are to build dignity and restore the self confidence of Aceh's post-tsunami victims; get them out of refugee camps; provide them with vocational training; and ultimately facilitate and create new employment opportunities.

For more information on UN Volunteers, contact [vero.balderas@undp.org](mailto:vero.balderas@undp.org)