

FAST FACTS

Post Tsunami Indonesia

- 131,000 dead in Aceh province, 550,000 displaced by the tsunami on December 26, 2004
- On March 28, 2005 a subsequent earthquake struck near the island of Nias, off the coast of Sumatra, killing approximately 900 more people and leaving over 22,000 more displaced.

(Source: BRR Information Sheet)

Building Houses, Rebuilding Communities

UN-HABITAT : Post-Tsunami Reconstruction Effort in Indonesia



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"We are old, and we cannot build ourselves, but I can help here and there. The money that we save can be used for extending the house or buying things to improve it. Now that we have started the construction, we are very happy because, Alhamdulillah, when there is a house there is hope. Thanks to UN-HABITAT ..."

Pak Haji Radja Dalam, Merduati Village, Aceh

In the morning of December 26, 2004, the Indonesian island of Sumatra, was hit by two inter-connected disasters - a powerful earthquake that struck the west coast of northern Sumatra, cracking and crumbling buildings, and tossing survivors into the open air - and a tsunami that followed. The demonic waves shattered the lives, the well-being, assets, mental peace and dreams of millions. Areas near to the epicentre in Indonesia, especially Aceh, were devastated by the earthquake and tsunami. Tragically, another earthquake struck this tsunami-battered in March 2005 rendering thousands more homeless. The economic loss resulting from the disaster amounted to US\$ 4.5 billion; or 2.3% of Indonesia's GDP. Whilst estimates vary, between 90,000 and 125,000 new houses need to be built, and another 40,000 are in need of repair according to current figures by the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency for Aceh and Nias, better known as BRR (Badan Rehabilitasi dan Rekonstruksi) and UNIMS (United Nations Information Management Service).

UN-HABITAT in collaboration with UNDP, immediately started working with the Government of Indonesia and other international organisations to assess the damage, and find the best way to support survivors to rebuild their lives, their families, their communities and economic activities. Support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently also came in.

UN-HABITAT's Response

Promoting a community-driven approach

As the lead agency for human settlements within the UN system, UN-HABITAT has been working with the Government of Indonesia and a team of local and international experts to promote a community-driven approach that puts the beneficiary in the driver's seat of the rebuilding process.

The scale and complexity of the disaster created a challenging context in which appropriate responses for housing had to be designed. Government, non-governmental organisations and external agencies needed time to plan and analyse options in response to the massive task of reconstruction. Some agencies responded immediately with housing packages, only to find that the materials or design were not suitable, or that a house was only one of many needs.

Right from the start, therefore UN-HABITAT felt that 'recovery' would only be successful if it was solidly based on true partnerships between beneficiaries and the various agencies coming forward with assistance. In keeping with the spirit of partnership, UN-HABITAT entered into agreements with a number of programmes and external agencies such as World Bank supported Government of Indonesia Kecamatan Development and Urban Poverty Programmes (KDP/ UPP) flagship initiatives for poverty-alleviation and local-level governance, which share a common community-based approach to deliver support in common locations.

UN-HABITAT's Programme - the Aceh-Nias Settlements Support Programme (ANSSP) was developed in January 2005 as part of the UNDP's broader Aceh Emergency Response and Transitional Recovery (ERTR) Programme. ANSSP is being implemented in six districts (Aceh Besar, Banda Aceh, Pidie, Simeulue, Nias and Bireuen) in Aceh and North Sumatra Provinces. Through this programme, UN-HABITAT is directly involved in:

- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of housing and community infrastructure;
- Introduction of risk mitigation infrastructure;
- Mapping of basic information at the level of the settlement;
- Technical assistance and policy support to the Aceh Nias Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR).

UN-HABITAT has been working closely with the Government at district and sub-district levels. It coordinates with local authorities in the selection of housing sites, and at the village-level works with village heads to develop village plans, select beneficiaries and coordinate house construction activities. This helps promote greater transparency in managing the grants the Programme provides to affected families who actively take part in the local council planning processes.

The Programme's strategy ensures that affected families are at the centre of the recovery process. Physical reconstruction contributes to social recovery by enabling affected families to collectively take decisions in all critical aspects to reconstruct settlements. The end result is a cohesive community and families that are fully engaged in shaping their future and that of their community. A people-centred approach also fosters local innovation in resolving local problems, be it settling land disputes, determining village priorities, sharing common resources like water and forest, or in the production/procurement of building materials. As communities take on these responsibilities, they gradually regain confidence and begin to revive networks premised on mutual help at times of distress. This not only improves efficiency, but is central to sustainable recovery. Upon the results of ANSSP, a similar settlements support programme in Nias was started with funding of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"A community-driven approach is a process in which we assist the community to develop the strengths and potentials of its members, guide them to decide what they need and want, and assist them to implement what they have decided is best for their own welfare".

Dumayanti, a community development facilitator in Merduati Village

Making it Happen : The Path to Rec

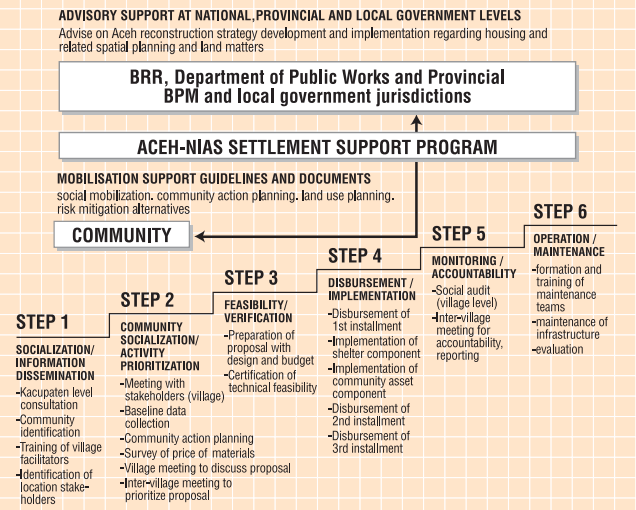
Identification of villages and introduction of the programme

Based on discussions with local district authorities, UN-HABITAT identified 13 sub-districts where the needs were most urgent and where it could start working immediately. Further consultation at the community-level identified 21 villages as top priority. This was followed by a series of consultations with the local authorities and the communities, in order to ensure transparency and to build a common vision. This resulted in the direct involvement of communities in the selection of beneficiaries, defining the scope of participation, and brought about greater cooperation within and between communities, which strengthen accountability.

Re-establishing community councils

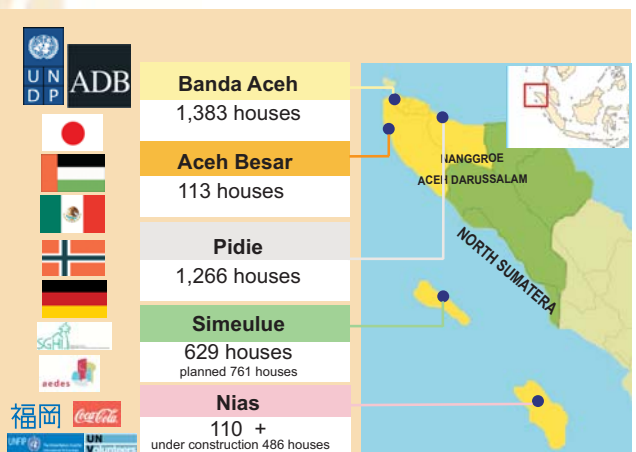
Community councils had to be re-established in the targeted area to provide a framework for managing the project. The communities themselves selected representatives to the councils, endorsed by the local leaders or Geucik, who acts as a mediator and helps coordinate many of the activities.

Process



Achieving Success Together

As of 31 December 2006, 3,438 housing units have been constructed and occupied by the beneficiaries. This is more than 99 percent of the units planned for in the UN-HABITAT program. An additional 1,133 units are currently under construction or being planned for construction on Nias and Simeulue islands. UN-HABITAT is among the programs which had the highest numbers of delivery during the past two years.



Donors UNDP/UN-HABITAT activities

Participatory mapping and Community Action Plan (CAP) preparation

In Aceh, where property records and the land administration system were severely damaged, and where a large number of people do not hold registered title to their property, participatory mapping and Community Action Planning (CAP) were critical to reconstruction. The process began to take shape with the community mapping exercise – a joint endeavour to identify previous tenure conditions and to establish claims on the land. This was followed by a CAP process with the villagers, assisted by the regional coordinator and field facilitators. Guidelines for community mapping and CAP preparation have been developed and validated by the Government, and are being followed by all organisations involved in the formulation of village plans. The mapping of plot ownership will become the basis for the registration and provision of land certificates by the National Land Agency. The participatory process also answered many critical questions, such as whether to re-build in the same place or to relocate, and if so where to relocate; how to reach agreement when land in the new site is not enough for people to get plots of the same size they had before; and alternative ways to address people's livelihood needs.



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The village plan and settlement layout

The village plan reflects a common consensus and people's priorities and needs. As the tsunami had destroyed much of the basic infrastructure, communities listed new roads, water supply, drainage, schools and other community services like mosques, religious schools and community halls among their top priorities. These consultations also promoted community-based disaster management approaches, such as escape routes and refuge hills to ensure higher levels of survival in the event of another tsunami.



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Mobilisation of beneficiaries and house construction

The next phase involved helping families to make decisions on house designs which suited them, the construction system, and built a consensus on the terms of their participation. For these consultations 8 to 12 families were formed into a cluster. As Ibu Yusmawati, a beneficiary in Pidie explained, these groups are normally formed by neighbours because "... we know each other, and as we live close to each other, the distribution and transport of the building materials to each house of cluster members is easier..." Each cluster has a bank account to its name. Signatories are elected by the cluster members. Under ANSP, 344 clusters were set up.

Housing as a catalyst for social and economic recovery

"Now that I see that the construction of the house is almost complete my thoughts are now on plans for the future. I want to look for funds to re-open my car repair shop. I will be able to work and to generate work for three or four persons of the village and my wife can start sewing again..."

Pak Mohtar Rudin 37, resident of Pulot Village in Aceh Besar.

In many villages, construction activities have set in motion social changes as well as economic recovery. *"Since the construction of the houses began, many people have started to return. Soon, there will be more people, and it will be good for business again"* said Pak Haji Radja Dalam, resident of Merduati Village. Housing is a powerful incentive for families to mobilise additional resources. *"It is very encouraging to see how motivated the families are,"* says Pak. Razali, a community facilitator in Pidie. He adds, *"...the cash installment to build the houses are made according to their progress. They mobilize their own resources to keep the construction process going, without waiting for the next installment"*.

The element of social control and auditing inherent in a community-based process has given the families and individuals new roles. For example in Pidie, one of the beneficiaries whose house was partially damaged, tried to put in a fresh application to obtain the full compensation available to those whose houses were completely destroyed. When the community noticed this irregularity, they immediately informed the regional coordinator and corrective action was taken.



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