

## HELPING PEOPLE TO REBUILD HOMES in ACEH and NIAS:

### Cooperation between the Asian Development Bank and United Nations Human Settlement Program

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The 26 December 2004 Tsunami in the Indian Ocean was one of the worst disasters in recent memory. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) responded to the crisis by launching the largest grant program in its history. Within two weeks after the disaster, the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) had also initiated its activities in Aceh to provide support in the housing and settlement recovery. Now, nearly three years after the Indian Ocean tsunami, there are clear signs of progress in the most badly affected regions yet enormous work lies ahead to help these communities fully recover from the unprecedented disaster.



ADB and UN-HABITAT have been most active in Aceh and Nias, the worst hit areas of the disaster. ADB and UN-HABITAT have commenced a joint \$9.5 million housing program in the islands of Nias and Simeulue to help 945 Tsunami and earthquake affected families to build their lives and their homes. The support to the communities in these islands demonstrates both ADB's and UN-

HABITAT's commitment to reach out to the tsunami victims in the remote areas of Aceh and Nias. For UN-HABITAT the program is part of the commitment made to the people of Nias and the then Governor of North Sumatra by the UN Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT Ms Anna Tibaijuka during her visit to Nias in April 2005

In total, ADB is providing \$72.5 million to rehabilitate and reconstruct houses and community infrastructure in Aceh and Nias following the 2004 Tsunami and March 2005 earthquake. The assistance is part of a \$291 million ADB grant to the Government of Indonesia that is helping to rebuild the areas devastated by the earthquake and tsunami disasters. Under its "off-budget" program implemented by UN-HABITAT and four NGOs, including Muslim Aid, German Agro Action, Help eV, and Cordaid, ADB is financing the construction of about 3,000 new houses, and the rehabilitation of about 1,050 houses across Aceh and Nias including Simeulue.

On its part UN-HABITAT has completed reconstruction of 3,451 houses and over 1,000 under construction. Furthermore, UN-HABITAT has also been providing housing and settlement policy advisory support and shelter sector monitoring.

We are all under pressure to deliver our programs quickly. After a measured start, ADB and UN-HABITAT supported reconstruction efforts have gained momentum in the worst-hit areas and the flow of resources is increasing to people and communities in need. Both organizations are striving to move quickly, while not taking short-cuts that could compromise the quality of families' homes being supported.

ADB and UN-HABITAT have taken a community-driven approach to reconstruction and rehabilitation in the tsunami-affected areas. Similarly right from the start, UN-HABITAT advocated that the 'recovery'

strategy must put people at the very centre of decision making so that reconstruction becomes part of a continuous recovery process.

We believe in partnership, and we firmly believe on people's own strength in rebuilding their lives and communities. Active participation of the beneficiaries – both men and women – as “stakeholders”, not as “recipients” of assistance is required to ensure sustainability.

We call this approach “The People's Process”. The “People's Housing Process” places trust in people, empowers and capacitates communities so that they are capable to take the lead to find solutions to the many problems that arise during the recovery and reconstruction process. Fully integrating the community's needs into the rebuilding process takes time, but it leads to long-term, sustainable communities whose areas are not simply replaced, but rebuilt to a higher standard.



The program in Nias was initiated with a ground breaking ceremony on 15 February 2007 in Banuagea village. Construction of first 33 units started in March 2007 and the remaining units were started in April. The housing sector sub-project allocated to UN-HABITAT on the island of Nias involves the construction of 486 housing units in four villages: 104 units in Sawo and Hiliduruwa, 130 units in Silima Banua and 252 units in Banuagea.



The beneficiaries have been grouped in 54 clusters to manage the reconstruction of the houses. Through intensive consultation in these cluster groups and in larger village meetings the entire construction process has been managed assuring transparency in the process. Each cluster opened a bank account to which UN-HABITAT transferred the reconstruction funds in four installments. The procurement of material and labour and management of the funds were the responsibility of each cluster group.

In order to facilitate land title registration and issuance of building permits cadastral maps have been prepared in close consultation with BPN. In consultation with BAPELDALDA environmental assessment has been prepared for the construction location. Currently in cooperation with PDAM a community water supply project is under construction to provide drinking water not only to the 486 housing beneficiaries but to the entire four villages in the project area.

Similarly in Simeulue ADB and UN-HABITAT are providing supports to 459 beneficiary households to reconstruct their homes in five villages.