



Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia

Accompany, Serve and Advocate the Cause of Refugees and Forcibly Displaced People

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## Preface

The theme of this edition is a report of JRS Indonesia's accomplishments in 2005. Besides accounts of 2 Tsunami commemoration ceremonies, this edition offers an insight into the current situation in some parts of Aceh. Although many refugees still wait for permanent housing, their survival instinct drives them to pick up their own lives. JRS Indonesia assists the Acehnese survivors by offering them the basic services that allow them to do just so. It is our closeness to our beneficiaries that helps them build up the foundations of their new lives.

# One Year Tsunami Commemoration in Meulaboh

By Daryadi Achmadi

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2005, hundreds of survivors and visitors gathered at the mass grave in Kampung Suak Indrapuri, Johan Pahlawan, Meulaboh after attending the religious and official ceremony by the officials of West Aceh Muspida. Moslems brought their books of *Yasin*, while groups of Chinese held incense and yellow pieces of paper.

A mother and her daughter sat down softly chanting the *Yasin* with tears in their eyes. In a different corner under a papaya tree, a middle aged woman chanted the *Yasin* in a low voice between her sobs. Hundreds of Moslems lined up alongside the mass grave, reading the *Yasin* for the souls of tsunami victims. On the other side of the mass grave, Chinese families prayed for the victims burning yellow papers - said to be an offering to the god of heaven's gate and incense.



13,000 tsunami victims are buried in the mass grave of Gunung Beureugang, Meulaboh.

The usually bustling main road of Meulaboh was extraordinary quiet on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December, markets, stores, schools and coffee stalls were all closed. Houses and offices flew the Red and White flags at half mast to pay respect to all tsunami victims. In coordination with BRR and the local government, Grass-root Society Forum (GSF), a local NGO, spread a 1000-meter long white banner for the survivors to write down the names of

tsunami victims in Meulaboh. GSF also held a mass prayers and *dzikir* in Masjid Agung, Meulaboh, with a Koran preaching by Teungku Muhammad Din.

In Meulaboh, three mass graves located in Gunung Beureugang, Suak Indrapuri and Ujung Karang, carry the bodies of respectively 13,000, 3,000 and 2,000 tsunami victims. The local government officials (the *Muspida*) attended the commemoration ceremony at the mass grave of

Gunung Beureugang which is located behind a lumber house. Teungku Sayuti Sungaib, the chief of MPU of Kaway XVI Sub-district, led the prayer and the *tahlil* after the opening speech by the *Bupati*, head of the district, Drs. Nasruddin MM and the commander of Meulaboh District Military. The Salvation Army symbolically handed over 500 houses to the *Bupati* designated for people in the Sub-district of Johan Pahlawan. *Masyarakat Perbankan* (Banking society) offered a 25 billion Rupiah fund for the people of Meurebo Sub-district.

The 1000-m long white banner of GSF was spread in the front yard of Masjid Agung Meulaboh, where survivors wrote down the names of their beloved, killed by the Tsunami waves. The banner will eventually be displayed in the Tsunami museum in Banda Aceh. □

# A Prayer for Meulingge



Tent for tsunami commemoration ceremony.

By Paulus Enggal

December 2005. Hundreds of people sitting on mats under a big black tent on the seashore of Meulingge (Breuh Island) were commemorating the event that swept away their livelihoods.

The commemoration ceremony was opened by Tengku Mustafa, inviting all those present to remember the loved ones taken away by the tsunami. In the Islamic tradition of Aceh, the ceremony started by reciting verses from the holy book, the Koran.

When a young man finished reciting the Al Maidah verses, the Keuchik Meulingge, Mr. Dahlan, took the stand. "*Loen lake terima kasih pada dua boh LSM yang na di gampoeng kamo nyo* (I express my gratitude to both NGOs who work in our villages)...," the man, representing 127 families of Meulingge, thanked JRS and Merlin for assisting them in the reconstruction process.

Next on the agenda was a reflection by Mr. Abdul Muthalib, the *Mukim* (neighborhood head) of

North Breuh. As he reminded all on how all the belongings we gather during our life can be taken away in a second, some people's eyes filled up with tears. To relieve them of the deep feeling of loss that presided, he called for gratitude for God's grace, strengthening their faith in these moments of despair.

Weeping and grief burst out when Al Fatimah, Al Ikhlas and Al Falaq verses were recited. Time seemed to halt in Meulingge.

Led by Tengku Mustafa the people lay flowers on the mass grave carrying 15 of their beloved ones. Although the tsunami killed 115 persons of Meulingge, only 15 were found. "So many are missing. In Rinon, villagers found strangers' bodies," Entis, *community development* team member of JRS Pulo Aceh said. Just the night before, the Meulingge Village Secretary had told me his story. "The time the tsunami hit this land, I was going to plant *Durian* in my garden up on the hill", he said. "Then, the quake rocked the earth. It felt like the

one we had in 1985. Everybody left their houses and waited outside. I continued walking when the quake was over. Suddenly, I heard *bum...bum...bum...* Ignoring the sound- I thought it came from the warships- I reached my garden. By then, the flood was already rising." He added, "There were three huge waves, the second one sweeping away houses, coconut trees, just everything. When I went home, there was no Meulingge left. It took me three days to reach Lampuyang, where I could board a vessel taking me to Banda Aceh."

Although the feeling of grief was still present in Meulingge when one by one people left the mass grave to return to their homes, the prayers chanted that day reflected hope and the courage to continue with their lives. Without banishing all the memories, reflection and prayer, they left behind the past to welcome a new, hopefully better future. □

## 4,708 Survivors in West Aceh still in Tents

By Daryadi Achmadi

December 26, 2005, one year since the tsunami roared ashore, 4,708 survivors in West Aceh, including Meulaboh, are still living in tents. The tents, meant as emergency aid for the first weeks, have become their shelters for the last

12 months. By now, the tents are rotting and tearing up because of the heavy rains. The soil around the tents is muddy and the bad drainage creates puddles prone to bear disease vectors.

Not only do they still live in tents after a year, they are now also threatened to

be thrown out of their camp as land owners reclaim their land to restart their sawmills. 201 IDP families, some 800 people from Aceh Jaya district, have been living on a *panglong*, a former sawmill, in Lamreung Village, Darul Imarah Sub-district, Aceh Besar District. "We won't mo-

ve to the Government Social Building, since the government (Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency) has not yet given us the reassurance we can live there," Rahmawati, one of the survivors, said.

In other villages such as

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(...4,708 Survivors in West Aceh still in Tents)

Baru Raya and Lambuso, in Pidie Sub-district, an estimated 116 IDP families or 327 persons are also still living in tents in the area of the former KONI (Indonesian National Olympic Committee) Building in the town of Sigli. "Although we live in rotting tents, it's still better than to return to our native village, since there is no adequate water sanitation facility. The water is still salty and muddy. We rely upon the government's promises to relocate us, although one year has pas-



Many IDPs are still waiting for permanent houses in tents which are rotting and tearing

Photo by Henry-JRK

sed without anything happening," Murhabban said.

*Satkorlak* (the Disaster Management Coordination Body) head of Nagan Raya District, Drs. H. Dermawan Razali, MM, denounced

NGOs as being unable to fulfill their promises because of their complicated bureaucracy, bad management or unprofessional human resources. He said, "In Nagan Raya District, 16

devastated villages, in which about 2,000 houses were damaged, are awaiting the realization of the NGOs' assistance. The government will evaluate the performance of the NGOs." It has to be said though that many factors are hampering progress in the field. NGOs have to comply to local laws and *adat*, coordinate with government and other NGOs and involve the people in the whole planning process, which takes a lot of time. Moreover, customs are delaying the delivery of the materials needed for reconstruction, which only adds to the overall delay. □

## I Feel More Peaceful Here



IDP Women in Pesantren Darul Makmur, Meulaboh. The boarding house still hosts 300 IDPs.

**By Theresia Nia Susanti**

"I owned a big house in Padang Sirahet and a profitable business. I had stocks worth 14 million rupiah. The tsunami took it all away, my house and all my belongings, leaving absolutely nothing," Mrs. Jasmani, a 43-year old woman, told us when we visited her in Pondok Pesan-

tren (Dayah) Baitul Makmur, Alue Lhok, at the border between the Sub-district of Kaway XVI and Bubon, about 30 km North East of Meulaboh. Mrs. Jasmani is an IDP from the coastal village of Padang Sirahet subdistrict Johan Pahlawan, Meulaboh. Padang Sirahet is now completely covered by sea-sand and mud, while all the

surviving villagers are taking refuge on Beuregang hill.

She added, "Ever since the tsunami, I realise that pursuing worldly possessions is useless. We always want more and more and will never be satisfied. In this *dayah*, I feel peaceful. I learn more everyday about my own religion and I pray *dzikir* to become closer to God."

Surrounded by corn and cassava plantations, the *dayah*, led by Tengku Abu Usman, took in 700 IDPs during the emergency situation right after the tsunami. Now, it still hosts some 300 IDPs. Most of them are from Calang or Teunom. Mrs. Umi Syarifah, the wife of the *dayah*'s owner, told us that all the IDPs living in the *dayah* consume whatever is given to them and sleep in any given place. In spite of all this

hardship, she also felt that life was more peaceful.

IDPs are still coming and going at the *dayah*. A camp with 15 IDP tents surrounds it. The refugees receive rice from CRS. Buddha Tzu Chi Foundation helps them by offering health services.

Accompanied by Mrs. Jasmani, we went to see the girls' rooms. Each room is 3 x 6 meters with a thin wall to separate the sleeping room from the kitchen. There are seven of these rooms for 60 female *santris*. They have brought their own stove to cook their own food. The *santris* start their Koran chanting and study at noon and go on till dusk. Most of the time, the activities take place in the Mushola (Mosque) on plastic mats on the earth floor. At dusk, they pray together in the main Mosque until 2 am. The peace and quiet of the *Dayah* and the nearness of friends gives the girls hope for the future. □

# Reading Center: A Place for Children to Share

By JRS Site Tapak Tuan

“A Reading Center can be a place for the children to share. Not only the nice and pleasant but also some nasty and bitter stories,” Mochamad Sukri, a JRS Tapak Tuan volunteer, explains. Suci Oktavia Sari (aged 12), a sweet and energetic girl who frequently visits JRS Tapak Tuan Reading Center, told us about her family, “My family is not very fortunate. Often we do not have enough food, so my father has to borrow food from the neighbors. He is just a masseur and my mother sells fried bananas...”



A Reading Center founded on October 7, 2005

JRS Tapak Tuan founded the Reading Center on October 7, 2005. During the first days about 20 children came to visit. However,

during the next weeks no more than five children showed up. JRS Tapak Tuan then tried to inform 30 schools in Tapak Tuan Sub-

district about the Reading Center, resulting in many students from kindergarten until high schools visiting the center and using it for reading, drawing, coloring, and watching films.

Day after day the number of visitors of the Reading Center increase. Mochamad Sukri and Sister Yudith PI help them in various activities, especially when the children get tired of reading. “They prefer reading story tales to others, since the books we offer are understandable and illustrated,” Sister Yudith, a staff member of JRS Tapak Tuan, adds. □

## JRS Indonesia Annual Report 2005

### Earthquake/Tsunami Response in Aceh/North Sumatra



JRS-supported Bustanul Fakri moslem boarding house hosts conflict-affected children.

Having put the one year commemoration of the tsunami disaster behind us, it seems a good time to look back on what JRS has accomplished in 2005. It is JRS' mission to serve, accompany and advocate the rights of internally displaced people. This makes JRS an important actor in the field where sometimes in the race to develop the best reconstruction and rehabilitation programs, the people themselves feel a bit lost.

That is where JRS' strength lies, in their closeness to the people. Not only supporting vulnerable groups, but really accompanying them, so they feel part of the process.

#### Emergency Aid

During the emergency phase, JRS focused on the distribution of 1,500 body bags and basic necessities. Food items like mineral water, rice, instant noodles, sugar, cooking oil and non-food items such as clothes, bathing kits, kitchen utensils, and gasoline were provided to 7,120 people. In Nias, JRS supported 10,530 families in 4 Sub-districts (Lolomatua, Lolowau, Teluk Dalam, and Lahusa) in South

Nias District, 7 Sub-districts (Mandrehe, Tuhemberua, Alasa, Gido, Hiliduhu, Idanagawo, and Gunung Sitoli) in Nias District and Sibolga District. They received basic necessities (rice, sardines, instant noodles, public kitchen utensils, table utensils, and tents).

#### Health

JRS assisted the sick by referring 68 patients to hospitals and providing proper medical treatment through JRS' mobile clinic for 18,244 patients in 23 villages and 14 sub-dis-

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(.....Earthquake/Tsunami Response in Aceh/North Sumatra)

tricts. Around 5,642 babies and children received supplementary food to improve their nutritional status. Trauma healing activities were conducted with 178 teachers as well as education on personal hygiene for children. In Nias, JRS supported 8,635 persons with health service, especially women and children, in four sub-districts (Lolomatua, Lolowau, Teluk Dalam, and Lahusa) in South Nias District and seven sub-districts (Mandrehe, Tuhemberua, Alasa, Gido, Hiliduho, Idanagawo, and Gunung Sitoli) in Nias District and Sibolga District.

**Education**

In a situation like in Aceh, education is an important trauma healing factor to help people building up their lives again. Considering that schools were completely destroyed, and a lot of teachers were among the victims, JRS decided to contribute to the education program through various activities, depending on the needs. JRS delivered 17,476 school packages to students of elementary, junior, and senior high school, employed 179 assistant teachers, provided 427 scholarships, set up alternative education programs and provided three tent schools for children. JRS cooperates with other NGOs and government bodies to improve or reconstruct the education facilities so all children regain full access to proper education.

**Support for Local Groups**

JRS financially support-

ted local NGOs and trained their staff in proposal and report writing to support them and strengthen their capacities. Among the beneficiaries of this program are YGHL (*Yayasan Geumpong Hutan Lestari*, a local environmental NGO), HMI (Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam- Moslem Student Association) in Meulaboh, PPM (Pusat Pengaduan Masyarakat – *People’s Complaint Center*), Panglima Laot Institution (Institution of Coastal traditional leaders).

**Restoring Life**

The survivors of Aceh first and foremost need their own place to start their lives again. Although the process is long and sometimes slow, progress is being made and slow but steady, Aceh is being rebuilt. JRS built 74 houses, 58 *jambo rebus* (huts for boiling fish), reading centres, and rebuilt small mosques. JRS distributed prayer kits and Koran to 4,294 beneficiaries and assisted fishermen groups by providing 35 boats and 117 fishing tools. To ensure the future independence of the Acehnese, JRS supports income generating activities, helping people to set up small businesses by mi-



Water melon field planted by IDPs in Pulo Aceh. JRS sent some IDPs to Java to attend a course on agriculture.

cro credit programs. 100 People and 40 groups already received micro credits this way.

**Advocacy**

JRS Indonesia collaborates with the NGO coalition, facilitating the flow of information. On the field, JRS supported refugee groups in their own advocacy efforts. JRS raised important issues through NGO/UN Coordination meetings and media by regular website updates and the monthly newsletter, REFUGE. By this time, JRS is producing a film on restoring the life of tsunami survivors.

**Non Tsunami IDPs in North Sumatra**

Not all refugees have sought refuge because of the Tsunami. Aceh’s history of conflict has forced numerous people to flee their homes and find refuge in safer places. JRS has been advocating their rights for years and has now benefited from the opening up of Aceh, to start implementing more programs. JRS has assisted the IDPs in demanding adequate relocation assistance. Moreover, JRS facilitated access to education and health services by providing medical treatment for 5,146 people, vaccination for 69 pregnant women and 729 children, supplementary food for 1,809 children and pregnant women, scholarship for 216 elementary school students. □

*Your continued support makes it possible for us to help the internally displaced people in Indonesia. If you wish to make a donation, please send it to:*

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# JRS PROJECTS RESPONSE IN MOLUCCAS: Ambon, Buru, Langgur

After six years, JRS ended its operation in the Moluccas in December 2005, having covered three different and separated programs in Ambon, Buru Island, and Langgur.

## Peace Building

JRS facilitated and mediated reconciliation meetings between IDPs and host communities before the IDPs return and supported activities sustaining the reconciliation process, like peace building training and supporting traditional reception ceremonies. On May 30, 2005, 1,124 IDPs of Kesui returned to their homeland. On June 6, 438 families of Kariuw IDPs and 286 IDP families of Langgur (1,124 people) returned to their places of origin.

## Education

JRS assisted 480 children to attend informal education through 4 reading centres managed by 8 tutors. For 828 children, JRS provided basic and systematic education according to the curriculum. JRS has set up 6 reading centres and filled them with books to encourage children to read and to assist them with their homework. 458 students, 12 tutors and 9 teachers regularly use the reading centres. Financial aid was provided for 9 students. Children were given student handbooks, learning materials and stationery kits. JRS conducted "Successful Mothers, Progressive Children" training attended by 50 women. They should now be able to impart their knowledge to



Ceremony receiving returnees in Kariuw.

their communities and develop interest in the program.

## Health

JRS continued to assist the most vulnerable displaced people such as infants, children, pregnant women and lactating mothers by providing proper medical treatment and monthly supplementary food for 844 children. JRS also build public latrines, wells and water installation for 185 families to prevent health problems through water borne diseases. 21 IDPs in Ambon received medical treatment and health care education was provided for 1,500 IDPs of 4 camps, besides trauma healing training for 120 Kariuw IDPs.

## IGA

JRS developed home industry programs as well. 45 families of the Kariuw returnees received training and business capital. JRS carried out "Achievement Motivation Training" for 25 people of Iha and Liang

camps to develop their skills in building entrepreneurship in Ambon. Besides this 55 IDP families and 53 women received business capital.

## Emergency Aid

30 families of Kariuw IDPs obtained houses after returning to their homeland. JRS supported 438 families with accommodation and transportation support during the return process. JRS provided 286 Kesui IDP families with staple food, bathing kits and other non food items, 286 returnee families of Langgur with food and non food items, and 100 IDPs with transportation and barracks.

## Social Services and Community Development

JRS assisted the IDP group of 30 Hindu Buru families to build their religious building in Wasbokat. JRS also facilitated Christmas celebration for 27 IDP families in Waegerangan.

## Advocacy

Beside assisting 1,875 IDPs staying in various camps in advocating their rights as IDPs, based on Guiding Principles, JRS published a book and documentary film on education and women of Buru and launched them on December 2, 2005 in Yogyakarta. The JRS team organised an advocacy tour visiting several INGOs to inform them of the need for development programs in Buru. For a broader public of media, INGOs and government, a seminar was organised in Jakarta on December 9, 2005. In Langgur, JRS assisted 1,500 IDPs to obtain transportation costs, housing materials and food items from the Social Department of Moluccas. JRS provided sport equipments for the receiving communities and published Updates and Newsletters on the return process.

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