

Four years after tsunami, HOPE worldwide continues to develop communities affected by natural disasters while replicating efforts for risk reduction of future disasters.

Four years has passed since the 26 December 2004 Boxing Day that the South Asia Tsunami claimed over 200,000 lives in Indonesia alone. HOPE worldwide mobilized relief efforts within days, and still continuing bringing hope and changing the lives in the region. The Center of HOPE in Nias Island continues to provide services in health and education to the poverty-stricken yet often neglected island of 700,000 people. Our programs not only tackle relief issues but also community development for a better community.



Picture: Next generation of Nias Island, Indonesia (left), Surti reaching her future (right)

Surti Megaria Buaya (*pictured above right*) is 21 years old whose parents are poor farmer with 6 children. They can not afford to send her to high school. She works hard trying to find opportunity to grab her dreams. She tried all possible ways to build the bricks of her future, and she is now doing so in the Center of HOPE in Nias Island.

Thanks to United Way International, the programs are well supported until December 2009 through tsunami funding, but we will need to start planning how to continue the efforts to build the communities in the years after. The journey is still far from completion.

MYANMAR

On May 2, 2008 Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar bringing 130,000 people dead and missing, while impacted close to 2.4 million people in one of the poorest country in Asia. HOPE worldwide brought the expertise from past experiences to bring hope and change lives of the Nargis Cyclone victims in Myanmar. After providing medical assistance through over 2,000 lbs of essential medical supplies and mobile clinics within the first month after the disaster, an effort is taking place to provide temporary housing for 50 families. The effort is graciously supported by Manpower and United Way International. As we are rebuilding the communities, HOPE worldwide is assessing how we can support longer term community development in the area.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In recent years, natural disasters have brought tremendous impact globally. The 2007 Annual Disaster Statistical Review published that 414 natural disasters were reported in 2007 alone killing 16,847 people while affecting more than 211 million others. There was also \$74.9 Billion reported in economy damages. Indonesia has been called “Ring of Fire” has been in the middle global attentions due to natural disasters. There have been countless earthquakes, tsunami, landslide, flood, fires, and many more.

HOPE worldwide has been actively engaged through national & international coordination for disaster preparedness, response & risk reduction. We were asked to organize the Indonesia Disaster Risk Reduction Forum in April & August 2008 as information sharing among international & national organizations. In April 2008, HOPE worldwide Indonesia was also asked to present its experience in disaster risk reduction at the 5th *Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop* in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. As a member of Indonesia's Inter-Agency Contingency Planning, HOPE worldwide is working with UN agencies and other NGOs as well Indonesia Government to implement Hyogo Framework for Action through Disaster Risk Reduction.

A new initiative have been launched to trained 5,000 school teachers in 10 districts in Indonesia so that disaster risk reduction knowledge can be passed down to students, their families, and communities; estimated bringing impact for up to two million lives. The \$610,500 initiative is funded by The Ford Foundation for 2008 until 2011. We hope that the approach can help many lives in preparing for future natural disasters.



Map: Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction program in 10 districts in Indonesia

PREPARING FOR JAKARTA FLOOD

With clear recent memories of continuous flooding that affected Jakarta, a metropolitan with 12 million people, HOPE worldwide is racing with time to prepare communities for the upcoming rainy season. Climate Change and urbanization has brought huge impact to the capital of world's fourth largest country. Besides the community disaster risk reduction program, HOPE worldwide is mobilizing its volunteers, equipping & training them to be able to respond once any disaster takes place. Regular communications with The United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and local government are continuously taking place.

Storms passed and communities survived through the hard times. It is our responsibility to take the lesson learnt to prevent future disasters from taking place. Hazards can not be changed as volcanoes will erupt, earthquake will take place, and hurricanes will hit. However, we can pass preparedness knowledge to the next generations, building resilience and eventually save lives.



For additional information or inquiry:

Charles M. Ham , email: charles_ham@hopeww.org

Country Director, HOPE worldwide Indonesia.

Telp: 62-21-600-9091, Cell: 62-8161834574

HOPE worldwide
353 W. Lancaster Avenue, Suite 200
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087 USA
Telp: (610) 254-8800

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