The achievements of the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development (AIPRD) in Aceh And Nias

DECEMBER 2006

Nowhere else was this disaster felt more powerfully than in Aceh, where 168,000 people died, over 500,000 were made homeless and the equivalent of 120 average Australian suburbs (120,000 houses) were totally destroyed. A stretch of coastline equal in length to the distance between Sydney and Brisbane was destroyed.

In helping Indonesia respond to these challenges, Australia acted quickly and generously with private donations of A$380 million, and the Australian Government committing over A$70 million for immediate humanitarian assistance and A$1 billion under the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development (AIPRD) for development activities in and beyond tsunami affected areas.

Aceh and Nias are complex reconstruction environments that present enormous challenges. In order for reconstruction to commence millions of tons of debris had to be cleared and land boundaries re-established. Large areas of land were no longer useable because they were inundated with water. Damage to roads, bridges and ports made access and supply lines almost impossible, and some of these problems have not yet been fully resolved.

Thirty years of conflict has also left deep scars on Aceh, but the 2005 Peace Agreement brought hope and marks the beginning of a new era. Supporting stability and peace, and rebuilding communities, are significant challenges for the Government, international donors and civil society groups.

More than A$250 million has been committed to emergency response and reconstruction efforts in Aceh, with almost A$180 million spent by December 2006. Australian assistance to Aceh has been delivered in five main sectors – health, education, infrastructure, livelihoods and governance. Two years into the program, Australian reconstruction efforts are on-track and there is visible progress.

Australia has worked with 70,000 families to help them re-establish their land boundaries so their houses can be rebuilt.

Australia has trained over 1,300 local leaders, half of whom are women, to help their villages rebuild houses, reconnect water, sanitation and electricity and gain better access to health and education facilities. These are skills that will stay with the community long after the tsunami reconstruction phase has ended.

Cover: A fisherman repairs his net at Ulee Lheue Port, Banda Aceh. Photo: Robert MacColl.
Our infrastructure development covers more than 200 construction sites. It has seen the emergency ward at Banda Aceh’s main hospital become fully functional, and the Ulee Lheue Port, a vital supply link for reconstruction, is now servicing 900 passengers every day.

Australian funded schools are being rebuilt and opened, local government offices and village halls are under construction, over 1,250 temporary shelters have been built, and teams of Australian funded workers are helping to solve housing problems.

Australia is training teachers, midwives, nurses and doctors after the devastating loss of life left a huge deficit in the health and education sectors. Australia is helping the Health and Education Departments get back on their feet and plan ahead so that people can get better access to services across Aceh.

The great strength and overarching principle of the AIPRD response has been the inclusion and partnering of the local community and authorities in all decision making. Australia has put people at the front and centre of all efforts, and is employing thousands of Acehnese workers on these and other projects.

Our strong commitment to partnership and collaboration has meant higher quality and more sustainable outcomes with fewer delays.

As reconstruction progresses, Aceh and Nias continue to face challenges with very limited capacity within the construction industry and unreliable supply of good quality materials. While much work still remains to be done, Australian tsunami assistance in Aceh is being effectively delivered to those most in need.

A more detailed list of the achievements made in the Australian Aceh reconstruction program follows under program and sector headings.

### TOTAL AUSTRALIAN EXPENDITURE IN ACEH

**as at December 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Commitment (A$)</th>
<th>Spent to Date (A$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Humanitarian Assistance</td>
<td>$34.4m</td>
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<tr>
<td>AusAID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immediate Humanitarian Assistance</td>
<td>$37.4m</td>
<td>$37.4m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other government departments (primarily Defence under ‘Operation Sumatra Assist’)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AIRPD Aceh and NIAS projects</strong></td>
<td>$181m</td>
<td>$106.3m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aceh Rehabilitation Program to restore health, education and local government services ($80m)</td>
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<td>Community infrastructure ($25m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livelihoods – Restoring aquaculture and cropping ($5m)</td>
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<td>Education Research and Training ($3m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing and Temporary Shelter ($10m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebuilding schools in conflict-affected areas ($10m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Enterprise Development ($7m)</td>
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<td>Nias Community Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ($10m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aerial Mapping ($10m)</td>
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<td>Ulee Lheue Port ($8m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Food Aid ($10m)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical assistance for improved governance ($3m)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$252.8m</td>
<td>$178.1</td>
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</table>
**Health**

**Commitment:** A$32 million  
**Expenditure estimate as at December 2006:** A$26.5 million

**DAMAGE**

The combination of three decades of conflict and the impact of the tsunami left health services and infrastructure in Aceh in dire shape and unable to adequately meet the needs of the Province. Aceh’s main hospital, Zainoel Abidin, was badly damaged in the tsunami and one in ten staff was either missing or dead. Seven other hospitals, and 11 provincial health centres were destroyed.

**ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY**

- Emergency Ward at Aceh’s main hospital reconstructed  
- Provincial Health Office in Aceh reconstructed  
- Hospital dental clinic refurbished and re-equipped  
- Pharmaceutical supplies and systems strengthened  
- Provincial Pharmacy warehouses reconstructed and re-equipped  
- Aceh’s first strategic health plan finalised and resourced  
- Over 4,800 scholarships awarded to nursing, midwifery, and healthcare students  
- Midwifery Academy and Nursing Academy rebuilt and training provided

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

The major provincial hospital, Zainoel Abidin, has been restored and re-equipped, including the Australian-funded emergency wing and major rehabilitation works to the pharmacy store and dispensary buildings and systems. The Dental Clinic in the hospital was also refurbished and re-equipped and is now a highly functional facility, headed by an Australian-trained Indonesian dentist.

The emergency ward treats over 1,000 patients per month, and utilisation rates continue to increase. The doctors and nurses have received extensive training, including in emergency services. Since receiving Australia’s assistance, patient waiting times have been reduced and the survival rate of gravely ill patients has improved.

Pharmaceutical supply chains and distribution systems have been restored across Aceh province. This has included the reconstruction of two pharmaceutical warehouses in Calang and Banda Aceh, ensuring proper handling of much needed medicines.

Over 850 health workers have been trained, and more than 4,800 nursing, midwifery and healthcare students have received scholarships or tuition assistance to enable them to continue their studies. Australian-funded doctors, nurses, pharmacists and dentists worked alongside these students to help them rebuild Aceh’s health system.

The Provincial Health Office has been refurbished and Australia spearheaded the development of the Aceh Provincial Health Plan to safeguard Aceh health investments into the future.

Trainee nurses practice on a mannequin in Pidie, NAD.
Education

**Commitment:** A$46 million

**Expenditure estimate as at December 2006:** A$21.4 million

**DAMAGE**

Aceh lost 2,500 teachers in the tsunami, and more than 2,100 schools were damaged or destroyed. Of those, over 1,500 were primary schools and nearly 300 were junior secondary schools. In total, approximately 150,000 students lost access to education facilities. Students and teachers also suffered terrible personal losses, with 3,000 teachers and staff losing their homes. Some 46,000 students were living in temporary shelter immediately after the disaster.

**ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY**

- Delivery of 10,000 textbooks and over 880 sets of school desks and chairs
- Five education facilities reconstructed over 18 months; 14 more in progress
- A centre for teacher training constructed as Syiah Kuala University, and teacher training in 32 schools
- Assistance in the development of the Aceh Provincial Education Plan
- Provision of 72 small grants to primary schools and boarding schools for school improvements
- Library at Banda Aceh’s Islamic University rehabilitated
- 6,000 textbooks to universities
- A program to rebuild education services in disaster affected areas established

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

Australia is at the forefront of efforts to rebuild Aceh’s devastated education sector. Australia has reconstructed three schools and two education offices, and by the end of 2007 another 14 new education facilities will be completed. As well as rebuilding the school buildings, Australia is also training teachers and helping to improve the planning and management of education in Aceh.

Australia is supporting Aceh’s boarding schools, which provided accommodation for children who were left homeless or orphaned after the tsunami. Over 1,200 students will benefit from upgraded and extended facilities.

Australia has helped Aceh’s education departments at provincial and district levels to re-establish themselves and plan for the future by supporting the development of the Aceh Provincial Education Plan.

*Photo: Robert MacColl.*
Revitalising Aceh’s universities has included rebuilding and re-equipment of libraries, providing housing support to lecturers and university staff and giving students the opportunity to study in Australia.

Australia funded the construction of a teacher training facility at the state’s Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh that will train more than 900 teachers every year.

The Community and Education Program in Aceh (CEPA) is helping to strengthen communities and education in those areas where access to education was limited due to the separatist conflict in Aceh, and where education infrastructure was damaged or destroyed.

Already CEPA is contributing to village unity and conflict mitigation. In one village where CEPA conducted community consultations, villagers gathered in the village hall for the first time since the start of the conflict. At this historic meeting, people representing all sides of the village level conflict talked openly about the village history, the use of the village hall as a symbol of community unity, the school and villagers’ expectations after the conflict and the tsunami. The fact villagers were able to talk openly and work constructively towards improving the school was a crucial step toward ongoing stability.
Major infrastructure and housing assistance

ACEH AND NIAS

Commitment: A$41 million
Expenditure estimate as at December 2006: A$18 million

DAMAGE

Essential infrastructure in Aceh was decimated by the tsunami, and over 180,000 houses were destroyed. More than 3,000km of road was destroyed along with hundreds of bridges and most of Aceh’s ports. The main port bore the brunt of the tsunami and became completely separated from the mainland due to the causeway being washed away.

The island of Nias suffered the dual impact of the tsunami and a massive earthquake on March 28, 2005. Eleven ports and 403 bridges were destroyed and more than 1,000km of local and provincial roads were made impassable.

ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY

> Banda Aceh’s Ulee Lheue port functioning
> Over 1,250 temporary shelters completed
> Assistance to accelerate housing reconstruction and overcome logistics and timber supply issues
> Officially endorsed land boundaries to help 70,000 families rebuild their homes
> Housing database established in West Aceh district
> 35 village halls completed; 56 under construction; 180 planned in total
> Restoring community infrastructure and community livelihoods on Nias island

ACHIEVEMENTS

Australia funded the emergency repair of Aceh’s main seaport. As a result, the port’s ferry operations were again functioning less than a year after being completely destroyed. Following major improvements to the 1.4 km breakwater and the construction of a new jetty, the port now sees over 900 people a day transit the terminal, with daily traffic increasing by over 50 per cent since 2005. Vital reconstruction materials are now more easily moving in and out of Banda Aceh thanks to the re-opening of the cargo port and Ulee Lheue.

Photo: Robert MacColl.
Village halls are central to community and social life in Aceh. In just over 18 months, Australia has built 35 village halls and has 56 more under construction. In total, Australia plans to build 180 village halls and eight sub-district offices.

Australia has trained and deployed hundreds of community land-mappers to physically measure, stake-out and digitally record land boundaries, records of which had been washed away in the tsunami. The team has mapped approximately 3.5 million square metres of land for permanent housing in Aceh to accommodate 70,000 families.

In partnership with Australian and international NGOs, Australia has erected over 1,250 temporary shelters, housed over 8,000 people in 20 villages, and restored water and sanitation and other services.

Australia is providing practical assistance to NGOs to improve permanent housing construction, and is helping communities to take a more active role in housing construction. Australian advisers also are helping the Indonesian Government Agency for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation to resolve a range of challenges in the housing sector, such as safeguarding quality standards for construction and addressing logistical and timber supply problems.

Australia funded a housing database in West Aceh district to link people who need housing with international organisations and donors that are building houses.

On the island of Nias, Australia is providing technical assistance and other forms of support to Government agencies and communities, to equip them to manage the challenges of the future.
Commitment: A$40 million

Expenditure estimate as at December 2006: A$25.9 million

**DAMAGE**

While the tsunami and 30 years of conflict affected Acehnese society at all levels, their impact at a household and village level has been particularly acute. In addition, the lowest levels of government – at the sub-district and village level – to which people and communities should be able to look for help, have been seriously weakened by the tsunami.

Many village and sub-district government leaders and public officers lost their lives in the tsunami, while equipment and paperwork were washed away, and government buildings were destroyed. In total, more than 650 villages in about 70 sub-districts were damaged. Due to destruction or displacement, most of these villages did not have a functioning government immediately following the tsunami.

**ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY**

- 1,300 community leaders across 200 villages have been trained; more than half of them are women
- Grants worth A$4.5 million provided for priority village infrastructure projects and another A$3 million in the pipeline
- 17 sub-district governments provided with equipment and training – all have re-started providing services
- 4 sub-district government offices in the construction process; 4 more planned for 2007
- Support and training to 200 villages in basic construction and monitoring

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

Australia is helping to ensure basic services at the local level are restored and improved so that services are delivered to the people who need them most. Australia is also helping the victims of the tsunami become active participants in reconstruction.
Australia has provided equipment, training and support for 17 sub-district governments to help them deliver effective public services to their communities. The construction of eight sub-district government offices is underway.

Australia has trained over 1,300 community leaders from more than 200 villages to lead the village planning and reconstruction process. More than half of these local leaders are women. Women’s groups are supported and women are encouraged to participate fully in community decision making and to speak out on issues of community concern.

200 villages have received A$4.5 million in grants for priority infrastructure projects, such as bridges, road maintenance and drainage works. Another A$3 million is to be distributed soon. Australia is teaching villagers basic construction methods and helping them inspect and monitor reconstruction programs. This gives local people more voice in the reconstruction process and helps to overcome problems of poor quality and to avoid corruption.

Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Bill Farmer AO, talking with community leaders and facilitators in Banda Aceh.
Photo: AusAID
Livelihoods

**Commitment:** A$22 million

**Expenditure estimate as at December 2006:** A$14.5 million

**DAMAGE**

The tsunami devastated coastal livelihoods. Almost 5,000 coastal fishing boats were lost, 20,000 hectares of fish ponds destroyed, 60,000 farmers displaced and 100,000 small business persons lost their livelihoods. Prior to the tsunami, Aceh was the fourth poorest province in Indonesia; the World Bank now estimates it to be the second poorest.

**ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY**

- Contributed to provision of food aid to approximately 250,000 people
- Skills training and construction process begun on the rebuilding of the Regional Brackish Aquaculture Development Centre
- 130 Acehnese trainers trained in Business consulting, financial and business planning
- Developed a plan with the Indonesian Government for the future of fishing industries
- 6 new small enterprises financed
- Establishment of an Investment Outreach Centre in Banda Aceh servicing around 20 Acehnese investors

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

Australia contributed A$10 million to the World Food Programme to ensure the provision of food aid to approximately 250,000 of the most vulnerable people affected by the tsunami, including thousands of Internally Displaced People living in temporary shelters, school children and pregnant and nursing women. This assistance continues.

Australia is focused on helping people restore their businesses and livelihoods to give families long term economic security and the chance to prosper.

Australia has commenced a program to re-establish coastal aquaculture as a key source of income and employment in Aceh. This includes reconstruction of the severely damaged fish and shrimp hatcheries centre that supplies shrimp ponds throughout the region. Australia is also rebuilding the aquaculture training centre and providing training in aquaculture management to build the industry for the long term.

Australia is working to boost employment and growth in Aceh and Nias with an A$7 million program working with the International Finance Corporation. It aims to promote small and medium enterprise development and to make a tangible impact in key livelihoods sectors such as fisheries and agriculture. To date over 1,100 people have benefited from training or skills development.

Australia has worked closely with the fishing industry and the Government to develop a Fisheries Master Plan to guide the redevelopment of the industry. Australia funded the newly-established Investment Outreach Centre in Banda Aceh. To-date the office has helped approximately 20 Acehnese investors find opportunities, and has helped establish six new businesses.