

Daily Update from Aceh
Sunday, 16 January 2005

1. UNDP Programme Update

Current Programme:

- Labour-Intensive IDP Initiative. Christina Herrera and Vera Yuliana met today with the NGO Yoyasan, which has been responsible for recruiting and managing the 310 IDPs involved in the clean-up effort at the Abidin Zainal General Hospital. Significant progress made in the clean-up effort, also with regard to strengthening coordination between the NGO and hospital management. The UNDP team clarified its expectations regarding the output and work arrangements for the IDPs. To date, 5 buildings in the hospital have been cleared by the IDPs, with two more to go. The Australian military has volunteered to offer tools and cleaning equipment to the workers if that will facilitate their efforts.

The UNDP team also visited Darusalam camp today, and confirmed the considerable number of IDPs interesting in joining the labour-intensive cleaning effort. Key need described by the IDPs was on anti-flooding measures such as the building of platforms and palates that will prevent the tents from getting soaked.

- Emergency Shelter Provision. Kristanto Sinandang and John Long met this afternoon with the NGO Forum, which is likely to play a key role, with MBPI, as liaison with IDP communities; they will likely also play a role in recruiting IDPs for large-scale labour intensive initiatives, and discussion therefore also focused on the key question of how much to compensate labourers involved in UNDP job creation schemes.
- Doug Keh today prepared an initial draft of a strategy note that will articulate how the current portfolio of ongoing UNDP activities in Aceh is linked to forthcoming, and longer-term, recovery initiatives. The draft will be discussed, revised, and sent to UNDP Jakarta for further development by cob tomorrow. In final form, it may prove useful for programming and resource mobilization purposes.
- Media. Kristanto Sinandang and Doug Keh held an interview with AP today.

Pipeline:

- Kristanto Sinandang and Ridwan Yunus had a meeting with Sathorlake, the provincial government disaster coordination body, together with officials from the National Government, to discuss joint efforts in information management, sharing of information, and standardization of reporting formats. Sathorlake is very interested in placing an official as a government liaison in the Livelihoods Working Group that UNDP is chairing on behalf of UN agencies and NGOs. Discussions also focused on requests for UNDP support to replicate the national Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) at the provincial level for Aceh. The national system, developed with UNDP support, will now be reactivated; UNDP to supply software.

IBM has volunteered to provide hardware. Government has also requested additional support in training, systems development and operationalization.

- John Rogge and Djasinur Sirait visited Kreung-Raya and Lamreh subdistricts on the northeastern coast of Aceh today to meet with representatives of fishing communities hard-hit by the tsunami. Clear needs in both heavy rubble removal as well as small-scale clearing. Strong interest in returning to fishing expressed by those interviewed, though they will clearly need substantial inputs and support to recommence their trade.

2. Staff Deployments

- Patrick Pee arrived today from NYHQ via Jakarta. He will provide support to the HIC in information and database management; he is expected to be here for at least several months.
- Oning Gunarso also arrived today, from UNDP Jakarta, to provide the UNDP team here with additional operations support.

3. Other

- Blackouts both yesterday and today have slowed down various aspects of work, not least e-communication. UNICEF has informed us that it is installing a V-SAT network that UNDP will be allowed to connect into as of mid-week from its recently hired house. This will facilitate electronic correspondence with Jakarta and NY.

D. Keh, 16 January 2005