

INFORMATION PAPER group three

Information about UNICEF

UNICEF recognizes that there are both immediate and long-term effects of the tsunami that must be addressed. They have almost met their \$300 million target needed for the immediate relief, and are now addressing the amount of aid needed for long term relief.

One of the main reasons UNICEF is a great organization to send funds through because they recognize that an international effort is necessary and also that consistent attention to humanitarian crises is necessary. UNICEF sends teams to investigate, evaluate, and determine the changes in the areas and how to best meet those specific needs. The organization has been active for over 50 years as part of the United Nations and the international community in general, further securing its status as a legitimate organization that is well suited to carry out with its commitments to tsunami relief. Less than a month after the tsunami, UNICEF has provided assistance in Indonesia by addressing:

- Emergency immunizations to prevent deadly childhood diseases;
- Supply of clean, safe water and provision of basic sanitation;
- Special feeding for malnourished children and pregnant women;
- Care and counseling for traumatized children;
- Provision of education kits and rehabilitation of schools to ensure the return of children to school as soon as possible.

As an organization oriented toward children, UNICEF has programs like school-in-a-box, where they send school supplies to help schools get back on track. Less than a month after the tsunami, UNICEF played a major role in opening up schools as a secure space for children to get their lives back to some level of normalcy. To understand how thorough this organization is one must only look to the example of the school-in-a-box situation in Banda Aceh, where UNICEF and the Ministry of Education arranged a team of university students to perform a "Rapid Assessment of Learning Spaces." Going school-by-school, the team will collect information about the number of pupils and teachers in attendance, environmental and structural conditions, and the availability of water and sanitation" (www.unicefusa.org).

Indonesia is dealing with conflicts that are both separatists and communal in nature that have led to the death of thousands of primarily civilian deaths. Several areas of Indonesia have been fighting for independence, oil-rich Aceh and Irian Jaya (West Papua) where mining is very rich. Because of these continuing internal conflicts, there is a need for permanent international presence in Indonesia. One can look back to the situation of East Timor and recognize that although their independence was a long struggle unfortunately combined with unnecessary civilian deaths and rioting – international assistance with such a disastrous natural disaster is necessary.

Information about Indonesia:

Population: (2004) –238,452,952

(growth rate: 1.5%, birth rate: 21.1/1000, infant mortality rate 36.8/1000, and life expectancy: 69.3)

Land area: 741,096 sq mi (1,919,440 sq km)

Political system: Republic

President: Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (elected recently in 2004 elections)

Indonesia fought for its independence from the Netherlands in the 1940s. After a Netherlands-Indonesian Union, the Indonesians started seizing other Dutch property (today Indonesia is the largest archipelago – 17,000 islands – which were all home to very diverse cultures; for example, East Timor was colonized by the Portuguese and remained mostly Catholic, East Timor fought hard for its independence finally in 1999 the president agreed to a referendum and the United Nations intervened on the grounds of human rights, and in 2002 they gained their independence).

In the 1960s Sukarno, a major player in the independence movement from the Netherlands, with the influence from the Communist party became president for “life” that is until Suharto shoved him out of office (another player in the independence from Netherlands). In 1997, Indonesia suffered some hard economic times and was host to several anti-government rallies. The vice president took over in 1998, then a year later the parliament elected a new president, Wahid, who only ruled 1999-2001 when Megawati (daughter of first president Sukarno) took office. Elections were held in 2004 (direct vote by the citizenry as opposed to the old system when People’s Consultative Assembly elected the leader) The retired general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was elected president in 2004 and is currently still in office.

The president is the chief of state and head of government and elects the cabinet personally. The People’s Consultative Assembly used to consist of a House of Representatives that elected the president and vice president and considered national policy, but in 2004 this Assembly was restructured to consist of 500 members who were

elected by a popular vote and is now called the House of Regional Representatives (unicameral). A new addition to the government is the Regional Representatives Council consisting of 200 elected members. Currently, the legislature has more power and is being very assertive; unfortunately there are many opposition parties in the legislature making processes difficult.

Dominant cultures: Largest Muslim population of all Asian countries

Current conflicts: Separatists movements are causing violence (riots, killing, devastation) in Aceh and West Papua. These regions are fighting for their independence, but the government does not want to lose oil-rich Aceh or the abundant resources via the copper and gold mines in West Papua. These regional conflicts need to be resolved peacefully. The government is looking to restore political stability to the region and improve the economy, which is still suffering from the 1997 setback. Corruption needs to be addressed in order to present the government as credible.

Tsunami Effects

According to BBC, the number of fatalities almost reaches 300,000. Most deaths occurred in the war-torn province of Aceh. The number of displaced persons according to Malaysia Star in February was 116,368. Infoplease.com recognized the millions who were left homeless and claims that Indonesia was the heaviest hit, with 115,000 casualties. Recent landslides have claimed nine lives and injured several people. 474,619 displaced persons cited by the Asian Development Bank's Tsunami Impact Summary February 2005.

Short & long term damages: Total damage is estimated at \$4.5 billion - almost equal to the entire GDP of Aceh - according to a preliminary damage assessment prepared by the

Indonesian Government, World Bank, ADB, and other development partners. Buildings, roads, ecosystems, agricultural lands – several have been ruined and need reconstruction. Voltage lines need to be replaced, but oil and gas resources did not suffer substantial damage.

Reconstruction: Immediate humanitarian relief must focus now in restoring:

- The lives (labor intensive public works, etc).
- The economies (rehabilitate transportation, infrastructure and encourage entrepreneurship)
- The communities (managing temporary shelters, housing reconstruction, re-establishing coastal communities, create support systems for displaced peoples)
- The government (re-establish public administration and security functions while increasing access to financial information)

Restoration is a phasing technique to evaluate and address necessary issues along the way. Not one single agency can execute successfully this restoration/reconstruction – instead an international community is necessary to make this a reality.

Government Involvement: Indonesia wants the reconstruction funds to be channeled through a government led management structure which will review every single program for consistency with the government's own recovery plan and changing priorities. The government emphasizes the importance of funds be provided through the government budget in order to increase coordination and effective implementation of reconstruction. Also, this method will help to

stabilize the government, enforce the budget and put it on the road to recovery as well.

The government is also working on different strategies to generate jobs – focusing on employment strategies, job training, and “social security nets”.