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## I Want to be a Pilot



Boby and his plane.

"I want to be able to play again, to run back and forth following my plane" was perhaps what the little kid wanted to say with

his eyes while staring at his plane in his hand. Bobby, whose groin and genital were injured by a beam of wood in the giant tsunami

waves, attracted our attention. Although his wound is painful, he just made a small grin when a nurse opened the bandage of the wound to clean it. He then continued to play with his toy. Both his eyes gleamed when he played with the plane investigating every part of it. He said in Acehnese, "When I become a pilot, both of you (pointing us) may fly with me." I said to him, "Recover soon, Bobby. We will be your passengers..." □ Nia

## JRS Serves the Tsunami Survivors

The earthquake and tsunami disaster is horrible. More than 200,000 lives were lost and 450,000 refugees are scattered in tents, barracks, public facilities, and relatives' houses. The worst destroyed areas are Banda Aceh, Lamno, Calang, Teunom, Meulaboh, Nagan Raya, Pulo Aceh, and Lhokseumawe. The destruction is unbelievable. Furthermore, if you hear the stories of the victims, for example, a taxi driver who lost his wife and children, you fear losing those whom you love.

JRS Indonesia works in the areas where our assistance is needed the most, and where there a no or few other organizations. Until now JRS has identified several areas of intervention organized into two central coordination offices, namely, Aceh Area 1 and Aceh Area 2. Both are under the supervision of Project Director



JRS supplied logistics in Aceh.

Mr. Philipus Yusenda Arie Perdana.

Aceh Area 1 is coordinated by JRS office in Banda Aceh. It serves the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from three areas, namely Aceh Besar (Krueng Raya, Pulo Aceh, Jantho, Lamrabo) and Aceh Jaya (Lamsenia and Lamno). JRS assists the survivors in education (providing edu-

cational materials), empowerment (setting group, fish industry, and farming), trauma healing, housing, emergency logistics (foods, drinking water, clothes, food supplements for babies and children, etc.), body bags, health care and humanitarian protection. For housing, JRS works with

ATMI (*Akademi Teknik Mesin Indonesia* = Academy of Technical and Mechanical Industry and Vocational School) to provide knock-down houses for the IDPs. Since the price to rent houses in Aceh has increased by the influx of foreign aid agencies, JRS has also built two knock down houses for staff to show an example that NGOs can have



dr. Christy (third from left) and 3 volunteers in Lamno.

a house/office that is cheap and strong. The coordinator for Aceh Area 1 is Bro. Vincent Haryanto SJ. He works with some staff, volunteers, and medical experts, both Acehese and others. The Society of Saint Vincent a Paulo in cooperation with the Society of Saint Vincent a Paulo send supplies, doctors, and nurses. The bishop of Malacca and Johor, who is a Jesuit, also sends funds. JRS Singapore also raises funds in cooperation with the Arch-diocese of Singapore team.

To provide intensive services, JRS opened an office in Lamno, being coordinated by Mr. Wawan Probo Sulisty.

Aceh Area 2 is coordinated from the JRS office in Medan, and serving IDPs in three areas, namely, North Sumatra/Medan, South Aceh (Tapaktuan), East Aceh (Langsa), West Aceh (Meulaboh), and Nagan Raya. In Medan, JRS accompanies people whom are evacuated to North Sumatra with severe illnesses. In South Aceh, JRS cooperates with Yayasan Gampong Hutan Lestari (YGHL), a local NGO, to assist more than 10,000 IDPs from Meulaboh and other areas whom do not receive adequate attention from the government. JRS also covers medical needs, sends medical experts

from Malaysia, and provides logistic support. In East Aceh, JRS gives logistics, educational materials, and trauma healing. In Meulaboh and Nagan Raya, JRS has promoted empowerment, and provide housing and educational materials for 15,000 children and 77 teachers in cooperation

with the Association of Islamic Students, *Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam* (HMI). The coordinator of Aceh Area 2 is Ms. Pudji Tursana, who works with some staff and volunteers. She is chosen by the Indonesian Province of the Society of Jesus to participate in a meeting of War and Violence in Rome. The organizers asked specifically for a female layperson. Furthermore, Pudji has already worked for 3 years in JRS Aceh/Medan.

To maintain this broad program, in all planned areas with, JRS Indonesia needs 95 billion rupiahs (about USD 10 millions), based on the assessment and dialogue with IDP communities over 2 months were presented. So far, JRS has raised 16,5 billion rupiahs (about USD 1,8 millions) from donor institutions, groups, and individuals. Those who have contributed are: The Parish of Kotabaru, Jakarta Cathedral, College of Saint Ignatius, Jesuit Provincial of Indonesia, Kanisius staff, the Catholic community of Gabriel in Berbah, Fr. Bintoro SJ from Indonesian Air Force, Fr. Bentvelsen SJ, several individuals (including a friend of Fr. Mardikartono SJ), several Parishes in England that are coordinated by Fr. P. Widyarso SJ, several communities/individuals in the United States that are

directed by Fr. Baskara SJ (funds from various institution groups are sent through JRS in USA), Fr. Wibowo SJ and Fr. Ruky SJ, several individuals via Fr. Kieser SJ and Fr. Franz Magnis Suseno SJ, some French donors via Fr. Setyowibowo SJ, and also the SVD Newspaper *Bertiras*. JRS extends gratitude to all friends who have helped the fundraising for JRS works, those whom have mentioned the names and those who did not want to be mentioned. Furthermore, a sister from the Congregation of Cannonian has raised funds as a symbol of gratitude because JRS has helped East Timor in the past. Fr. Peter Balleis SJ from Missionprokur Germany has also been very helpful because he did not only give contribution in the form of money but also the recruitment of a medical practitioner and the fundraising. The foreign donors that also helped our works are: Caritas Central Austria, Caritas Australia, CAFOD Romero, Servitio Dei Gesuiti Roma, Caritas French, Trocaire, British Province Jesuits, SCIAF, Caritas de Guadalajara Mexico, Bishop of Malacca-Johor, Canadian Fund, Caritas New Zealand, Foundation Entreculturas, Laetitia Soldi, Austcare, Assistant Treasurer of SJ BSE, CCFD French, UK St. James the Less and St. Helen, Thomas Wolf and Margaret Chin-Wolf, St. Ignatius High School, JRS Australia, Jesuit Mission Australia, UK Holy Trinity Church, St. John the Baptist, UK CC Leigh Ly, Green Property, UK St. Georges Rome Catholic Church, Sophia University, UK Catholic Church Chalton on Sea, UK Catholic Church Romford. □Edi

## When I was Sick...

Visiting sick people in the hospital may not be among your favorite activities. However, that's what Dewi, a JRS volunteer in Medan, does everyday. "Why does JRS have to do

such a visitation everyday? JRS pays all the expenses, right? Don't staff from YGHL (Yayasan Gampong Hutan Lestari – JRS' local partner in Tapaktuan) do the accompaniment?" I asked

her during a visit to the hospital. Patiently, Dewi explained that this is a part of JRS' service. This is the strenght of JRS' work. JRS knows that financial aid is not enough, but the



accompaniment and attention are also important. "That is what they really need from you, isn't it?" I kept the words in my heart.

When I passed through the hospital corridor, I saw a thirty year old man sitting down in a wheelchair and his family around him. From his face and the way he sat, you could see that he suffered mental damages. Slowly, I heard him uttering unclear words and I saw his eyes brightened when his family sang a Happy Birthday song. I was moved to see the expression on his face. The meaning of the words "I was sick and ye visited Me" written below the statue in front of the Elizabeth hospital made sense for me. I, then, continued my steps to the children's ward to visit Bobby, a five year-old boy from Bakongan whose groin and genital were damaged during the tsunami. Although I had seen the injuries on photos before, the feeling of concern was still overwhelming. I could not speak seeing the vertical scar from the lower chest to the bottom of the stomach. I could also see that the wound at the bottom part of the stomach was still open. Dewi said that Bobby indeed had just completed an operation of taking skin from his stomach to cover the wound. He also underwent one operation, which was unsuccessful. I admired him for not crying. He looked strong although he still have to endure another operation. Unfortu-

nately, Bobby could not speak Indonesian only Acehnese. I believe we would have talked more if he could speak Indonesian.

After visiting Bobby, we visited Mirdalisma (15 years old) and Yusnidar (32-years old). Mirda had a tumor on her upper left arm. Her condition was improving. Dewi told me that Mirda was a clever student. She was the best student in her school in Tapaktuan. Before she was referred to Elizabeth hospital, she had to go to school with a bleeding wound. She has been at the hospital for months and absent from school, which may



dr. Andrew treats IDPs and locals in Mata le.

mean that she will not be able advance to the next level with her peers.

The next patient is Yusnidar (a 32 years old mother from Tapaktuan) who suffered from a tumor in her right elbow; forcing her to leave her three children for hospital treatment.

Previously, doctors thought that she would loose her arm since cancer had spread. Fortunately, a biopsy showed that radiation and operation might save her arm. Visiting her, Dewi encouraged her to become a motivator for women in her village as she has good understanding of the situation and things, despite a low level of education.

It must be difficult for a five year old boy to experience an infected wound. It must also be hard for Mirda if she fails the test and cannot continue to the next level of school. Leaving three small children in a village ten-hours drive from Medan must be a hard decision for a mother like Yusnidar as well.

Therefore, I am grateful for today's lesson given to me by these strong people. They may be just ordinary people, and they have to bear a burden they cannot choose. Not everybody can live with such a burden. Until now they are still keeping hopes up that life will return to normal. In this matter, financial aid is not the sole solution. And this is what JRS has done: to accompany and to give words of comfort. Not just financial aid. □Nia

## Tapaktuan in Ruins

JRS works with YGHL, a local NGO, to serve in Tapaktuan, one of the tsunami-affected towns on the West coast of Aceh, to rebuild the destroyed infrastructures. Although the disaster did not kill any people in the city, it tore down almost all the buildings and public facilities. The loss tallies up to 548 million rupiahs in Trumon Sub-district and 900 million rupiahs in South Kluet Sub-district (*data source from SATLAK-the District Disaster Management Committee*).

In Tapaktuan Sub-district, the destruction covers Sudirman Street in Hilir Neighborhood. Two houses were destroyed owned by Suatril, who lost about 50 million rupiahs and Amrin about 2 million rupiahs. (continued to page 4....)



Dewi, a JRS volunteer, and the collapsed bridge in Tapaktuan

*...Tapaktuan in Ruins*

In Trumon Sub-district, 10 houses were totally destroyed, 10 houses were badly damaged, and 2 mosques and musholas were badly damaged. There is no more port in Tapaktuan and 13 boats are missing.

In South Kluet, the State road in Indra Damai Village were damaged along 5 km and cracked 20 cm wide. A bridge in Rantau Binuang collapsed. The State road in Pasi Lembang Village was cut off 15 m wide, and 52 houses were damaged. □Pudji

## Miss Chilly-Sweet

Santi, a JRS field officer working in Meulaboh visited Mak Bit, an old woman with one tooth left (it is worse than in the story sung in “Burung Kakak Tua”), who sold betel vine leaves. She sells the leaves and bottles of aqua, a business which grew out of only 25,000 rupiahs, which was given by a generous person.

Moved by compassion, we planned to give the poor old woman some money to increase her investment. It was not a loan, as it was not so much. Therefore, the following day Santi visited her again. She was eating balado fish with chilly sauce. After some talks, Santi gave her the money.

“How should I pay the money back, Ms. Santi?” Mak Bit asked her, thinking it was a loan.



Meulaboh devastated after Tsunami.

“You do not need to give me the money back, Mum!”

Hearing this, an Arabic prayer immediately sounded from Mak Bith's, which Santi did not get it (but of course God understands). It seemed like a grateful prayer. Ending her

prayer, Mak Bit came closer to Santi saying, “Thank you...!!! Thank you...!! Thank you!” Every time saying thank you, she held and rubbed Santi's arms. She was not aware that her hands were still full of chilly sauce. So, Santi's arm was covered with the chilly sauce as if polished with yellow cream.

Apparently, Mak Bit was so moved by the gift that she forgot that her hands were smeared by chilly sauce, rice and balado fish.

Santi, who is a sweet girl, then, got title as Miss Chilly-Sweet!!

(The moral is: to give help, you must make sure that the beneficiaries' hands are clean first....).□Afra

## JRS' Brief Mission to Nias

To show solidarity with the quake survivors in Nias, JRS decided to send a small team for a brief mission to Nias to identify the needs of logistics and health. The team members are Fr. Adrianus Suyadi SJ, Danang

Listyo Pramono, Nia Susanti, Yohanes Demu (from JRS Medan), and dr. Elizabeth Purba (JRS Aceh). The team has prepared everything for leaving for Nias this week and built networks with contacts in Sibolga

and Gunung Sitoli. Dr. Eliz departed on April 4 from Medan with the medical team of Harapan Hospital. Pray for them in their new services.□Edi

*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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