



# Refugee

Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia

Accompany, Serve and Advocate the Cause of Refugees and Forcibly Displaced People

www.jrs.or.id

No. 13, May 2006

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### Preface

On the 27th of May, Yogyakarta, where JRS Indonesia national office is located, was struck by an earthquake of 5.9 on the Richter scale. With a death toll of 5,722 and a total number of 122,301 houses totally destroyed and 415,169 houses suffered damage, this is a disaster beyond imagination. More than 300,000 houses need to be rebuilt and although people slowly start to clear up the debris, the reconstruction process will take time and a lot of money. And of course, JRS programs in Aceh still continue. This edition of *Refugee*, besides reporting on JRS' response to the earthquake, tells the story of how Acehnese families cope with the disaster inflicted by both conflict and tsunami.

## YOGYAKARTA EARTHQUAKE

By Els Coolen



Didik and Philus from JRS visited earthquake survivors in Bantul



Using their hands and simple tools, people evacuated victims of the earthquake in Ganjuran Church..

At 05:53 a.m. on 27 May 2006, an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale (BMG) struck Indonesia's island of Java. The epicentre was located approximately 37 kilometres south of the city of Yogyakarta. The earthquake impacted eight

districts within Yogyakarta province and the neighbouring Central Java province, severely damaging housing and infrastructure. The two worst-affected districts were Bantul in Yogyakarta, and Klaten in Central Java. As of 8 June 17:00, the death

toll stands at 5,722. The number of injuries stands at 37,924. 122,301 homes have been completely destroyed. 415,169 additional houses have suffered earthquake damage. All statistics come from BAKORNAS.

The immediate response from local NGOs, communities and relatives of those affected and local government has been impressive. With the arrival of international agencies, the emergency

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(...Yogyakarta Earthquake...)

response has increased and has been able to cover the most urgent needs of the affected people. Medical teams have assisted local hospitals to deal with the large amount of patients in need of treatment and field hospitals have been set up to cover medical needs in the affected districts. Although not all emergency needs have been sufficiently covered yet, most of the victims now have access to food distribution and live in emergency shelter. The affected communities live together with their – sometimes extended-families in shelters next to their damaged houses to guard their possessions. There are only little camp settlements. Almost two weeks after the earthquake, people have started clearing debris and recycling materials for the reconstruction of homes with the help of neighbours and relatives.

JRS started emergency aid on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, only hours after the earthquake, distributing food to the distribution posts of Pleret, Bantul and Sasana Hinggil, Kraton, Yogyakarta. A distribution warehouse was set up at Realino study center in cooperation with the Diocese to respond to aid requests coming in from distribution posts all over the affected areas. Two teams were set up to respond in the most heavily affected areas of Bantul and Klaten themselves.

JRS has distributed until now a total of 12,285 kg of rice, 785.4 kg of noodles, 1,013 kg of biscuits, 386 kg of powder milk, 596 blankets, 1,224 hygiene kits, 248 tents, 165 mats, 236 tarpaulins to a total number of 8,200 households. These households are located in the following sub-districts of Bantul: Bambang Lipuro (villages of Ganjuran, Kedon, Sumber Mulyo), Banguntapan (Tegal Pasar village), Dlingo (Villages of Dlingo, Kebosungu, Mangunan, Munthuk, Tenuwuh), Imogiri (Village Karangtalon), Jetis (Canden, Mbotto, Trimulyo), Kasihan (villages of Tirtonirmolo, Bangun Jiwo), Kretek (Donotirto), Pandak (Wijirejo), Panjangan (Guwosari), Piyungan (Sitimulyo), Pleret, Pundong (Srihardono), Sewon (Bangunharjo, Janganan). In Gunung Kidul, JRS has distributed aid to Panggang (Girimulyo), Patuk (Pengkok) and Playen (Banyusoca), Purwosari (subvillage Petoyan, Giritirto) subdistricts. In Klaten, JRS has distributed aid to Bayat (Krackitan), Cawas (Pakisan, Bawak, Jombor), Gantiwarno, Jogonalan (Gondang, Plawikan), Wedi and Jabakan subdistricts. In Sleman, to Gayam hardjo, Prambanan and Berbah subdistricts.

After preliminary assessments, JRS has chosen 16 subvillages with a total of 1,638 households

to assist during the emergency and reconstruction phase. The Klaten team will assist the following subvillages: Gayam, Magirsari and Bendo in the village of Gayam, Gayamhardjo sub-district, Sleman – Brengosan, Krakitan, Bayat subdistrict, Klaten – Bungkrah, Pakistan and Karang Turi, Bawak in Cawas subdistrict, Klaten. The Bantul team will assist Pokoh I, Dlingo and Pokoh II, Temuwuh and Ngliseng and Kebongsu, Munthuk, subdistrict Dlingo – Kreet, Karang Talon and Karang Tengah, Kreet, Imogiri subdistrict – Ngayang, Sitimulyo, Piyungan subdistrict – Kwalangan, Wijirejo, Pandak subdistrict and Dowi, Srihardono, Pundong subdistrict.

For the first months, JRS will focus on emergency relief, distributing food and non-food items. JRS will

also respond immediately to the need for tools to clear debris.

As the number of houses to be rebuilt adds up to more than 300,000 houses with some 1.5 million people homeless, there is a huge need for reconstruction funds. People are rebuilding their houses themselves, through the traditional system of *Gotong Royong* or community works, they need construction materials and advise on how to build earthquake proof houses. JRS plans to cooperate with other agencies to provide construction materials through voucher systems where people can purchase the material at cheaper wholesale prices. Cash incentives might expedite the process, although cash for work is definitely not an appropriate measure in this disaster.



The earthquake survivors from Legundi, Panggang sub-district, Gunung Kidul district, Yogyakarta living under the makeshift tents. Their houses were destroyed or damaged by the 5.9 Richter earthquake that shook Yogyakarta on 27 May 2006 (Photo by Rheza Loekito).

# LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

By Agus Heru



Ismaniar working hard for her future

“One hot afternoon, I heard someone shouting ‘get out of your house!’ Right away sounds of gunfire echoed throughout Seuneubok Jalan of Peurlak Timur, from the fight between TNI (Indonesian National Force) and GAM (Aceh Free Movement). While carrying my family’s belongings, I ran as fast as I could through groups of families and neighbors. Looking back I saw only black smoke and red flames from Seuneubok,” recalled Imaniar about an incident that happened 5 years ago, on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2001. When she and her family went home after two days, they found everything burnt down to ashes. In her neighborhood there were 4 other houses burnt down. Since then, her community has fled for their lives, living scattered over other villages, in the forest or in Medan.

Ismaniar, aged 19, and her family took refuge in Medan and rented a house

there. At that time, there were 9 siblings in her family. Two of them were already married, five were students and two other were still very young. Ismaniar who was a senior high school student had to work as a cookies seller and washerwoman to pay her school tuition and support her family. Her mother worked as a washerwoman as well, while her father drove the Medan-Jakarta bus to earn a living. Once in fifteen days, her father returned home, bringing 400000 rupiah with him for the family. From selling cookies and washing clothes and dishes, Ismaniar could save some money for her study in PGSD (training for elementary school teachers) at the Zawiyah Cot Kala Islam Institute in Langsa. While studying PGSD, she worked as washerwoman and bag-shoes seller. She was frequently overdue for her tuition fee.

Lived in a boarding

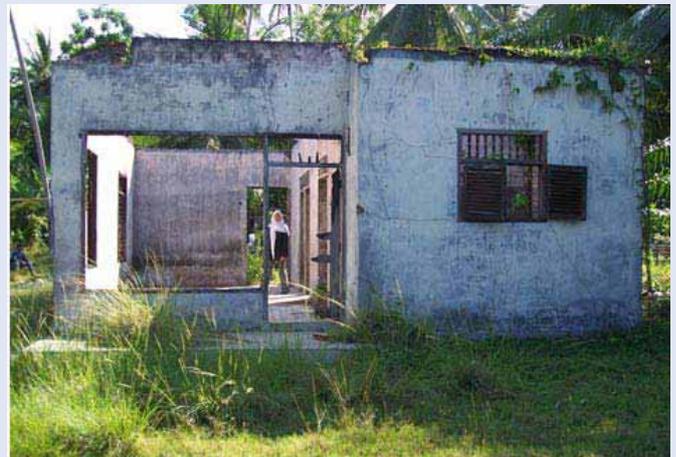
house, she had to support herself needing at least 300000 rupiah a month, 60000 rupiah for lodging, 150000 rupiah for meals and 90000 rupiah for transportation fee. She could only earn 100000 rupiah a month from washing. She could not depend on her parents because they had to support her little siblings.

It was hard for Ismaniar’s family to earn their living, moreover to reconstruct their burnt house in Seuneubok. They had tried to ask for

compensation from the government but to no avail. They all long for their home village.

“I don’t know when we will go home for ever. I don’t know how to ask for any compensation for a conflict affected burnt house,” said Ismaniar sadly.

Ismaniar is one of JRS beneficiaries in a scholarship program. As a scholarship beneficiary she has a responsibility like other beneficiaries to carry out social activities in her neighborhoods.



Ismaniar and her burnt house in Seuneubok

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## WAVING FISHING NETS TO WAVE LIFE

by Daryadi Achmadi

Without shirt, legs crossed on the wooden floor of his house, a fisherman busily waves a fishing net. Skillfully he ties its rips. The house-on-stilts with its bamboo walls and *rumbia* (palm leaves) roof has become Hamdani's workshop. Hamdani is 30 years old. His wife, Nur Aminah, sits next to him while she tends to their 9 month old son, Mochamad Hedaefi. Hamdani's perseverance and determination in waving fishing nets is patient as their way of living has always been.

They still mourn over their third son who was swept away by tsunami waves on 26 December 2004. Tasyatullah of 2 slipped out from Aminah's hands. Aminah never saw the sudden waves coming while she was preparing breakfast for her children.

"I was three months pregnant that time. I held Tasya tightly, but I lost her," Aminah recounts. Hamdani was at sea.

"I immediately went home when I saw the high waves. When I reached the shore, I saw my house was swept away" recalled Hamdani.

For several weeks they took refuge at the village meeting hall and the Bantayan Mosque, about 9 km away of Kuala Simpang Ulim. After a while, the local government of East



Hamdani waving fishing nets. Behind him, Nur Aminah tending Mochamad Hedaefi.

Aceh provided barracks in Lampouh Rayeuk, Simpang Ulim Sub-district. Records say 46 people of Kuala Simpang Ulim did not survive tsunami, including Tasya, the third child of Hamdani-Aminah.

The couple had three children by the time tsunami hit Kuala Simpang Ulim. While they lived in the barracks, their fourth child was born.

Hamdani had been living with his family for a month during December 2004. Before that, he was in Malaysia for two years. He left his village because of the armed conflict. He explains that living as a fisherman during the conflict situation was very hard and unpredictable. Regular battles between TNI and GAM in the village, made life unbearable. In 1999, about 11 gunfire incidents were

counted and several houses got burned down.

"My house was at the edge of the village, far from my neighbors whose houses were near the fish ponds. During the conflict, we moved here because it was far from the others. After the tsunami, we came back here to build this house," says Hamdani.

Not being able to stand the cramped space in the small, stuffy and leaky barrack, Hamdani and family went back to his home-village. As the barrack was further inland from the sea, he had to use more petrol for his boat. This raised their living costs significantly, and made them decide earlier to return home.

While they still lived in the barrack, he went back and fro to Kuala Simpang Ulim village to rebuild his house. He used the remnant

timber of the tsunami-destroyed houses to erect a 5 x 6 meter house-on-stilts with *rumbia* (palm leaves) roof and wooden floor. Bit by bit he saved the money needed from fishing.

"The bread of life from sea is like a tiger's. Sometimes we get a lot, sometimes nothing at all and we always owe fuel expenses to the *toke*, the fish broker," explains Hamdani. It is also seasonal. During windy season like now, it's hard to catch any fish. July to October is the top harvest time, especially for shrimps. Hamdani himself gets two third of the catch. One third is for his assistant. If the boat he uses for fishing is rented from other people, he has to share one third with the owner.

"The boat is mine. It was given by GTZ. Therefore, I get two third of what I can sell. I use it for our daily needs, diesel fuel and boat maintenance," Hamdani explains to JRS. He diligently keeps his fishing nets in good condition to sustain his livelihood. Hamdani and Aminah patiently orchestrate their lives, build their house and earn their living for daily life and to send their children for school. Waving the fishing nets, Hamdani and Aminah patiently also wave their lives.

# WATERMELON AND THE ANGRY WIFE

By Ansar Pulo Aceh

We often start to wonder when we reflect on things we have done in the past. What was it we did? How did we ever face the problems we encountered? How did we pass the test of time? Temptations test how strong or weak we are, and by facing them we proof ourselves how far we can actually go.

The following is the story behind a successful watermelon grower.

He was called "bang bush", after president Bush. He grows watermelons on his wide field and owns two fishing

boats. He is considered a prosperous farmer in the remote island of Pulo Aceh. His success, however, has not come out of nothing. He has someone strong standing beside him, his beloved wife.

This story started when he lend his boat to the Kapolsek (the commander of Subdistrict police). His wife was furious when she found out. She reprimanded him and banned him from the house for two days. He didn't protest, just walked out quietly. He did not have a place to sleep and was too

embarrassed to ask for lodging at someone else's place because that way they would find out about his quarrel with his wife. So he went to his field, though there was nothing there to shelter him. He got rid of his anger by cleaning and watering his land. He slept in the open air. He was in fact too angry to sleep. He just kept on working, preparing his land to sow the watermelon seeds the whole next day. Seeing his determination melted his wife's heart. She forgave him and allowed him back into the house. Luckily, it

didn't affect his perseverance to work his land. Now they can enjoy the fruit of his perseverance. Not only did they enjoy the good taste of watermelon, but they also enjoy the money they get from selling the watermelons.

If he would have gone away and do something else, or even applied for divorce from his wife, the story would be different. But no, bang Bush proved to himself that he could pass the test successfully.

## JRS FIELD REPORT

### AREA I

#### Lamno

In April JRS Lamno was visited by JRS International (Bro. Steven and Carmen) and Caritas Australia (Ingvar Anda).

##### *Income Generating Activities*

JRS held trainings twice a week for beneficiaries of IGA-Anyaman (waving group) from Meunasah Tutong and Mukhan. On 5 April 2006, JRS provided sewing materials to 10 members of the women sewing group. On 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006 JRS supported 10 pieces of zinc roofs for a family in Alumie.

Blessed by one of the Imam, the JRS-supported workshop in Meunasah Teungoh, run by 3 beneficiaries of IGA, started officially this month.

JRS paid the transportation fees of 10 beneficiaries of IGA Jahit (sewing group).

##### *Education*

JRS provided 25 foot balls, 24 volley balls, 16 volley nets and 3,790 books for SDN Kareung Ateuh, SDN Kuala Unga, SDN Ceunamprong, SDN Kreung No, SDN Mukhan, SDN Lhok Kruet, SDN Kuala Ligan and SDN Pulo Raya.

JRS has supported the education activities in Pesantren Budi by paying an Arabic teacher since 29 April 2006.

##### *Shelters*

By mutual cooperation and support from villagers of Gunung Melinteng, JRS Calang constructed a prototype house. This was done in 9 days and used up 15 bags of cements, 4 cubic meters of sand, 2 cubic meters of stones and 8 cubic meters of piling earth.

JRS will provide the required material for the reconstruction of Bustanul Wathan Pesantren in Lhuet, e.g. bricks, cements, sand and stone. The boarding school students will carry out the works themselves.

### Banda Aceh

##### *Health*

JRS distributed medicines, health kits, milk for

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pregnant and lactating mothers and milk for babies. JRS build a health center in Pesantren Darul Falah Abu Lam U.

*Restoring Life*

JRS provided 500,000 Rupiah to each member of the Jambo Rebus group in Krueng Raya to support their business.

*Income Generating Activities*

Semangat Baru, an home-industry group for women in Krueng Raya, had set aside money for charity and donated books and stationary to students of SLB-YPAC II, Al Washliyah Orphanage and Baitussalam Dayah (Moslem Boarding house) in Cokpuklat. The money was left after paying back all their installments so they decided to use it for a good cause.

*Support Local Group*

There was a blessing ceremony (*pasejeuk*) for the village mosque *Meunasah* in Lamsenia.

*Shelter*

JRS and Panglima Laot Banda Aceh agreed to start the construction of 13 offices for Panglima Laot. There will be 2 phases of construction. In the first phase, JRS will build 8 offices in 8 Lhoks (Lampanah, Leungah, Krueng Raya, Lambada, Lamteungoh, Lampuuk, Alue Naga, Ulee Lheu).

The construction process of 3 houses for Pesantren Al-Falah Abu Lam U is almost finished. The tiling was the full responsibility of the Pesantren. Two of the houses are intended for the teachers and one is to be a health center of the Pesantren.

JRS, SEFA and ATMI have already built 11 out of 14 rooms for Pesantren Raudathul Wustha.

second batch of ginger seedlings. A total of 5, 75 tons were distributed.

JRS conducted a market survey to find boat builders and found one who agreed to make 10 boats for 30 fishermen from Meulingge. JRS signed an agreement with the boat builder specifying type of boat, basic materials, price, time limits, quantity and the rights and duties of each party within the agreement.

*Income Generating Activities*

The windy season, hindering sea transport between Pulo Aceh Banda Aceh, affected the wholesale and supply of goods for IGA beneficiaries. Hence, it also affects their income.

A meeting was organized, attended by all women of Meulingge and JRS, to discuss the possibility of reactivate PKK, the women's organization.

On 21-22 April 2006, Caritas and some technicians from Syiah Kuala University came to Pulo Aceh to conduct a test on the possibility of constructing permanent piers/ports in Pulo Aceh.

The framing process of *Meunasah* in Pulo Aceh was progressing as planned, and was inaugurated on 20 April 2006 by a blessing (*pasejeuk*). The *pasejeuk* involves mutual community works.

JRS supported a religious activity to commemorate Maulud Nabi Muhammad SAW.

*Health*

Sub-district head of Pulo Aceh has asked JRS to prolong its health service in Pulo Aceh.

*Education*

The number of students in the alternative school in Meulingge has increased to 37 from 27 since March. However, during the stormy seasons they still have to study under the uncomfortable school tents. The school building was still under construction and 75% done.

In JRS Pulo Aceh posko (center), JRS staff organized drawing lessons for children.

*Aid*

JRS provided 1,380 kg of rice, 230 kg of vegetable oil, 230 kg of sugar, 460 packs of biscuits, 348 liters of kerosene, 87 kg coffee, 87 kg green bean and 174 packs of cereal for people of Meulingge.

## Pulo Aceh

*Restoring Life*

JRS formally handed over the keys of 50 houses finished before to Meulingge villagers. 15 More houses will be handed over immediately. At this time, 31 houses are being finalized, 5 are still no more than frames. 3 Houses were not accepted by the beneficiaries and have been given back to JRS. The 2 houses for the teachers are at the flooring stage.

On May 6 2006, 67 families of Meulingge received their

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