



Contents

Knock-Down Houses in Lamno Page 1

Starting from Small Things Page 1

Many Women Follow Me Selling Cookies Page 2

Sign of Hope Page 3

Fishermen of Krueng Raya Never Die Page 3

Kesui and Kariuw IDPs Return Page 4

Knock-Down Houses in Lamno



Housing is a central part of reconstruction in Lamno. JRS works in areas that are not attended by other NGOs, such as at the Islamic Boarding School BUDI and Meunasah Rayeuk. JRS plans to set up 100 knock down houses here.

When Mr. Tengku Kamarudin, a teacher board member in the Islamic boarding school (*pesantren*) BUDI, arrived the students (*santris*) welcomed him with wide smiles. He encouraged the students to help build the knock down houses set up by JRS and partner Eternit Gresik Company. in the surroundings of the school in Lamno, Jaya Sub-district, Aceh Jaya District. Working hard, the students ignored the rain. Thanks to their efforts the knock-down houses were well constructed. The students were supervised by Mr. Juwito, an expert in knock-

down house from the Eternit Gresik Company. He helped them to work as a team with clear job descriptions, such as delivering materials, building the foundations of the houses, walls, and roofs. The work could be done quickly, since some *santris* were competent brick layers.

“If only there were many more *santris* involved, we could complete the programme sooner,” Herlambang, a JRS staff member in Lamno, said. “Most of them are working on the project of International Blue Crescent (IBC) of Turkey, which pays students 35- 50 thousand rupiah a day. Meanwhile, the

JRS and Eternit Gresik Co. work is voluntary without any salaries for workers.”

On the afternoon of May 9, 2005, the people were crowded around the area to have a look at the building process. The crowd did not stay long, because it was getting dark. A storm seemed to hang in the horizon. Some people bowed down their heads to pray for the storm might not to come closer. “Every night I pray a *tahajud* to ensure that the building process will run well,” Mr. Juwito said.

However, the storm did not compromise. It toppled

two houses in the project of IBC at Janguet Village and blew away the corrugated metal roof of a house provided by JRS at Meunasah Rayeuk, another area in which JRS works. At BUDI *pesantren*, under the rain, Tengku Kamarudin assisted by Tengku Hasbalah lead some *santris* to build the foundations and walls of three houses. The *pesantren* leader, Tengku Abah Asnawi, also participated in the work and accompanying his *santris* in the process of building.

JRS provided corrugated metal roofing for the people at Meunasah Rayeuk in Lamno, as they had requested. For the people in BUDI *pesantren*, JRS has also been building 100 knock-down houses, since the *pesantren* had almost entirely collapsed.

The *santris* really showed their great enthusiasm by building three houses a day. This feat inspired Mr. Juwito to set up a small factory there to provide building materials. □ Paulus Enggal

Starting from Small Things

“I want to return the money as soon as possible and then buy more things to expand my kiosk,” Mrs. Dedek said to Miss Santi and Ani, JRS Aceh staff in Meulaboh, while she was paying

her first installment on funds received from the JRS Income Generating Activities (IGA). She is one of the IGA beneficiaries in Pasi Pinang Village in Meurebo, a sub-district of West Aceh

District. She lives in a small house of 2 x 3 meters with her husband, Mr. Din and her two children. The oldest is a boy, who is a student in the second grade in a primary school. The youngest is a two year old girl.

JRS met with the family a couple of times to assess

the possibility of restoring their financial situation after the tsunami. On April 1, 2005, Mrs. Dedek received one million rupiah (USD 110) from JRS to set up a small kiosk and to provide facilities for her husband to

(continued to page 2....)

..... Starting from Small Things

sell fish. She managed the money. She has allocated 600,000 rupiah for herself and 400,000 rupiah for her husband. Before JRS met her, she had obtained 200,000 rupiah by selling all her jewelry to start a small business. Knowing that JRS had offered free loans, she enthusiastically joined the scheme. She was optimistic about her ability to pay off the loan on time. "When I first set up the kiosk, I could only sell instant noodles and spices. With aid from JRS, now I have invested in more in commodities, such as cigarettes, snacks and household equipment to complete my kiosk. These things are what people are most likely to buy," she said. People who come to her store are Pasi Pinang villagers doing work for cash for the NGO MerCi. During break time, the people drink and eat at the coffee shop next to her house and buy cigarettes or other things in her small kiosk. "I usually gain 75,000 rupiah to 100,000 rupiah per day. On busy days, I can even obtain 150,000 rupiah per day. Things are looking up now," Mrs. Dedek optimistically added.

Her husband, Mr. Din, also showed remarkable progress. He has started selling fish in some markets, which he delivers by motorbike. He also hires someone to sell for him in the street near his house. Although he started his business only three weeks after receiving the money because of the



Mrs. Dedek working in her small kiosk. She is one of the women receiving a JRS Income Generating Activity loan.

rising price of fish at that time, he has been able so far to make good progress. He usually buys fish worth about 200,000 rupiah from fishermen and is able to bring 400,000 rupiah home. "On the Muslim holiday *Maulid Nabi* (the celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday), many people bought my fish," he said.

Besides the financial improvements, Mrs. Dedek also shows progress in her bookkeeping skills. Santi assists her and reminds her to save some money daily for the repayment of the monthly loan, sometimes even as much as 83,000 rupiah. On the first payday, Mrs. Dedek was able to return 200,000 rupiah, only three weeks after starting

her business. "So far, we are doing good selling, so that we are able to provide 200,000 rupiah for the first payment," Mrs. Dedek said, "But, the next payment would be less than 200,000 rupiah, since we need service on our motorbike."

When the tsunami struck on 26 December 2004, the Meurebo River

flooded and swept the people's houses away. On their own initiatives, the communities rebuilt houses at the same place. Mrs. Dedek is a sensitive citizen, who is now thinking of how to secure the people from future disaster. She has encouraged the women in her community to write a proposal addressed to the head of the village requesting to build a dyke to prevent the river from overflowing its banks. She has already met with the village head, who asked her for a proposal. "Please teach me how to write a proposal," she asked Santi. Santi was more than happy to give a workshop on simple proposal writing.

With materials from the ruins, she built her new house. With only 200,000 rupiah, she started her small kiosk in her small house. With the proposal initiative, she is trying to save her house and her neighbourhood from the tide coming in. With a loan from JRS, she is planning to expand her business. Her motivation to start over from small things is really something astonishing; JRS salutes her! □ Nia Susanti

Many Women Follow Me Selling Cookies

A "U" smile decorated the dark oily face of a grown up girl, Elly Yusri, 24 years old, as she was frying cookies. Elly is a corpulent girl, not fat but fully fleshed showing that she is a hard worker, at least a girl who does not easily give up due to some stressing conditions. Her face seems almost not to have ever touched any cosmetic, since she is too busy to earn her daily living. The ruthless situation due to the tsunami disaster last year has forced the villagers of Mereubo Village in Meulaboh to struggle to seek everything just in order to survive.



Miss Elly frying cookies. The JRS IGA programme with capital loans may help the affected-tsunami people to earn a living.

To Elly, such a situation is not a new one. She said, "Since I was in Senior High School, I have earned money. In

1987, when I was in primary school, my father died leaving my mother, two sisters, a brother and I to survive. My uncle helped my younger brother, sister and me to pay the school costs. When I was in Senior High School, I have worked by helping grandmother cooking and selling cookies until I joined the STAI (*Sekolah Tinggi Islam-Islamic Colleges*) of Meulaboh."

The tsunami caused Elly's whole family and house to drift away. She was saved, because she was staying

(continued to page 3....)

.... *Many Women Follow Me Selling Cookies*

with her grandmother at Pasi Tengoh Village far away from the coastal area. After the tsunami, she came back to her village to build a house assisted by her neighbours.

Santi, a JRS staff in Meulaboh, visited Elly and offered her the IGA programme. She joined in enthusiastically. In the first weeks, she successfully ran her business of making

cookies with loan capital provided by JRS. She said, "Even in the first month, my cookies were sold out. Many women who attended 'Cash for Work' bought them for their breakfast before working. Nowadays, many women follow me selling cookies. I have some competitors now....." □Nia Susanti

Sign of Hope

"Lamsenia is distressing. Yesterday, it was hit by a storm bringing down 16 tents and flooding the area up to 1 meter deep. The IDPs can no longer use the tents," Mr. Tri Wahyono, a JRS staff of Lamsenia, reported. He has assisted the IDPs of Lamsenia, in the region of Leupung Sub-district in Aceh Besar District for the last three months.

Lamsenia, 26.5 Km from Banda Aceh, was totally damaged by the tsunami in on December 26, 2004. Out of 838 persons living there, just 153 have survived. Most of them were male. The females who were left were only 41 persons out of 396 persons. After the tsunami, they have relocated themselves to Yudha Mountain.

Mr. Tri said, "Although the infrastructures in Lamsenia were thoroughly destroyed, the people were



A marriage between IDPs in Lapenerut Mosque in Lamsenia indicates new hope of life

excited just to have survived... for the future. They were happy to clean the village and spared some money to buy a piece of land at Blang Ateuk. The people also dared to marry the girls from outside their place of origin, following their proverb 'go to town and come back home with a raft', which means that if a Lamsenian travels outside of his village, he should go home with a fiancé."

When there is a marriage, the people hold a ceremonial feast, which makes them happy and creates hope. From April to June 2005, four persons got married. Three of them were marriages between widows and widowers. The marriage brought changes in their lives, especially their motivations to build a new family. "Each of them wants to have someone who accompanies, takes care of, shares, and encourages him to survive on this harsh land," Mr Tri said.

JRS programme of Restoring Life is conducted first by accompanying and encouraging the tsunami-affected people to cope with the reality and pain at heart because of their losses. JRS accompanied the people, especially those who are staying at the camps and in tents, to have hope and survive by themselves. "It is a sign of hope, when the people decide to get married to set up a new better life," Philip, the JRS Aceh area 1 Project Director, added. □Paulus Enggal

Fishermen of Krueng Raya Never Die

"Only JRS remains in Krueng Raya," Zakaria Ahmad said drawing in the smoke of his cigarette deeply and then he exhaling it in a long squirt. He continued, "Not too long ago, many NGOs came in Krueng Raya conducting assessment and collecting data. However, they went and never came back. Our people know who is faithful and has concern for us."

The day wind moved slowly chasing the salty-fish smell away from the shop in where Mr. Zakaria Ahmad, the *panglima laot* or leader of the local fishermen, and I talked about the enthusiasm of the fishermen of Krueng Raya. Ten firm, strong men without any shirts on moved logs from a JRS truck. Mr. Azman and Mr. Ahmad, JRS field officers at Krueng Raya, gave them directions. With the

logs, they will build *Jambo/Rumah Rebus*, a house for boiling fish, and boards for drying *teri* fish.

"It is most important that the economy recovers," said the Panglima Laot. "60% of the people in Krueng Raya are fishermen. Many of them live in Meunasah Keude Village. The sooner they sail, returning to their daily rhythm, then the sooner Krueng Raya will recover from the torment caused by the tsunami.... If they are occupied in their work, they will bit by bit ignore their trauma and distress."

When the Panglima Laot spoke, a small boy approached. "He is my youngest child," he said and picked him up, "we have to work for our children. We are very grateful that JRS is concerned about us."

The meeting in February 2005 between Panglima Laot, JRS, and Putter Foundation resulted in an agreement that JRS would help the fishermen in Krueng Raya. JRS would provide materials to build 58 *jambo rebus* and 35 rafts. JRS found that the people needed boats to pull their rafts. In the Restoring Life programme, JRS involved the local people in building their houses and rafts. Furthermore, in the programme, JRS planned to restore the relevant economic sectors by empowering boat makers, carpenters, brick layers, *becak* (pedicab) drivers, coffee shop owners, and fuel sellers.

"We do not know how to express our gratitude to JRS for helping us to restore our lives as fishermen," said Mr. Zakaria, the Panglima Laot, "I believe that the life in Krueng Raya will revive. The fishermen of Krueng Raya will never die...." □Paulus Enggal

Kesui and Kariuw IDPs Return

Kesui IDPs

The return of IDPs was the main activity of Maluku provincial government in May 2005. This was the result of a long return process mainly carried by the IDPs themselves. On May 30, 2005, 220 households of Kesui IDPs returned to their place of origin in Kesui Island. On June 6, 2005, IDPs of Kariuw returned home to Kariuw in Haruku Island, Central Maluku.

May 30, 2005 was an emotional night in Tual Port. People of Ohoililir, Dian, Laerngangas and Letvuan waved their hands to the Kesui people leaving for their home island. People from the four villages have been friendly hosts for the Kesui IDPs from the villages of Eldedora, Tana Soa, Wunin and Karlomen. Though in every respective, there has been closure and a farewell ceremony, tears still flow at the moment the ship, *Alken Permata*, rented by the IDPs moved slowly heading northwest. After more or less four years living together with all the various dynamics, the two parties need to say goodbye. The farewell is not just a farewell between the host community and the IDPs community but also between the Seram people and Kei people bonded by the tie of *Pela*. That is why it turned out to be such an emotional night between the two parties. The return was the third wave of Kesui IDPs to return.

The first group who left for Tual on May 12, 2005 consisted of heads of the villages. The second group who left for Tual on May 16, 2005 consisted of men to clean the area and prepare the barracks before all the IDPs arriving.

The arrival of the second group was welcomed by a crowd from Sumelang Village. The return of the IDPs is not well received by all in Kesui, and to avoid conflict, the boat set sail for the East side of Kesui and from there the returnees would have to walk across the hills and forest for two hours. The last group consisted of all the rest of the Kesui people except the students who have to stay for their exams.

At 6 a.m., *Alken Permata* from Langgur Island approached the waters of Kesui Island. A small wooden speed boat led the way to allow the ship to anchor as near as possible to the beach of Tamher Timur Village. An estimated 100 IDP households of Wunin, Eldedora and Tana Soa disembarked in the village. They were welcomed by the village chief and their relatives. Three small wooden speedboats helped to take the IDPs and their belongings from the ship to the seashore. It took six hours to unload the people and their goods. The next destination was Uttah Village with 16 households. The last destination was Karlomen Neighbourhood with 110 villages. Again, it took six hours to unload people and their belongings. When finished, the sun had already set and the last small wooden speedboat sailed back to village of Tamher Timur where it came from.

Kariuw IDPs

Monday, June 6, 2005, was a time for the people of Kariuw to wake up, but not in fear, caused by the attack on their village six years ago. This time, they woke up to prepare for their return to their Leamoni, Kariuw. Their displacement in Tihinitu ended on that

day and they were ready to leave behind their host community after six years. Ten rented trucks were ready to take them and all their goods. That day, they would soon see their own village.

They held a worship ceremony led by a protestant priest at 6 a.m. in front of the church. It was an hour-long ceremony filled with mixed emotions of sadness, joy, enthusiasm and happiness. Then there was a rush to see and to enter the houses built by provincial government substituting for their burnt and damaged houses. With such a rainbow of emotions, they moved in a convoy of trucks to Kariuw, the neighbours of Moslem Village of Pelauw and Ori.

On Ouruku Bridge which separates Kariuw Village from Ori Village, the convoy stopped and the people started praying. Just before entering their village, they wanted to stop for a moment, to look for a moment just like the Israelites looked at the Promised Land for a while before entering, they also stopped to look back with memory of what happened to them. Afterward, they sang a hymn called A Hymn of Leamoni and entered the village hall or *baileu* to meet the people of Pelauw, Ori and their *gandong* (family group) Hualooi. Then, there was a traditional handing over of the community Amanapuy to the chief of village of Kariuw. It was followed by an oath by the Kariuw. The Chief of Hualooi, the Moslem village as the eldest *gandong* of Kariuw, Boi and Aboru, delivered and address giving some advice and traditional messages to the Kariuw people. Tradition and customs of *pela gondong* were used to restore the process of living together between Kariuw and their Moslem neighbouring villages such as Pelauw and Ori. □ Bambang A. Sipayung, S.J.

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Editorial Responsibility

Edi Mulyono SJ

Editors

Ingvild Solvang, Lino Sanjoyo,

Dedy Kristanto

Design

Slamet Riyadi

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE INDONESIA

Gg. Cabe Dp. III/No.9 dn. 13

Puren, Pringwulung, Condong Catur,

Depok, Sleman,

Yogyakarta 55283, INDONESIA,

Phone/fax:

+62 274 517405

Email:

indonesia@jrs.or.id