

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW SCHOOLS FOR NIAS

UNICEF funds an extra 43 schools on the island

JAKARTA, March 23 - More than 40 new pre-fabricated schools are to be built on the small island of Nias, close to Sumatra, paid for by UNICEF.

The schools, easy-to assemble structures which take little more than a week to build, are to be put up on 43 sites around the earthquake-hit island over the next few months.

The decision to build these schools was prompted by UNICEF's concern that new permanent schools on the island will take time to build and that children still need decent learning spaces. This initiative comes one year after the earthquake which hit Nias, an island off the west coast of Sumatra, on March 28, 2005.

UNICEF's Indonesia Representative Gianfranco Rotigliano said: "The temporary schools we've built in Aceh have proved to be a success. Now we want to roll out what we've learned. The pre-fabricated schools are of a good quality, represent a speedy solution to the need for improving schools, and quickly make a significant impact in improving the conditions for learning."

Schools will vary in size, being formed of either three or six classrooms. The cost for the smaller schools will be \$19,000 and the larger ones \$28,000.

About 25 temporary schools are ready to be built. Eventually, twelve pre-fabricated schools will be built in South Nias District and 31 will be built in Nias District. When the schools are completed they will be able to accommodate more than 10,000 students.

The International Organisation for Migration(IOM) is to build the schools on UNICEF's behalf, continuing a strong partnership already established in Aceh.

Over the coming years, more than \$20 million is to be invested by UNICEF in building new permanent schools on Nias. One hundred and sixty permanent schools will either be built from scratch or repaired, using this sum.

For more information call: UNICEF Communication Officer Mervyn Fletcher + 62 811 987296
UNICEF Communication Officer Lely Djuhari + 62 811 802338
UNICEF Communication Officer Dwi Fatan Lilyana + 62 815 1000122