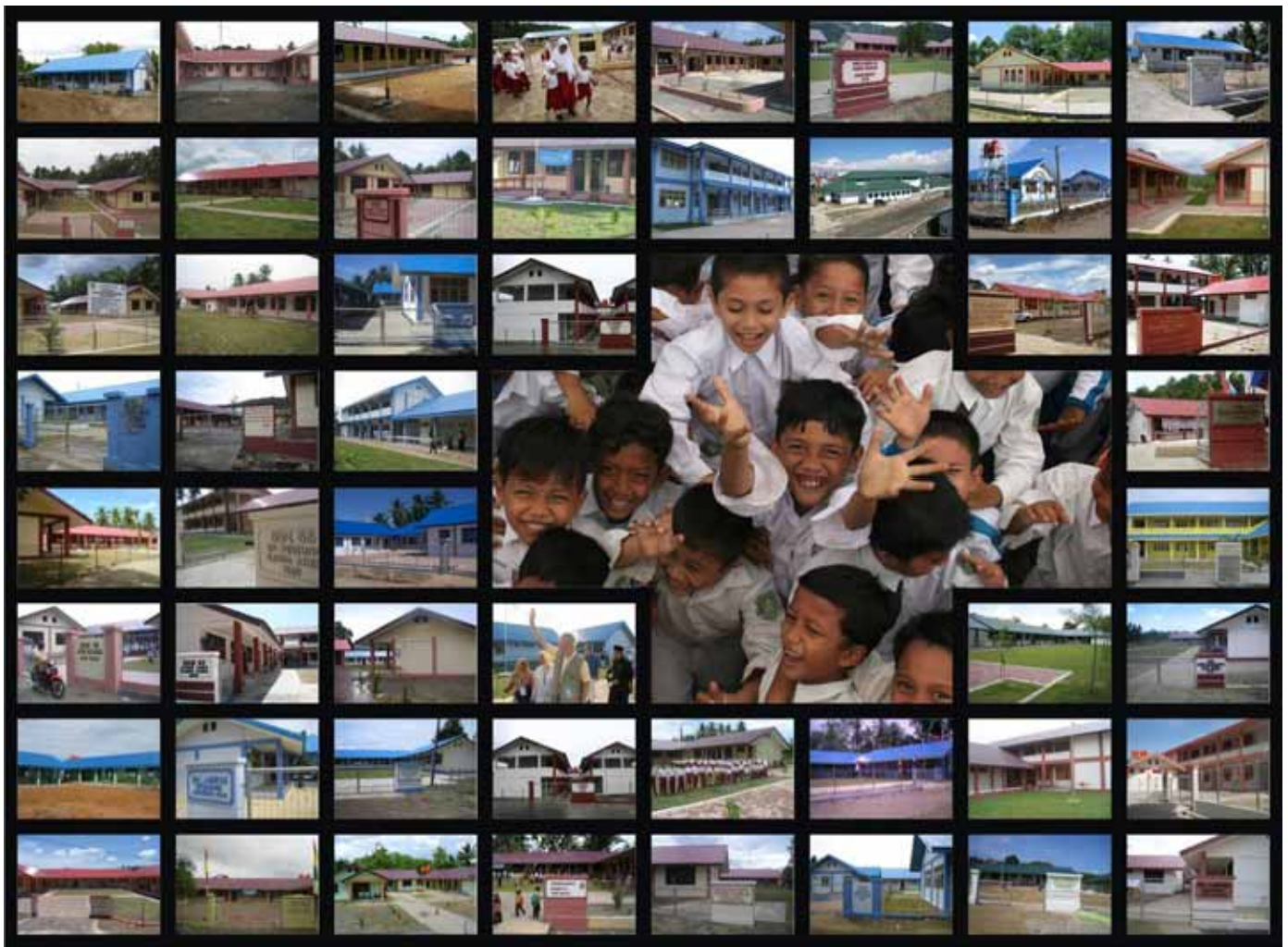


# UNICEF NEWS

Aceh & Nias

October 2007



52 schools completed

## 52 schools completed, 107 under construction

UNICEF and the governmental Aceh-Nias Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (BRR) took their cooperation a step further this month by officially signing a revised list of 346 school sites onto which UNICEF has committed to build earthquake resistant and child-friendly schools. The signing is the follow-up to the original agreement from September 2005 between UNICEF and BRR. As part of the colorful ceremony at the newly finished SDN 17 in Sukaraja subdistrict, UNICEF also symbolically handed over its already completed 52 permanent schools.



The new SDN 17



Gianfranco Rotigliano and Kuntoro Mangkusubroto

UNICEF has now committed to expand its school construction program to include sites in six conflict-affected districts of Pidie, Pidie Jaya, Bireuen, Benar Meriah, Aceh Selatan and Aceh Singkil, where the need for school infrastructure and large numbers of vulnerable children who need support to get access to basic education have been identified.

“We will not leave children behind just because they live in very remote areas”, said Gianfranco Rotigliano, Representative of UNICEF Indonesia. “In the six districts, school enrolment

and school access are extremely low. Every child has a right to basic education, and we will make sure this right gets fulfilled also for the children in conflict-affected areas.”

The total number of 346 sites to which UNICEF has committed, representing 376 school units, have already been handed over to implementing partners. In addition to the 52 already completed schools, 100 are under construction and 55 are under tendering. In order to accelerate the process, UNICEF is working with three implementing partners: UNOPS (213 school sites), Bitu (66 school sites) and Nippon Koei (67 school sites).



The play room



Almost exactly one year after the opening of the first UNICEF permanent schools, SD Muhammadiyah 1 and 2, UNICEF has completed 52 schools – an average of one school per week. All UNICEF schools have child-friendly features such as spacious classrooms, separate toilets for boys and girls and a large courtyard. They are also setting new standards in earthquake resistance.

“We have reached a new milestone in the reconstruction effort. By including six more districts, we are offering more children in the former conflict areas the chance to get basic education. I am sure that this will help speed up the recovery process in Aceh, and promote perpetual peace in this province,” said Pak Kuntoro, BRR director.



UNICEF opened its first two schools almost exactly one year ago, on September 18, 2006. Two stories high, painted in white and dark green, the beautiful double school (Composed of M1 and M2) stands tall and strong in this part of Banda Aceh which was one of the hardest hit by the tsunami of 2004.

Twelve classrooms (six per school) are located on the ground level, with a shared multipurpose hall, laboratory and library located on the second level. The schools have access ramps for disabled children and separate toilets for boys and girls, among many other child friendly features.

“We are very happy about our school”, says Ibu Ros, teacher at Muhammadiyah 2. All facilities, she says, are being used regularly. Take, for example, the multipurpose hall: The new class “Life Skills” is held here, allowing activities such as dancing, cooking and singing. Also community and teachers use the room regularly for meetings and seminars.



Hasna, 7 years old and a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student, loves coming to school – especially to spend time in the library. “I read a lot of books there”, she says. She also enjoys playing badminton in the spacious courtyard or hide and seek with her friends on the first and second floor.

The original Muhammadiyah 1 and 2 were located in one of the most affected areas of Banda Aceh, Lampaseh Kota, about five kilometers away from the sea. The whole area was washed away by the tsunami. When the school was hit, the wave was still 2.7 meters high. Two teachers and 120 students died. Today, a small memorial statue in the courtyard reminds of the victims of the disaster.

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## ***NEWS IN BRIEF***

### ***UAE Deputy Ambassador visits UNICEF health center***



The Deputy Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Ahmed Alkhaja, and the head of delegation Mr. Abdullah Muhammad Al Mahmud visited the UNICEF health center of Lamsiem this month. Lamsiem Polindes is one of four completed UNICEF health centers funded by the UAE. The center is 128 sqm and features the health center, Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre and a midwife’s residence. Ibu Sefti Herita, 31, is the midwife in charge of the center. She has worked as a midwife for 10 years.

The pilot project at Lamsiem village was completed in June and has proven to be very successful. The village has 82 households (350 residents) and is located in Aceh Besar district, roughly 20 minutes outside Banda Aceh. The polindes, however, does not only serve Lamsiem but also 4 neighboring villages, bringing the number of beneficiaries up to approximately 1400. .

UNICEF is planning to build 227 community-based health centers in Aceh and Nias by the end of 2008.

### ***UNICEF hands over water and sludge treatment plants, piping networks***



A water transmission pipeline covering Kembang Tanjung and Simpang Tiga sub-districts in Pidie connecting two water treatment plants will provide the backbone for a water distribution system to 20,677 people. The transmission pipelines will boost the existing water distribution network and give more households the opportunity to connect to a safe and improved water supply.

UNICEF also funded the construction of the sludge and leachate treatment plants system in Padang Tiji, Pidie. The plants were constructed in cooperation with UNDP.

In Banda Aceh, UNICEF distributed 75 metric tones of aluminium sulphate (alum) and 5,000 kilogrammes of calcium hypochlorite (chlorite) which are used to purify the raw water to provide safe drinking water to an estimated 80,750 consumers. Since the tsunami, UNICEF has distributed a total of 847 tons of alum and 100,000 kg of chlorine to 16 local water supply boards in NAD, including PDAM Tirta Daroy. The provision of these chemicals has been part of UNICEF's relief and recovery effort for the victims of the tsunami.

Finally, UNICEF handed back the newly reconstructed Muara Batu (Babah Krueng-Sawang) water treatment plant in Aceh Utara to the local water authorities. The plant's capacity was increased and was rebuilt on a higher location. The water supply system from the plant will operate by gravity, eliminating the need for pumping and reducing the operational cost. The next stage of the project will be the construction of a piped water transmission network that will deliver clean water to the houses from directly from the water treatment plant.



### ***The "Art in a Bag" project reaches out to schools in conflict affected areas***

Pack color pencils, crayons, water color, markers, brushes and drawing books in a backpack, add a big dose of commitment from teachers and education officials and enthusiasm from local artists and children. It's a practical recipe to get kids to start expressing themselves and it is called "Art in a Bag." This project was piloted last year on the island of Simeulue, where 78 headmasters and teachers from 36 schools were trained and 50 elementary students aged 11 to 12 years created pictures to illustrate traditional stories at the first "Art in a Bag" children workshops. The best drawings were later published in story-coloring books and Teacher's Manuals.

This year, "Art in a Bag" is going into its second phase in five additional districts of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province. The Ministry of Education in close cooperation with UNICEF is conducting teacher training workshops and follow-up trainings for a total of 196 teachers in Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Aceh Tengah, Bener Meriah, Bireuen and Simeulue until the end of November 2007. All teachers and headmasters come from Tsunami as well as conflict-affected areas. A total of 6,673 children benefit from the project phases I and II. The "Art in a Bag" project will also be implemented in some schools constructed by UNICEF to provide comprehensive assistance to children.

The overall goal of the “Art in a Bag” project is to get the local authority, teachers, children and the community in the targeted districts to understand and accept that the use of art and storytelling is an important form of constructive expression for children and is beneficial for their psychosocial well-being; therefore it is important to encourage and develop those skills in both teachers and children. Art is a way of expressing feelings and emotions and encourages creativity and self-confidence, while traditional and historical stories help children to promote a sense of belonging and to understand the value of their culture as told by their elders. Storytelling also teaches children about good behavior and morals.

### **Third Quarterly Review of Programme Cooperation: Improving Results for the Children and Women of Aceh**



On 20 September 2007, the Heads of UNICEF’s Health and Nutrition, Child Protection, Education, and Water, Environment, and Sanitation Programmes met with their government counterparts as part of the Third Quarterly Review of Programme Cooperation between UNICEF and the Government of NAD. The one day meeting was organized by Bappeda (Provincial Planning Commission) with support from UNICEF Banda Aceh, and built upon the Mid-year Programme Review, held on 11 June. At the beginning of the meeting, the Head of Bappeda and the Chief of UNICEF Banda Aceh jointly signed the Mid-year Programme Review report, thereby officially

agreeing to implement the recommendations and programme adjustments that the report outlines.

During the rest of the meeting, presentations on programme progress from July-September 2007 were made by the counterparts and supplemented by UNICEF's Programme staff. Progress discussed included training of 550 cadres on Early Childhood Development, school-based de-worming in 12 districts of Aceh, reaching more than 600,000 children, completion of a water pipe system, benefiting 700 households, and drafting of a Child Protection Qanun to advance the protection of children in Aceh against violence, abuse, and exploitation. Activities for the remainder of 2007 were then presented, including cascade training of 6,600 cadres on growth monitoring, nutritional supplement distribution and health education, strengthening of a water and sanitation task force with emphasis on improvement of health, survival and development of children, the mainstreaming of peace education in high schools, and teacher training on Creating Learning Communities for Children.

In addition to presentations on progress and future plans, constraints were identified and recommendations were formulated, relating not only to technical issues but also to coordination and management matters. The Third Quarterly Review marked another milestone in UNICEF’s Programme of Cooperation with the Government of NAD, and the resulting recommendations and programme adjustments will be vital in enhancing the efforts of UNICEF and the Government to improve the lives of children and women of Aceh.

## UNICEF Hygiene Promotion activities change the lives of students and families



The bell rings, it's break time at SDN Neusok Teubaluy. The 123 elementary students storm outside into the sun – like students in any Aceh school. But before they start to play hide and seek and eat their snack, they take their turn at the water barrels to wash their hands with soap. This makes them different from most other students in Aceh, where good hygiene practices are rare. For the kids at SDN Neusok Teubaluy, however, cleaning up before and after play is already a routine, one can see it immediately. Each student is carrying their own little bag with soap, toothbrush, toothpaste and a little towel. After washing and drying their hands, they carefully put everything back into the little bag and store it in the class cabinet. Then they go back outside to play.

The school is part of a pilot project by UNICEF and its implementing partner IRD. In 14 schools, IRD has trained the principals, teachers and 10 students (“peer educators”) in proper hygiene practices and how to promote good hygiene behaviors to students and families. For six months, IRD staff conducts daily hygiene promotion activities in these schools, for example singing songs about hygiene, playing educational board games on how to prevent diseases, etc. Today, grades 1, 2 and 3 are painting the big garbage bins which are placed all around the school.



“Before classes start, we all brush our teeth together”, says the principal of SDN Neusok Teubaluy. For most students, it is the first time they own a toothbrush. He is very relieved that his school is part of the UNICEF program and feels it is his responsibility to continue the activities even after the project ends in December. Finally, he says, they have enough water and sanitation facilities to organize hygiene promotion. SDN Neusok Teubaluy was rebuilt by UNICEF because the original school was severely damaged by the earthquake on December 26, 2004. However, he said, the old school only had two toilets anyway – by far not enough for the number of students and teachers. “Now, we have to find a way to have hygiene promotion become part of the curriculum and to get a budget for soap and other tools to help students learn about proper hygiene behaviors.” Already, the change in his students is amazing, he says. “They are enjoying being clean and taking care of their environment.”



He receives great support from the 10 peer educators which were trained by IRD. “I watch out that everyone uses the trash can”, says 5<sup>th</sup> grade student Sariana. “And I myself have learned a lot about how to wash my hands with soap many times a day and how important it is to throw away the trash and always boil the water before drinking. I did not care about these things before, but I do now because I don't want to get sick”. And their “work” does not end when school is out. “I showed my mom how to wash hands properly, and now everyone in my family is doing it”, one other peer educator says proudly.

The bell rings – school is out. But before the students leave, they lock up their hygiene kit in the classroom cupboard.

## Ayo Sekolah! Christine Hakim kicks off Back to School Campaign in Banda Aceh School Maintenance focus of reconstruction effort

“Ayo Sekolah!” “We love our new school!” “Keep the school clean!” The air was filled with happy shouts like these and the sounds of celebrating students as UNICEF kicked off the Back to School Campaign 2007 at SDN Simpang Keuramat.



The student’s motivation was fuelled by the presence of UNICEF’s Goodwill Ambassador Christine Hakim, who asked the kids to help maintain the brand new school buildings. “This is your school, and I hope you will enjoy studying and learning here”, Christine told the kids. “But it is also your responsibility to help ensure that many more children can have the same good experience in the years to come.”

School maintenance is a major issue in the post-construction period, and its importance is emphasized by the local government. “We have to work together to make sure that these school buildings will still be standing in the next decades, as clean and as safe as you received them today”, said Aceh Besar Regent Bukhari Daud at the ceremony. “School maintenance and education are the government’s responsibility, and the responsibility of teachers and local communities.”



Christine Hakim and Bukhari Daud

In June, UNICEF held its first school maintenance forum with the participation of school principals, school committees and related government agencies. The forum issued a declaration and action plan on how to maintain the schools properly.

As part of this year’s Back to School campaign, UNICEF also trains the education officials, local representatives, principals and teachers on making the schools and communities more child-friendly and classes more interactive. As part of this year’s campaign, UNICEF is distributing 200 sets of teaching aids for Mathematics, Natural Science and Social Science to 11 District Education Offices. The Office will hand out the teaching aids to the schools, with the priority given to school clusters listed under the UNICEF-Dinas Pendidikan CLCC (Creating Learning Communities for Children) programme and UNICEF-constructed schools.



UNICEF’s CLCC program is aimed at improving the quality of education through the introduction of school-based management; Active, Joyful and Effective Learning (AJEL); and community participation. UNICEF hopes that

the project will result in a model of good education practice to be duplicated in other areas of Indonesia. The CLCC program was started in 1999.

The Back to School launch in Banda Aceh was followed by two subsequent ceremonies in Meulaboh and Nias.

In Meulaboh, four schools were handed back to the community as a kick-start of the campaign. In early August, UNICEF handed over MIN (state Islamic primary school) Sukaraja and MIN Lamie in Nagan Raya district, about two-hour ride from Meulaboh. In the ceremony, the Vice Regent of the district, M. Kasem Ibrahim urged the parents to take their children to school. "I wish to see this school in Nagan Raya breed the future Indonesian presidents and legislators", Ibrahim said. "But you, parents, have to start the wave by first sending your children to school to get a good education," said Ibrahim, himself a former local councillor.



In late August, UNICEF office in Meulaboh handed over two more schools, SDN Keulembah and SDN Peulanteu, both in Aceh Barat district. In both state-run primary schools, UNICEF Meulaboh's



head of office Frederic Sizaret reiterated the importance of maintaining the school buildings for the future generation. "Now it's the responsibility of the teachers, students, parents, communities and the local authorities to keep this school standing for many generations to come," he said.

The BTS campaigns kicked-off with a huge celebration in Nias, as UNICEF handed over its first completed school there, MIN Gunung Sitoli. The original school, located in the downtown area, was damaged during the 2005 earthquake and

needed to be rebuilt to provide a safe learning environment for the students. The head of the office of the ministry of religious affairs, Mukhtar Telaumbanua, expressed his hope UNICEF would continue their support in building the education infrastructure, especially for the MIN school buildings and in training the teachers and providing them with the teaching aid kits.

## Celebrating Peace



At first glance, the August 5 festival at Musara Pakat village in central Aceh looked like any ordinary holiday celebration. Kids were playing games, coloring books, reciting poems, and performing traditional dances.

However, this festival was different. Many of the children in the festival have seen loved ones disappear or die. The message of their games, poems, and dances was direct and urgent: We love peace and do not want to see the return of war.

Almost three decades of war have left many problems for children in Aceh. Villages lack schools or have schools in poor condition. Dropout rates are high and attendance rates are low because some children have to work in coffee farms. The horrors of war have left many adults traumatized and child abuse is a problem. Poverty, especially in female-headed households, is high.

The peace festival at Musara Pakata was one of several festivals held to celebrate the conclusion of a pilot program aimed at improving the status of children. Operated by Childfund Indonesia with funding help from UNICEF, the program has established 8 children centers in areas most heavily affected by the conflict. At these centers, staff provides children with counseling, health, and a variety of other services. Children also learn about peace and their rights.

To ensure that the program is sustainable, Childfund Indonesia and UNICEF have made a concerted effort to work with local groups. In particular, they have reached out to local religious leaders who are concerned about the plight of children and are eager to take part in a solution.

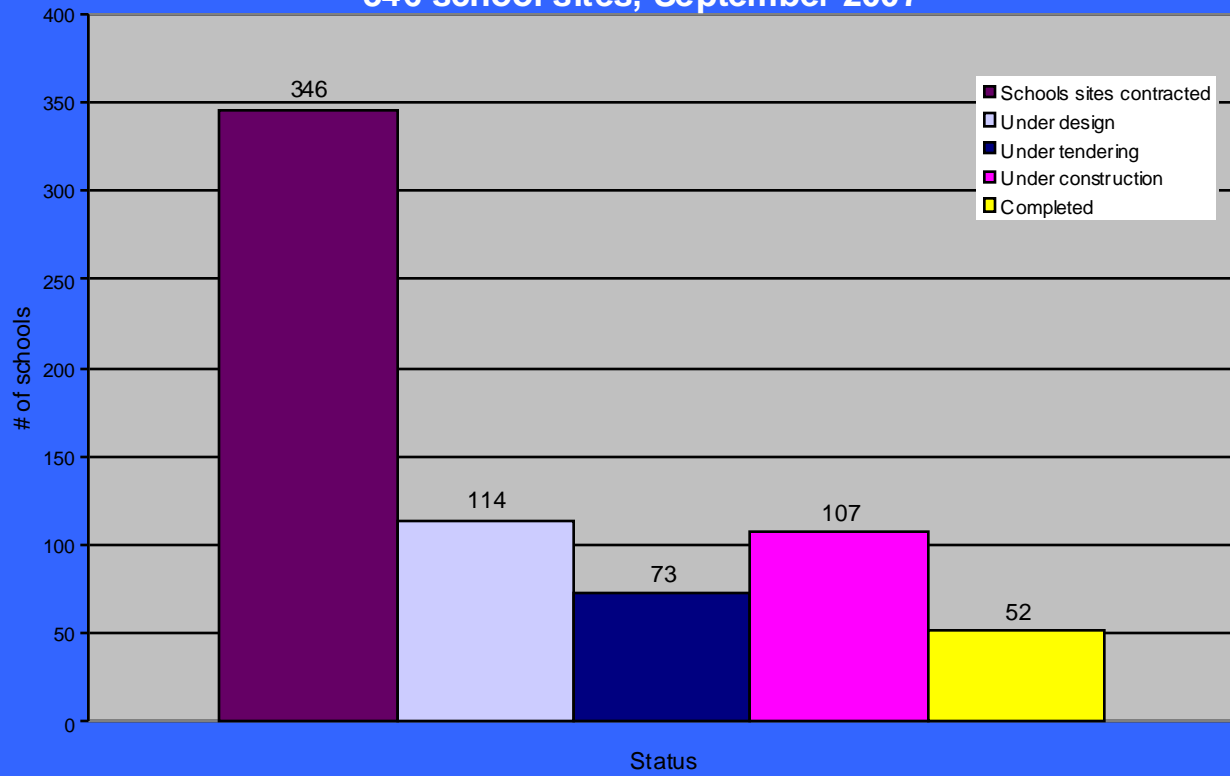
At the peace festivals, children used songs, games, banners, and paintings to share what they had learned in the program. A common theme in all their activities was a strong message to the adults in the audience that they are tired of war and want the current peace to last. Messages on their colorful banners clearly outlined this sentiment: “Conflict, No; Peace; Yes.” “Peace through commitment.”

“The children are enthusiastic about peace,” stated Husni, a local coordinator for Childfund Indonesia. He noted in many communities, children spend their afternoons at the centers, learning and sharing ideas



Although the pilot program is complete, much more work remains to be done to improve the plight of children in the former conflict areas. Childfund Indonesia is seeking to expand the program to other communities and also increase the number services provided. It is hoped that the success of the pilot program will prompt support from additional donors and local government agencies.

### Status of School Construction in Aceh and Nias 346 school sites, September 2007



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