



South Asia

Tsunami Recovery in Indonesia

Homes for the Homeless

Community members vote unanimously for UMCOR Indonesia’s design for house construction.

! UMCOR ADVANCE # 274305 South Asia Emergency !

UMCOR INDONESIA: FACING UNIQUE CHALLENGES

News stories abound about the slow progress for tsunami recovery in Southeast Asia. Many people wonder, “What’s taking so long?” The tsunami’s complete and widespread destruction means that what would be significant strides for recovery in other disasters appears to be insignificant in response to the tsunami. Working in post-tsunami Indonesia presents some unique challenges. UMCOR is working creatively to overcome them.

- ▶ Massive construction efforts are placing a strain on resources for building materials, such as lumber. UMCOR is seeking ways to construct homes using less lumber so they are cost-effective and environmentally responsible.
- ▶ The huge numbers of outside organizations seeking to help in the recovery process have flooded government offices. UMCOR personnel are working within the government’s guidelines to seek appropriate permits in the most time-effective manner. Thus far, UMCOR Indonesia has received top NGO ratings by the government, allowing UMCOR to continue in planned work.
- ▶ Banda Aceh, the area of Indonesia hardest-hit by the tsunami, is a place of ongoing political conflict. Since the tsunami, the peace process has been more ardently pursued, however tensions in the area remain high. UMCOR always seeks to remain neutral in political conflict and keep its workers safe.

HELPING THE MOST VULNERABLE

UMCOR Indonesia is helping families like Yusef’s regain their homes and more. He is a fisherman, but has no boat. To earn his living, he follows other boats to find fish to sell. He brings home about \$1.25 to \$2.50 each week as the fruit of his labor. Then, the tsunami wiped out his home in the coastal village of Kuala Raja and now he lives in government housing. Because of their difficult living situation, Yusef, his wife and three children will be among the first 10 families to have a new home under UMCOR Indonesia’s Integrated Rehabilitation for Tsunami Affected Communities (IRTAC) program.

They will move into one of 10 demonstration houses completed at the end of September. The demonstration houses are models to allow communities to select what best fits their needs. Now, they are also homes to some of the most vulnerable tsunami survivors.

IRTAC is assisting four villages in two districts with a total population exceeding 3,000. After a careful assessment UMCOR Indonesia determined that these areas have some of the most vulnerable populations with the least access to relief organizations.

The IRTAC program began in May 2005, months before the Indonesia office was fully staffed. Within four months, the project had already completed 10 demonstration homes and had secured the support of the local communities.

The table below shows how UMCOR Indonesia will help people in these villages.

Village Name	Shelter Reconstruction (# shelters to build)	Home Repair (# homes to repair)	Infrastructure Rehabilitation (# beneficiaries)	Livelihood Assistance (# beneficiaries)
Kuala Raja	94	29	1,121	64
Matang Teungoh	61	34	589	62
Pineung Siri Bee	92	14	663	62
Tanjong Baro	185	12	658	62
Total	432	89	3,031	250

Photo: Community members vote unanimously for UMCOR Indonesia’s design for house construction. Credit: UMCOR



Photo: An UMCOR house under construction in Bireuen, Indonesia. Credit: UMCOR

Partnering with the Community

IRTAC includes constructing new homes like Yusef's as well as repairing damaged homes. The program also gives a hand up to people in need of financial assistance through programs that will help them generate an income by providing business training, and supplies such as tools, fishing equipment, and small livestock. Finally, the program will rehabilitate the local infrastructures in these areas by repairing and improving roads, bridges, sanitation systems, and electrical networks.

The IRTAC program is a holistic approach to helping tsunami survivors recover their lives and livelihoods in the wake of complete destruction. UMCOR Indonesia works with communities so they can take part in their own recovery. UMCOR's approach sees survivors as project partners instead of passive aid recipients. Community members participate in meetings to learn about the project's progress and to decide on its future. Local workers, both skilled and unskilled, are hired to build homes and to work on other infrastructure projects, which also helps to inject money into the local economy.

CONTACT US

UMCOR
475 Riverside Drive, Room 330
New York, NY 10015.
Telephone: 800-554-8583
Email: umcor@gbgm-umc.org
www.umcor.org

