



INTERNATIONAL
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Dear Colleagues,

I refer to our agreement at the Agencies Meeting in Berlin last January and have the pleasure of sending you enclosed the first assessment report on Indonesia prepared by Robby Tulus whom we hired as a field co-ordinator of Tsunami reconstruction efforts.

The report provides an analysis of the current situation in Aceh with some statistics on the impact on co-operatives affected by Tsunami. It also confirms the still existing capacity to receive assistance while emphasizing the importance of full involvement and participation of local people in all projects. The report confirms as well that co-operatives are considered as viable business models not only in revitalising existing co-operatives but also in setting up new ones in sectors where they did not exist earlier. As a conclusion of the needs assessment, the Report proposes eight programme ideas which might interest you when defining your support for a long term post-Tsunami reconstruction.

I would like to thank those of you who have sent information to ICA and shared mission reports as agreed in Berlin. However I kindly ask you to let us have more technical information on planned projects without which ICA cannot fulfil its role as a co-ordinator and ensure an equitable distribution of funds/technical assistance to all those who need it.

As far as we could see most of the attention and funds have been directed to Sri Lanka, Thailand and India. According to our information in Indonesia no co-operative projects have been initiated yet although they were hit most severely losing 200.000 people in Aceh alone. About 30% of those killed worked in agriculture and a further 10% were members of fishing communities.

You may be aware that shortly after this report was finished an earthquake hit again parts of Indonesia which were badly damaged already by the previous Tsunami. The tragic turn of events in the Island of Nias makes it even more urgent for the international community to help.

Let us know if any of the project ideas are of interest to you. Please note that Robby Tulus will continue to work for ICA, focusing on Indonesia, until end of May. After that he will be available for you if you need his services, i.e. elaborating project proposals including budget estimates. His thorough knowledge and understanding about the cultural background and political situation could be essential in case you decide to support co-operative development in Indonesia and I would certainly advocate his involvement.

Further project ideas are currently been worked out. Link with other NGOs and co-operative sectors are also being examined.

Finally, I would like to inform you that the ICA Regional Office for Asia and Pacific has made needs assessments in India and Sri Lanka. As a follow-up they have drafted a project proposal for each country's co-operative development which you will receive from us very shortly. You are also most welcome to work with our Regional Office on any of their proposals.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With co-operative greetings,

Iain Macdonald
Director General