



INDONESIA



Tsunami and Quake Response Field Notes

What color is your future?

By: Lesvi Roselim



Dewi Indriyani her little shop

The tsunami of December 24, 2004, has given me the opportunity to become stronger in the field of communication and, since then, discussions within the communications unit has led me to read more about our profession as well. In 2005, Paul Sanchez wrote an article in the May-June edition of *Communication World* entitled, "What color is your future?" The article was about how communicators were changing from people who wore shades of corporate blue and gray in their roles as the self-effacing press contact or the industrial editor to a colorful lot with responsibilities in all sectors of business, industry, government and nonprofit organizations. While Sanchez wondered if this is the golden age for the communications professionals, I asked myself what people who experienced the tsunami thought about the colors of the future, two years after the disastrous tsunami hit Aceh.

From dark to bright

"Any color that is bright, that is how I feel. The future of Aceh is indeed brighter now while, before, it was dark and gloomy from the conflict and tsunami," says Nuryanti, a Posyandu (Integrated Health Service Post) cadre in Lambada Lhok village in Baitussalam sub-district, while attending a training workshop facilitated by CWS on Health Nutrition and Hygiene Sanitation in Banda Aceh.

Although Nuryanti does not come from an area that was previously affected by violence, she says all of the Acehnese people experienced the conflict, either directly or indirectly. "It affected the economy worst," she mentions.

She starts lamenting when talking about how the tsunami hit the Baitussalam, the district where she is living. "Our district was one of the worst hit sub-districts in Aceh Besar. I lost my 15 year old daughter in the tsunami and the situation was very difficult then."

Nuryanti, who has been a cadre at the Posyandu for 15 years, appreciates all the assistance that Aceh receives from people around the world after the tsunami. "We are glad to have people helping us, for example this training. We get to learn things that we did not know before," says the 40-year-old, who is also the head of the Posyandu.

"With the assistance, we are able to improve the services in the Posyandu by providing education for the cadres. The community will realize the importance of the Posyandu and will benefit from improved health, which at the end will make a better future for Aceh," she continues.

Red of the past is gone, but it is still dark

Unfortunately, not all are equally optimistic about the future as Nuryanti. Razali Sa'ad, a 70-year-old man living in Mata le barracks in Darul Imarah sub-district, thinks that the future is still without a definite direction and darker in color. "I have survived the conflict and the tsunami. My house was burnt down by GAM (the Free Aceh Movement). Thinking back to the conflict, I see the color red as it reflects the turmoil and sorrow. Although the conflict has passed, now we have to face the uncertainty of how long we are going to continue living in these barracks," says the grandfather with eight grandchildren.

He is also the chief of the barracks in charge of the problems of the younger orphans. He says, "Nearly two hundred families are still living in the barracks without a land certificate. Are we going to live here forever?"

"Many NGOs come and go, giving false hope, and the government does not seem to have any plan for us," he carries on.

The assistance from aid agencies (even the international ones) has diminished in the barracks as, according to Razali, they most focus on the emergency phase. "Children still need assistance in education; it has not been sufficient, indeed. Currently CWS provides assistance with psychosocial activities and a mobile library, but we still need more assistance, especially for the orphans."

I understand the frustrations of people like Razali. There is still a lot of work to be done but, at the same, much was destroyed and the constraints of material supply, land ownership, coordination, lack of (skilled) human resources, high poverty levels and low education levels (already pre-tsunami) and psychosocial problems (due to conflict, tsunami and earthquake) have created many challenges for the affected people, the government and NGOs.

Fauzi, a humanitarian aid worker in Banda Aceh, also believes that red would be the most appropriate color before the tsunami "for all the blood that had been shed in the conflict."

"A perfect future would be where people are safe, where there is justice and prosperity. Green can represent that and I think now we are walking toward green. In some way, the transformation from red to green is thanks to the tsunami, which has brought people from outside Aceh who sympathize and have helped Aceh. The tsunami has also brought the changes in politics that have delivered the peace agreement. So it is not only a curse as some people refer it to," he explains.

Fauzi explains to me that the path to green still needs a lot of work and mending, and the plan to rebuild Aceh should have been better planned and implemented. "There have been cases found where the assistance, in housing provision and in other sectors, had been misallocated,



Nuryanti participating in a health nutrition hygiene

and the most vulnerable people were neglected, such as people without land certificates, illiterate people who could not come up with proposals, or simply just because there is limited access to assistance from the humanitarian organizations."

However, Fauzi believes that all parties try their best to provide assistance in the effort to rebuild Aceh, "Many training workshops and case studies have also been provided and conducted to learn from mistakes in order to better implement the programs. We will see a more steady development in the near future," says Fauzi confidently.

Despite uncertainty, green is the color of a good future

The future for a young mother, Dewi Indrayani, 26, still holds uncertainty, but she believes that green represents the color of a good future, "But now we are not there yet, though it is a lot better than dark brown," she says, referring to the condition just after the tsunami.

Dewi, her family and extended family still live in Cot Gue barracks in Aceh Besar, among the people who do not have land certificates after nearly two years. The land where the barracks stands is rented by one of the NGOs providing shelter for tsunami survivors. The rental contract will end in December 2006.

"The government said that they will relocate us to a new place before we get our new house but, until now, there is no confirmation," says Dewi.

For her daily living, Dewi runs a little shop selling sundry goods, for which CWS had provided assistance. She makes around IDR 30,000 – 50,000 net/day (USD 3 – 5), enough to cover living costs and she even manages to save a little, "Although living in barracks has made us closer to others, I really miss a place to call home," says Dewi while serving her customers.



Fauzi

Liza Fauziah is one of the members of the audit team from the government body that shares the responsibility in monitoring the programs implemented by partners and other organizations for quality assurance in non-infrastructure development.

"We can see that a lot of progress has been made since the tsunami, whether in the infrastructure or non-infrastructure sector, and the progress can be considered fast. In the non-infrastructure sector, especially the economic sector, the fast progress is the result of the assistance from organizations and agencies that offer assistance in credit loans, grants and so on to the tsunami-affected people," explains Liza.

Liza, as an Acehnese, feels that she has to take responsibility to re-build Aceh, "After the tsunami, Aceh was crippled for three months and all economic activity stopped. We were totally dependent on assistance provided by various organizations," recounts Liza. "But now things have steadily improved."

Like Fauzi and Dewi, Liza also thinks of green when she speaks of a better future, "I describe the tsunami as black for the sadness and the loss, and red for the conflict and deviation during that time. At the moment, we are working our way toward the green."

Listening to the different perspectives of the past and present, they all seem true and partial, but all crucial for our learning process and a better understanding of ourselves and the contexts and people we work with. Commemorating the second year of the tsunami, the colors of the future are getting brighter, although we all realize that lots more work needs to be done before we reach a situation in which health, home, sustained peace and better living are assured. The responsibility of communicators is telling people's stories and showing the different colors of the spectrum that will hopefully contribute to better understanding and respect for each other.

On December, 26, 2004 an earthquake occurred in the western coast of Northern Sumatra and Aceh in Indonesia, Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands with a magnitude of 8.9 RS, causing massive tidal waves impacting several countries including Indonesia

Aceh was hit the hardest with a death toll of more than 120,000 people, and ten thousands of others still missing. Less than three months afterwards, March 28, 2005, an 8.2 RS earthquake occurred 55 km north of Nias Island, Northern Sumatra, causing more than 620 deaths in Nias Island.

In response to the disasters, CWS Indonesia has implemented programs and distributed relief items in Banda Aceh, Meulaboh and Nias.

CWS Tsunami Emergency-recovery response is part of an Action by Churches Together (ACT) appeal, of which CWS Indonesia is one of the implementing partners. Yayasan Tanggal Bencana (YTB) and Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU) are the other two ACT implementing members.

CWS Indonesia progress to date

Sector	Number of households	Kind of assistance
Life support	Around 30,000 households or around 150,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries.	various emergency food and non-food items such as non-food item packages, health kits, hygiene kits, school kits, baby kits and kid's kits
Livelihood	2 388 beneficiaries	Distribution of seeds and tools and capital assets (pedicabs, fishing boats), capacity building
Shelter	2 496 households 206 households	family tents permanent houses—completed and occupied
Water and sanitation	43 593 beneficiaries	Water supply, construction/rehabilitation of latrines, wells, boreholes
Nutrition	7 456 beneficiaries	Health services, supplementary feeding, distribution of micro-nutrient sprinkles (Vitalita) and fortified soy sauce, health and nutrition education
Psychosocial care	5 176 beneficiaries	Early childhood development (ECD) and fun and educational activities in tents (FEAT) programs



PARTNERS FOR OUR TSUNAMI RESPONSE PROGRAM:

Act International, CWS, USAID, MCC, NCA, IOCC, MAMAMIA, Yayasan Dian Desa, PASKA, CHSE (Community Humanitarian and Social Empowerment), Yayasan Hijau Lestari Indonesia, Yayasan Sumber Pendidikan Mental Agama Allah (SPMAA), Lembaga Pembinaan Pengembangan Masyarakat (LPPM), Lembaga Pembinaan Anak Bangsa (LPAB), Bakti Sosial Pembangunan Desa (BSPD), Lembaga Pengembangan Sosial Ekonomi dan Lingkungan Hidup (LPSELH) Aceh, Yayasan Forum Studi Kependudukan dan Lingkungan Hidup (FORSIKAL), Centra Muda Putroe Phang Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia (CMPP), HKI (Helen Keller International), UNICEF, Universitas Muhammadiyah (UMUHA) Aceh, Radio Station Nikoya FM, Integrated Health Service Posts/ Posyandu in Baitussalam District, Aceh Besar, Community Health Service/ Puskesmas, Harapan Bangsa School of Higher Education in Banda Aceh, Yayasan Pembela Nelayan dan Petani (PAPAN), Yayasan Kelompok Pemantau dan Pendidikan Lingkungan (KPPL), Darma Wanita, KUMPU (Kupulan Mejahit Pakaian Umum), KPBB (Kelompok Bengkel Becak Sepeda), PPBA (Persatuan Pengrajin Batu Akik), Aneuk Laweut, KIPK (Kelompok Ibu Pembuat Kue), Kelompok Tani Lhok Geulumpang, Gapencak (Gabungan Pengayuh Becak) Aceh Barat, WFP, IOCC – Kerkinactie (ACT's Partner), Christian Aid (ACT's Partner), L – Batani, Hanuma.

CWS Indonesia is a member of ACT Forum Indonesia together with Yayasan Tanggul Bencana (YTB) & Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU).

CWS Indonesia has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with The Ministry of Social Welfare.

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