



# ACEH NEWS

April, 2006

## In This Issue

- The Harvest is Ripe
- Children Helping Children  
*Pre-school Enrolments start  
1 May 2006*
- Kreung Sabee *Community  
Development Project*



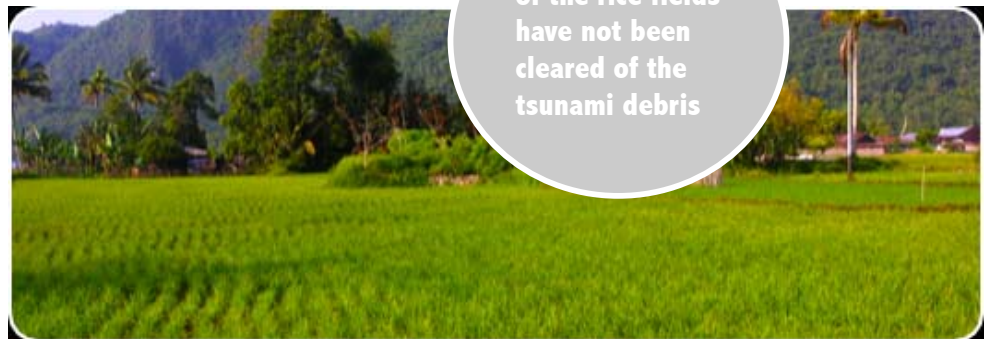
## Information Links

[www.e-aceh-nias.org](http://www.e-aceh-nias.org)

[www.concern4kids.com](http://www.concern4kids.com)

## THE HARVEST IS RIPE

More than 70%  
of the rice fields  
have not been  
cleared of the  
tsunami debris



Since April 2005, Concern for Kids have been working in the five (5) villages of the Kreung Sabee a sub-district of Aceh Jaya, INDONESIA that were totally destroyed in the wake of the 2004 tsunami leaving 1542 families homeless, a total of 385 children lost either or both of their parents. All public buildings including schools, shops and government offices were totally destroyed, as were most of their rice fields, vegetable crops, fruit and coconut trees.

C4K saw that there was an immediate need for these traditional rice farmers to re-establish their crops, even though less than 30% of their rice fields were in a condition suitable for planting this, at least, would be a start and so through the generosity of our partner organizations funds were made available to provide livelihood start up kits to 1106 farmers as well as 99 fishermen, 74 Mechanics and 40 carpenters. The farmer's kits comprised of rice, bean & chili seeds, hand tools and hand tractors.

The rice is now ripe and golden on the stalks, and the farmers are busy harvesting. The fishermen are providing a daily catch of fresh fish and delicious crab. The people of the community of Kreung Sabee have invited C4K together with other NGO's working in the area to join them in sharing a celebration meal together.

We have now turned our focus to restoring the remaining 70% of rice fields in the Kreung Sabee district that were totally destroyed in the tsunami as well as seeking provisions to replace the ravaged fruit and coconut trees.

## SCHOOLS IN!



## THE DREAM BECOMES A REALITY

There children of Kreung Sabee have been dreaming of how life would be if only they could attend pre-school. The older ones have a vague memory of happier times when they used to go to pre-school to learn and play with their friends, but that was before the massive waves of destruction came and swept everything away.

In the first months following the tsunami the surviving teachers gathered the school children together each day, and under an open sky, with out a book, a pen or a piece of paper. In a gallant effort and despite their own suffering, they made every attempt to bring some form normality back into the lives of these traumatized children. Soon after aid workers and volunteers started to arrive from all over the world bringing with them tents in all shapes and sizes to be used for temporary schooling as well as some much needed books and stationary supplies.

UNICEF together with several other organizations has since committed to rebuild the elementary, middle and high schools. One aid organization generously provided a kindergarten program for several months, however they were only committed to helping in the initial recovery stage, so when their program finished in the fall of 2005 the children were left without a pre-school.

In December of 2005 some mothers approached our one of our volunteers working with Helping Hands and Concern for Kids, they said "According to your organization's name you are concerned for kids, our kids don't have a pre-school. Can you please help us?" Overcome by the extent of the still un-met needs in the area, our volunteer could only shake her head in despair and explain to these hopeful mothers that all of our available funds were already allocated towards meeting other needs, she told them all she could do for them was to pray that some how they would get their pre-school...With in 48 hours that prayer was answered, an email enquiry came from the parents and teaches of 1199 Early Learning Center in New York. They had received volunteer workers contact details from a mutual friend who had visited the tsunami area some months before.

The teachers, students and parents of 1199 Early Learning Center had been raising funds for the tsunami victims and felt strongly lead that these funds should go towards a pre-school, they wanted to work with a organization that would guarantee that all the funds would reach Aceh and would be used toward pre-school development. Our volunteer responded immediately explaining the difficult situation that families were still facing in Kreung Sabee and their need of a pre-school.

Thanks to the generous support of 1199 Early Learning Center the Kreung Sabee Pre-School will commence operations on 1 May 2006. This funding will be used towards the start up of the Kreung Sabee Pre-School by providing play equipment, toys, books and learning materials as well as the daily operational costs for a period of 12 months including stationary supplies, teachers salaries and training/parent training programs. The pre-school will be housed in the newly completed Kreung Sabee Community Center.

Our desired objective for the community development program is to honor the local culture while building communities that are:

- Committed to the holistic transformation of their lives.
- Centered on the values of working together for the good of the whole community.
- Believe in the liberating process of Action-Reflection-Action.
- Respectful of the human dignity of each individual regardless of age, gender, abilities, education or social standing.
- Geared towards empowering the people to become self-reliant and self-sustaining.

## KREUNG SABEE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The construction of the buildings which will house the Kreung Sabee Community Center were completed in December 2005, the provision of these buildings was made possible through a combined effort of the local community as well as several non-profit organizations, including Helping Hands Foundation, Concern for Kids, Compassion Frisco and Saddleback.

In March 2006 Helping Hands Foundation in partnership with C4K began the implementation of an integrated community development program, the purpose and anticipated end result of the Kreung Sabee Community Development Project is to use the facilities now available at the Community Center to come alongside and empower the people of Kreung Sabee as they rehabilitate their communities, allowing previous industries to re-emerge. This BWAA funded project will ultimately develop the skills and abilities of the local people by providing seminars, workshops and practical vocational training in the areas of Agriculture, Language & Computer, Community Health, Micro Enterprise, Conservation, Sports and Creative Arts.

As well as providing workshops and trainings, we are also partnering with the local government & UNDP to facilitate community organizing, which involves coordinating the communities into cluster or "cell" groups. These cluster groups will form the basis for future working groups as well as facilitate both the up and down stream information gathering and distributing.



## FUNDING NEEDS

- English & Computer Learning Center Equipment
- Women's Training Center Equipment
- Recreational & Sports Facilities and Equipment
- Coconut & Fruit Trees

Coconut trees are an important commodity in the traditional communities of Aceh, they provided many of the basic needs, in the form of food, drink, cooking oil and copra products and the aged trees were cut so the wood could be used in timber construction. In ancient times a man's wealth could be measured by the number of coconut trees he owned. Normal coconut trees take approximately 8 years to start bearing fruit, and with almost all the trees located along the coastal area destroyed it will take many years before the coconut production levels with return to the pre-tsunami stages. We therefore propose to provide the fast growing hybrid variety, which, depending on the care and conditions, can be, bearing fruit within approximately 3 years.



Concern 4 Kids volunteers  
Lynnette Johnson, Vaughn Thomas & Betsy Brown.



The Helping Hands Team

If you would like more information on how you, or your organization, can come alongside our continued outreach by contributing towards our community development programs please contact us.

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