

A-LINK NEWS

Volume 2, 16 November, 2005

Opening Ceremony of Kuta Alam Health Clinic



(Opening Ceremony in Kuta Alam Clinic, people who attended the official ceremony was gathering and looks for the building)

After three months of reconstruction the Kuta Alam health clinic was officially opened on Saturday, October 29, 2005. The ceremony was attended by the Mawardy Nurdin (Mayor of Banda Aceh), Marzuki SKM (Chief of the Health Department) and Staff and Leadership from the two Non Government Agencies (NGOs) working to rebuild the clinic, Aceh Link and World Vision Indonesia (WVI).

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Nurdin was very excited about the opening and expressed gratitude and thanks to both NGOs who helped complete the project. He said that the Sub district of Kuta Alam is the largest of all sub districts in population and its clinic was very busy and saw the largest number of patients prior to the Tsunami. He hopes that the clinic can be a standard for Banda Aceh.

The Kuta Alam clinic was the first in Banda Aceh, it first opened its doors in 1975. Prior to the Tsunami it was visited by more than 200 patients each day. The building was badly damaged in the Tsunami. Several months ago, Betsy Brown, Lynnette Johnson and Peter Kamarea were discussing ways to help the people of Kampung Mulia. They came across the clinic and decided it would be an excellent project.

The Clinic is now fully operational and staffed, and is ready to be opened to the community once again. Cut Rilda Warsawati, also known as Dr. Koko, expressed excitement at the opening. She is the head officer of the clinic, and said that the staff greatly desires to serve the people in the Kuta Alam area and hopes to have the clinic operating as soon as possible.***



((Right to left) The Mayor of Banda Aceh, Mawardy Nurdin; Peter Kamarea, Managing Director of the Source; Area Manager WVI; Dr. Marzuki have discuss about Kuta Alam Clinic)

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Giving Presents to Over 385 Orphans for Lebaran in Krueng Sabee

Lynnette Johnson led a team of 12 Aceh Link staff to Calang on Monday, October 31 to distribute new Lebaran clothes to approximately 385 Orphans in the area. Aceh Link continues to develop relationships with the people in this area in hopes of establishing a community development program for Krueng Sabee. The Joyful Kids staff prepared a children's program with games, singing, and crafts for the children. They also distributed special Buka Puasa snacks. The children were very excited to participate in the activities and to receive their new clothes for the holiday.

Krueng Sabee has 11 villages or sub districts with 382 children orphaned as a result of the Tsunami. Those 11 villages are Kadee Krueng Sabee, Monmata, Kabong, Padang Datar, Panggong, Datar Luas, Paya Seumantok, Ranto Panyang, Buntha, Curek, and Alue Tho. 211 of those children lost their fathers in the Tsunami, 99 lost their mothers, and 72 children lost both parents.

Pak Yusuf was very pleased and excited with the program and clothing for the children. He said "It's really meaningful for us, especially for the orphans, they are very happy because they will have new clothes for Lebaran." The Aceh Link staff was happy to be able to be a part of this event.***



(Lynnette Johnson Distributed New Lebaran Clothes to the Head of village for Orphans in 11 areas of Krueng Sabee)

Kids Photo Project



(All kids in Kampung Mulia have received the disposable cameras to take the picture and keep it as a memento)

More than 60 disposable cameras have been distributed to children in the Banda Aceh area during the months of October and November to children in Government Barracks and different villages and neighborhoods. The primary objective of this project is to help the children in expressing themselves through this art form. They will be able to have an outlet to relay emotions and feelings that may otherwise be suppressed. It will also provide the children with photos of themselves, their friends and their families to keep as a memento. A potential result of this project is to compile the photographs and publish them in some form. All proceeds of such a publication will go directly to help the children of this community.

Emily is the coordinator and visionary for the project. Lanny as come alongside and is working directly with the children. The children are given a list of instructions, directions on using the cameras, and a list of questions and prompts to be answered with a photograph. The plan is for this to open up an opportunity to help the children discuss their lives, hope and dreams, and how the Tsunami affected them. Indonesian News Network, MetroTV, stopped by the Kampung Mulia photo day, and reported on the photo day and the kids' photo project. This was an exciting development for the children and the staff involved.***

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Tsunami Testimonial

During the earthquake, Bibi (30), (originally name, Mahyuni) was at home. Afterwards she left her home and was standing outside with her family. When she heard people shouting that the sea was getting higher. She ran to the middle of the city and was able to escape the waves. Her youngest child and husband were hit by the wave, but survived, and they were reunited after a few hours. Bibi has three children, but has adopted a fourth child, a girl orphaned by the Tsunami. Her children are Nadia (12) Elena (10), Sarah (7) and Nurul (12).

(Mahyuni and Her Husband in coffee shop)



Bibi and her husband currently own and operate a small coffee shop in Kampung Mulia on the riverside. She is very happy with their shop because they are able to make sufficient money to support themselves. When asked how she became close to many Aceh Link workers, she said that she heard about Aceh Link from Rini and then she met Lynnette, Betsy, and many short term workers. She said "I am very happy to know them, for me they are family. They helped me restart my coffee shop, installed electricity in my home, and are helping with education for my children." She hopes that Aceh Link can stay in her village for a long period of time and can provide job opportunities for the people of Kampung Mulia, especially the youth. She hopes to see Kampung Mulia return to its pre-tsunami state.***

Family Photo Day

Tsunami victims lost everything they owned on December 26th. One such item that many people desire to have again are family photographs. Betsy and Lynnette noticed this need, and discussed with many Aceh Link staff the possibility of a Family Photo Day for the people of Kampung Mulia.

The program was expanded to include many families in the Barracks near the Banda Aceh Stadium as well. The main objectives were to provide photographs for the families, as well as to build relationships with the people of Kampung Mulia and the Stadium Barracks. Family Photo Day took place on November 5-6 during the Idul Fitri Holidays. More than 60 families attended the photo days.***



(One of the Volunteer has taken photograph for member residence in Kampung Mulia)