

Yayasan Dinamik Sistim

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Aceh Transformational Enterprise Development Program

English Language & Computer Training Center

The earthquake and tsunami that began on December 26, 2004 at approximately 8:00 a.m. killed 128,728 people and 37,022 are still officially listed as missing in Aceh alone. This does not include the more than 556,638 who are at this time displaced. Of the 4,548 schools in Aceh serving 996,003 children, approximately 2,066 were destroyed or damaged. However, even this appalling figure fails to describe the full extent of the tragedy, as it does not include the many hundreds of thousands of victims who suffered psychological trauma, the loss of possessions, housing and the means of deriving a livelihood.



Tsunami demolished most of the buildings in Banda Aceh

Yayasan Dinamik Sistim (YDS – a non profit Indonesian foundation) recognizes that transitions from camps to communities require meeting basic housing and shelter needs and economy revitalization to provide employment opportunities. YDS is a non profit educational and community development foundation. It has been operating in Aceh since 1994. YDS has teams of national workers living in Aceh who are dedicated to transformation and are employed by the projects and businesses. YDS possesses sound local knowledge, experience, language skills (both Indonesian and Acehnese speakers), developed network base and acceptance by the local people and authorities.

In December 2004 most of YDS projects and businesses were either partially or totally destroyed by the tsunami. Sixty percent of their personnel became homeless. Most of them have lost a substantial amount of their immediate family, relatives and friends. With the support of several international organizations, YDS have started recruiting more personnel, re-establishing their businesses, and setting up several projects. They have been relocated to a new office premise and have scaled up their programs. The key objective of these initiatives is to provide a proper place to get Acehnese quickly employed rather than sitting idly in refugee camps. Today YDS has over 120 national employees.



Students listening to an English lecture

LPK (Lembaga Pendidikan Kreatif) has been operating for over 15 years in Aceh prior to the disaster. LPK is an English and Computer course that provides basic skills in the English language and simple computer skills to upper elementary and secondary school students. This is currently not available in any form in Banda Aceh due to

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the recent tsunami. It is imperative that the youth of Aceh have access to English and computer education or else it will significantly decrease their opportunities for continuing education and career possibilities in the future.

Much of LPK's infrastructure and assets were lost or damaged in the earthquake and ensuing tsunami. In order to accommodate the students, LPK is seeking ways to subsidize for a one-year period the cost to the family of this education in addition to normal school hours. A private course in English and computers is a very common practice in Indonesia as very little is offered in these areas to the general public school system.

Under the management of Drs. Ibrahim Saleh, LPK will work hand in hand with YDS to provide English and computer education for Acehnese children. Already 112 computer students and 125 students under the English course have begun studies since earlier this year. The goal is to accommodate 1300 students and 25 instructors for both English and computer lessons. Instructors will generally be university students that we find competent with the skill in the subjects that they will be teaching to younger children. This is a wonderful way to assist some university students with the cost of their education. Finding a job like this is nearly impossible in the area of Aceh and most of the students that we help are very thankful. This also helps the students to get some practical experience teaching, something that goes a long way once they graduate and begin applying for jobs.



Drs. Ibrahim Saleh

This project will educate Aceh's future generation with wide-reaching skills that are practical and also at a relatively low price. LPK was operational for many years before the tsunami and will continue on for many years after.