

BENEFICIARY PROFILE

United Nations Development Programme



Tsunami Recovery Waste Management Programme

Recycling Life from Tsunami Waste

She never dreamt she'd become a carpenter, but 25-year-old Armida has become skilled in scouring wood. Her goal? To earn enough money so that her five-year-old daughter can have a good education.

Armida became a widow with the death of her husband in the 2004 tsunami.

"Before the tsunami, I worked as a housewife and all our costs were paid from my husband's earning selling fish. But since he died all the assets we built together have gone, so everything has changed in my life," she said sadly.



Now most of Armida's time is spent working in the furniture workshop in Gampong Jawa, which is three kilometres from her residence in Lampulo. The workshop is funded by UNDP's Waste Management Programme to recycle wood from the tsunami into home furniture.

Six days a week Armida works in the workshop, from 8am to 5pm. It's a role she's performed for more than a year. She is joined by 63 others whose livelihoods now depend on the furniture workshop. The workers are being trained by a team of skilled carpenters led by UNDP staffer Nurdin. Their mission is to clean and trim the wood, to ultimately create robust and attractive furniture pieces.

"Initially I worked as a volunteer to sort wood and other tsunami waste. Then after a few months I was employed by UNDP to work here. I receive 40,000 Rp (US\$4.50) a day including lunch."

Armida seems happy focusing on her new world. Before the tsunami she never imagined she'd work as a carpenter.

"I like working here and hope to continue for a long time as it's difficult to find another job," she said.

For more information, visit: www.undp.or.id

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