



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Multi Donor Fund Returns Community Based Housing Project Back to Pidie**

Desa Sukon, Pidie, November 3, 2008 – the Community Based Settlement Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project for Aceh (*REKOMPAK*) funded by the Multi Donor Fund symbolically returned its community-based housing project of 613 reconstructed and 153 rehabilitated units to the Pidie community at the Escape Building. This is the first batch of the planned total 8112 reconstructed and 7077 rehabilitated houses managed by *REKOMPAK* since October 2005 with a total grant from MDF at US\$ 78.2 million. *REKOMPAK* provides grants to 130 communities to rebuild and repair houses and rehabilitate their settlement infrastructure through a community-driven approach.

“It has been a challenge for the project to oversight on each house, especially that technical capacity of workers varies,” said George Soraya Task Team Leader from the World Bank. “But the community-driven approach has proven to be efficient in rebuilding houses within the span of a few months and creates strong ownership with the beneficiaries and a sense of pride in their achievements.”

Safriza Sofyan, Deputy for MDF in Aceh stated that *REKOMPAK* is one of the first projects funded MDF and it was agreed to take a different approach in the reconstruction of houses by eliminating contractors after seeing the difficulties to hire workers.

As of mid October, overall completion of reconstructed houses is at 6568 units (81% of target) and rehabilitated 6937 units or 98% of the overall target. Areas which have completed their reconstructed units are: Sabang and Aceh Barat Daya.

After the tsunami, the World Bank administered one of the largest trust-funds in the world under the Multi Donor Fund. By leveraging funds from 15 bilateral and multilateral donors, the Fund pooled approximately US\$ 703 million in pledges and is now managing 20 projects in Aceh and Nias in the areas of: recovery of communities, reconstruction of large infrastructure, rebuilding governance, sustaining the environment and recovery of livelihoods.

The period of reconstruction and rehabilitation in Aceh as a Central Government program is ending with the closing of the Agency for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (BRR) in April 2009. Meanwhile, the Multi Donor Fund will continue its mandate for the recovery of Aceh and Nias until 2012.

The Multi Donor Fund for Aceh and Nias consists of donor countries and international agencies: the European Commission, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, World Bank, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Canada, Belgium, Finland, Asia Development Bank (ADB), United States, New Zealand and Ireland. For more information, visit [www.multidonorfund.org](http://www.multidonorfund.org)