



Media Monitoring Report	
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Title : Fund reports progress on tsunami reconstruction	
Summary : The Multi Donor Fund for Aceh and Nias said it had allocated US\$ 492 million, out of its US\$ 673 million reconstruction budget to 17 projects.	

Fund reports progress on tsunami reconstruction

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The Multi Donor Fund (MDF) for Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and Nias said Tuesday it had allocated US\$492 million out of its \$673 million reconstruction budget to 17 projects as of the end of September.

Of the \$492 million, the MDF had already paid out \$270 million, of which 45 percent had been allocated to community projects, 36 percent to infrastructure rehabilitation, 11 percent to governance projects and 8 percent to environmental sustainability projects.

The MDF was set up by the World Bank in May, 2005, to coordinate the delivery of financial support from international donors. It followed a request from the Indonesian government and international community after a huge earthquake triggered a tsunami that

slammed into Aceh on Dec. 26, 2004, followed by another tsunami in Nias around three months later.

Between them, the two disasters claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and destroyed much of the coastal infrastructure.

"We work very closely with the Indonesian government, through the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (BRR), as well as the international community, so the recovery efforts have resulted in significant progress as shown by the 17 ongoing projects," said MDF head Christian A. Rey.

Rey was speaking during the launch of the MDF's latest progress report.

According to the report, the 17 projects had helped Aceh people build 4,434 new homes out of a target of 8,000, and repair 5,129 homes out of a target of 7,000, as of the end of September.

The people of Aceh and Nias had also witnessed progress in the rehabilitation of public infrastructure, including 2,529 kilometers of arterial roads, 185 kilometers of main road, 5 ports, 825 bridges, 1,075 drainage and irrigation installations, 19 markets and 282 schools.

Along the way, the MDF had also created 123,659 out of the targeted 300,000 short-term jobs in road reconstruction.

Aceh Deputy Governor M. Nazar said the donors' assistance had helped improve the economic situation in the wake of the tsunami and expressed the hope that people would be able to survive independently after the donors had left.

"We hope the people will be able to be self-reliant after all the assistance dries up. That's why right now we are looking to investment in agribusiness to create as many jobs as possible."

"We are trying to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for Aceh and Nias people after the cessation of BRR assistance in 2009," he said.

The BRR, which is responsible for the overall reconstruction effort in Aceh and Nias, has committed itself to contributing \$236 million to cofinance four MDF projects.

Deputy head of financing and planning at the BRR, Amin Subekti, said that the BRR had \$6.8 billion at its disposal, of which \$2.1 billion had been provided by the government and \$4.7 billion by local and international donors.

The MDF has received pledges of funding from 15 donors: the European Commission, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the governments of the Netherlands, the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Canada, Belgium, Finland, the United States, New Zealand and Ireland. (ind)