



# NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

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## The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**

Problems after the flood.

## Problems after the flood



This is how resulted the gas station in Agadez Turing after the flooding.

Local officials in Niger's northern Agadez region - hit by its most severe storms in decades in September 2009 - have been trying to root out false flood victims in order to redirect aid to needy families and reconstruction.

More than 13,000 homes were partially or completely destroyed by the floods, according to the government.

Motorcycle repairman Attaher Gambo told IRIN his neighbour was unfairly receiving flood assistance. "There are several others like this who have been able to get on the list of flood victims through the complicity of flood victim census takers."

On 9 December Falmata Abdou said had been told to leave the stadium in Agadez, one of five temporary housing sites. "But we do not know where to go," she said. "You can ask people to go [back] to what is left of their homes but everyone knows our neighbourhood is uninhabitable."

In an effort to stop flood victims returning to unsafe homes, the government requested the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to finance radio ads dispelling rumours of forced departures. After one week of radio ads, there were no mass departures from any of the five temporary sites as of 15 December, according to the UN.

More than US\$1 million as of October had been given to the regional flood relief committee headed by Agadez governor Abba Malam Boukar.

Boukar said that ongoing work included repairing damaged water wells; installing water and electricity to resettle families; and providing primary and psychological care "to prevent cases of shock linked to the flooding".

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To date the Niger government has received \$3.7 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. The European Community Humanitarian Aid Department has approved close to \$1 million for reconstruction. OCHA is preparing a January workshop for the regional flood relief committee on disaster risk reduction.

Flood assistance needs to be closely monitored to prevent any monies from financing political activities, said secretary-general of the opposition Social and Democratic Rally (RSD), Mallam Abagana.

Agadez businessman Mohamed Algabid said that items donated for flood relief - including tents, blankets and jerry cans - were not being resold as in the past. "This stuff is not as easy to steal as in the past when it would systematically end up here in the market."

Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

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Topics

### Climate Change and disaster reduction

The recovery is a success but still remain challenges.

# The recovery is a success but still remain challenges

Five years after the tsunami struck Indonesia, reconstruction in the hardest-hit province of Aceh is being hailed as a success story, although officials say key challenges persist. Many of the tsunami survivors in Aceh, where an estimated 160,000 people died, have regained their livelihoods while houses, roads, bridges and ports have been rebuilt in what the World Bank describes as "the most successful reconstruction effort".

"If you look at the numbers, how many roads and schools have been rebuilt and even rebuilt better than before, it's a big success," Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank country director, told reporters.

But making that progress sustainable, creating jobs, and building capacity for effective public policy were among the challenges faced by the government, Von Amsberg said. "We will continue to help ... but the governments of Indonesia and Aceh have to take the lead in overcoming the challenges," he said.

The Asian tsunami, which struck on 26 December 2004, leaving more than 220,000 people dead in 13 countries, also served as an impetus for a peace agreement in 2005 between the Indonesian government and the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM), the Free Aceh secessionist movement.

The pact ended decades of conflict that claimed an estimated 15,000 lives.

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Teungku Nazri, who lost his wife in the tsunami, said life for many survivors had improved, though some still lived in temporary shelters provided by the government. “There are many kinds of work that we can do now, but we need training so we can have better jobs,” said Nazri, 35, who was jailed for being a separatist supporter and now runs a welding workshop in Banda Aceh, the provincial capital.

Mas Amah, 36, who lost her only son and 13 other relatives in the tsunami, said her husband used to sell produce before the disaster but was now left without a regular job. “Life is more difficult and uncertain now. My husband does odd jobs, sometimes helping people sell their cars or motorcycles,” said Amah. “We need capital to start a small business and it's very difficult to get it,” she added.



Thousands of families resulted homeless by the cruel tsunami. Many children lost their parents and everything was a real caos.

The head of the Aceh Reconstruction Sustainability Agency (BKRA), which replaced the Aceh-Nias Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (BRR) after its mandate expired this year, said 94 percent of reconstruction had been completed during the past five years. “But there's still a lot of work to do in the areas of infrastructure and the economy,” said Iskandar, who like many Indonesians goes by just one name.

“When the tsunami hit, a lot of rice fields were destroyed and some of these areas can't be used any more, so we still need to [develop] 2,000ha of new fields,” he said.

Poverty, healthcare and education are among the most pressing issues for the Aceh government, Iskandar said.

Teuku Haikal, a spokesman for the Southwest Aceh Coastal Caucus, an NGO, said BKRA had not been able to resolve issues left over by BRR, including the ownership of multiple houses by some survivors.

Iskandar said more than 130,000 houses had been built, enough to shelter all survivors, but some people received two or three houses because they owned large tracts of land before the tsunami. “We have reported these problems to the district governments and the police so that they can identify people who are not entitled to some of the houses and give the houses to those who deserve [them],” he said. Iskandar also added that no figure was available of how many had still not received houses.

With an unemployment rate of 10 percent, job creation is a crucial issue in Aceh, officials said. “A US\$50 million project will fund various sub-projects designed to support economic development, especially job creation in areas such as agriculture and fisheries,” Aceh Deputy Governor Muhammad Nazar said in a speech on 16 December.

Nazar said the Multi-Donor Fund, a partnership of government and international agencies, had contributed \$700 million, which was used to build 19,122 houses, 2,655km of rural roads, 936 bridges and 1,473km of irrigation channels.

Meanwhile, the global relief agency [Mercy Corps](#) said it had helped close to 900,000 Indonesians restore their livelihoods and build stronger and safer communities.



**Comments:** It is really sad to hear that people take advantage form the situation, it also is annoying for me, I mean, if you see your neighbours asking for help, real help, and you don't really need it, please don't act that bad. We have to be more like a family.

I want to emphasize the excellent labour that the people from Phillippines have being doing. With that hability they can get far.



*"Communication saves lives!"*

■ For more information please contact ■

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