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US IOTWS Small Grants Program

# Communities Chart Their Own Course

REHABILITATION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN TSUNAMI-AFFECTED COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN ACEH PROVINCE, INDONESIA



*One of the landing sites frequently used by fishermen in Aceh*



*Community members recording the daily fish catch data*

## US IOTWS Small Grants Program

The US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program has funded 17 small grants in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand as part of its \$16.6 million two-year effort to support the development of an end-to-end warning system in the region. The grants program catalyzed and promoted pilot activities that contribute to community and bottom-up results in disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response.

## Rehabilitation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Project

Building on previous work in Aceh, Indonesia, the WorldFish Center turned assessment into action and research into results, working in a participatory manner to develop and test management options for the rehabilitation of fisheries and habitats. Four villages (Pulo Raya, Lhok Kruet, Meunasah Kulam, and Blang Monlung) in the Sampoinet sub-district of Aceh Jaya were selected in July 2007 for testing and adoption of practices to improve fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods. The activities included the following:

- Conduct testing of fish cage cultures for tilapia or grouper
- Provide technical support to the Panglima laot, the tribal leader in the fishing community, on fisheries management in the form of mapping the management area and institutions (regulations and their mitigation) ,
- Conduct training for the Panglima laot to accurately record fish catch data and monitoring information.
- Replant mangroves and coastal habitat restoration.

## Project Achievements

WorldFish worked with community stakeholders to develop an integrated management structure for fisheries and aquaculture rehabilitation in the affected communities including the habitats (e.g., mangroves) and the adjacent resources and fisheries. The process included the development of participatory action plans and increased involvement of women in the community. Community members devised their own plans that were scientifically proven, sustainable, and affordable. Through this project, WorldFish was able to adopt an ecosystem-based management approach with the involvement of the local government and the affected people in the project area. In a region largely untouched by much of the post-tsunami aid, the WorldFish Center was able to make a difference using local knowledge and the support of a primarily Indonesian staff.



Top: Women discussing fishing livelihoods in the community



Bottom: Mapping the fisheries resources around Sampoinet, Aceh

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## Lessons learned

Key lessons that could be drawn from our activities and achievements are: (i) participatory planning at the sub-district level with other NGOs enhances stakeholder participation including women; (ii) engagement of the Panglima laot facilitates the ecosystem-based management approach and improvement of fisheries management; and (iii) habitat restoration (re-greening) in combination with environmentally friendly aquaculture is the way forward to improve livelihoods of tsunami-affected communities. Having baseline knowledge of the area allowed WorldFish to act faster to develop complimentary assessments.

## Next Steps

Testing and adoption of the practices to improve their livelihoods via aquaculture and fisheries will continue with the engagement of stakeholders (community) from Sampoinet, Aceh Jaya and the Panglima laot. The WorldFish Center will work with Caritas Czech to implement the technical and management options that were developed. The lessons learned and knowledge gained in Aceh Jaya from this project (i.e., application of our framework and engagement of communities in developing site management plans) will be incorporated into the Forces of Nature-funded project of WorldFish beginning in August 2007 in Aceh Jaya. The WorldFish Center plans to replicate the work to Aceh Barat towards the end of 2007 or early 2008.

## About The WorldFish Center

The WorldFish Center is an autonomous, nonprofit organization, and was established as an international center in 1977. The Center mission is to reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture in developing countries. WorldFish is the sole organization with a mandate for global fisheries research for development. Headquartered in Malaysia and with offices and field sites in 8 countries in Africa (Malawi, Cameroon, Egypt), Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Philippines) and the Pacific (New Caledonia, Solomon Islands), WorldFish conducts projects with over 300 governmental, inter-governmental, civic and private partners in more than 20 countries.

**For more information on activities or partnership opportunities with The WorldFish Center visit:**

[www.worldfishcenter.org](http://www.worldfishcenter.org).

## About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an “end-to-end” approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region. For more information please visit [www.us-iotws.gov](http://www.us-iotws.gov).

