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Canada/Aceh Local Government Assistance Program (CALGAP)

The Canada/Aceh Local Government Assistance Program (CALGAP) is a new FCM program to support post-tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the province of Aceh, Indonesia. CALGAP is funded by CIDA.

The Canada/Aceh Local Government Assistance Program (CALGAP) is a key component of Canada's post-tsunami reconstruction assistance strategy.

Launched in June 2006, CALGAP is a three-and-a-half year, \$10 million (Cdn) program sponsored jointly by the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The program's goal is to rebuild and strengthen local governance in Aceh through responsive support to municipal governments and the promotion of intergovernmental cooperation models.

Working within the context of reconstruction and decentralization, CALGAP activities contribute to a supportive environment for reconciliation and peace.

SUPPORT TO DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS: In the City of Banda Aceh, CALGAP assists municipal departments to restore core local services, including waste management, restoration of public parks and urban green spaces, municipal planning, budgeting and priority-setting, and human resource management.

In the District of Pidie, CALGAP supports elected officials and staff to adapt to the demands on administration, decision-making and communications that constitute the post-tsunami reconstruction environment. With assistance through CALGAP, municipal departments will develop a coordinated Local Economic Plan and improve licensing and regulatory services that encourage small business growth.

Public library infrastructure, collections and services were severely damaged by the tsunami. CALGAP activities support Pidie's Library Service Agency to restore municipal library services, particularly to children and youth.

In the District of Aceh Jaya, there are severe challenges in a number of areas of municipal operation resulting from the loss of municipal personnel and destruction of infrastructure. CALGAP supports local government priorities to restore solid waste collection and management. Human resource challenges will also be addressed through CALGAP activities, including staff skills development in areas such as budgeting, financial management and planning.

Local government procurement facility and community support facilities: The Local Government Procurement Facility (LGPF) backs the technical assistance component of CALGAP by providing responsive funding to infrastructure or equipment needs identified by the local governments with which CALGAP works.

Projects funded through the facility may include rebuilding municipal infrastructure or public spaces, or replacing equipment such as office materials, library books, or

public works equipment. The LGPF is administered and directed by a selection committee comprising Canadian and Indonesian officials.

The facility also promotes links between municipalities in Canada and in Aceh by accepting joint applications for funding in districts where there are existing Canada-Aceh community links.

Community Support Facilities have been established to enable community-led initiatives in Banda Aceh, Pidie and Aceh Jaya. Community organizations are eligible to apply for grants that support service provision or development of small-scale infrastructure. These funds provide a mechanism for local governments and civil society to address shared reconstruction priorities.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE: CALGAP's reach is extended to other districts through the capturing of knowledge generated through program activities in the three focus districts, and dissemination of good practice documentation to other local governments facing similar reconstruction challenges.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING: Local governments can best serve the needs of citizens when they have sound relations with other orders of government. Through CALGAP, local government support is complemented by institutional strengthening assistance to the Province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and to the regional chapters of Indonesian local government associations.