



IOM International Organization for Migration

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Press Release

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Dutch Ambassador Inaugurates Cut Paya Transitional Homes

Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Dutch ambassador Ruud Treffers on Monday opened the first phase of IOM's 220-unit Cut Paya shelter project outside Banda Aceh, which is partially funded by the Netherlands Government.

"We understand after what you have been through that this is a very difficult time," Mr. Treffers told a group of local residents who will shortly move into their finished transitional homes. "This is the physical evidence of the reshaping of your lives and we hope a good first step in the future development of your community."

Thousands of coastal Acehese communities like Cot Paya were washed away by the Dec. 26 tsunami. Roughly 600 people, representing one-quarter of the pre-tsunami population of Cut Paya, died in the tsunami. The survivors have been living in tents for more than seven months.

IOM began work on the site which includes a Satellite Health Clinic and UNICEF-funded school, in May. The first 45 units are complete and will be occupied shortly. Construction is well-advanced on an additional 28 units.

Ambassador Treffers stressed the need for livelihood development in the Cut Paya community, which was a mix of brick-makers and fishermen prior to the tsunami. IOM is exploring livelihood support options with various donors that can be integrated into all the organization's community-building efforts.

"Providing shelter is an important beginning but it is most important that it leads to economic development that will allow you to support your families," he said. "The Dutch government has a good, reliable partner in IOM and we will do what we can to follow-up on your needs in the future."

The government of Indonesia has asked IOM to construct 11,000 transitional homes for tsunami-affected Acehese. The same units are being adapted to build schools and clinics around Aceh province.

Banda Aceh

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