



## **1 year after the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami: Women marginalised and excluded from the reconstruction process**

Honourable President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,

One year after the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, affected women in Indonesia continue to be marginalised, discriminated and excluded from the process of rebuilding on all levels: the family, the community and the nation.

1. **Thousands of women and children still live in camps and other temporary facilities** which lack adequate sanitation, clean water, health services and security. Government compensations have not reached them or are insufficient to restore their livelihoods.
2. **Women's right to food is violated.** People are on the verge of starvation getting one meal a day. The food rations provided are of very low quality. This affects health of children and pregnant, breast feeding and elderly women.
3. Children in camps and temporary shelters do not have **access to education**. There is no government support to the affected families to enable them to send children to school.
4. Both **temporary and permanent housing facilities** are of low standards in design and construction and climatic conditions have not been taken into account. Facilities do not meet women's needs: there are no kitchen, no sufficient number of bathing facilities and no separate toilets and bathing facilities for women. People remain uncertain regarding permanent housing. Camp residents prefer to stay in camps where they can receive food rations from aid agencies and NGOs; going back to their villages is not an option for most of them because water and electricity supply has not been restored.
5. The tsunami exacerbated **women's access to land**. Women in Aceh do not have ownership rights to land registered to the names of their husband and father killed in the tsunami as women are not recognised as head of household.
6. **Jobs and livelihoods:** Women lost their jobs and livelihood sources. The Indonesian government has failed to respond effectively and survivors have to rely on NGO support.

In the light of the above, we express grave concern about lack of consultation with the people affected by the tsunami in the relief and reconstruction process. We demand that:

- Ø The Indonesian Government must speed up the process of housing reconstruction and permanent resettlement and assist non-governmental organisations involved in housing construction in obtaining ownership rights to the land allocated for building houses for the tsunami survivors.

- Ø The Indonesian Government must consult and involve affected people in the process of reconstruction and rebuilding. International and national NGOs must consult with the affected communities in planning, design and implementation of projects.
- Ø We are also aware of significant foreign assistance received by the Indian government, international and national NGOs and demand transparency and accountability in the funds spending.
- Ø Both state and non-state agencies working with the displaced must recognise and address gender specific and special needs of women.
- Ø Recognise the needs and rights of children, elderly, disabled, women living with HIV/AIDS and affected women who need long-term medical and psychological treatment and assistance.
- Ø The Indonesian Government must immediately provide gender disaggregate data in tsunami affected region.
- Ø The Indonesian Government must ensure that relief and reconstruction activities are implemented without discrimination based on gender, caste, class, ethnicity, religion, age, migration, citizenship and other factors.
- Ø The Indonesian Government must recognise the rights of the fishing communities to the sea and the coastal land and ensure that business interests in the rebuilding process do not negatively impact livelihoods of the seashore people.

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