



Nias Islands Rural Access and Capacity Building Project (Nias-RACBP)

Objective:

For the residents of the participating districts to utilize improved rural transport infrastructure and services and benefit from enhanced access to economic and social services and facilities.

Key Partners:

- National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
- State Ministry for the Development of Disadvantaged Areas (KPDT)
- Provincial and District Planning Agencies
- District Tourism Offices
- Local Public Works Agencies
- Contractor Associations.
- District and Sub-district Offices
- PNPM (Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat) on Nias Islands
- Local Communities

Duration:

3 years (2009 – 2012)

Geographical Coverage:

4 districts and 1 municipality of Nias Islands, North Sumatra

Donor:



Multi-Donor Trust Fund for
Aceh and North-Sumatra
(MDFANS)

Budget:

USD 11,800,000

Contact:

Walter Illi | Chief of Technical Adviser | illi@ilo.org



Project Description

To support the overall country strategy imperative for poverty reduction and sustainable resource management, particularly in rural areas where most of the poor reside, the Multi-Donor Fund for Aceh and Nias (MDF) is financing twin projects, the Nias-RACBP (US\$ 11.8 million) implemented by ILO and the Nias Livelihood Economic Development Project (Nias-LEDP) (USD 8.2 million) implemented by the State Ministry for the Development of Disadvantaged Areas, to create an enabling environment for improved livelihood and human development for communities affected by the tsunami and the earthquake. The Nias-RACBP will focus on the improvement of the strategic rural transport network in the three economic/ agricultural clusters on Nias Islands targeted by the Nias-LEDP.

The Nias-RACBP consists of two components:

- 1 **Construction Works**, including the construction and maintenance of strategic rural roads access (USD 8.0 million) and the rehabilitation/reconstruction of traditional public cultural heritage facilities (USD 0.5 million).
- 2 **Training and Capacity building**: This component (USD 3.3 million) aims at enhancing the capacity of the involved local government agencies at district and sub-district level, small-scale contractors and local communities in the planning and delivery of investments in the rural roads network.

Project Strategy

The project will maximize economic benefits to the intended beneficiaries through strategically targeted and durable rural access improvements in the selected economic clusters based on prioritization and agreed selection criteria.

The Nias-RACBP will combine a “road network connectivity” and a “least cost” approach in the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure. The project’s two subcomponents, construction works and training and capacity building, are complementary and mutually reinforcing, covering all the stages of the project cycle, including on-the-job training, lesson learned from current projects, community involvement, gender mainstreaming and an optimal use of labour and locally available construction materials, in combination with light equipment.

Achievements to Date

As of the 31st of December 2010, Nias-RACBP has completed its Rural Transport Infrastructure Plans (RTIPs) for the 3 clusters covering 5 districts of Nias Islands. These plans provide detailed information on the current status of transport infrastructure on Nias Islands and provide a basis for selection of the proposed works locations.

To date Nias-RACBP has awarded 18 contracts for 3.2 kms of road works and 28.5 kms motorbike trail rehabilitation works (approximately 30 per cent of all road and motorbike trail works). The construction will commence in January 2011. A further 13 sites have been selected for bridge works and a design and preparatory works for bidding are underway. Nias-RACBP is working with Museum Pusaka Nias for rehabilitation of cultural heritage assets, including 80 traditional houses and three megalith sites. A pilot project for preservation works on 2 traditional houses commenced in December 2010.

Environmentally-friendly construction approaches, such as emulsion bitumen techniques for road works, utilization of bamboo trees for construction of slope stabilization measures and planting of grass to prevent soil erosion, are being used.

In terms of capacity building, the project has successfully completed a training need assessment for government officials as well as a four-month practical training course for 16 locally recruited site supervisors – 31 per cent of whom were women. The trainees will work as site supervisors for the Project’s road works and they are expected to deliver effective road works site management on Nias Islands. It is hoped that the local government would be able to replicate this training programme in the future.

The women and men from local communities benefit through developing skills in labour intensive road construction and through the wage income associated with their participation in community-contracting for simple works.

ILO Jakarta Office
 Menara Thamrin Level 22
 Jl. M.H. Thamrin Kav. 3
 Jakarta 10250
 Tel. +62 21 391 3112
 Fax. +62 21 310 0766
 E-mail: jakarta@ilo.org
 Website: www.ilo.org/jakarta