

“EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES”

Natural Disasters and Conflict

*Forum II
Group Room B
29 September 2005
14:30 – 16:30*

This presentation focuses on some the essential processes and action that need to be undertaken in support of basic education before, during and after emergencies have occurred. This presentation also identifies some important challenges and lessons learned from many years of education in emergency work in Indonesia, namely the conflict in East Timor (1999), West Kalimantan (2002), Central Sulawesi – Poso (2002), Maluku (2002), North Maluku (2002), as well as fresh examples from the conflict and natural disaster in Aceh and Nias.

In fact, the importance and role of education in emergencies have taken on new meaning in the wake of the massive Tsunami and earthquake that devastated large communities in Aceh and Nias Island in North Sumatra on 26 December 2004.

Currently, over 110,000 people are dead and hundred of thousands are displaced in Aceh and Nias. The Education sector was hit very hard, with 2,499 teachers and 31,451 students are reported dead or missing. Also 1,341 schools out of 4,629 schools were destroyed or damaged. Among the surviving children, many of them lost one or both of their parents.

The education services have been crippled, since many of their own staff were victims of the Tsunami. About 3,000 teachers and non-teaching staff lost their houses and 46,000 students are still living in temporary housing and tents. Furthermore, about 150,000 students lost their schools.

Notwithstanding the above, the concept of education in emergencies covers all aspects of natural or man made disasters including civil unrest and armed conflict.

The Convention of the Right of the Child; the Indonesian Child Protection Law; and the ‘Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergency (INEE) standards’, provide a framework and guiding principles for planning, managing and implementing key interventions that can ensure the right of the school age children to relevant quality education during all phases of a given emergency.