



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SUPPORT PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT) PROGRAMME IN ACEH, INDONESIA

HIGHLIGHTS

The salient aspects of this "People's Process" are:

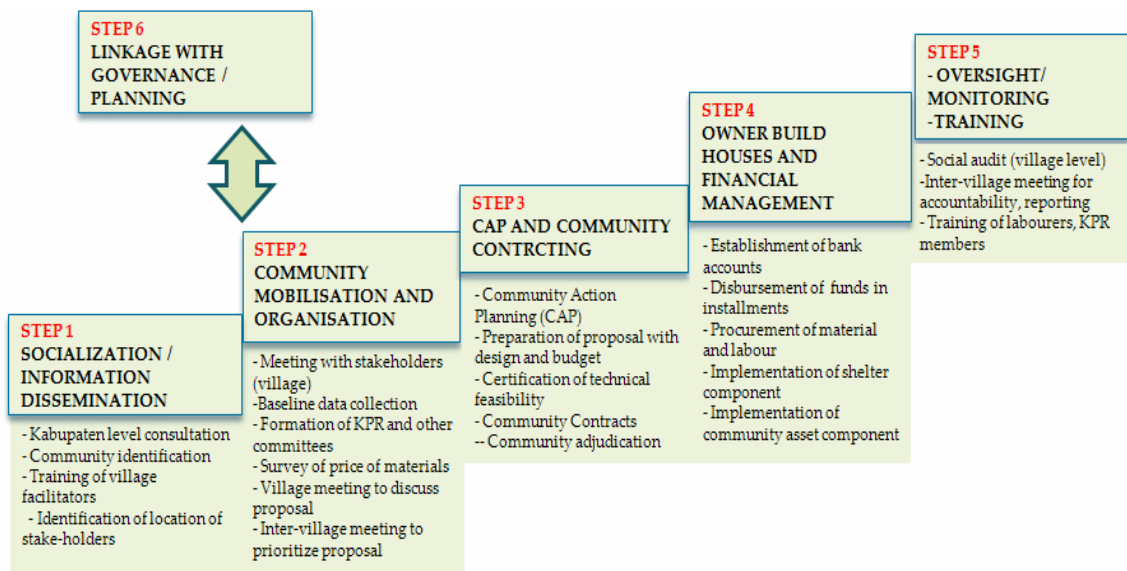
- Trust the people
- Recognise peoples' organisations
- Let people take the lead in decision making and actions
- Facilitate construction by owners and communities
- Open bank accounts, managed by communities for transparency
- Allow Settlements to recover, rather than just rebuild houses.

"People's Process" The Path to Recovery

The sheer scale and complexity of the December 26, 2004 Tsunami created a challenging context, in which appropriate responses had to be designed. Right from the start UN-HABITAT advocated that the 'recovery' process must put people at the very centre of decision making, so that reconstruction becomes part of a continuous recovery process, starting from the day the first emergency tents arrive.

The Aceh-Nias Settlements Support Programme (ANSSP) provides support to the communities' own efforts. The rebuilding process is based on a needs-driven participatory approach to reconstruct houses, which were destroyed or damaged by the Tsunami. The design of ANSSP consists of six steps.

The focus of activities **in Step one** is to establish contact with the community; to recruit and train the field team of facilitators; to engage in household- and small group- meetings, where local problems, capacities and opportunities are discussed. The baseline information is collected at this stage, including the identification of beneficiaries.



“People’s Process placed trust in people and encouraged the communities that they are capable to lead in assigning priorities, in decision making and in taking action.”



“The key to ANSSP’s success has been in the community involvement at every step of the rebuilding process.”

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In Step 2 cluster groups of eight to twelve households and a representative committee are established. The latter is entrusted by the clusters to manage the activities. Prior to the formation of the clusters a list of beneficiaries is prepared and verified through community consultation. It is then publicly announced. Moreover the cluster groups prepare, in consultation with the communities, a Community Action Plan (CAP). Land maps are drawn in a community adjudication process.

Steps 3 and 4 focus on the preparation and approval of the project proposal; on the disbursement of the block grant; on procurement of materials and services; and on the actual reconstruction of the houses. Witnessed by formal and informal village leaders a community contract is signed between each cluster and UN-HABITAT. In the name of the cluster bank accounts are opened by three signatories.

Step 5 focuses on monitoring, evaluation and project completion, stressing quality assurance. **Step 6** stresses the need to link this process with the formal governance structure throughout the implementation process.

The evaluation of the UN-HABITAT programme by UNDP stated that “the strengths of this methodology include strong participation of beneficiaries, mobilisation and development of community capacities and the avoidance of conflicts on land rights. The primacy given to the Community Action Planning (CAP) method has meant that community decisions have taken precedence over technical or environmental standards.”

Community-based housing reconstruction works well, because,

- it responds quickly to urgent needs and thus achieves relief at an early stage
- it mobilises solidarity among the members of a community and therefore creates social capital
- it allows women to be a part of the reconstruction process
- it strengthens local institutions
- it can achieve good planning and does not exclude high quality results
- it can limit disaster vulnerability
- it can be done with good monitoring and it can achieve adequate accountability

What has been demonstrated so far is that with proper facilitation the beneficiaries of a housing project can contribute to design decisions, select material and labour, manage construction phases, and administer funds. This form of total recipient participation has increased beneficiary satisfaction. In the end the people feel that they have rebuilt their own homes.