

Capacity building and income generating activities Indonesia

LOCATION

Jakarta, Cipayung-Bogor,
and Lombok areas of
Indonesia

DURATION

3 – 5 years

IMPLEMENTING

PARTNER

Church World Service
Indonesia (CWS)

BUDGET

2008: US \$ 12,000

2009: US \$ 22,500

“I used the profit of my business to cover our daily life costs... sometimes, I use my cash if my husband gets fever, influenza, or other health problems which are not in the emergency category”.

- Sandhira

a refugee from Sri Lanka

OVERVIEW

Most participants of this project were refugees and asylum seekers who were stranded in Indonesia while trying to reach another destination, usually Australia. As of December 2008, there were a total of 350 recognized refugees in Indonesia, 353 asylum seekers and 19 other persons of concern under temporary protection. These persons of concern had arrived from Iraq, and originated from 14 different countries. Of the recognized refugees, the three most common countries of origin were Iraq (53 percent), Sri Lanka (22 percent), and Afghanistan (11 percent). Somalia is also a significant country of origin (14 percent of total in 2007).

The majority of the refugees and asylum seekers are adult males between the ages of 18 and 59, and they comprise 63 percent of all persons of concern. Adult women comprise only eight percent. These figures show that unaccompanied men (i.e. single men or those traveling without their family) make up the majority of those seeking refuge via ocean routes in the direction of Indonesia. There are also 128 youth (between 5-17 years old), some of which were born to refugees or asylum seekers in Indonesia, and 32 refugee children aged between 0-4 years. Currently there are 11 unaccompanied minors.

Most of the refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia lived in Jakarta, Cipayung-Bogor, and Lombok. The Church World Service Indonesia (CWS) is responsible for refugees and asylum seekers (as recommended by UNHCR) living in Jakarta and the Cipayung-Bogor area. Jakarta is the capital of Indonesia and the centre for public administration, information, and trade. Cipayung and Bogor are located 60 kilometers to the east of Jakarta and 200 metres above sea level with cooler temperature and a cheaper cost of living.

AIM OF PROJECT

As the government of Indonesia is yet to sign the 1951 convention nor the 1967 protocol relating to the status of refugees, refugees are facing various problems when arriving in other countries. They do not have the right to be involved in income generating activities and consequently they are often forced to depend on external assistance. The project goals are as follows:

- To **reduce the dependency** of refugees on external aid
- To help the refugees become **self-reliant** through capacity building and IGA (Income Generating Activities). Through capacity building, CWS will encourage refugees to become more independent.
- The target group is adult male and female refugees who are between the ages of 18 and 59.

PROJECT OUTPUTS/RESULTS

Capacity building activities for refugees that implemented under self-reliance sector:

- Vocational Training – Centre based
 - **Cooking classes:** Learning various food that marketable in Indonesia
 - **Beading and knitting:** Learning various handicraft from beading such as earring, bracelet, necklace, baskets, wallet and etc and learning various knitting such as cell phone case, wallet, scarf, and etc.
 - **Handicrafts from recycled material:** Learning how to make various products such as bag, flower, paper quelling, box, vase, and etc from recycle material.
 - **Sewing classes:** Learning about tailoring from design until sew the cloth
- Vocational Training – Institution based
 - **Beauty salon:** Learning about hair-cutting, hair styling, make-up and etc
 - **Driving:** Learning how to drive a car
 - **Computer:** Learning assemble computer component
- Workshop
 - To facilitate participants in one day seminar within practice activity in addition there was testimony from local entrepreneur
- Field Visit
 - Taking refugees to the business area and let them oversee the activities
 - IGA facilitation, facilitate refugees with amount of capital to run small business
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- Internet Mediated Communication (IMC)
 - Following up education activity, encouraging refugees to pass their obstacles in running small business by using internet
- Joint Exhibition
 - Facilitate refugees to exhibit product from their own creativity to others (refugees and local community)

Number of refugees who took IGA facilitation:

Name	Type of Business	Time of Delivered	Remarks
Ouattara Madoussou	E-learning (French)	19 June 2008	Resettled
Saeed Ahmed Taheer	Voucher selling	19 June 2008	Resettled
Ghulam Ali	Bread baking	23 June 2008	Resettled
Zinah Abdul Hasan	Bread baking	30 June 2008	Resettled
Shanmugrayah Sashikanthan	Voucher selling	10 July 2008	Inactive since he moved to Cipayung. Needs further coaching for revitalization.
Thuyabaran Gopalaratnam	Clothes trader	11 July 2008	This person leaving Indonesia
Sandirasekantam	Tailoring	16 July 2008	Running
Sithamparapillai Suthanthiran	Clothes trader	16 July 2008	His business stopped when his partner Thuyabaran leaving Indonesia
Basem Zuheir Murshed	Voucher selling	16 July 2008	Resettled
Mostafa Adami	Voucher selling	16 July 2008	Resettled
Yashar	Center east food	31 July 2008	Running
Seyad Mawsook	Voucher selling	2 September 2008	Inactive. Needs to be coached.
Mir Abed Zubeir	Perfumed selling	19 September 2008	The business is running but depending on how many tourist that he can accompany
Zhiad	Bread baking	4 December 2008	Running, with lower scale. Needs further coaching on Marketing.

IMPACTS

Since January 2008, CWS has taken over the responsibility of the PURE project (Protecting Urban Refugee through Empowerment). However, there are some negative impacts of the project that refugees have had to face such as:

- One refugee refused a transportation reimbursement because she thought that she already had a benefit from her business which would cover the transportation cost when joining activities under the PURE project.

Refugees receive additional income to cover their daily costs of living if the MSA amount is not enough. The above example occurred because this refugee has not yet been granted refugee status, and consequently cannot ask for assistance except in the case of a medical emergency.

LESSONS LEARNED

The initial assessment should not be viewed as the only source of information in determining the needs and interests of beneficiaries. This is because as they often change their minds (i.e. on the type of businesses that they would like to start).

Their perspectives of their 'temporary' life in Indonesia also shaped how they made decisions. If they feel like their time in Indonesia is going to be short, they would be reluctant to join an activity within this project. However, if they understood that the resettlement process takes a long time, they would try take advantage of the programs. Unfortunately many refugees in Indonesia continue to gain financially from the project without being willing to take responsibility for it. By thinking positively, they are able to become self sufficient in the future, whether that's in Indonesia or another country of resettlement.

SANDHIRA'S STORY

Sandhira is a Sri Lankan refugee who has been in Indonesia since 2008. When she found out about IGA facilitation under the Self-Reliance program, she looked in depth for more information about it. When I met her, she asked about the opportunity to be part of the program. Once I explained a procedure one must go through, she drafted her business plan for tailoring. When I first received her business plan it was in Tamil, and consequently it took longer to process as there was no Tamil interpreter available at the time. Once the business plan was clarified, CWS awarded her with IGA facilitation. Her IGA facilitation was delivered on 16 July 2008 and as per our discussion, she requested to borrow a sewing machine. She was living in Jakarta at that time.

Initially her business was not going well, and to make matters worse, she also had health problems. Her business problems included her house being too small to run her sewing business and people around are not interested in her business. As Jakarta is more individualistic than other city, she could not promote her business to people around her and her knowledge of the Bahasa Indonesia language was limited.. After an assessment was conducted to diagnose her health problem, CWS suggested her to move to the area of Cisarua. She and her husband decided to live in Cipayung, near the CWS centre.

Both her business and her health improved once she moved to Cipayung. She is able to sell most of the clothes she makes, however at the end of 2008 she was producing more clothes than she could sell. When I visited her to monitor the business, I realised that she doesn't measure the persons body before commencing to sew.. I explained to her that this is an important part to making clothes, and sewing the border is important to strengthen the cloth. She admitted that she still has problem speaking in Bahasa Indonesia, and this is why she doesn't know how to sew correctly. She said "I learn Bahasa from local people but it is not in good structure" I replied that we will provide Bahasa classes to help refugees to learn to speak Bahasa.

This year, (2009) Sandira joined Bahasa and sewing classes and she is improving rapidly. She speaks Bahasa much better now "I can ask local trader how they market their products" she said. She also took sewing classes and improved her skills. She learned how to measure the body, make a pattern for cloth, embroider materials after cutting, and sewing the material. Previously, she took 2-3 days to finish one order but she just takes around 8 hours for piece of clothing. Her business continues to be sustainable.

She said this program has helped her and her husband so much. When her husband was still an asylum seeker, he had no MSA and he was just covered by medical emergency assistance. "I used the profit of my business to cover our daily life costs" she said. "Sometimes, I use my cash if my husband gets fever, influenza, or other health problem which is not in the emergency category" she added. Sometimes they spent a lot of money for praying in the temple in Jakarta due to her husband's illness.

She believes that she will have many orders in the future, whether they are to fix the clothes or to make new clothes for refugee and local people. From now on she will be able to save money from her business because her husband has recently been recognized as refugee and his future cannot be predicted. She also hopes she will be able to resettle and expand her business.