

ISLAMIC RELIEF

BANDA ACEH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22.03.06, Banda Aceh

Islamic Relief hands over 150 houses and a children's centre in Blang Krueng

Islamic Relief handed over one hundred and fifty houses type 36 to their intended owners and a children's centre to the village of Blang Krueng Kecamatan Baitussalam, Aceh Besar. The houses are distributed as follows; one hundred are for the support staff of the Syiah Kuala University and the other fifty have been given to the tsunami widows and disabled of Blang Krueng.

The handover ceremony was witnessed by the head of BRR, Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, the Minister of Education, Herwindo Haribono. PhD, a representative from the Ministry of Public Works, the assistant Governor, Dr. Ir. Muhyan Yunan, the Head of Prevention and Recovery Unit at UNDP, Patrick Sweeting, as well as Islamic Relief's French office representative, Mohamed al-Wardy, the director of Islamic Relief Malaysia, Abdelsalam, the director of IR Indonesia, Seifeldin A. Nimir and the Head of Mission in Banda Aceh, Khaled Khalifa.

The building of the 100 houses for the university complex began in June 2005, the other fifty, in August 2005. Meanwhile, the UNDP supported children's centre in Blang Krueng began just one and a half months ago. Every house has been allocated a small garden and five trees. The children's centre has been equipped with books, music, toys, a television and two computers with educational software.

During Kuntoro's speech, he recognised that thanks to these houses, the university of Syiah Kuala support staff will be able to return to their normal duties at the university meaning that the academic centre in Banda Aceh will be able to resume its educational purpose. The assistant Governor thanked Islamic Relief for their generous help in the reconstruction of Aceh which was so badly damaged in the Tsunami.

The Islamic Relief Head of Mission, Khaled Khalifa said that this is not the last of Islamic Relief's work within the housing sector. Within Aceh Besar, IR will build 304 houses in Monsiget and Kajhu Indah, 50 will be built in Sigli and 204 in Suak Pandan, Meulaboh. "Insyah Allah, in the coming two to three months, Islamic

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Relief will be able to hand over houses to the tsunami affected inhabitants of Meulaboh.” stated the Head of Mission.

Housing projects aside, IR works in many other sectors including watsan (water and sanitation), economic development, health, education and orphan support. Islamic Relief operates in five different areas of Aceh, Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Pidie, Meulaboh and Calang.