

Indonesia has experienced several more disasters this year (2006) following the Tsunami of Boxing Day 2004. The main earthquake in Java received some press coverage in the UK but was overshadowed by the war in Iran. None of the minor quakes and hurricanes in Aceh received any press at all.

This is relevant to our projects because we seem to be constantly fighting the elements. Recent floods, for example, have eroded all the hardcore beneath the new paving blocks at the school in Aceh, once again reducing the paths to a quagmire. The first three photos are of the new school in Banda Aceh.

Oliver Hatch-Barnwell (aged 20, below) went to Jogjakarta in Central Java to help some of the earthquake victims. He spent a frustrating week with the Red Crescent Society of Indonesia. They operate mainly medical teams and as Olly was not a medical student they did not allow him to do much. However, he then spent two weeks helping another smaller private charity. He helped to dig foundations to replace collapsed houses; he helped in the communal kitchens and was generally useful all around. He was grateful for the chance to feel helpful and useful.

Helen Hatch-Barnwell (aged 21, left) also spent a month in Indonesia. She divided her time between both our schools and taught English in Serpong in West Java and at our school in Banda Aceh. She improved her Indonesian quite considerably and many of the children have asked for her to return!

Tatik Hatch-Barnwell, one of the charity founders, spent two months in Indonesia touring all our projects. She spent a month in Aceh giving Teacher Training and moral support to the project which, as I said before, suffers continual setbacks due to the weather. There are now sixty pupils in Aceh studying full time. We have not been able to open the school officially as we have not yet found a permanent Director. At present our senior volunteers have to commute from Bandung in West Java to Aceh and that is both inefficient and expensive. Despite the building set backs we are progressing, albeit slowly.

The school in Serpong has now expanded from being just a kindergarten to becoming a Primary School as well with Government approval but no finance. There are currently 100 pupils studying with some of them beginning to pay fees although the fees are still being heavily subsidised by the money allocated to the school.
Digging foundations in Yogyakarta

When all the building works are complete, and the administration is content that the school is running well, the subsidies will slowly be withdrawn except to the poorest families.

Friends continue to give generously as do the customers at the Kebab Kid. However, you can imagine that this is not enough.

We know that there are thousands of deserving charities, some with much more pressing needs than that of a long term educational project like ours. Nevertheless, please try to

find some extra cash to support what we have started. These happy faces are a testament to the success of the schools. Please help us to continue this success.
Thank you.