



# Technical Assistance Consultant's Report

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Project Number: 40157  
September 2008

## Regional: Support for Strengthening the Tsunami Development Assistance Database

Prepared by Aidan Cox  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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**Asian Development Bank**

# United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Project Progress Report on the Implementation of ADB's TA 40157:

## Support for Strengthening of the Tsunami Development Assistance Database (DAD)

### I. Basic Information

Total ADB contribution: \$800,000  
Date Letter of Agreement Signed: 4 August 2006  
Implementation Period: August 2006 to 30 September 2008  
Schedule of Reporting Submissions:

Report	Period to be Covered	Due Date	Submitted On
Quarterly Report	August – October 2006	November 2006	30 November
Midterm Report	November 2006 – January 2007	February 2007	12 March
Quarterly Report	February – April 2007	May 2007	31 May
Quarterly Report	May – July 2007	August 2007	31 August
Quarterly Report	August – October 2007	November 2007	30 November
Quarterly Report	November 2007 – January 2008	February 2008	2 March
Quarterly Report	February – April 2008	May 2008	5 June
Quarterly Report	May – July 2008	August 2008	5 September
Final Report	August – September 2008	October 2008	

### Acronyms Used in the Report

BRR	Badan Rehabilitasi dan Rekonstruksi – Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Agency for Aceh and Nias, Indonesia.
DAD	Development Assistance Database
e-DIMS	electronic Development Information Management System
MPF	Maldives Partnership Forum
MPI	Ministry of Plan Implementation, Sri Lanka
Pusdatin	Data and Information Center
RADA	Reconstruction and Development Agency of the Government of Sri Lanka
TICA	Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNORC	Office of the United Nations Recovery Coordinator for Aceh and Nias

### Definitions

The four countries supported through this project use OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) international standard definitions in tracking Tsunami aid flows.<sup>1</sup>

*Pledge*: the grant or loan resources promised by a donor to the country over one year or a fixed number of years.

*Commitment*: a firm written agreement to provide funds for a particular project (or to a Trust Fund). The *Commitment Date* is the date of that written agreement. Commitments are usually multi-year – i.e., they are designed to fund expenditures for several years.

*Disbursement*: the placement of resources at the disposal of the government, implementing agency, contractor, or Trust Fund Administrator. The *Disbursement Date* is the date at which those funds were made available – usually this involves the transfer of funds into the implementer's bank account or the draw down by the implementer of funds held in an account by the donor.

*Expenditure*: the amount spent by the Implementing partner in delivering the project. Expenditure may include both expenditure by the Implementing partner itself on equipment, salaries, etc, or the amount paid by the Implementer to a Second Level Contractor for the provision of services.

<sup>1</sup> Source: OECD DAC, *Creditor Reporting System*. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/16/53/1948102.pdf>

## **II. Consultants**

### **1. Development Assistance Database Technical Backstopping**

#### *1.1. Database Consultant*

The consultant has completed his assignment.

### **2. National Capacity Development and Quality Control**

#### *2.1. Aid Coordination Adviser, Seconded to BRR, Aceh*

During May-July 2008, the Adviser assisted Pusdatin (Pusat Data dan Informasi) in internal consultations and in discussions with other BRR sections regarding formulation of transition strategy, and development of coordination mechanism of donor-funded projects post-BRR. He also participated in the organization of the Coordination Forum for Aceh and Nias (CFAN-4) event, and preparation of end-of-mandate joint accountability report to be submitted to the President of Republic of Indonesia on behalf of BRR and Partners.

The Adviser actively assisted in organizing BRR-Partners Coordination Meeting at UNORC Compound on 10 July 2008, when Director Kuntoro Mangkusubroto briefed the donors and project implementers on various aspects of BRR's transition strategy. BRR Director sought support of the stakeholders in the compilation of an inventory of assets that have been created during the reconstruction process, preparation of the accountability report and organization of CFAN-4 event. The Adviser has been providing technical and coordination support to BRR.

#### *2.2. Aid Coordination Adviser, Seconded to Government of Maldives*

The Adviser supported the government in preparing a draft strategy for international cooperation that was reviewed at a high level stakeholder meeting involving the Ministries of Finance, Planning and Foreign Affairs, as well as UNDP, ADB and the World Bank.

The Advisor completed his assignment December 2007.

#### *2.3. Aid Coordination Consultant, Colombo*

The RADA aid coordination team has been relocated to the Ministry of Plan Implementation and has integrated its functions within the ministry. All functions of this unit were taken over by the Ministry from beginning of April 2008. Four staff members of the Ministry, have been assigned to the e-DIMS unit. They had in-house training under the e-DIMS local consultants. One member of the consultancy team continues to provide support as a technical consultant, in order to complete the development of the e-DIMS system.

The e-DIMS system currently has three phases of its amendments completed. The system has been provided with an upgrade which increases speed and added functionality to its reporting and data entry. The Phase 3 amendments have also been completed and are undergoing review. These amendments are currently being carried out on a test version of the system, which has not been made available to the public or to the focal points. Delayed requests for amendments to requirements have seen the deployment date delayed for Phase 3. All requirements will be submitted to Synergy before the end of this August 2008.

Following the IDM training, having a Synergy consultant in Sri Lanka, allowed us to work closely on the Phase 3 and future amendments to the system.

The UNDP Country Office is also supporting a consultancy on harmonization of information systems, which commenced in December 2007. The consultant will study the three existing systems used by two of the government ministries (electronic Project Management System (ePMS) and the electronic Development Information Management System (e-DIMS) of the Ministry of Plan Implementation (what used to be DAD Sri Lanka) and the Integrated Aid Management System (IAMS) of the Ministry of Finance). The consultancy will cover analyse the business processes, analyse the information systems and the information system development specification. The consultancy is scheduled to be completed shortly.

#### *2.4. Aid Coordination Adviser, Seconded to Government of Thailand*

The Adviser completed his assignment.

### **3. Regional Technical Backstopping**

#### *3.1. Regional Tsunami Aid Coordination Adviser and Regional Aid Effectiveness Adviser*

The Regional Tsunami Aid Coordination Adviser has completed his assignment.

#### *3.2. Regional Tsunami Aid Tracking Analyst*

The Regional Tsunami Aid Tracking Analyst has completed his activities under this TA.

## **III. Key Activities**

### **1. Capacity development of national aid coordination system**

#### *1.1. Aceh/Nias*

The Pusdatin team has widely engaged and developed capacity for preparation of consolidated reports, covering both on-budget and off-budget data, which facilitated BRR in assessing the progress in achieving the reconstruction goals/priorities, as well as the remaining work to be completed before the end of its mandate in April 2009.

To support the registration of assets that are to be handed over to the government agencies, Pusdatin has developed a system to access RAN database and to input the value of assets in relation to the projects of implementing partners. Pusdatin assisted in collection of geospatial data for the houses built by project implementers and BRR, and commenced in-depth review of the project-wise Key Performance Indicators recorded in RAN database. This will enable the Accountability Report to include a significantly more comprehensive analysis of the impact of the reconstruction process.

#### *1.2. Maldives*

The Ministry of Finance and Treasury has assumed full responsibility for the process of aid tracking, data analysis and dissemination.

Efforts to build on past training of key Government focal points which aimed to improve their capacity to better manage the database are planned. These will include the twinning of the local team with the Synergy consultant to facilitate transfer of knowledge to the local team and improve their skills on managing the database.

#### *1.3. Sri Lanka*

With the end of Norwegian co-financing for the project in September 2007, UNDP allocated its own core resources (TRAC) to support the integration of the database with the Ministry of Plan Implementation which has a mandate to monitor all development assistance.

The Ministry has assigned 4 staff to be trained to manage the database. The assigned staff have now fully taken over the task of monitoring the e-DIMS system.

The Intelligent Data Manager (IDM) training was carried out for a period of ten days (28 April to 10 May). Six persons were nominated by MPI to participate. The IDM training allowed the team to experience the development flow of the e-DIMS system, and gave the team a chance to work with the Synergy consultant on outstanding issues and improving their knowledge on managing the database. This training is intended to build the capacity of the government to carry out most of the software amendments required in the future independently.

#### *1.4. Thailand*

At the request of the Royal Thai Government, the UNDP Country Office and the Regional Aid Effectiveness Adviser arranged for the Thai Government to receive a mission from the OECD Development Assistance Committee to build its capacity for tracking and managing Thailand's own ODA programme. This took place in April 2008 in Bangkok.

## **2. Establishing national web portals for easy access to aid coordination data**

#### *2.1. Aceh/Nias*

In order to facilitate easy access to the relevant detailed data, a hyperlink is being added to each of 'Quick Statistics' data on BRR web portal. A consolidated donor assistance profile, comprising of commitment and disbursement for each donor agency, multilateral institutions, and Indonesian government and communities, will be posted on the website. This will significantly improve the dissemination of information on the contributions of all major stakeholders.

#### *2.2. Maldives*

Direct access to DAD Maldives is available at: <http://dad.finance.gov.mv>. The Department of External Resources publishes tables deriving from the DAD on their website to provide easier access to loan and grant information ([www.der.gov.mv](http://www.der.gov.mv)). The Ministry of National Planning and Development publishes updates on tsunami recovery and reconstruction updates at [www.planning.gov.mv](http://www.planning.gov.mv). The multiple sites reflect the split in institutional responsibilities for development cooperation.

#### *2.3. Sri Lanka*

e-DIMS is accessible at <http://edims.mpi.gov.lk>. This will progressively provide both government and the public with a one-stop shop for all development-assistance related data. The site will contain a wide range of reports, charts, and maps, and provide easy access to agency Organisation Profiles.

#### *2.4. Thailand*

DAD Thailand can be accessed at: <http://dadthailand.mfa.go.th> and pre-prepared reports can be found at: [www.tica.thaigov.net](http://www.tica.thaigov.net).

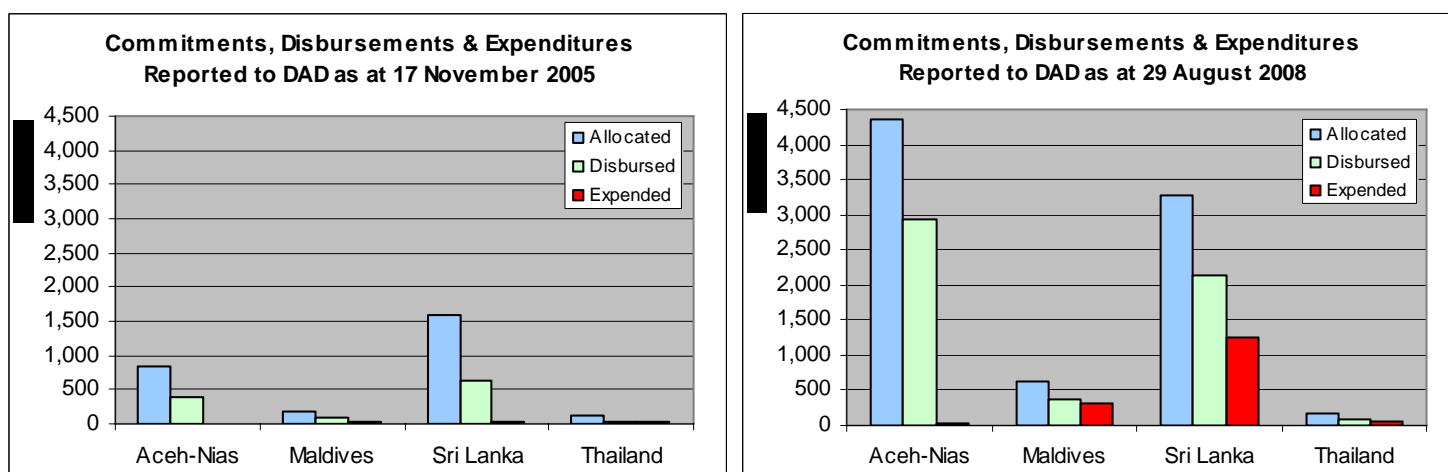
### 3. Regional analysis of tsunami assistance that includes sectoral distribution

The four nationally-owned databases track resources totalling \$8.4 billion and 3,267 individual projects (Table 1).

Figure 1 shows the increase in information captured by the systems between November 2005 and August 2008.

Country	# of Projects	Total Commitments	Total Disbursements	Total Expenditure
Aceh-Nias	1,863	4,351	2,931	42
Maldives	120	620	383	305
Sri Lanka	1,056	3,279	2,136	1,258
Thailand	228	181	90	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,267</b>	<b>8,433</b>	<b>5,541</b>	<b>1,672</b>

Figure 1: Total Commitments, Disbursements and Expenditure by Country



The share of commitments disbursed by funding agencies averaged 66%, and varies from 67 per cent for Aceh-Nias to 50 per cent for Thailand.

Country	% of Commitments Disbursed	% of Disbursements spent	% of Commitments spent
Aceh-Nias	67%	1%	1%
Maldives	62%	80%	49%
Sri Lanka	65%	59%	38%
Thailand	50%	73%	37%
<b>Average</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>31%</b>

### 4. Dissemination of outputs through country, regional and global mechanisms

#### 4.1. Aceh/Nias

The attached power-point presentation provides an overall picture of the post-tsunami recovery and reconstruction activities and reflects on the challenges and progress in compilation of quality data and enhancement of donor/project coordination in Aceh and Nias. A large-scale dissemination of the reconstruction activities through global media is under consideration.

#### 4.2. Maldives

Dissemination channels are through the DAD website and monthly analysis and reports distributed to Government agencies and partner organizations.

#### *4.3. Sri Lanka*

The core team has already trained Ministry of Plan Implementation staff to generate e-DIMS reports, to ensure sustainable capacity to disseminate outputs. The IDM training provided the MPI staff with an advanced look into generating e-DIMS reports. Demonstrations were carried out on the various new features of upgraded e-DIMS reporting which allows various new types of reports to be created. Close working relations with the Synergy development team are ensuring continuous upgrades to the e-DIMS reporting.

#### *4.4. Thailand*

Information from DAD Thailand is made available through the two Government websites. All information in DAD and on the TICA portal can be accessed by all via the internet, no restriction on information in the DAD exists and no passwords are required.

## **IV. Major Reports Other Than Quarterly Reports**

A draft Transition Plan for Aceh covering transition of database, team and skills to the permanent institutions of government, is attached (Word and Excel files). A power-point presentation is included providing an overview of post-tsunami recovery and reconstruction activities in Aceh.

## **V. Utilization of Funds**

Expenditure for the seventh quarter (May-July 2008) totals \$80,162, increasing the cumulative expenditure to-date from \$528,274 to \$608,436.

The Statement of Expenditures and Project Financial Status are both attached.

## **VI. Major Issues/Problems**

### **1. Aceh**

Earlier reports note that significant improvement in data quality and utility of RAN database, substantial enhancement in analytical, reporting and technical capacity of the Pusdatin team, and considerable progress in development and dissemination of useful analytical products has been achieved during the past 12 months. The reports also note that the Pusdatin team is playing an important role in formulation and implementation of BRR's exit strategy and in developing an inventory of assets which have been created in course of the reconstruction process and would be transferred to the government institutions.

BRR (Pusdatin, in particular) has been facing difficulty in implementation of the transition programme which seeks the transfer of its aid tracking, project monitoring and development coordination capacities to the permanent institutions. This stems from no government decision in assigning responsibility of these functions within the evolving governance structure. However, the team is preparing as far as it can to launch its programme of skills transfer to the government agencies that will be entrusted with the functions of aid monitoring and project coordination post-BRR.

## **2. Maldives**

A draft discussion paper developed with the support of the project has clarified remaining aid management challenges, such as slow approval processes and a fragmentation of responsibilities for aid management across ministries and departments. Some of these challenges will be addressed in the forthcoming Government of Maldives Partnership strategy which is currently being developed.

An independent project evaluation conducted in December 2007 concludes that DAD Maldives has been successful, however it highlights the need for further capacity building at the local level to ensure the sustainability of the system.

Key issues that remain to be addressed to ensure sustainability and continuity of the system include: (i) additional capacity building of the local staff, including the training of staff at the focal Government ministry to address capacity gaps resulting from staff turnover; and (ii) training of a local firm to provide long-term technical and maintenance support for the data base.

Information/data gathering, collection and maintenance methods/mechanisms need to be strengthened to better capture the relevant information from various sources, particularly from all the active donors in order to keep the system better updated, relevant and reliable at all times. In addition, work needs to be done to link the DAD system with the existing separate/different software system that is dedicated for management of loan information as a way forward to make the information/data made available in the DAD system more complete.

## **3. Sri Lanka**

The successful positioning of e-DIMS within Ministry of Plan Implementation with a mandate that is both national and covers all non-ODA development assistance monitoring is likely to underpin the sustainability of the investments in the tsunami DAD. This initiative was supported by UNDP through Norwegian co-financing, ADB co-financing and with UNDP Sri Lanka Country Office core resources. The database is undergoing modifications and alterations to ensure it meets the requirements of the Ministry.

It is hoped that the harmonization study which commenced in December 2007 will propose practical solutions to achieve the overall objectives of managing and monitoring development projects in an integrated manner.

## **4. Thailand**

Full responsibility for DAD Thailand has successfully been assumed by Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency.