Conflict prevention

Consolidating Peace in Aceh

The European Union contributes to strengthening sustainable peace in Aceh

"Aceh has come a long way since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in 2005. It should not be forgotten, however, that the peace process needs to be rooted into society itself. It is the right and responsibility of the people (of Aceh) themselves to make the best out of the hard won peace."

Peace negotiator in Aceh, President Martti Ahtisaari

Context

The Province of Aceh in Indonesia suffered almost 30 years of civil conflict before the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Helsinki in 2005 following the devastating tsunami in late 2004. The European Union supported the peace process from the beginning. Following the Memorandum, the Aceh monitoring mission was deployed. A comprehensive package of Aceh Peace Process Support was set up to help local governance, the legal and security reform and reintegration projects as well as to encourage dialogue between the parties in order to ensure the full ownership of the Peace Agreement.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to consolidating sustainable peace in Aceh.

The specific objectives of the project are to enhance trust between the parties and stakeholders to sustain the process, enhance channels of communication between the parties and create a positive atmosphere for the potential of the peace process.

Impact

The Aceh Peace Process follow-up project.

The ultimate aim of the project was to ensure that an institutionalised and locally owned dialogue process was in place to address the open questions and dissatisfactions of both signatories of the agreement. At the end of the project such a process is in place, called together by the Government of Indonesia. It involves working level participation from both signatories who have agreed to work towards finalising the process in 2014.
"The reintegration project, which is part of the EU's support to the Aceh Peace Process package, has given me appetite for engaging in forest conservation instead of logging.

"Through training in forest conservation, biodiversity and environmental surveys I am able to put my knowledge of the forests into good use. I have also learned how to improve my own livelihood and can support in need following an environmental disaster, I also know about conflict mitigation and counselling. This has made our group able to relate and engage with the people living on the edge of the forest, community leaders and government officials.

"I am very proud of my new profession, I feel like I make a positive contribution to society and to peace in Aceh and at the same time I constantly improve my own skills and gain new experiences."

Mr. Mulyadi is a former combatant for the Free Ache Movement he is now the Head of the Jantho Community Ranger Group.