ETESP Fisheries - Achievements and foundations for the future

Background

On December 26, 2004, an earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale (Source: United States Geological Survey) struck off the coast of Aceh, Indonesia. It was the most powerful the world has seen in a generation. In the subsequent tsunami that followed, over 150,000 people lost their lives including fishermen and farmers, while an estimated 700,000 people were displaced. The tsunami had caused of the damages to the local economy, infrastructure, and administration were unprecedented. World Bank stated, the total estimate of damages and losses from this matter in Aceh was IDR 41,4 Trillion, or US$ 4,45 Billion- equivalent to about 80 percent of Aceh’s regional gross domestic product.

The earthquake and tsunami also caused unprecedented damage to communities and infrastructure in the coastal areas of Aceh and North Sumatra (Philip and Budiman, 2005). Direct losses to the fisheries sector, including capture fisheries and aquaculture have been estimated at IDR 1,2 Trillion. Lost fisheries production, including aquaculture, as been estimated as IDR 3,8 Trillion. Of the more than 250,000 people dead or missing, fishers and households dependant on fishing and aquaculture make up a disturbingly high proportion of the losses. Based on Word Bank Report, almost 4,717 boats lost and demage was impact by tsunami dissater. Philip and Budiman (2005) stated, of the estimated 47,000 ha of coastal fish ponds operating in 2004, a substantial proportion have been directly and indirectly affected by the tsunami.

The disaster was response from domestic and international communities in those countries affected by the tsunami. It is estimated that about US$ 7,7 billion was committed by the malgamation of funds from the Government of Indonesia, bilateral and multilateral donors, international NGOs, and communities both within and outside Indonesia towards the reconstruction program.
In response to the disaster, an Earthquake and Tsunami Emergency Support Project (ETESP) was approved on 7 April 2005 by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Directors, providing $290 million grant financing from the Asian Tsunami Fund to meet the disaster management rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of Indonesia. The Project, a multi-sector project, to be implemented from 2005 to 2008, about $30 million of the grant is allocated to support restoration of the livelihoods of affected people in the fisheries sector.

The ETESP was provide rehabilitation and reconstruction support to mitigate the damages caused by the devastating earthquake and tsunami. It was also help restore essential public services, rebuild infrastructure and revive economic activity through livelihood support including fisheries sector.